THE NEW ORLEANS CRESCENT.

VOLUME XVIII. THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 10, 1868. NUMBER 99.

THE CRESCENT'S DISPATCHES.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Proceedings of Congress.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—The president's message is published in New York and Western papers this morning in spite of all precautions.

Senate.—A bill relieving Judge Moses, of South Carolina, passed.

The Senate refused, after a few paragraphs were read, to hear the president's message.

Sumner's Georgia bill followed. After premising that the Legislature failed to comply with the requirements of the reconstruction acts, by omitting to exact the required oath, and did things utterly unjustifiable and requiring the intervention of Congress, the bill declares the existing government provisional only, and in all respects subject to the paramount authority of Congress to abolish, modify or control the same, until the Legislature complies with all requirements of the reconstruction acts and adopts the fourteenth amendment, and subject to the fundamental condition that no change shall be made infringing on the right of suffrage of any class of citizens. The bill directs that the governor elect shall call the Assembly at Atlanta, on or before April next, excluding, unless relieved by Congress, all who cannot take the prescribed oath. The governor is also empowered to suspend or remove from office State or municipal officers and appoint others in stead; finally, the president is ordered to place at the disposal of the governor such portion of the army and navy as may be necessary to preserve life, property, peace and the free expression of political opinions.

House.—The bill relieving Judge Moses, of South Carolina, passed.

Contrary to universal custom, the house tabled the message instead of referring it to the committee of the whole.

A bill was presented submitting the Virginia Constitution to the people of Virginia January 7th. Butler and Washburn oppose an election in Virginia until after March 4.

The reconstruction committee reported a bill removing the political disabilities of some twenty persons, mostly Virginians, including Anderson, formerly proprietor of the Tredegar Iron Works.

MISCELLANEOUS.

North and South Carolina Legislatures—Disraeli forms by Resigned—From Spain—Marine Disaster.

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 9.—In the Legislature today the bribery investigation committee was sworn in.

The Senate is engaged in discussing railroad appropriations.

General R. B. Nance has been elected Grand Master of the Masonic Grand Lodge for next year.

The annual council of the Friends of Temperance is in session.

The District Court is still in session with a heavy docket on hand.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 9.—The Legislature today elected R. B. Carpenter, white, circuit judge, and W. J. McKinley, colored, register of mesne conveyances for Charleston county.

MADRID, Dec. 9.—The republican insurgents are still under arms at Cadiz and attempting to make terms with the government under a flag of truce.

NEWBERN, N. C., Dec. 9.—The schooner S. B. Nichols, from Nicaragua to New York, went ashore five miles west of Portsmouth, N. C., on Friday night. No lives lost.

LONDON, Dec. 9.—Disraeli has formally resigned the seals of office.

The Times congratulates Gladstone on his speedy formation of a cabinet.

Bismarck has assured the ambassadors of England, Russia and France of his confidence in the maintenance of good feeling among European powers.

PLYMOUTH, MASS., Dec. 9.—Deacon Andrews has been found guilty of manslaughter, and sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment.

RIVER NEWS.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 9.—Weather clear and cold. Mercury 25. River rising, 8 feet in the canal.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 9.—River stationary, with plenty of water above and below.

VICKSBURG, Dec. 9.—Passed down: Emma No. 3 at 10 last night; Ben Johnson at 7, Dexter at 9, and Strader at 10 this morning. Up: Agnes at 10 A. M., and Legal Tender at noon. River rising slowly.

FROM SOUTHWEST PASS.

SOUTHWEST PASS, Dec. 9—Noon.—Barometer 30:25. Wind northeast and fresh. Arrived—Bark Nicholas Thayer, Crosby, twenty-one days from Thomaston, hay and stone, to master. No departures.

SOUTHWEST PASS, Dec. 9—6 P. M.—Barometer 30:10. Wind northeast and fresh. Arrived: Steamship Gulf Stream, Spencer, New York, to G. A. Fosdick & Co.; ship Advance, Morison, Liverpool, salt, to J. G. Robinson & Co.; brig J. H. Kennedy, Selman, 6 days from Havana, sugar, to Seiler & Co. No departures. Attanchor inside: the two Peruvian monitors; outside—steamship Havana. Steamship Fire Queen on the bar.

MARKETS.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 8—Evening.——Cotton dull; middling uplands 10⅜@10½d., middling Orleans 11@11¼d. Sales 8000 bales.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 9—Noon.—Cotton firmer. Sales 10,000 bales. Beef 105s. Wheat 9s. 6d.

LONDON, Dec. 9—Noon—Consols 92¾. Bonds 74¼. Sugar on the spot dull; afloat easier at 25s. 9d.@26s.

HAVRE, Dec. 9—Cotton dull on the spot and afloat; low middling afloat 1.20½.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 9—Afternoon.—Cotton firmer. Middling uplands 10¾d., middling Orleans 11¼d. Sales 12,000 bales.

