

The New Orleans Crescent.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS.

G. S. HIXON, Editor and Proprietor.

OFFICE, No. 94 CANAL STREET.

WEEKLY DAILY OBSERVATIONS

IN PAGES SEVEN AND EIGHT, MONDAY MORNING.

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THE WEST AND SOUTHERN AND TROPICAL TRADE.

Commercial people in the West are beginning to realize the vast importance of the Southern market and of the tropical trade to the future prosperity of Western interests.

The great cities in that section, cities which have been still more infatuated and bigoted than the ambitious, are learning at length that the railways connecting them with the Atlantic seaboard at points on the same parallels of latitude, have in reality added nothing to their permanent elements of growth in population, wealth or widening scope of trade.

Even Chicago suspects that she is no exception to the general fact that the tendency of the Northern railway system is to centralize capital and enterprise at its ocean termini, and to subtract proportionately from the commercial resources of towns at interior termini and on interior transits.

Nothing has thus far saved the chief Western cities from the operation of this inexorable law but their fortunate relation to those two fresh water seas, the Mississippi on the one hand, the Great Lakes on the other hand.

Strike these from existence to-morrow, and in no long time Chicago and St. Louis, Cincinnati and Louisville would be almost literally swallowed up by New York and Philadelphia, Baltimore and Norfolk.

They would survive in a geographical sense, to be sure, but only as suburban appendages and tributaries to metropolitan centers. The fact is that the effect of railways, as feeders for Eastern seaports, is as though some monster should rise from the deep, and extend arms as tough as iron and as resistless as steam, to draw from the land every living thing to its insatiable jaws.

In so far as any Western city has assisted eastern railways to nullify its natural advantages as the port of a fresh water sea, it has co-operated to bring about the eclipse of its own metropolitan destiny.

It is no less true that in so far as any western community has aided to disorganize industry and obstruct material property at the South, it has helped to dry up the richest source on this continent from which Western agriculture and commerce could hope for profit and aggrandizement.

There are some cheering indications that the more thoughtful and enterprising classes are awakening to a lively appreciation of these truths. As an evidence of the increased interest which they feel in the vital question of the relation of Western interests to the Southern market and to tropical trade, may be mentioned the carp taken by leading Cincinnati papers to report in full and in a conspicuous manner a lecture recently delivered by Professor Fontaine, at the chamber of commerce in that city, on the subject of advancing the interests of the West by extending and improving its means of trading with the Southern portion of the Mississippi valley and with the tropical countries.

This lecture, well stored with a variety of interesting facts, though it may contain little that would appear new to an intelligent New Orleans reader, possesses some features which to the Western public will doubtless prove both novel and suggestive. And such we conceive to be the character of the subjoined passage:

The Amazon and the Mississippi rivers, and all the great rivers which empty into the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico, between their mouths, are most singularly connected by the equatorial current which forms the gulf stream; and their connection indicates the commercial relations and reciprocal ties which ought to bind together the vast regions through which they flow.

The Amazon runs from west to east, almost directly under the equator, and its great tributaries rise on both sides of it and pour the tropical rains into it, whether the sun is in Cancer or Capricorn. The Mississippi flows from north to south, almost at right angles to it. The Rio Negro, the largest of the tropical rivers, comes from the north. The Emerald river divides into two equal portions, one-half of which makes the Casiquiare river, which flows into the Rio Negro, and the other branch empties into the Orinoco, which empties into the northern shore of South America.

Both these great rivers of the Emerald river are navigable for large vessels, and connect the Amazon and Orinoco by a natural ship canal from their mouths, through the most fertile regions of that great continent. From the mouth of the Amazon to the mouth of the Mississippi, the equatorial current flows against the eastern shores of South and North America; reaching the mouths of the Orinoco, the Magdalena, the San Juan, Rio Grande and Brazos. Bottles thrown out at the mouth of the Amazon are always stranded on Galveston Island, or Terrebonne parish, or some other parts of the coast of Texas or Louisiana.

A vessel, without hoisting a sail, may steer with bare poles from the mouth of the Amazon to the Mississippi; and, on this singular voyage, it might touch at every corner of the continent, New Granada, Mexico, Guiana, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Texas, and bring specimens of their costly productions to exchange with those of this valley. The Amazon makes a tropical current which flows into the gulf stream, without a break. The Mississippi is struggling to get in the same condition. Remove the obstructions at the mouth, and there will be nothing to hinder the direct internavigation between these great rivers, which were formed by nature to exchange their products.

