New Orleans Daily Crescent.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL

—OF—

THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.

FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 6, 1866.

FROM THE RIO GRANDE.

REVERSE TO THE IMPERIALISTS—OLVERA'S COMMAND KILLED AND CAPTURED—ONLY A FEW STRAGGLERS ESCAPED—CAPTURE OF THE GREAT CONVOYS—HOT AND BLOODY FIGHTING—EXCITEMENT ALONG THE BORDER—EVACUATION OF BAGDAD—ALARM IN MATAMOROS.

(Special Correspondence of the Crescent.)

MATAMOROS, MEXICO, June 20, 1866.

In my last news letter, if I mistake not, I mentioned the departure, on the 7th June, of the much-talked of convoys, containing about two hundred wagons loaded with merchandise, estimated at upwards of two millions of dollars; and conveyed by an escort of two thousand troops from the garrison here. This escort consisted of about two hundred Contra Guerrilla cavalry, (mostly Americans) about two hundred and fifty Austrian infantry, eight pieces of artillery, and the rest all Mexicans. On Friday, the 15th, the train reached Camargo without molestation.

On Saturday morning, the 16th, just after the train had gotten under way, about seven miles from Camargo, it was attacked by the combined forces of Escobedo, Canales, Naranjo and Trevino, all being under the immediate command of the latter.

The train was quickly put in position for defense. The first attack was made upon the Contra-Guerrillas, guarding the rear, who repulsed them; the next and general attack engaged the whole Imperial force.

The Liberals numbered about twenty-five hundred men, including two hundred Americans and American negroes. They were mostly cavalry, and included a large body of dashingly equipped lancers.

The Liberals charged every time with the wildest impetuosity, and fought desperately.

The Contra-Guerrillas did the best fighting on the Imperial side. A portion of the Austrians are reported to have behaved badly at the beginning; the rest acted splendidly. The Mexicans for the most part fought timely—doubtless desired to be captured, it being generally admitted, and in many cases proven, that a majority of the Imperial Mexican troops desire a change, and would desert to the Liberals if they had a safe opportunity.

The Mexican battalion which deserted was the Second (Cura Gordo), all except one company, which commanded them to the last. The command of officers is reported to have said to Gen. Olvera, "Life is sweet!" and then, shouting "Viva la Libertad!" went over, followed by all his men but the one company mentioned. They immediately opened fire upon their late comrades, and contributed materially to the Liberal victory.

At the end of an hour and a half, Gen. Olvera had four pieces of artillery, a body of his men had deserted, and he saw nothing but certain destruction before him. He therefore ordered a retreat, and with a few mounted men managed to escape. Nearly all the other troops surrendered.

Gen. Bombelo ordered the captured train back to Camargo; and some of his men having commenced pillaging the wagons, he put a stop to it. He is reported as saying that he will return the train upon the owners paying to the Juarez government (of course through him) 50 per cent. duty on the goods.

Of the 200 Contra-Guerrillas, 57 are known to be killed, wounded and missing. Some 20 stragglers have come in; the rest are all prisoners.

Of the 250 Austrians, 148 are prisoners. About 20 stragglers have come in. This would make their loss in killed, wounded and missing, 82.

In the Imperial Mexican loss, and that of the Liberals, I can give no particulars. It was estimated that the total of killed alone, on both sides, was between five and six hundred. More than half of these were doubtless Imperialists.

The Liberals claim to have taken 800 prisoners, besides 400 non-combatants who belonged to the wagons. Add to these about 100 who escaped, and we find the total Imperialist loss in killed, wounded and missing, to be 1100. This shows what a bloody engagement it was. But it is not unlikely that a good many more stragglers will come in.

One of the Liberal leaders, during the action, is said to have shouted to his men, "Give it to the d——n foreign sons of b——s, but spare the Mexicans."

All the particulars of the battle, as herein given, are vouched for by persons who left Camargo two days afterward.

General Olvera and his companions, while on their way back to this city on Sunday, were attacked and stampeded by a small force of Liberals. This occurred thirty-five miles from Matamoros. The general was slightly wounded in the battle of Saturday. He is terribly mortified at his defeat. At one time, when the fight was becoming a forlorn hope, he had to be restrained from seeking his death in the brunt of it. No blame is attached to him at headquarters.

The specie conducta, which was to be on its way down from Monterey, guarded by Jeanigros and 2500 troops, was not met as expected at Camargo. One report was that it had previously arrived there, placed the specie safely on board the steamer San Roman, and gone back to Monterey. If that report were true, the boat would have been here long before this. The whereabouts of the train and the specie is thus far a mystery.

The news of the battle and its sad result to the Imperialists, reached this city in a vague and disjointed shape late on Sunday night. Next day the full particulars came. The news created the greatest excitement all along both sides of the river; it was all rejoicing on the Texas side among all colors of people. It was the cause of much depression and alarm among the revalists of the city, and of pleasure to the lower class of the population. The foreign residents began moving over to Brownsville. House rent doubled in twenty-four hours. The French residents seemed to be most excited; they flocked in crowds around their consul all day yesterday, to take counsel with him and each other.