LONDON, Dec. 9—P. M.—Sugar quiet and steady.

HAVRE, Dec. 9—Afternoon.—Cotton on the spot unchanged. Afloat 1.20.

LONDON, Dec. 9—Afternoon.—Consols 92¾. Bonds firm.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 9—Evening.—Cotton steady and unchanged.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—Evening.—Money firmer and more active, at 6@7 ⅌ cent, mostly 7. Sterling firmer at 109½@109¾. Gold 136.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9—Evening.—Cotton ½c. better. Sales 4200 bales. Middling uplands 24¾@25c., mostly 25. Other markets unchanged since noon.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—Governments active and firmer. 5 20s of '62 111.

MOBILE, Dec. 9.—Cotton in good active demand; sales 2000 bales, closed firm; middlings 22½@23c. Receipts 780 bales; exports 71 bales.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 9.—Sales 41 hhds. tobacco, new lugs to medium leaf $6@13 25. Cotton 22c. Hogs $8@8 50. Mess pork $25. Bulk shoulders 9½c., clear rib sides 13½c., clear sides 13¾@14c., all packed. Wheat $1 85@1 90, Corn 60@62c. Oats 55@58c. Rye $1 33@1 35. Superfine flour $5 25@6. Whisky free 98c.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 9.—Nothing doing in tobacco. Superfine flour $5 40@6 15. Wheat $1 40@2 50. Corn 68@71c. Oats 55@58c. Pork $24 50. Bulk shoulders 9½@10c., sides 13½@14½c. Bacon shoulders 11½c., sides 16½@17c. Lard 15@16c. Whisky 95c.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 9.—Flour dull and unchanged. Wheat $1 75@$1 87. Corn 64@65c. Oats 60@65c. Cheese firm. Eggs 33c. Hay $15@18. Whisky 97c. Cotton firm; middlings 23c. Lard 14½@15½c. Bulk shoulders 9½c., sides 12¾@13½c.

"PLAIN SHIRTS" AND PLANCHETTE.—A gentleman residing in a suburban town, called to his door, the other evening, by an energetic pull of the bell, found the Irish servant of a neighbor, who delivered herself as follows:

"If ye plaze, Mr. Cooker, master wud like the loan of your plain shirt."

"My plain shirt!" said the puzzled Cooker, "what the dence does he want a shirt for?"

"Faith I do' know, surr," said the domestic, "only I heard the misses say she thought she could make the plain shirt move if she put her hands on it."

"What!" screamed Mrs. Cooker, who had been listening to the conversation through the crack of the parlor door, "put her hands on your plain shirt? I would like to see her about it; the huzzy!"

Cooker grinned and then exploded in a shout of laughter. As soon as he could recover, he turned to his excited spouse, and said:

"Don't get excited, my dear, but hand Biddy the 'Planchette' from the parlor; I think that is what she wants."

"Yes, sur," said Biddy, "the bit of board and the pencil, wid the divil in 'em;" which proved to be the case.

Local Intelligence.

HOTEL ARRIVALS—*St. Charles.*—Maj Gen L Thomas, Washington; Jno Slawson, Geo N Brady, Detroit; J W Dunn, Texas; G W Yerby, N Y; Wm L Floyd, Baltimore; Thos Murdock, Chicago; Rev F T Pickett, Miss; Miss Raving; Mr Gillispie; H W Bowie, Texas; Dr. Chas Bailey, Henry A Scheinerhorn, Thos Balls and wife, New York; H A Spence, St Louis; Dr R C Malone, F T Manlove, M C Manlove, Miss Mollie Green, C G Drombole, Miss Fannie Price, Texas; Jas Murring and lady, Joseph Wilson, St Louis; B Bence, Jr, N Y; W A Weed, Brashear, La; Gustave Murpey, Tex; D W Drake, N Y; M Prigh, La; W Burnes, Jr; G H Clarke, wife and child, city; J H Fonts, Ind.

City Hotel—R H Kerr, Brashear; C Yard, McCarty, Gorbed, city; Geo H Claud, Miss; W K Bayler, Texas; L Sherull and brothers; O Verhoeff, Louisville; F H Coyle, New York; A Warren, wife and child, Irvin Miller, J C Madden, Miss; T L Cooper, Yazoo City; Col Mascom, Miss; Jas Brodnay, Ala; Ed Jacques, Pa; W H Barnett, H Flynch, N Y; G C Counstoke and wife, Clinton; Mrs F E Davidson, J David, Mobile; Geo T Brott; H Hohorst and family, Texas; Carlos Waples, N O; F B Bowles; W G Bowles; F R Carlosse, Terry, Miss; Dr A F Warren, Miss; C Taylor and family, city; F Chester, Miss; H S Parker; H Cochrane, N Y. H W Vale; C Frank Moore, Mrs Weyneth and child, T B House, Texas; J Johnson, Ala; W M Smith, St Mary, La; E B Brown, New York.

