THE NEW ORLEANS CRESCENT.

VOLUME XVIII. WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 16, 1868. NUMBER 104.

THE CRESCENT'S DISPATCHES.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Supreme Court—Proceedings of Congress—The Bill Increasing the Number of Supreme Judges—The Mississippi Constitutional Election—the Union Pacific Railroad—Cushing's Mission—The Indian War—Menard.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—In the Supreme Court Charles O'Conor is arguing in favor of the taxability of certificates of indebtedness held by banks.

House.—The committee on commerce has been directed to inquire what legislation is necessary to protect the lives of steamboat travelers and report a bill forbidding passenger boats from carrying petroleum.

The judiciary committee was directed to report a bill enforcing the third section of the fourteenth amendment.

Whittemore introduced a bill vacating all offices in the unreconstructed States. Objected to.

The speaker announced the special committee to investigate the New York election frauds.

The House went into committee of the whole on the tariff bill. Brooks charged that half a million had been contributed by the Union Leagues of New York and Philadelphia to carry the anti-tariff States. Without definite action the House adjourned.

Senate.—A number of memorials and unimportant bills were up.

The bill repealing the act forbidding militia in the unreconstructed States, except as to Georgia, passed.

Stewart's bill in reference to holding office in violation of the fourteenth amendment was referred to the judiciary committee. Adjourned.

The object of the bill increasing the number of judges of the Supreme Court is to keep the circuits in perpetual session, with a view to maintaining better order South.

The reconstruction committee have concluded the examination of the Republican committee from Mississippi, who produced data and arguments to show frauds and irregularities at the recent constitutional election. They want seven counties thrown out, which they assert would give a majority of 3000 for the Constitution. No action has been taken by the committee.

$640,000 worth of bonds were issued to the Union Pacific Railroad to-day.

Caleb Cushing has gone to Bogota in reference to the Isthmus ship canal.

J. Stoddart Johnson has arrived with the electoral vote of Kentucky.

In urging action on the tariff to-day, Schenck stated that to-morrow would be the last day for business before recess.

It is understood that the committee on foreign relations report unfavorably to the nomination of Smythe to Russia.

Georgia is excluded from the bill repealing the act prohibiting military organizations, because of irregularities in reconstruction.

Sheridan is in camp below Fort Dodge. The hostile Indians have taken refuge in the Comanche country. It is thought it will be impossible to end the war this season, on account of the character and extent of the country where the savages have taken refuge.

Mr. Menard, the colored man who is here applying for a seat as successor to Col. Mann, of Louisiana, desires to contradict the statement that the Colored Library Association of this city wrote him a letter urging him not to press his claims. On the contrary, Menard says his race here desire him to persevere. Menard is still without credentials from Gov. Warmoth.

FROM RALEIGH.

The North Carolina Legislature—Large Fire.

RALEIGH, Dec. 15.—The House of Representatives to-day postponed consideration of various railroad bills till the second Monday in January.

The Senate passed a resolution disapproving the action of the legislative committee in purchasing eight thousand acres of land for the penitentiary and directing public treasurers not to assume the bonds agreed to be paid.

A disastrous fire this morning destroyed the market house, town hall, jewelry store of T. V. Moss, and restaurant of David Lewis. Loss heavy, with little or no insurance. Fire accidental; great difficulty was encountered in preventing the spreading of the flames.

FROM CUBA.

Progress of the Insurrection.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—The Herald has a special via Key West, which states that reports from the recent encounter indicate that the troops suffered fearfully. Balmaseda demands reinforcements. The insurrectionary lines are within 150 miles of Havana. English subjects have been notified to make immediate registration at the consulate.

FROM EUROPE.

The Surrender at Cadiz—Rejoicing among the Spanish abroad—The Cadiz Insurrection—Good offices of the American Consul—Political affairs in Spain unsettled—Fenian Memorials—The Turco-Grecian difficulty—Speech of Victoria.

MADRID, Dec. 14.—On Sunday the Cadiz insurgents, according to De Rosa's proclamation, surrendered their arms to the American consul, who transferred them to the military. Eight thousand troops and nine vessels of war were ready to attack Cadiz. All quiet now.