The alarm was created and still exists in consequence of a supposition that the Liberals would follow up their victory—the coast being clear—by coming down upon this city, in which event they would make an easy capture of it. This seemed to be Gen. Mejia's opinion also. All he had to depend upon was about seven hundred Mexican troops of doubtful fidelity, and the militia, who would probably be worse than useless. He immediately sent for the garrison at Bagdad, comprising about three hundred Mexicans also of suspicious loyalty. These troops left Bagdad by steamer on Monday and reached this city yesterday morning. The general took other steps for defense, showing his belief that the city was in great danger.

Reports as to the general's intentions are very conflicting. The present and most generally believed report is that, after holding a council with his officers, the general has decided to surrender the city without resistance, provided he and his troops be permitted to retire unmolested, that no molestation be offered any class of the inhabitants, and that pillage be allowed; and if these terms be rejected, to fight it out to the bitter end.

One thing strongly indicative of the expectation of a surrender, is the fact that the proprietors of the Matamoros Ranchero are to-day transferring to Brownsville all their printing material, including the new power press which they had just received from New Orleans and gotten into running order. I look upon this as very significant, for the editors of the Ranchero generally know everything that is going on in this city and on this side of the river.

Against these alarms the only faint hope is that Jeanigros and his troops may by some chance prevent the Liberals from coming, and compel them to look to themselves and their booty.

I was in Bagdad, and came up on one of the boats with the troops from that place. About a hundred of the inhabitants, alarmed, also accompanied them, and landed in Matamoros to find many of the Matamorians emigrating over to the republic. During the trip I saw plentiful evidence of the disaffection of the troops on board.

Two of them deserted, at different times, by plunging into the river and swimming to the Texas side. None of their comrades offered to fire at them; this was left to the officers, who sent a harmless shot or two at each. After this a guard was stationed all round the boat on the lower deck, and whenever she came near the Texas shore, the officers were ready on the upper deck with their rifles in hand. These officers seemed to believe it not unlikely that the whole company was liable to "get religion," and baptize themselves into the liberal faith by marching overboard in a body.

The escape of the second deserter was funny. He plunged over with all his uniform and equipments on; everything except his gun and knapsack. He made several frantic endeavors to dive, but couldn't. He kept his head and limbs under, but his fat posterior stuck out all the time, squirming and wriggling in the most ludicrous manner. The mark was an inviting one, but the officers failed to hit it. There was much laughter over it on board.

Mexicans and others on the Texas side hooted at and jeered the Imperialists on board at a great rate, as the boats passed along. In the morning, as our boat neared Matamoros, one of the Imperial officers said good morning to an American standing on the Texas bank. The latter responded cordially, and in a loud voice: "Good morning, good morning! how the hell do you do?"

After the troops and inhabitants aforementioned left Bagdad, the evacuation of that place continued. Chief of Police Victor Duprat and his men followed next; then the custom house officers and all the town functionaries, except the Mexican alcalde. The retreat of the white residents was almost complete, and the storekeepers were hurriedly ferrying their goods over to Clarksville, on the Texas side—the same place to which the Carlotaites carried their goods without their help, in January last. For a time the town had no government, and any man might have installed himself as Caliph of Bagdad without any opposition. But no Haroun Alraschid showed himself.

In the evening, however, four Liberal officers rode quietly into town, and informed the alcalde that the place was considered as being occupied by the Liberals. Articles of agreement were signed, and citizens temporarily appointed to duty in the town offices. The remaining inhabitants were at once relieved of all alarm. Thus, Bagdad is again "up the spout," and Matamoros again cut off from the ocean.

Had the steamer Sonora remained at Bagdad one day longer, she could have taken news of the great disaster to Vera Cruz and the capital. The steamer Crescent, I believe, left Brazos for New Orleans on Tuesday morning. If so, she had remained just long enough to get the first reports of the battle, and may have given you these reports in advance of this; but she could not have given you all the particulars, hence the length of this letter. I have given everything known up to this writing.

Gen. Sheridan came and went on the Crescent. He came up to Brownsville to visit Gen. Getty. What this hasty errand meant nobody knows outside of headquarters.

The three Cortina Mexicans convicted of murdering citizens of Brownsville, in the year 1859, are to be hanged day after to-morrow.

Speaking of Cortina, he seems to be left out in the cold. He had no share in the recent rich capture, and, as usual, nobody knows where he is.

L. G.

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, June 21, 1866.

I came over last night to glean the latest intelligence, and to get this off by the steamer which leaves Brazos to-day.

The stage from Camargo, due here yesterday, has not yet arrived. There is nothing later from up the river.

