

New Orleans Daily Crescent. OFFICIAL JOURNAL. THE STATE OF LOUISIANA. S. G. NIXON, Editor and Proprietor.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

The public have noticed with some interest and not a little surprise the latest meetings of the committee held during the last few days at the Mechanics Institute. The meeting seems to have been composed of a certain number of members of the recent Constitutional Convention, associated first organized under the orders of the hero of Mansfield and Stonewall Valley.

It is almost daily in the receipt of communications, intended for publication, some in poetry and others in prose, which are unaccompanied with the name of the writer. Many of them we would be glad to insert, but it is a rule in every office one to which we must adhere, and the reason of which will be admitted on reflection, to leave the real name and residence of every contributor.

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THE GERMAN CONFEDERATION.

The last news from Europe indicates that the German Confederation is about to take part in the impending war, and, apparently, on the side of Austria. It has for some time been known that the Diet, sympathized with Austria, in her quarrel with Prussia, because the latter power, under the arrogant guidance of Bismarck, had manifested a disposition to appropriate to herself the Rhine provinces, in defiance of the rights of the other States. Austria has declared that the basis of her opposition is a determination that those rights should be respected. Whether or not public opinion throughout the minor German States inclines towards Austria, cannot now be ascertained. The Diet is composed of representatives of the German governments who reflect the wishes and opinions of the sovereign rulers directly, and, perhaps indirectly, the sentiments of the people. It is in the case Austria will receive an accession of strength which should, to all appearance, give her vastly the preponderance over Prussia and Italy combined.

The army of the confederation was to consist of 470,000 men, not including the reserves. In 1850 it numbered 300,000, of which Austria furnished three corps of 120,000 men, Prussia two corps of 100,000, leaving four corps of 200,000 men, furnished by the other States. At present the number is probably 300,000. The mobilization of this force is looked upon by Prussia as an act of hostility towards her; and it is not surprising, therefore, that she declared the confederation dissolved, and withdrew from it the moment she learned that the point had been carried in the Diet by the vote of a majority of States, together with the formal denunciation and withdrawal of Prussia, which she considered that the confederation intended to make common cause with Austria.

The German confederation is founded on an act of the Congress of Vienna, June 8, 1815, and a supplemental agreement dated May 8, 1820. Originally it was agreed that the Diet had no power to carry on an aggressive war; but the 23rd section of the supplementary statute of 1820 confers on the Diet the power to wage a foreign war, not only in case of actual invasion, but also when the frontier of Germany seems to be endangered. The confederation consists of one empire, (Austria,) five kingdoms, (Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony, Hanover and Wurttemberg,) eight principalities, (Saxony, Mecklenburg, Oldenburg, Brunswick, Bremen and Hamburg,) eight large portions of Prussia and Austria do not belong to the confederation at all. Prussia is considered the leading German State, because her German confederated population is 14,714,051; whilst the German confederated population of Austria is only 13,502,941. The total population of the other States is about 20,500,000.

The federal Diet is composed of plenipotentiaries of the several German States, who meet at the city of Frankfurt. The administrative government of the confederation is constituted in two forms: 1st. As a general assembly or plenum, in which every member of the confederation has at least one vote, and the larger States have two, three or four votes each; and second, the minor council, or committee of confederation, in which the eleven largest States have one vote each, while six votes are given to the smaller States. A number of them combined having a joint vote. The presidency is permanently vested in Austria. The general assembly decides on war and peace, on the admission of new members, on any changes in the fundamental laws or organic institutions; but in all other cases the minor council is competent to act both as legislative and executive.

THE RIVER OF THE RED.

In speaking of our great river in the vicinity of our city, we cannot, like some writers, represent the navigation which takes place upon its waters as a constant scene of movement, for this is not a correct representation. Nothing is more solitary than the navigation which is actually in motion upon its shores, even in front of our great metropolis, and the reason for this peculiarity in our stream arises from its formidable current. There are but few steamers plying between the opposite shores, and as for the small sailing craft used for the coasting trade, we have already, in a former number, made mention of, instead of increasing, the number of industry actually fallen off. Now, it is true the article of steam packets from the interior, the ocean steamers and sailing vessels from abroad, together with the steam tug-boats, are bringing up to the bar, or in towing down to the sea, the numerous shipping daily leaving or arriving in our port, or for so far an animated spectacle; but still this scene cannot be compared to the ever varying canvas in the Northern or Western ports, where there is a continual stream of arrivals and departures. This difference in our port, as we have already stated, arises from the majestic force of current of the Mississippi, which does not permit the multiplicity of small water craft which elsewhere traverse the waters in all directions, and arrive from a hundred different localities, just as they return also, as it were, to almost every little creek and corner in the adjoining habitations.

It is not so with the Mississippi navigation, everything here is grand and magnificent; you see comparatively but few small water craft; all the steamers, ocean as well as inland, are of the best classes. By, also, with the accompanying shipping, vessels varying from 2000 to 4000 tons of tonnage being usually in use and required for the service. The grandeur of our navigation is not confined to the size of the vessels, but to the nature of the cargo they carry, and to the nature of the service they perform. It is not so with the Mississippi navigation, everything here is grand and magnificent; you see comparatively but few small water craft; all the steamers, ocean as well as inland, are of the best classes. By, also, with the accompanying shipping, vessels varying from 2000 to 4000 tons of tonnage being usually in use and required for the service. The grandeur of our navigation is not confined to the size of the vessels, but to the nature of the cargo they carry, and to the nature of the service they perform.

Several meteoric stones fell at Nashville on the 12th, near the railroad depot. They were of a bluish color and were quite hot when first discovered. It is said that nothing similar has been known in any other part of the world. One specimen has been forwarded to Washington, and is now in New York, for further examination.

Gov. Johnson.—The Hon. John Johnson, who is now in the city, has been very busy in the preparation of his report to the Legislature. He is expected to deliver a speech on the 1st of July, in relation to the state of the country. He is also expected to deliver a speech on the 1st of July, in relation to the state of the country.

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FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 29, 1866.

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