The insurgent flag was a tri-color. Over 30,000 people had left the city. Great distress prevailed among the poor who remained or fled to adjacent villages. All foreign consuls with families, except the Swedish and American, left the city. 550 barricades had been built in Cadiz.

De Rosa, with his troops entered at 2 o'clock. No arrests were made or are contemplated. The government promises to act magnanimously. Five hundred persons were killed and wounded on both sides during the fighting last week.

MADRID, Dec. 15.—Political affairs are still unsettled here and throughout the country. Trade of every description is at a stand still. Many are leaving fearing renewed troubles. Dulce leaves for Cuba to-morrow. The Duke of Montpensier learning that the Cadiz insurrection had been suppressed, returned from Cordova to Lisbon.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The queen's speech, read to the joint session of Parliament, was as follows: "Since the time when her majesty deemed it right to call you together for the consideration of many grave and important matters, several vacancies have occurred in the House, owing to the acceptance of offices from the crown by members. It is therefore her majesty's pleasure that writs be issued for elections to fill the vacancies, that after suitable recess you may proceed to the consideration of such matters as may be laid before you."

The Lords then adjourned to February 11th and the Commons to 20th December.

Advices from the coast of Africa say the Spanish inhabitants of Fernando Po are jubilant over the downfall of the Bourbons.

A correspondent of the Daily News says the termination of the Cadiz insurrection is entirely owing to the good offices of R. F. Farrell, the American consul.

Carl Mayo has been recalled from India.

Memorials for the release of imprisoned Fenians were circulated and extensively signed at Catholic churches on Sunday.

VIENNA, Dec. 15.—The Greek minister and several Greek citizens have left Constantinople. It is also stated that the Turkish ambassador has left Athens.

ATHENS, Dec. 14.—The government rejected the summons of the sultan amid great popular enthusiasm.

RIVER NEWS.

VICKSBURG, Dec. 15.—Passed down: Pargoud and Belle Lee at 6 P. M. River rising.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 15.—River falling fast, with 6 feet 9 inches in the canal. Weather cloudy and cold.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 15.—River opening gradually.

FROM THE PASSES.

SOUTHWEST PASS, Dec. 15—Noon.—Barometer 29:70. Wind southwest and strong; weather equally. Sailed: Steamship George Cromwell. No arrivals.

PASS-A-L'OUTRE, Dec. 15.—Arrived: Bark Asterias still ashore at Northeast Pass.

PASS-A-L'OUTRE, Dec. 15.—Towboats got the bark Asterias off shore at Northeast Pass and will take her around to Southwest Pass. Wind blowing half a gale.

SOUTHWEST PASS, Dec. 15—6 P. M.—Barometer 29 70. Wind southwest and blowing hard. Arrived: Schooner Montrose, Knudson, 22 days from Boston, general cargo, to G. A. Fosdick & Co.; schooner M. E. Gray, Pillsbury, from Havre, assorted cargo, to master. Sailed: Schooner Pinkey.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHICAGO, Dec. 15.—The city is alive with officers ranging from general down to second lieutenant.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Clara Netta, daughter of Madame LeVert, of Mobile, is to be married to-morrow, to a gentleman from Georgia.

MOBILE, Dec. 15.—Races postponed until Thursday, on account of the weather.

RICHMOND, Dec. 15.—In the case of Peter Phillips, sentenced to be hung next Friday, for the murder of his wife, a *habeas corpus*, returnable February 9, was granted by Judge Underwood, on the plea by his counsel that the court of appeals which decided against the appeal taken in Phillips's case was not a legal court, the judges being disqualified under the fourteenth amendment.

MARKETS.

LONDON, Dec. 15—Noon—Consols 92¼@92⅜; Bonds 74¼.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 15 — Noon. — Cotton tends down; sales 8000 bales. Flour firmer, but not higher.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 15—Afternoon—Cotton easier, but not lower. Breadstuffs unchanged. Pork flat at 86s. 6d.

HAVRE, Dec. 15.—Cotton declining.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 15—2:30 P. M.—Cotton easier, but not lower. Manchester advices less favorable, causing dullness.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 15—Evening.—Cotton tending down. Middling uplands 10¼d.; middling Orleans 10½d. Sales 8000 bales.

HAVRE, Dec. 15.—Evening.—Cotton dull both afloat and on the spot. Afloat 1.21. On the spot 1.25.