All accounts all agree this morning, though, evidently prepared for a surrender. The Liberals did not get the last night as many expected, therefore they are the more confidently looked for to-night. The evacuation of Matamoros by the foreign or white population continued all day yesterday. Of course, numerous Imperial Mexicans also came over. The ferry landing was piled up with household goods and merchandise of all descriptions, and all the scows and skiffs were busy.

The Ranchero printing tools and material are now safely housed on this side the river. The editors have not come over yet. There is much talk about Somers Kinney, the chief editor, coming over. I am informed by the police that certain Mexican Liberals here are watching for him to kill him, and I am also informed that Gen. Getty intends to give him a hospitable reception and all the protection he may need, if he comes over.

I believe there is nothing further of interest to jot down at present.

L. G.

A Visit to the Carondelet Canal.

In company with several gentlemen, we yesterday afternoon visited the new dredge boat Louis Gagnet, which the lessee has just built to dredge out the Carondelet Canal and Bayou St. John, so as to be ready in time for the fall trade. Steam being raised, a trial of her dredging capacity was made, and proved highly satisfactory to the parties directly interested and astonishing to us. In twelve minutes the machine lifted from the bottom of the canal, which at that point was eight or nine feet deep, eight cubic yards of mud, and deposited it in a pile on the bank, ready to be carted away. The facility with which it works is truly astonishing, and the amount of work it is able to do in a day is almost incredible to a person who never saw one in operation; as it is, estimated—and we believe the estimate is a fair one—that the machine can do the work of six hundred good hands in a day. Consequently, with such an assistant for dredging, it is but fair to calculate upon every obstacle to commerce being removed from the canal, bayou and pass in ample time to meet the requirements of trade on the lake.

The lessee is determined to make the Carondelet Canal the great center of the lake trade next winter, and we believe that he will succeed if money, enterprise and sound business sense tell on an undertaking, for he is in possession of all these qualifications.

It is his design to begin work with his new dredge-boat at the lake end, and open out the pass at the entrance of the bayou to a sufficient depth to admit the largest class of steam vessels trading in the lake. He will then turn his attention to widening the canal and straightening the bayou, and as he will have another dredge-boat at work soon, all the work will be done in a couple of months at the farthest. But when we say all the work, we do not wish to be understood as intimating that these are all the improvements he has in contemplation. On the contrary, he will not relax his labors until he has formed large and capacious harbors for all the different classes of vessels which will enter the canal; constructed the wharves necessary for the convenient and safe landing and receiving of freight, and building of safe warehouses for its reception. In this connection it is apropos to state that the shell road down the bayou to the lake is now repaired, and is as smooth as could be desired. Therefore, our citizens will no longer be deprived of their favorite drive during the summer.

The amount of business being now done by this canal is much larger than ever before at this season, judging from the immense piles of lumber, wood and bricks on the sides of the canal, and the large quantities of merchandise on the wharf around the basin, where we saw a steamer lying. This was truly an agreeable sight to us, and we sincerely wish that the canal will realize under the present management all that Carondelet, its originator, expected of it; for every facility which is added to the commerce of the city is money in the purses of us all.

LOWER STORY OF THE MASONIC HALL FOR LEASE.—Under the present circumstances, when the lease of a good business stand is tantamount to a fortune to any merchant, we think it somewhat surprising that the lease of the lower floor of the Masonic Hall should not already have been taken. It is really one of the best locations for a retail store or auction mart in the city—as it is in the limit of the most frequented neighborhood; near all the principal theaters and places of popular resort, besides being directly in the way of all the Masons going in and coming out of the different lodges; a very important item, when it is remembered that the order is very large and influential in this city and State. The changes the board of directors propose to make in the building, if the lessee requests it, will throw the entire ground floor of the building into one large room, which will form one of the largest and best lighted stores in the city. The room will be very high and particularly adapted for showing goods, while the floor being considerably above the ground will make it dry and safe for the storage of merchandise. Persons wishing to obtain this important lease can learn the terms and all necessary particulars by applying to Mr. T. D. Van Horn, secretary of the board of directors, at this office.

WHARFBOAT FOR SALE.—We refer persons who would like to buy such a piece of property, to the advertisement which will be found in another column, in which the wharfboat now lying at the Baton Rouge coal yard is offered for sale, and her dimensions given. She is well arranged in every respect, new, and built expressly for the purpose. There are many points on the river where keeping a wharf boat is a very profitable business, and an opportunity is here offered which may not likely occur again soon, to enter the business. Messrs. McLearn & Mason, wholesale grocers, No. 125 Common street, will give all necessary information to parties wishing to purchase.

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Local Intelligence.

The Firemen's Celebration of the Fourth.

The fire department on Monday celebrated the ninetieth anniversary of American independence, at the Fair Grounds, very appropriately, demonstrating their great respect for the day, and at the same time, in the manner of the German Volksfest inaugurating festivities and sports which are to continue for several days, and the proceeds of which are to go to the erection of a monument to the honored dead of the department who sacrificed their lives in another perilous service.