St. James Hotel—Capt Stinde, river; W Gasnell, city; H C Rickey; M Burgan, Yazoo; Tom Blanc, E Johnson, city; Mrs Hansworth, Winona; H M Foster, Ala; W P Wolley; J T White, C P Bar, Va; Mrs F J Miller and son, Ill; J A Séguaigne, Grenada; Mrs Mary J A Yneworth, Miss Mary C Copy, Jos A Copy and lady, Texas; D F Scott, Ky; R H Lacy, D G Ransom, Ed Delham, Texas; U J Hill, Ouachita City; Tom Hollimor, Arkansas.

ONE OF THE PERUVIAN IRON CLADS has returned to this city for repairs upon her boiler, the completion of which the other vessel will await, lying at anchor, meanwhile, at the Southwest Pass. The customhouse officials have received instructions to permit them to depart unmolested.

MECHANICS NO. 6 ANNUAL ELECTION.—Last night this gallant organization held their annual election for officers, which resulted as follows:

John McCaffrey, president; Jas. B. Prague, vice-president; Robert E. Diamond, foreman; Jos. Comfort, first assistant; Robert Purcell, second assistant; A. Dapremont, secretary; F. Scullin, treasurer; Robert E. Diamond, P. H. Waters, John T. Condon, delegates to Firemens' Charitable Association; Geo. H. Clark, marshal for 4th of March; Jas. Barry, housekeeper.

After thus electing their officers for the coming year, the boys started on a tour to see their friends. Of course they counted the CRESCENT in that number, and so they halted in front of our office and treated us to a serenade—vocal—and afterwards to three hearty cheers, all of which were high appreciated by us. We would like to compliment the Mechanics' boys in return, but there is a proverb about gilding refined gold, so we shall not attempt it. Success go with Mechanics 6.

LO, HE COMETH.—Ex United States Commissioner R. H. Shannon, the illustrious official who took so much pleasure in tearing from their homes citizens from remote portions of this great State, at the instigated perjury of corn-field negroes, is back in New Orleans, after a tour throughout the North and West, during which he lectured and slandered, slandered and lectured, until Ferdinand Mendez Pinto had become no circumstance unto him. The ex commissioner's smirk is as boyish and as roguish as in former times, when Phil. Sheridan and he were acting as truculently against the people of New Orleans as Sheridan is now acting against the frontier savages. There is an unctuous sanctity about the expression of Shannon's face which always conjures up the phrase that one may smile and smile, etc. The career of Shannon as a United States commissioner has had its parallel in the annals of the world at remote intervals.

The reporter of the CRESCENT has some recollection of an anathema from Gratiano, in the Merchant of Venice, in the words following:

"Oh be thou damned, inexorable dog!
And for thy life let justice be accused.
Thou almost mak'st me waver in my faith,
To hold opinion with Pythagoras,
That souls of animals infuse themselves
Into the trunks of men: thy currish spirit
Governed a wolf, who hanged for human slaughter,
Even from the gallows did his fell soul fleet;
And
* * * *
Infused itself in thee; for thy desires
Are wolfish bloody, starved and ravenous."

THE SWORN STATEMENT OF A. BELOT, the person who sues the city for upwards of $28,000, damages suffered by him in the destruction, by a mob, of his cigar manufactory, corner of Orleans and Claiborne streets, as signed before Paul W. Collens, justice of the peace, in May last, and furnished to the city assessor, puts the amount of his property at four hundred dollars. Belot mentions no furniture, no capital in business or money at interest, no horses, no moveable estate, nothing but the bare four hundred dollars for his cigar factory. He sues the city of New Orleans for more than twenty-eight thousand dollars, and McLean, the editor and proprietor of the Alexandria ——, sues Alexandria, we are informed, for forty thousand dollars.

This is about the readiest and most profitable way of making money. Why don't Warmoth, Campbell, Dunn, Shannon, the parson, and others of the newly arrived gentry, trump up actions in damages against the poor old Pelican? You have your precedents, gents, profit by them.

THERE IS COMPLAINT among a good many of the legal fraternity, that the judge of one of the courts in this city adjourns almost daily about twelve or one o clock, no matter what business fixed for that day may be left unfinished. It is rumored that his honor is afraid to enter upon a new case after one o'clock, lest the arguments of long winded counsel might detain him until the soup gets cold.

THE OLD CONTINENTALS.—We take pleasure in informing the public that this time-honored and venerable association having reorganized itself for benevolent purposes, will in future assist in relieving the destitute widows and orphans and in extending the hand of charity to suffering humanity. On the 22d February, 1869, they intend giving one of their well-remembered balls, the proceeds to be applied in carrying out their laudable motives, and having engaged the Odd Fellows' Hall for the occasion, we anticipate seeing once again another of those brilliant assemblages for which the entertainments of this club were so conspicuously distinguished.