LONDON, Dec. 15—Evening.—Consols 92⅜. Bonds 74½.

FRANKFORT, Dec. 15.—Bonds 78¾.

PARIS, Dec. 15.—Bourse dull; rentes 70.10.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—5-20's of '62 110¼, of '64 107, of '65 107¾, do. new 110, of '67 110¼, of '68 110½; 10-40's 105¼.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15—Evening.—Money steady at 7. Sterling active at 109½. Gold quiet at 135¼. Tennessee's, new, 65; North Carolinas, 64; Virginias, 55½; do. new, 56½. Cotton a shade lower; sales 2800 bales; middling uplands 25@25¼c. Flour easier. Wheat dull and unchanged. Corn active 2@3c. lower; white Southern $1 10@1 12. Mess pork $26. Lard—kettle 16¾@17¼c. Rice firmer, 8@8¾c. Naval stores quiet. Freights drooping. Cotton by steam, ⅛@¼.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 15.—Sales 52 hhds. tobacco at stiffer rates—New common lugs $5 25@6 75; medium leaf $13 50. Hogs 9c. gross. Mess pork $26 50. Lard, tierces 16¾c. for kettle. Cotton 22½c. New Orleans Sugar—fair to prime 12@12½c. Plantation Molasses 65@67c. Superfine flour $5 25@5 75. Wheat $1 70@1 90. Corn, bulk 60c. Rye $1 40. Oats 57@58c. Bulk shoulders 10½c.; clear rib sides 14c.; clear sides 14½c. packed. Whisky, raw, free 98c.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 15.—Family flour $7 50@8. Wheat $1 80. Oats and corn quiet and unchanged. Middling cotton 23½c. Whisky 96c.@97c. Pork $26. Bulk meats ¼c. higher. No bacon in market. Hams 17c. Lard advanced ½c. Butter 36@40c. Eggs 33c.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 15.—Tobacco quiet and unchanged. Superfine flour $5 50@6 50. Wheat $1 65@2 05. Corn 76@80c. Oats 56@59. Whisky 94. Pork $25 50. Bulk shoulders 10¼@10½c., sides 14@14½c. Bacon shoulders 14½c., sides 16¾@17c., hams 16½c. Lard 15½@17c.

Arrivals at the Principal Hotels.

ST. CHARLES HOTEL.

Dr A Crane, N Y; J S Mong, La; V W Wyne, Ga; Chas DeGreek, St Louis; Miss Lair, Ky; M Waring, Mobile; Jno Trendwel, J F March, Mobile; S P Greaves, Baton Rouge; Potter and wife, Memphis; Maj W H Rhea, Memphis; Thos Vaughan, Liverpool; Gen. Z. York, La; Jno Finnerty, N Y; J B Monde and wife, child and servant, st Louis; E D Judd, U S A; N D Peak and wife, Wis; Jno Patrick, Jr., Ireland; L E Snelder, city; J T Williams, Memphis;

CITY HOTEL.

W W Farmer, Monroe, La; J H Thompson, Miss; J D Holmes, do; Mrs J P Holmes, do; W P Dodd and wife, Brookhaven, Miss; A Rigsbone, Ga; W B Rutherford, Texas; J A McGreen, Pittsburg; L L Griffin, Jackson; Jas H Chesnut and wife, Ark; W B Gough, Ohio; Dr C Knigler, Miss; Capt S S Summes, wife and 3 children; Wm Cutts; J W Buckner, wife and 2 children, Miss; Mr Proctor, Ark; A Manlove, Texas; Horace Anderson, Mo; S A Cury, Texas; Edward Wood, Texas; D M Bayign, Houston; Dr D C Jones, Texas; T P Wilson, do; L Edwards; L S Whitworth, La; Mrs Harris, Texas; Mrs Harsey, do; Jno Everett, La; R J Donovan, Vicksburg; Mrs J H Thompson and daughter, Miss; John C Bass, La; Miss Emma Gilchrist, Brookhaven, Miss; R W Rutherford, Texas; F B Goodlett do; S S Cornel, Miss; F McNeely, Ark; J M Edwards, city; A F Baker; Mrs M Lindsey, Miss; M Row La; Mrs L Row and daughter, La; P N Overton and lady; J M Daniel, Miss; Thos D Smith, Miss; Jos Cummings, Ark; Miss F Farmer, Monroe; J Starr, N Y; S B Crump; C C Blanchard, Boston; Dr H Davis, Texas; J D Wilson do; Ben Walker; A E Davis, La; Capt S Kenner, Brownsville; Mrs Snell and child, Texas; C M Terrell, San Antonio;

ST. JAMES HOTEL.