The firemen of New Orleans represent all classes of the community, and displays by them elicits a public interest more general than those of any other association. It was not surprising, therefore, that at an early hour a great concourse of people set toward the Fair Grounds. Carriages, cabs, buggies—every description of vehicle—were in requisition, and the railroad cars of the Esplanade street and Bayou Bridge line were thronged throughout the day, which, though rather warm, was remarkably fine.

The celebration at the Fair Grounds was the great event of the day. All other ceremonials were regarded with minor interest. Extensive preparations had been made for the multitude, and the scene presented when the exercises commenced was very animated. Seats in abundance, under the shade of great oaks, were provided for ladies and children. In a pavilion, from which floated the federal flag, Jaeger's superb band performed exhilarating music. In a circle surrounding this pavilion were booths for refreshments. An extensive dancing floor, in the center, was decorated with festoons of flowers. Another circle consisted of tents, each one being the headquarters of a company of the department, and from these tents streamed flags and banners. The entire arrangement was artistic, and everything was conducted in an orderly and decorous manner.

At noon the concourse gathered around the pavilion upon the invitation of Mr. R. L. Bruce, who named his house Mayor Monroe for president, some forty vice presidents and several secretaries. The mayor after a brief address, in which he deprecated the idea that Thomas Jefferson, a slave holder, intended, in drawing up the declaration of independence, to announce the equality of the negro to the white man, introduced Mr. Isaac N. Marks, who read in an impressive manner the great charter of American freedom, to which the clamorous had adjourned. Captain George H. Braughn was next presented to the assemblage as the orator of the day, and he delivered a very interesting discourse apposite to the occasion.

These exercises through, the multitude dispersed over the grounds, reposing themselves in parties beneath the umbrageous oaks studding the field, or scattering into the booths to seek refreshments, some the stands furnished in the improvised restaurants, others the cooling beverages or edibles to be found in the ice cream and soda saloons, and yet others the stimulating fluids to be had at extemporized bars. It was curious to note the devices over these booths, to draw particular classes of the public generally. The "Richmond Exchange" is a conspicuous sign, not addressed, perhaps, to the Richmondites specially so much as the great mass, who recollect it as something more than the capital of a State. "The Crescent" is a name to which we are partial, and we were gratified to observe that our namesake was flourishing. A Fenian banner is there too, hanging "from the outer wall," the sunburst and harp on a green field inviting all to "wet their shamrocks." "The Monumental Saloon" is another attractive sign, suggested by one of the objects of the festival, but by no means indicating that the drinks are hard to take. "Branch of the Half-way House," is spread over an extensive establishment—a sign always suggestive of an undistinished journey and the necessity of taking in supplies for the remainder of the voyage. "Headquarters of the Firemen's Brigade" is the baptismal scroll inscribed on a place where, we heard, the commissary was sound on the liquor question. "The Pelican Bar" is of course a place for birds, but, we fancy, not exclusively the aquatic sort. "R. E. Lee's Exchange," is obviously set up by an admirer of the great Confederate commander, and it may be taken for granted every thing he has is good. "Dew Drop In," is a seductive invitation to hospitality which many, we said, could not resist. "A Friend in Need" must be just the place for a thirsty soul in hot weather. "The Old Stonewall" is an enigma, but it doubtless means that a man can make a good march or leap a fence after leaving the premises. "Point Lookout" looms up as an attraction to Marylanders, Virginians and sundry other people, but this "Point Lookout" is not exclusively a watering place. Besides these there are several nameless places where good things are to be had.

About six o'clock in the evening a race between engine horses came off. There were nine entries, each horse running separately against time, and all harnessed to the same cabine, which weighed 2650 pounds. *Leader*, of Volunteer Fire Co. No 1, was the winner, the time of all the contestants being as follows:

Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1, *Leader*	4.52
Jackson Fire Co. No. 18, *Billy Sherman*	5.00
Philadelphia Fire Co. No. 11, *Stone*	5.18
Lafayette Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1, *Jeff. Davis*	5.25
Mechanics' Fire Co. No. 3, *Falcon*	5.30
Washington Fire Co. No. 20, *R. E. Lee*	5.40
Jefferson Fire Co. No. 22, *Dixie*	5.45
Vigilant Fire Co. No. 5, *Dickey Gray*	5.48
American Hook and Ladder Co. No. 2, *Brown Dick*	5.50

Great interest was shown in this race, and considerable sums were wagered on it.

As night approached and the temperature became pleasanter, additions to the assemblage were constantly arriving from the city, and by dark it was estimated that from eight to ten thousand people were on the grounds. Meantime, the dancing commenced, and as darkness set in a splendid pyrotecnic exhibition was given. The scene was brilliant and exciting. The grounds were illuminated with Chinese lanterns and other devices, and the great multitude of both sexes moving to and fro, the ascent of rockets, the charms of music and the pleasures of the dance, all contributed to render the festival one of the most alluring spectacles ever presented to the people of New Orleans.