MANY ROBBERIES that actually occur or are attempted, are not reported through the regular channels. Last Saturday night, about 8 o'clock, in the Pacanier district, a youth who had in his pocket some money which he was carrying home to his father, was chased by two theives, one white, the other black, to the very door if his residence, and finding this closed, had to climb the fence to escape his pursuers. Only the ladies of the house were at home at the time. The theives were seen by them to secrete themselves in an adjoining lot, where they remained for some time, until repeated calls for the watch pobably suggesting the thought that a policeman possibly might come, they left at their leisure. On the same night, about three squares away from this locality, a colored man was knocked down, robbed of his week's earnings, and left in a bruised and insensible condition at the gate of his premises.

THE TEMPERATURE yesterday, as shown by the thermometer at C. Duhamel's, 111 Canal street, lately corner Bienville and Chartres streets, was as follows: At 6 A. M. 40 degrees; 12 M. 47; 3 P. M. 53; 6 P. M. 51.

OUR FRIEND of many years duration, Bob Porcell, has the thanks of one of the CRESCENT reporters for the rhythmical mention of his name in that good old firemen's refrain last night.

JUDGE COOLEY, of the Sixth District Court, has refused to grant a suspensive appeal in the case of Diamond vs. Cain. This is the great police case, in which Judge Cooley decided the metropolitan police bill unconstitutional. The motion for a suspensive appeal was made by Cain's counsel.

DESCENT UPON A NEGRO COFFEE HOUSE.—Information having been given at the office of the superintendent of police to the effect that the "Steamboatman Exchange," at the corner of Gravier and Front Levee streets, was occupied as a negro gambling house, Mr. Cain yesterday sent Special Officer Marks thither to make all proper inquiries, with a view to ascertaining the correctness of the charge. Officer Marks went, and entering the bar room, made the inquiries referred to. He was confronted by the colored barkeeper, who, jumping over the bar, used most abusive and insulting language, and in the presence of many other negroes threatened "to clean Officer Marks out." The latter then returned to the station, and reporting what had occurred, was furnished with the necessary warrants and a detail of four officers for the arrest of all parties in the house. About half-past 1 o'clock he reached the "Exchange" for the second time, and producing his papers, arrested sixteen men, all colored, who were conducted to the station, and with the exception of one released on parole, locked up for examination this morning. Nine of the sixteen had knives in their possession when searched by the turnkey.

PROMENADE CONCERT AT ODD FELLOWS' HALL TO-NIGHT.—The charitably disposed should not forget that there will be this evening an opportunity for them to exercise the divinest of virtues in a most pleasant manner. At the Odd Fellows' Hall is to be given a promenade concert by the post band. The object is to aid Calvary Church, a little Episcopalian church of the city, which, just struggling into existence, asks of its richer brethren that assistance which it has a right to demand. The occasion will be a very pleasant one. The whole affair is under the direction of ladies and gentlemen whose names are guarantees for its excellence. We confidently look for a large attendance. The tickets are only twenty-five cents, surely little enough to expend.

CHILDHOOD, as it should be, always excites pleasing emotion in the bosom of the beholder. There is an innocence of evil and perfect freedom from care about most children that makes them very attractive to men whose lives are surely full of care, and perhaps, not devoid of much evil. But when we see childhood stripped of its guilelessness and carelessness, when we behold criminals who can scarcely lisp, and beggars who can just express what they want, how painful is the sight! What a vision of neglect and squalid misery, of ignorance and filth, does not the image of such a little one call up! Our reporter saw, yesterday, a little girl—she could not have been more than six or seven years old—begging from the passers by on a crowded thoroughfare of the city. She had the regular conventional whine, and spoke to each one she addressed mechanically, "Please sir gi' me a pic'yune—mother's sick and father's—," and here the person to whom she was talking, would have got out of earshot, and she would turn to the next. Few were the picayunes that rewarded her begging, but she still kept on. Now, very probably this little girl was an imposter. It is likely that both "father" and "mother" are myths, and that she is daily sent out to play upon the feelings of the people, and to thus earn a living for some great lazy man or woman, who gives her a crust twice a day and a mat at night for her pains. But her story might have been true. At any rate there she was—a thing of rags, shoeless and hatless, and if pinched features counted for anything, very hungry; and the crowd surged around her and by her, each one bent upon his own business or pleasure, while her weary plaint continued: "Please, sir, give me a pic'yune." 'Twas pitiful, 'twas wondrous pitiful!

A YOUTH named Charles Reynolds was arrested on Camp street by Officer Mullahy, yesterday morning, charged with having in his possession a vest and pair of pants, supposed to have been stolen. He was remanded under $250 bond.

TWO YOUNG MEN named W. C. Gare and James Farrell were arrested at 11 o'clock yesterday at the corner of Barracks and Old Levee streets, by Officers Benedict and Henessey, charged with representing themselves as special officers.