J H Edmonson, Memphis; John F Foster, N Y; Miss Belle Blackman, Lake Providence; Mrs J M Fox and two servants, Mo; Horace Anderson; James B Bouldin, Mo; J C Morvin, Ark; Jos Gorton, La; J C Cameron and son, Miss; Robt C T Hillard, Miss; C J Dickerson, La; F S Mallery; John F Cannerd; Jack Ewermish, Ala; T H Smith, Miss; George W Johnson, coast; Mrs H G Blackman, Lake Providence; Miss Sue Blackman, Lake Providence; S Shackleford, Mo; J Starr, N Y; B John-n, coast; G A McDowell, Canada; John S Jones, Va; J M Sulgier, Miss; C Jones and lady, Tenn; P V Jones, La; T P Smallcross, Washington; H M Foster, Maryland; Mrs Lewis, Vicksburg;

The Planters of Rapides and the Freedmen

At a meeting in Alexandria, La., on the 5th, of the planters and landholders of Rapides parish, it was resolved hereafter not to rent, lease or give any portion of their lands to freedmen; reserving, however, the right to settle known conservative freedmen, who are to be under the eye and and direction of the planters or landholders. It was also resolved "that any planter or landowner among us who is so unmindful of what is due to himself, the society in which he lives, as to let out lands in opposition to the will of a large majority of our people, as above expressed, deserves to be and will be branded as a public enemy and treated accordingly. That in coming to the conclusion we have on this subject, we are not influenced by any feelings inimical to the freedmen of our parish; but on the contrary, we have the kindest regard for them, and that we are acting for their good as well as our own." The meeting, in view of the frequent instances of bad faith on the part of freedmen, recommended the propriety of requiring of all freedmen seeking employment, certificates of discharge, testifying to their good behavior and industrious habits, as well as their honesty; and further, should any freedman leave, after having contracted for the year, before the expiration of the time, without permission, that this certificate of discharge be denied him.

THE IRONCLAD CASE.—A Washington dispatch of the 10th says: There has been some further action in diplomatic circles about the ironclads Oneota and Catawba, sold last winter by our government to Swift & Co., of Cincinnati, and by them resold to the Peruvian authorities. The state department, some time ago, released them from detention at New Orleans, but the Spanish minister objected to their going to sea till he had some guaranty that they would not be used against his government. He wanted Mr. Seward to give him something, but our secretary declined. The Peruvian minister at this juncture stepped in and wrote a note to Mr. Seward, saying his government wanted them for general coast defense, and not for use against Spain. This satisfied the Spanish minister. And so the diplomatic contest about these vessels is ended.

HIGHWAYMEN IN MISSISSIPPI.—The Forest Register, published at Forest, Newton county, Miss., has the following: "Three men, masked as negroes, came upon a camping party of farmers who were returning from Forest, where they had sold their cotton, to their homes in Leake county, and robbed them of what they had on their persons. Mr. Jeff. Gill, of Leake, handed over $150, and his small change. We hear this from reliable parties. We have seen none of the sufferers ourselves."

Local Intelligence.

DURING THE LAST FOUR DAYS the weather has been blowing hot and cold—to-day freezing and piercing to the marrow—to-morrow uncomfortably sultry; to day all tears, to-morrow sunshiny as mid-summer. The clerk of the weather is "variable as the shade by the light quivering aspen made." What we would like to see is a strong, dry northwest wind, cold, yet bracing, bringing color to the cheek and elasticity to the frame; making one shiver when standing still, but driving a glow through the blood after a little pedestrian exercise.

PELICAN Hook and Ladder Fire Company No. 4 have fixed on Wednesday, the 13th of January, for a grand fancy dress, mask and firemen's ball, to take place at the Opera House, on Bourbon street. A magnificent supper will be given on the occasion; and as Pelican Hook and Ladder is noted for the liberality and good taste of its officers and members, the ladies may expect a delightful evening and a splendid ball.