It is gratifying to know that the effort has, in a pecuniary sense, exceeded the expectations of the department. To say nothing of the tickets previously sold, the cash receipts at the gate, on Wednesday, exceeded $3000. A considerable amount will also be realized from the rent of booths. The sports and entertainments were resumed yesterday, and will be continued every day and night until Sunday night next. We have heard it suggested that the receipts might be still greater if ladies were admitted free. The idea is worthy of consideration.

One of the attractions for to-day is a race between hook and ladder companies.

Celebration of the Fourth in the City.

In accordance with the order of Gen. Baird, the military quartered in the city celebrated the Fourth by parading some of the principal thoroughfares. The federal flag waved from all the military quarters, the public buildings and several private establishments. The shipping in port also displayed their colors in honor of the day. Salutes were fired, also, as directed by the commanding general.

The Amalgamation Gathering.

The Fourth was celebrated in the hall of the House of Representatives, in the Mechanics' Institute, by an assemblage of which full three-fourths were negroes, and the remainder white persons, chiefly late comers to the city. The most conspicuous persons in this crowd of amalgamationists were Mr. Michael Hahn as president, Mr. S. S. Fish as reader, Mr. J. R. G. Pitkin as poet, Mr. Thomas J. Durant as orator, and the reverend Messrs. Newman and Horton as prayers.

Odd Fellows' Hall in Ashes.

The destructive effects of fire have rarely caused such a universal feeling of regret in New Orleans as did the burning of Odd Fellows' Hall on Wednesday night. The building was not particularly attractive by its architectural elegance or decoration, but it was commodious, and admirably adapted for the purposes for which it was erected. The order of Odd Fellows and their various officers found in it every convenience, and it contained the finest ball and concert room in the city. It is nearly fifteen years since it was finished, and during that period, while it has been known as the edifice of an order distinguished for humanity and benevolence, it has been the constant scene of delightful and elegant social reunions. There are few old residents of New Orleans who have not some pleasant remembrance to associate with it, and although conflagrations have frequently been more destructive in regard to the value of the property consumed, no building has ever disappeared in our city the loss of which so generally concerned the public. And its loss is the more keenly felt since it must be many years before the order can replace it.

The fire was first discovered shortly after eleven o'clock, in the paint shop in the basement of the building on Lafayette street, by the police, and was supposed to have been quenched but burst out anew shortly after, and spread through the building with marvelous rapidity. The fire department were early on hand, and did their utmost to check the conflagration, but there was a scarcity of water, and the flames having once a mastery, did not stop until all of the massive pile was in ashes. Nothing now remains of the structure but fragments of the walls. Large portions of the walls falling from time to time caused the earth to tremble a long distance off, and it is marvelous, close as the firemen were to the building, that none of them became victims to their intrepidity. Mr. George Troy, foreman of Hook and Ladder, No. 1, was injured by the falling of a ladder, and a member of Perseverance, No. 15, by a falling brick. So far as we can learn no other accidents occurred. Nothing was saved from the building but the records of the Grand Lodge.

The Hall was erected in 1852 at an outlay of $225,000, and was insured but for $35,000. The building would cost much more now; could not be erected perhaps for less than from three to four hundred thousand dollars. The occupants of the lower floor, viz: the "Dell" beer saloon, the paint shop in which the fire originated, Kissinger's confectionary, O'Donnell's book store and Duncan's book store, saved nothing and are heavy sufferers. Mr. Gambell, the lessee of the hotel, next door to the Hall, on Camp street, is also a loser. The saving of the house from destruction is proof of the incredible exertions of the firemen. Some outhouses in the rear were crushed by falling walls, but the chief damage in the main building was caused by the flood of water poured into it. The premises are owned by Messrs. Schneider and Zoberbier, who estimate the damage at $12,000, and Mr. Gambell's loss is set down at $3000. The injury to the building is covered by insurance, but Mr. Gambell's loss is but partially insured, and if fully covered would not compensate him for the derangement of his business. He will, however, have his house soon in order again.

The dimensions of the hall were 100 feet front on Camp street, 170 feet deep on Lafayette street, and four stories high. The decorations and furniture of many of the lodge rooms and regalia deposited in them, were of the most costly description, and it can scarcely be an exaggeration to set down the entire loss at half a million of dollars.

Sergeants White and Gibney, with other police officers whose names were not known, we have heard much commended for their exertions in the midst of fire and suffocating smoke, in saving the records of the Grand Lodge.

A meeting of the order is called by the Grand Master for half-past 7 o'clock this evening, at Masonic Hall, on St. Charles street, the Grand Master of the Masonic fraternity having considerately tendered the use of the hall.

Fire on Dryades Street.