OUR DISTINGUISHED VISITORS FROM CHICAGO. The gentlemen from the shores of Lake Michigan, who lately made their advent amongst us, and who were at once arrested under the strong suspicion of being thieves and concerned in robberies along the Jackson Railroad, were yesterday arraigned before Judge Collens, of the Seventh District Court. As there was no direct evidence against them, and there was no probability of any being produced against them, and consequently there was no reason or ground for their detention, Judge Collens discharged them, and they went on their way rejoicing.

RATHER HURRIED.—*A Painful Affair.*—A day or two since, while a Canal street car was proceeding toward the Metairie Ridge, a boy on the platform got into some altercation with the driver, who became exceedingly angry. The boy jumped over the railing, when the driver rushed back through the car, and seeing the boy just behind it, and not noticing that the glass window was up, did not stop until he had thrust his head and shoulders through the pane of glass, seized the boy and administered corporeal punishment. The driver afterwards looked none the worse for his sudden trip through the glass.

SMOKE WITHOUT FIRE.—Last night about 8 o'clock Camp street was startled by the report of a pistol shot on the corner of Poydras. Our reporter at once proceeded to the spot but could get no explanation of the affair beyond a statement, made by a young man standing in front of the CRESCENT office, that he saw the shot fired into the gutter by a person at the corner. The discharge was probably accidental.

COMMENDABLE OFFICIAL VIGILANCE.—*A "little game" neatly blocked.*—An attempt at smuggling on the part of a passenger by the steamship Cuba, one day last week, was neatly stopped by the efficient inspector of baggage, Mr. John H. Stevenson. It seems that a trunk owned by one of the passengers, a rather respectable looking old man, contained a false bottom. The discrepancy between the inside and outside dimensions was so slight that it might easily have escaped the notice of one less wary than friend John, of the naval office. The owner could give no explanation as to this unusual style of "traveling box," but a vigorous kick furnished a solution of the riddle by exposing some three hundred cigars. It is supposed that this sudden acquisition of knowledge was too much for the old man, for "ye ancient" traveler suddenly disappeared, leaving Uncle Sam in possession of a trunk full of clothes, and a batch of fragrant Havanas.

A FRUITERER in Dryades market had a pocket-book containing $94 stolen from him in a neighboring coffee house, on Tuesday night. He had laid it on the counter and gone off forgetting it. Before he returned to get it two boys who had been playing billiards in the room had snatched it up and run away. Special officer Cummings has been detailed to investigate the matter.

A MAN NAMED HENRY FISH, living on Melpomene street, near St. Charles, was seriously injured yesterday morning on the steamboat landing, by the parting of a line on a derrick. He was sent to his residence.

CAPT. HOOKER, who has acted as judge advocate at headquarters since the departure of Col. Keeler, has been relieved from duty, ordered to report at Austin, Texas, and thence to report for duty, with his company, to the commanding general of the fifth military district.

THE CARRIAGE OF GEN. HATCH, when returning from the races on Tuesday, came in collision with another vehicle at the point where Canal street curves opposite the ridge cemeteries. One of the wheels was smashed, and three ladies were thrown out, two of them sustaining quite painful injuries.

MEMBERS OF THE PETIT JURY IN THE U. S. DISTRICT COURT will be glad to learn that the jury was to-day discharged not to meet again till the 14th of this month.

THE EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES for the high schools commences to-morrow at the different high schools buildings. Candidates must be over seventeen years of age, and applications from those not connected with the public schools must be made to the superintendent before Monday, the 14th inst.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Seymour Knights is to be held this evening at 7 o'clock at their head quarters over the Gem saloon. There is important business to be transacted, and a full and punctual attendance is therefore desirable.

THE CRESCENT is pleased to acknowledge the visit of Major Closky and Capt. Mathes of the Memphis Avalanche, and also that of Col. Conners, the pleasant and genial correspondent of the New York Spirit of the Times. Major Closky is so well-known in New Orleans, where he has been passing the autumn and the present cold weather, that it is hardly necessary for us to say that he, as well as Harvey Mathes, was a brave and steadfast Confederate soldier. Col. Conners has placed the CRESCENT under obligations for manifold favors, and a warm welcome shall always await him in our sanctum. Capt. Mathes is just married to one of the most beautiful young ladies of Tennessee, and the happy couple are on their bridal tour.

AN AFFIDAVIT was made by Annie Adams, keeping the bagnio at the corner of Customhouse and Burgundy streets, charging Zephyr Canonge, colored, a special police officer at the central station, with going into her house and raising a disturbance. He was made to give bond for his appearance.

When the case was called this morning, Canonge claimed under the law to have the right of entering, although the house was at the time quiet. Annie Adams says that it was on Monday night Canonge insisted on entering her house and breaking open a room without assigning any reason—after the metropolitan law had been declared unconstitutional.