We trust that the Western mind will continue steadfastly, and with increasing earnestness, in the direction indicated. The West, unless it renounces the grandeur of its future, must find the secret of its great destiny in frankly recognizing the truth that whatever makes for Southern prosperity makes for Western prosperity, and that the same tide of tropical trade which will augment the volume of commercial activity at New Orleans, will still more greatly enrich St. Louis and Cincinnati. Our part of the Mississippi valley is to yours, merchants and farmers of the West, like a Corsican twin. You cannot be indifferent to our wrongs and our hurts. Nature will not let you. Our prosperity is to yours as the right ventricle is to the left ventricle of the heart. Obstruct the one, or poison its blood, and stillness and death must inevitably come over both. Were the West and South-west intelligently and resolutely united, there is scarcely a measure for their common advantage in legislation or in diplomacy, which they might not accomplish. They may free New Orleans from all the obstructions, natural or artificial, which are now not more detrimental to Western interests than to her own. They may open Cuba to Western produce; and they may achieve the most glorious and beneficent illustration which the world has yet seen of the principle for which Patrick Henry pleaded when he said: "Petter non commere. Let her be as free as the air. She will range through the whole creation and return upon the wings of every wind to bless the land with plenty."

"Having been made acquainted with the composition of the preparation known as Soudon, I have for some time past permitted it to be used in my family, where it has given entire satisfaction. It is an elegant toilet article, well worthy of the encomiums it has received."—(Alex. N. Dougherty, M. D., late one of the medical directors, U. S. A., Newark, N. J.)

New York prices for Grover & Baker's family sewing machines at the office, 152 Canal street, the line is five years. Hammer, quilter, tucker and braider with each machine.

EDITORIAL PARAGRAPHS, ETC.

Deaths in the city last week 97. Gold closed in New York yesterday at 134. Quebec has two feet of snow.

Telegrams have been chosen a patron saint. There is an "Astor House" at Shanghai, China. A road has been opened from Tucson, Arizona, to Salt River.

Balance in the sub-treasury yesterday \$87,500,000. M. Dulentour, a native of Orleans, France, has made a large fortune by dealing in leeches.

The Texas editors will hold a convention at Galveston about Christmas time. Apples are selling in Milton, N. C., at \$1 per bushel.

Four hundred marriages are celebrated in Paris every Saturday. There are extensive salt mines in Rockingham county, N. C., near Madigan.

Thanks to the officers of the R. E. Lee for late Vicksburg papers. A convention of cotton planters will meet in Macon, Ga., on the 10th prox.

Thanks to the officers of the Josephine for late Galveston papers. We are indebted to the Southern Express for late Northern and Western papers.

Thanks to the officers of the Judge Fletcher for late Shortport papers. The small-pox is prevailing in Mill rankee to such an extent that the schools have been closed.

Henriques, vice-president of the New York Open Stock Board, gets a salary of \$10,000 a year. Gresham has just received the Land We Love for December.

Manito Machine, of the World, is erecting a house on \$50,000 lot. It is said Drew has lost \$1,600,000 in stock speculations within the last two weeks.

The factory operatives of Cohoes, N. Y., have nearly \$100,000 in the city saving bank. A Utah musician lately refused a barrowful of bricks for an admission ticket.

The Schenley estate in Pittsburgh yields \$72,000 in gold yearly. Macon, Ga., city reserves are to be drained at a cost of \$30,000.

Out West the plains are almost literally covered with herds of buffalo moving southward. The citizens of Jackson, Tenn., are crowded and wish the boundary line of that town extended.

The Washington street tunnel at Chicago will be formally opened on New Year's day. In India and Africa the inhabitants make use of ants as a food.

Already is careless farming wearing out the rich lands of California. The Art Journal says pianos should be tuned at least once a month.

Salmon fishing on the Ohio has been unusually good this year. Three hundred thousand dollars worth of presents were given at a New York wedding last week.

The Illinois State Grape and Wine Growing Association will have their annual meeting and exhibition on December 1, in Bloomington. Mr. and Mrs. Glasgow, of St. Louis, celebrated their golden wedding on the 19th. Representatives of four generations were present.

A very perceptible shock of an earthquake was felt in Paducah, Kentucky, on the morning of the 14th. The new steamship Neshaminy, just finished at Brooklyn, can make twenty-five miles an hour, and is the fastest vessel in the navy.

A man in Hartford carries an umbrella that was bought in 1847, and has never been stooped but once. Ex-King George, of Hanover, denied most emphatically that he intends to take his seat in the British House of Lords.

Scarlet fever of the most malignant type has broken out among the French population near Shellac, New Brunswick. European physicians, it is said, have successfully used electricity to restore persons who have taken an overdose of laudanum or opium.

California proposes to hold a world's fair in 1876, and the Pacific railroad agrees to carry passengers at half fare. During the delivery of a sermon at Cleveland, Sunday night, the gas went out, and the congregation rang the doxology in the dark and disorder.

Mr. Mapleton, the London impresario, has abandoned his idea of fetching his Italian opera troupe to this country. It is stated as a curious fact that the nations speaking our language own three-fourths of all theatricals in the world.

The Water Valley Eagle suggests that ex-President Davis be made chancellor of the Mississippi State University. Water Valley, Miss., which three years ago was not more than a wheat field, and contained less than two hundred inhabitants, is now a town of over three thousand souls.