On Wednesday morning between 1 and 2 o'clock a fire broke out in a small one story tenement, situated on the east side of Dryades street, between Thalia and Erato streets, and before the flames were under control, nearly the entire range of buildings in the square, fronting on Dryades street, was destroyed. The principal sufferers were the occupants, Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Tapka and Mrs. Rose, and Messrs. Young, Kane, Pratt, Stumberger, Oster and Darman. The blacksmith establishment of Mr. Adam Ruth, on Thalia street, was also destroyed. The buildings were not valuable, and on them the insurance was nearly up to the value; but the occupants, though generally insured to some extent, were in no instance fully covered. Mr. Joseph Drostie, of Louisiana Hose company, we have heard much praised for his gallantry in extracting two children from the flames, under perilous circumstances.

Accident.

A man named Thomas Woods was run over by a city car on Rampart street, near Congo square, on Wednesday afternoon, and had his leg broken. He was conveyed to the Charity Hospital. We have not heard the circumstances of the accident, and therefore abstain from censure.

Arrested on Suspicion of Arson.

A colored boy, named Tony Adams, about sixteen years old, has been arrested by the First District police, on suspicion of being concerned, with other boys, in setting fire to the premises in which the fire on Dryades street, on Wednesday morning, was first discovered. The affidavit against Tony is made by Mrs. Adeline August.

Appointment in the Second District Court.

We are pleased to observe that Col. Joseph Hanlon has been appointed minute clerk of the Second District Court by Capt. O'Rourke, in place of Mr. Michel, resigned.

Attempted Suicide.

Officer Wilson, of the First District police, reports having taken to the Charity Hospital an unknown man who had cut his throat yesterday afternoon in the water-closet attached to Garry Oldis's coffeehouse, on Common street. Whether the wound was dangerous or not is not reported.

Coroner's Inquest.

Coroner Delery held an inquest on Wednesday on the body of Ben, a colored boy aged eight years, found dead at 340 Love street. Verdict—died of consumption.

And on yesterday on the body of an unknown white man, found dead in the river at the foot of Julia street. Verdict—accidental drowning.

Fire Alarm.

About half an hour after midnight last, an alarm of fire was sounded throughout the city, in consequence of some of the smouldering ruins at the rear of Odd Fellows' Hall having burst into flames. They did not immediately threaten danger, and as a full force of the fire department was promptly on the ground notwithstanding their previous fatigues, there was little fear when we left to write this paragraph that anything serious would be added to the already sufficiently sad disaster.

Mysterious Affair—A Man Supposed to be Mortally Wounded.

Last night, between ½ and 1 o'clock, the attention of the watchman on the beat was attracted to the boarding house kept by Miss Breen, near the corner of New Levee and Notre Dame streets, by the noise of a violent altercation or disturbance. Proceeding to a bed-room on the third story, he there found a man lying on the floor covered with blood, and with two severe wounds on the head, which it is feared will prove fatal. He was able to speak, but refused to give the watchman his name, the name of the person who wounded him, or to explain the matter in any manner. Sergeant Gibney soon after came to the assistance of the watchman, and being equally unsuccessful in procuring information from the wounded man, or any of the numerous boarders in the house, he was about to arrest every man on the premises, some sixty or seventy in number, when a man who gives his name as Frank Ray, stepped forward and announced himself as the person who had inflicted the wounds. It was subsequently discovered that the name of the wounded man is William Naylor. Ray was arrested and taken to the lockup, together with two other men, named William Smith and William Hughes, who it was ascertained were in the room when the affair occurred. Nay, for was sent to the Charity Hospital for treatment. What the cause of the difficulty was is still a mystery, all parties refusing any explanation.

Board of Health.

According to adjournment from the previous meeting the Board of Health met at 7 P. M. on Wednesday. Present: Dr. Smith in the chair, Dr. Stone, Dr. Foster, Dr. Austin, and Messrs. Creevy and McCoard.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The president stated that he had received from Messrs. Hawes & Bowen, the owners, on behalf of Capt. Staunton of the steamship Texas, a disclaimer of all knowledge of any such person having been on board sick, as had been alleged to have died of disease suspected to be of a contagious character, or dangerous to the public health. They assured the board of their desire to co-operate in their efforts to preserve the health and sanitary condition of the city.

On motion of Dr. Stone the explanation and assurance was accepted.

The president stated to the board that a vessel having arrived at the Atchafalaya from Brownsville with another vessel in tow, having a clean bill of health, he had, on being applied to by the quarantine officer, directed her to be allowed to come up, and had the endorsement of his action.

The board unanimously did so, and on motion of Dr. Stone, the president was requested to inform the health officer that the law gave him discretionary power which he must use in such cases.

A report from the finance committee was presented. It announced the purchase of a boat, for $175, for the use of the health officer at the Atchafalaya station, and the engagement of an awning for the boat. It also announced the purchase of sundry articles of furniture. The report was unanimously approved and adopted.