It will be remembered that a complaint was made before Recorder Gastinel, some time ago, by Adah Bell, in which she complained that Canonge had endeavored to occupy the room of one of the inmates of her bagnio, on the ground that he (Zephyr) was an officer. Canonge was then an officer of Recorder Gastinel's court, and upon this charge a complaint was made before the police board.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY NAVIGATION COMPANY.—*Capt. DeHaven's New Boat.*—A meeting was held last night in parlor R, of the St. Charles Hotel, by some dozen gentlemen interested in the matter of building a steamboat on a new plan, offered by Capt. DeHaven, to be run between this city and Cairo. The meeting was presided over by R. H. Shannon, formerly a United States commissioner in this State, and well known to our people. Mr. Geo. H. Forstall acted as secretary. Capt. DeHaven addressed the meeting at length, setting forth the superior qualities of his proposed boat. Her superiority will consist, amongst other things, in a saving of half of insurance, which will result from the greater safety of goods carried on her, arising from the fact that she will be built in compartments; a saving of half of time, resulting from the greater speed and economy; of half of fuel, resulting from peculiar construction of her railroads.

Gen. Jeff. Thompson then took the floor and strenuously urged the taking of stock in the company.

Capt. Rogers, an experienced sea captain, then gave the results of his experience of many years. It costs a ship of 1000 tons $10,000 to come into the port of New Orleans and go out again. $5000 to do the same thing in New York, $3000 in Boston, £1500 in Liverpool, and 7000 francs in French ports.

Mr. Benj. Florance also made a few remarks relative to the proposed steamboat and its effects upon the trade of New Orleans.

A resolution was adopted stating the confidence of the meeting in the success of the enterprise, and calling upon capitalists to subscribe to its stock. A committe of three, R. H. Shannon, Jno. P. Baker and Ed Forstall were appointed to solicit subscriptions to the stock. The meeting then adjourned, subject to the call of the president, R. H. Shannon.

A LITTLE GIRL, about nine years old, was run over by car No. 44 of the Annunciation street line, at the corner of Delord and Annunciation streets, about 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and was carried in a seriously injured condition to her home, at the corner of Galennie and Camp streets.

THE REDUCTION OF THE FORCE in the Custom House at this port by the discharge of about one hundred and thirty employés, is made under written instructions from the secretary of the treasury, dated 2d instant, and for the purpose of curtailing expenses.

Special Agent T. J. Kinsella was ordered to this port for the purpose of ascertaining whether the force could not be reduced without detriment to the service, and it was from a list prepared by that officer, after a careful investigation of nearly two weeks time, that the removals were made.

The letter of instructions, after enumerating the names of the parties to be removed, goes on to state that the instructions will take effect on and after the 10th instant, (to-day,) and that the places made vacant will not be filled inasmuch as it is intended by the department that this reduction of the force of Custom House employés shall be permanent.

J. A. DEBLANC, ESQ., the efficient deputy surveyor of customs, at this port, has resigned the position which he has held so worthily for a number of years, in order to transact private business which peremptorily demands his entire attention. The importers of New Orleans and the officers of customs will sincerely regret the absence of Mr. DeBlanc from his accustomed post. Mr. Charles B. Keith will succeed Mr. DeBlanc.

A MAN NAMED HENDRICK MEYERS was arrested yesterday upon a warrant, charged by H. Winkleman with having, two weeks since, committed rape upon a child named Barbara Lewis, eight years of age. Accused was confined in the main police station to await examination.

THE THIRD WARD CLUB.—The meeting of this club, which was called for last night, was, on account of the inclemency of the weather, so poorly attended that nothing was done save to adjourn till Monday next, at which time, it is to be hoped, there will be a full meeting. It will take place at National Hall, on Poydras street, near Liberty street.

AMUSEMENTS.

ST. CHARLES.—Mr. and Miss Couldock again delighted their audience last evening by their very chaste and beautiful impersonations of *Luke* and *Rose Fielding*, in the drama "The Willow Copse." It is impossible to witness Mr. Couldock's acting as the despairing, poverty-stricken old man without acquiring the conviction that in this particular line or character he is unsurpassed. For this evening is announced a repetition of "Old Phil's Birthday," with Mr. and Miss Couldock as *Phil Stapleton* and *Marion Hardress*, and the great sensation drama, "The Hidden Hand," with Miss Belle Howitt as *Capitola*. To-morrow evening the Couldocks take a benefit, the occasion being signalized by Mr. C.'s appearance in the character of *Louis XI*, considered by many his finest effort.

Varieties.—"Dora" will be played this evening for the fourth time at the Varieties, and, if the weather be fair, should draw a good house, for the play itself is refined, both in thought and expression, the acting admirable and the scenery fair to look upon. Those who have not yet seen "Dora" will find themselves delighted with it, and should not miss seeing it before its withdrawal, a few evenings hence, to give place to the "Lancashire Lass."