The New York Express thinks that long before the filibuster start for Cuba, the annual American thanksgiving raid on Turkey will have been successfully completed. The Boston Transcript says Mrs. Scott Siddons is the handsomest lady that has appeared in public in Boston, during the remembrance of the present generation.

The superintendent of public buildings in New York is overhauling the condition of places of amusement in regard to facility of egress in cases of fire. The king of Saxony has a civil list of six hundred thousand dollars, one-fourth of which, one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, are spent annually for the royal theater of Dresden.

Thanks to the officers of steamships Austin and Matagorda late Galveston, Indiana and Brownsville papers, and to the officers of steamer Louise for late Mobile papers. Geo. Ellis, 7 Old Levee, has laid on our table the last number of Fanch, the Scientific American for Nov. 25, and the American Artisan for Nov. 18. The latest scientific and literary publications are always to be found on his counter.

James Ashbury, owner of the yacht Cambria, which defeated the Sappho in England last summer, has sent a note to the New York Yacht Club, challenging all America to a yacht race for the queen's cup, won by the yacht America in 1851.

The Land We Love, for December, has the following table of contents: "Diary of Lieut. Col. Hubbell, of the third regiment, Missouri Infantry, C. S. A.," "Anita," "The Duty of the Hour," "The Beautiful Snow," "Letters from Mount Vernon," "St. Louis, Mo.," "Beast Butler Defended," "Pen Feathers," "The Washington Artillery of New Orleans," "In an Old Drawer," "Haversack," "Editorial," "Book Notices."

We have received from the publishers, Sheldon & Co., New York, the Galaxy for December. Contents: "Clyber," "Poe and Hawthorne," "The Confederate Congress," "One Too Many," "Women as Physicians," "Tied Up by the Thumbs," "Mrs. Francis Anne Kemble," "Acquitted," "The Treasure of the Three Knights," "To a Friend," "Words and their Uses," "Barcolle," "The Galaxy," "Miscellany," "Ebb-tide," "Soft, Brown, Smiling Eyes," "Drift-wood," "Literature and Art," "Nebulae."

The following is a list of the passengers per steamship Cortes, Capt. Nelson, from New York: Mrs. D. Pugh, 3 children and servant, Miss M. Fawcett, Mr. W. A. Babcock, Mrs. Babcock, Mrs. Chamberlain and child, Mrs. J. G. Barber, Mr. La Roche, Mr. S. Foster, Miss Foster, Miss Brady, Miss Van Brunt, Miss Costello.

There is a superstition among the gamblers at Baden that to touch a hunchback brings luck. The other day a hunchback entered a room where playing was going on and seated himself at a table. Every one went up to him and touched him lightly on the back, after which they resumed their playing and lost. Thereupon the hunchback arose amid great laughter and withdrew his hat from beneath his cloak, revealing a fine figure.

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS.

No. 1382—Folinger & Pellard, appellants, vs. J. E. King, appellee. Appeal from Sixth District Court, parish of Orleans.

In 1861 plaintiffs assigned to defendant seventy-four hogsheads of tobacco, which were sold by the latter to the defendant in December, 1861, for \$14,338 36 in gold, and account current; thereof promptly rendered by defendant.

During the year 1861 plaintiffs drew on defendant their several bills, amounting in the aggregate to \$4358 94, which defendant accepted, and paid out of his own funds and for which, with interest, plaintiffs became his debtors. Immediately after the sale of the consignment as aforesaid, defendant drew on the account in gold to Messrs. Witt, Given & Co., as requested by plaintiffs, to wit: \$4533 92.

Plaintiffs contend that the difference in the value of gold and city currency at the date of said transaction was fifty thirty per cent., which on said sum of \$4358 96 and the interest charge of \$247 66, made the full amount of \$4606 62, which added to the \$210 90 erroneously charged for commissions, makes the sum of \$4817 52. To recover this \$2691 81 suit has been instituted.

The court below gave judgment in favor of plaintiffs, and the defendant appealed. Plaintiffs contend that their factor, Jno. E. King, could not apply the gold proceeds of the tobacco to the extinguishment of his account against the defendant, and that the defendant in 1861; that as their consignee he should have allowed them the premium of thirty per cent. in favor of gold in settlement of his said account, and that he should not have charged them two accounts, one in gold and one in city currency, but bills drawn by them against their said consignee.

Plaintiffs contend that their factor paid these bills in currency, and in his account charged them as paid in gold or applied their gold to the payment of his account.

There is no positive evidence in the record to establish the allegations of plaintiffs. The bills drawn by plaintiff in 1861 could not have been paid in United States treasury notes, because they were not then in circulation in this city. The act authorizing issue of legal tender notes only passed 25th February, 1862.

There is no allegation or proof that said bills were paid by drawee, defendant, in Confederate notes, and we cannot presume that the parties before this court dealt in an unlawful currency.

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