Mr. Creevy stated that the finance to the subject of improving the condition of the quarantine premises down the Mississippi, referred to the building committee at its last meeting, he had not had an opportunity of conferring with his colleague, Dr. Choppin.

The matter of the application of Dr. McKelvey for the appointing of Mrs. McCarthy as matron at the Mississippi quarantine station was again laid over.

Dr. Austin announced that the ordinance which had been adopted by the Board of Health for the city of New Orleans had passed the Board of Aldermen almost unanimously on Tuesday evening, and that there was every reason to believe it would pass the Assistant Board on Friday evening. It was universally admitted to be as conservative and inexpensive as practicable, and well adapted to the immediate purposes for which it is required, and which really admit of no delay.

The president stated that in consequence of the attorney general having left the city, he had been unable further to confer with that officer in reference to the communication of Messrs. Harris & Morgan. The matter was ordered to lie over.

The president called attention to the oppressive inequality of the quarantine fees levied on small boats trafficking between points on the lake and the city, in some cases the fee of $7 50 was charged on boats the cargo of which was not worth $20.

Mr. Creevy instanced a variety of cases in which this fee was oppressive.

On motion of Mr. McCoard, seconded by Dr. Stone, a resolution was passed to remit so much of the fee of $7 50, as should reduce it, in the case of schooners bringing charcoal, sand, shells, lumber, firewood, bricks, oysters and fish, to $5 for vessels under fifty tons, and over twenty-five tons; and $2 50 for vessels under twenty-five tons and over ten tons; and admitting all under ten tons free.

Mr. McCoard presented a letter on behalf of the owners of the steamer Camella, complaining of detention at the Bigolettes quarantine station as unnecessarily obstructive and injurious, offering to bind themselves to pay the fees periodically in the city, and to give information at the quarantine station in case of any sickness being on board. agreement.

Dr. Foster expressed doubts whether the board had legal authority to enter into any such arrangement.

Mr. McCoard offered a resolution allowing steamers from Mobile and points west of Mobile to pass the Bigolettes without actual inspection, on the owners and captains entering into bond to pay the fees in the city, and, in the case of sickness on board, to stop at the quarantine station for inspection and disposition by the health officer.

Dr. Foster objected, and called for the yeas and nays.

The resolution was carried by the following vote:

Yeas—Dr. Stone, Dr. Austin, Mr. Creevy, Mr. McCoard and Dr. Smith.

Nays—Dr. Foster.

Then the board adjourned.

Third District Recorder's Court.

Vinskie, fined $3 50 for lying drunk on the street, but not having the money he was sent to the parish prison for five days.

G. P. Freeman, charged by J. P. Saunders with assault and battery. Held in bail for examination.

George Mack was fined $2 50 for indulging in a drunk.

B. Gavin, whose drunk was not of an offensive description was discharged.

Thos. Williams alias Tom Lewis, was sent to the workhouse for sixty days as a dangerous and suspicious character.

John Trosler and Kate Evans were up, charged with fighting. John pleaded that he was only training Kate, but the recorder did not see it, so he was given an opportunity to train himself in the noble art of keeping the peace, and Kate was given a breathing spell at the workhouse for sixty days.

Mrs. Robinson, charged with insulting and abusing Jno. Ward, was held in $100 bonds to keep the peace.

Jonny Reed, colored, was sent to the workhouse for sixty days, for assaulting and battering citizen Pierre Gonzalez.

Mary Powers, the Third District nightingale, for being a little too spiritual in her serenades, got ninety days in the workhouse.

Second District Recorder's Court.

Edmund Gordy, charged by Juliette Mehacks with having stolen a silver watch, and by the police officer with attempting to bribe him, was sent to the parish prison to await examination. The watch was found on him.

The case of Jules Dimeau, charged by P. David with trespassing, came up for examination, and after hearing the whole evidence, the recorder decided that as the case was entirely of a civil nature, the accused should be discharged and the case dismissed.

James Gord got sixty days in the workhouse for lying drunk on the levee.

Charles Joly gave bond to appear and answer to the charge of being drunk, disturbing the peace, and carrying concealed weapons.

Patrick Flatery was given his choice between paying five dollars or staying in the parish prison five days, all for being on a spree. He forked up the spondulicks, and went his way rejoicing.

Joe Donatson and Frank Taylor, a couple of colored citizens, were given a like opportunity for a like offense, but could not see the raise, and had to "go down."

☞See eighth page of to-day's paper.

BEAUTIFUL TEETH ARE ALWAYS FRAGILE.—And short-lived will be their whiteness, their lustre, their smoothness, without scrupulous care; but if brushed daily with the pure and purifying Sozodont, they will retain their beauty even when the brow is wrinkled and the hair is gray.

VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE AT AUCTION BY THE SHERIFF.—Particular attention is called to the sales at auction to be made this day at noon at the Merchants' and Auctioneers' Exchange, Royal street, by the sheriff of this parish. Said sales comprise: first, valuable improved real estate fronting Coliseum and Fourthstreets. Second: improved real estate forming the corner of Gravier and St. Magdelene streets. For particulars see advertisement.