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—"Undine" drew a fair audience last evening, in spite of wind and weather. Its firefly ballet, where over the surface of a moonlit lake are seen gliding in graceful motion, bevies of fairies, each illumined as to her divine head with the glimmer of a monster firefly, produces a rare scenic effect. The Can-Can, on the other hand, arouses all the Terpsichorean enthusiasm in a body, and makes one anxious to leap straightway to the stage and join the festive ones in the wanton abandon of the dance. Then, too, the exceedingly picturesque scene of conflict between Amazons and knights, the bath of beauty with its ballet of golden leaves, and to crown all the Empyrean sphere scene which terminates the piece, all appeal strongly to one's sense of the beautiful. Go and see "Undine" for yourself to-night, and do not wait for us to describe it for you.

CRESCENT CITY MUSEUM.—The attractions presented at the Museum are increasing in number daily. To see the two-headed girl, the dwarf lady, the baby lions, the human frog, will be found the means of passing away a pleasant hour or two any day. The Museum is located opposite the St. Charles Hotel, and is open from 8 A. M. to 10 P. M. daily.

Geo. Ellis has favored us with the American Naturalist for December. It is a popular illustrated magazine of natural history, issued by the Peabody Academy of Science, at Salem, Mass. This number presents the following table of contents: Bird's Eye Views, The Wavy-Striped Flea-Beatle, Ferns, The Fauna of Montana Territory, Earthquakes, Reviews, Natural History Miscellany, Exchanges, Answers to Correspondents, Books Received.

List of passengers per steamship Bremen, Capt. H. A. F. Neynaber, from Bremen, Nov. 11th:

Meta Runge, Arnold Stange, Pablo Codina, D. Holmes, F. H. Gillespie, Mrs. Clara Destez and child, Ramon de Olnca, Carlos Wapler, Louis F. Diago, Miss Therese Mildeustair, Dr. Bodselmann, Adelheid Luilmann, H. C. A. Carl Roblfs, Helene Wittgen und Tochter, J. Muller, E. Vaillant, F. Hudiet, Joan Sobates and family, M. Scudarrello, Wilh. Schochlein, H. Hohorst and family, F. Bockelmann, H. Born, Emilie Ching, Marianne Parr, and 133 in the steerage.

TO EXPORT MERCHANTS.—We are requested by Mr. H. G. Wolf to inform the export merchants that the house in New York always keeps on hand, in bond, a large quantity of Scheidam aromatic schnapps, put up with Spanish and English labels, for the West Indian and Mexican markets. For prices address the house in New York, or Mr. Wolfe, at Toby & Co.'s, 132 Gravier street.

"Tall oaks from little acorns grow,
Large streams from little fountains flow."

Seven years ago the Plantation Bitters were but little known. To-day there is not a nook or corner of our land where they are not found and used. The sale has reached the enormous number of five millions bottles annually, and it is constantly increasing. It only shows what can be done with a really good medicine, and a systematic course of making it known. Perhaps no medicine in the world was ever so deservedly popular as the Plantation Bitters. Go where you will, among the rich or poor, and you will always find these bitters in use. Their merit has become an established fact, and we cordially recommend them in cases of dyspepsia, loss of appetite, chills and fever, headache, etc., etc.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9, 1868.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Upon the reassembling of Congress, it again becomes my duty to call your attention to the state of the Union, and to its continued disorganized condition under the various laws which have been passed upon the subject of reconstruction. It may be safely assumed as an axiom in the government of States, that the greatest wrongs inflicted upon a people are caused by unjust and arbitrary legislation, or by the unrelenting decrees of despotic rulers, and that the timely revocation of injurious and oppressive measures is the greatest good that can be conferred upon a nation. The legislator or ruler who has the wisdom and magnanimity to retrace his steps when convinced of error, will, sooner or later, be rewarded with the respect and gratitude of an intelligent and patriotic people.

Our own history, although embracing a period less than a century, affords abundant proof that most, if not all, of our domestic troubles are directly traceable to violations of the organic law and excessive legislation. The most striking illustrations of this fact are furnished by the enactments of the past three years upon the question of reconstruction. After a fair trial, they have substantially failed and proved pernicious in their results, and there seems to be no good reason why they should longer remain upon the statute books. States to which the Constitution guarantees a republican form of government have been reduced to military dependencies, in each of which the people have been made subject to the arbitrary will of the commanding general. Although the Constitution requires that each State shall be represented in Congress, Virginia, Mississippi and Texas are excluded from the two houses, and contrary to the express provisions of that instrument were denied participation in the recent election for a president and vice president of the United States.

The attempt to place the white population under the domination of persons of color in the South, has impaired if not destroyed the kindly relations that had previously existed between them, and mutual distrust has engendered a feeling of animosity, which leading in some instances to collision and bloodshed, has prevented that co-operation between the two races so essential to the success of industrial enterprises in the Southern States. Nor have the inhabitants of those States alone suffered from the disturbed condition of affairs growing out of these congressional enactments; the entire Union has been agitated by grave apprehensions of trouble, which might again involve the peace of the nation, its interests have been injuriously affected by the derangement of business and labor, and the consequent want of prosperity throughout that portion of the country.

The federal Constitution, the magna charta of American rights, under whose wise and salutary provisions we have successfully conducted all our domestic and foreign affairs, sustained ourselves in peace and in war and become a great nation among the powers of the earth, must assuredly be now adequate to the settlement of questions growing out of the civil war waged alone for its vindication. This great fact is made most manifest by the condition of the country when Congress assembled in the month of December, 1865. Civil strife had ceased, the spirit of rebellion had spent its entire force, in the Southern States the people had warmed into national life, and throughout the whole country a healthy reaction in public sentiment had taken place. By the application of the simple yet effective provisions of the Constitution, the executive department, with the voluntary aid of the States, had brought the work of restoration as near completion as was within the scope of its authority, and the nation was encouraged by the prospect of an early and satisfactory adjustment of all its difficulties. Congress, however, intervened, and refusing to perfect the work so nearly consummated, declined to admit members from the unrepresented States, adopted a series of measures which arrested the progress of restoration, frustrated all that had been so successfully accomplished, and, after three years of agitation and strife, has left the country farther from the attainment of union and paternal feeling than at the inception of the congressional plan of reconstruction. It needs no argument to show that legislation which has produced such baneful consequences should be abrogated or else made to conform to the genuine principles of republican government.

Under the influence of party passion and sectional prejudice other acts have been passed not warranted by the Constitution. Congress has already been made familiar with my views respecting the tenure of office bill. Experience has proved that its repeal is demanded by the best interests of the country, and that while it remains in force the president cannot enjoin that rigid accountability of public officers so essential to an honest and efficient execution of the laws. Its revocation would enable the executive department to exercise the power of appointment and removal in accordance with the original design of the Federal Constitution. The act of March 2, 1867, making appropriations for the support of the army for the year ending June 30, 1868, and for other purposes, contains provisions which interfere with the president's constitutional functions as commander-in chief of the army, and deny to States of the Union the right to protect themselves by means of their own militia. These provisions should be at once annulled, for while the first might, in times of great emergency, seriously embarrass the executive in efforts to employ and direct the common strength of the nation for its protection and preservation, the other is contrary to the express declaration of the Constitution, that "a small regulated militia being necessary to the sanctity of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." It is believed that the repeal of all such laws would be accepted by the American people as at least a partial return to the fundamental principles of the government, and an indication that hereafter the Constitution is to be made the nation's safe and unerring guide. They can be productive of no permanent benefit to the country, and should not be permitted to stand as so many monuments of the deficient wisdom which has characterized our recent legislation.

The condition of our finances demands the early and earnest consideration of Congress. Compared with the growth of our population, the public expenditures have reached an amount unprecedented in our history. The population of the United States in 1790 was nearly four millions of people. Increasing each decade about thirty-three per cent., it reached, in 1860, thirty-one millions, an increase of seven hundred per cent. on the population in 1790. In 1869 it is estimated that it will reach thirty-eight millions, or an increase of eight hundred and sixty-eight per cent. in seventy-nine years. The annual expenditures of the federal government in 1791 were four millions two hundred thousand dollars. In 1820, eighteen million two hundred thousand dollars; in 1850 forty-one millions; in 1860, sixty-three millions; in 1865, nearly thirteen hundred millions; and in 1869 it is estimated by the secretary of the treasury, in his last annual report, that they will be three hundred and seventy-two millions. By comparing the public disbursements of 1869, as estimated with those of 1791, it will be seen that the increase of expenditure since the beginning of the government has been eight thousand six hundred and eighteen per centum, while the increase of the population for the same period was only eight hundred and sixty-eight per centum.

Again, the expenses of the government in 1860, the year of peace immediately preceding the war, were only sixty-three millions, while in 1869, the year of peace three years after the war, it is estimated they will be three hundred and seventy-two millions, an increase of four hundred and eighty-nine per centum, while the increase of population was only twenty-one per centum for the same period. These statistics further show that in 1791, the annual national expenses compared with the population were little more than one dollar per capita, and in 1860 but two dollars per capita, while in 1869 they will reach the extravagant sum of nine dollars and seventy-eight cents per capita.

It will be observed that all of these statements refer to and exhibit the disbursements of peace periods. It may, therefore, be of interest to compare the expenditures of the three war periods—the war with Great Britain, the Mexican war and the war of the rebellion. In 1814 the annual expenses incident to the war of 1812 reached their highest amount—about thirty-one millions—while our population slightly exceeded eight millions, showing an expenditure of only three dollars and eighty cents per capita. In 1847 the expenditures growing out of the war with Mexico reached fifty-five millions, and the population about twenty-one millions, giving only two dollars and sixty cents per capita for the war expenses of that year. In 1