TELEGRAPHIC DISPATCHES.

Later from Mexico via New York.

VOMITO IN VERA CRUZ.

SANTA ANNA—THE CHURCH—MAXIMILIAN.

THE PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION.

From Mexico via Brashear City.

THE PORTLAND FIRE.

IMPORTANT RAILROAD DECISION.

A Brooklyn Child Murderer.

NEGRO RIOT AT ATLANTA.

Gens. Grant and Sherman Require Larger Cavalry Forces.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PARDON BUREAU.

THE FOURTH—FIRES—MARKETS.

RIVER NEWS, ETC., ETC., ETC.

(Associated Press Dispatches.)

NEW YORK, July 5.—Vera Cruz dates to the 22d state that the vomito was raging in that city, and many deaths had occurred. The French troops that evacuated Matamoros had arrived. It was believed Santa Anna was acting in the interest of the church party and expected to be elected president conditional upon restoring the property to the churches. Maximilian continued reorganizing and concentrating troops. Reinforcements had been dispatched to San Luis Potosi compelled by the Liberals moving against that city.

NEW YORK, July 5.—The celebration at Tammany Hall, yesterday, was largely attended. A letter from the President was read, in which he says there can be no nobler work than the obliteration of the passions and prejudices which retard reconciliation, and prevent the restoration of the Union.

In Brooklyn, W. J. Voltz, a painter, deliberately fired a loaded musket into a group of children, killing one and wounding two.

BRASHEAR CITY, June 5.—The steamer Pisano, from Bagdad, the 26th ult., en route for New Orleans, with twenty passengers, has just arrived. The steamers Holcombe and Eugenia, with two schooners containing Generals Mejia, Olvera and staff, together with about one thousand persons, consisting of troops, government officials, and women and children, crossed the bar of the Rio Grande on the 26th, bound to Vera Cruz. Gen. Escobedo occupied Matamoros on the evening of the 25th, with two thousand men. Matamoros was remarkably quiet and orderly.

WASHINGTON, July 5.—Portland, Maine, particulars of the great fire show it to have been terribly disastrous. All the newspaper and insurance offices, banks and hotels, eight churches and convent schools, lawyers' offices, including valuable libraries and nearly every prominent business house in the city, were burned, as well as a great number of private dwellings. The estimated number of houses consumed is two thousand, and the loss exceeds ten million dollars. The churches not burned are appropriated to the homeless, and committees are engaged in endeavors to alleviate the distresses of the sufferers. The flames are still troublesome in different parts of the city. Nearly all the hose pipe burst, and several fire engines were used up.

RICHMOND, July 5.—Judge Chambers has granted an injunction in the case of B. F. Pickle, superintendent of the National Express company, against several Virginia railroads, restraining them from carrying out the special transportation contracts with the Adams' Express and Southern Express companies, which excludes all others. The decision is considered highly important as deciding the rights of railroads and express companies. The effect of the decision places the National Express company on the same footing as those previously named.

PHILADELPHIA, July 5.—Dr. Paul Beck Goddard, one of the most eminent physicians in this country, died to-day, after a brief illness, aged 57.

WASHINGTON, July 5.—The committee of conference on the tax bill have recommended the fixing of the tax on cotton at three cents per pound, and giving gas companies the right to add to their rates the tax until the 30th of April, 1867. They agree to leave the income tax unchanged, the exemption of six hundred dollars being retained.

WASHINGTON, July 5.—It is understood that the Southern representatives will issue an address to the people of the South, recommending the election of delegates to the Philadelphia convention. They regard it as highly important that the South shall co-operate in that movement especially, and it is understood the convention is only for the restoration of the South to the Union, and not for any party purposes.

WASHINGTON, July 5.—*Senate.*—The bill to repeal the act retroceding the county of Alexandria to Virginia, was discussed and laid over, and the same disposition was made of the bill to pay the loyal people in the South for supplies furnished.

The Senate refused to transfer to the secretary of war supervising and other power over the acts of the commissioner of Indian affairs, now exercised by the secretary of the interior by a vote of 21 to 12.

The conference report on the army bill was agreed to in the Senate.

Nothing of moment transpired in the House, excepting the tariff bill.

Mr. Spalding, of Ohio, gave notice that after the tariff bill shall be disposed of, he would move to call up the resolution reported by the select committee in the Rousseau-Grinnell case.

AUGUSTA, GA., July 5.—Freedmen and soldiers were engaged in a fight at Atlanta on the fourth, in which a few were wounded. The prompt appearance of the military prevented the disturbance from becoming general and serious.

WASHINGTON, July 5—[illegible] can minister, received [illegible] Paso, to the 8th of J[illegible] were to leave on th[illegible] likely on hearing [illegible] the government w[illegible] The news receive[ill