BALL OF THE HEBREW LADIES' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION.—Despite the inclement weather last night, Odd Fellows' Hall was crowded with the beauty and fashion of our Hebraic citizens. From the known thoroughness with which this class of our community are wont to carry out all their undertakings, the success of this entertainment was from the first assured. Every arrangement was complete, the cars being kept in attendance till 3 o'clock, showing a noticeable regard for the convenience of the guests. Mr. Simon Leopold, chairman of the committee, and his able assistants, put every one at his ease. May their shadows never grow less.

JACKSON 18 give a grand ball Saturday evening next, at Odd Fellows' Hall. It is to be a fancy dress and mask ball, and from the flutter which the announcement excites among the ladies of the four districts of New Orleans, we judge it will be one of the most splendid fetes of the carnival. A reference to the advertisement will show an array of names of managers and directors who are bound to make the ball a grand affair, particularly when they are seconded by the brave and noble boys of Jackson Fire Company No. 18.

PLEASANT NEWS FOR THE DEVOTEES OF TERPSICHORE.—A grand dress ball will be given under the auspices of the Board of Directors for the benefit of the German Protestant Orphan Asylum. Our dance-loving community will take note accordingly. The ball comes off at Odd Fellows' Hall on Tuesday, 22d inst.

SERGEANT BATES, who made a journey on foot, and without a cent of money on his person, according to a contract, from Vicksburg to the capitol at Washington, with the United States flag in his hand, was robbed a few morning's ago at the Irving House. Among the articles stolen were a purse presented to the sergeant by President Johnson, containing $50 in gold, his certificate as a gallant soldier, his discharge, mementos from Southern men and women, his watch, his pocket-book and several other things of value. Sergeant Bates is now as penniless as when he started from Vicksburg.

We wish to call the attention of our citizens to Sergeant Bates. He undertook the long and arduous journey from Vicksburg to Washington, on foot, with his country's flag displayed in his hand, in order to controvert and put to shame the slanders of the New York Tribune and kindred papers to the effect that a Union man was not safe in the Southern States. He was received with acclamations and welcome all along his route; the men and women and little children vied with each other to do him honor; they gave him food, lodging and clothing; they offered him money and presents of value, but these he could not, according to the terms of his contract, accept. He traveled safely all through from Vicksburg to Washington, but when he attempted to ascend the steps of the capitol in order to fix his flag on the dome of that edifice, he was ordered back by a guard, who were obeying the instructions of the Radical demagogues in Congress.

Sergeant Bates is now without a penny. He is a gallant and handsome young fellow, and the people of New Orleans ought to do something in favor of the standard bearer who proved that the United States flag could be borne in safety by one unarmed, unaided man throughout the broad domain of the Southern States. Aid him, fellow citizens; he deserves your esteem, your sympathy and your support.

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE.—Sunday morning, about one o'clock, as one of the reporters of the CRESCENT was wending his weary homeward way up Camp street, and crossing Julia street, he was roughly hailed with the order "stop," from a drunken man who was crossing over from the drug store. The reporter paid no attention to the call, and kept on a step or two, when the order came more peremptorily, "stop, I tell you." Looking around he saw a watchman brandishing his club. He waited. The watchman came up—Cassidy by name. Mr. Cassidy asked, with tremendous dignity, "What are you doing out this time of night?" Answered the reporter: "I am going quietly home from my work." "Who are you, by G—?" "My name is —— and I am a writer on the New Orleans CRESCENT." "Well, if you are an editor of the CRESCENT you can pass on." "No, no," was the reply, "you have arrested me, a quiet citizen, walking by myself, interfering with no one, and perfectly sober and orderly; you had no right to do so, and I am going back to report you to Capt. Cain, or to any person who is in charge at the station." The watchman—Mr. Cassidy—accompanied the writer as far down as Gen. Buchanan's quarters, trying to induce him not to make the report. On the corner of Lafayette Square the watchman—Mr. Cassidy—attempted to get the writer into an altercation, with the idea, probably, that his temper might get the better of him, so as to give the watchman Cassidy an opportunity to bat him over the head, and drag him stunned and staggering from the blow to the lock up, and have him locked up for the night as a drunken man. The watchman—Mr. Cassidy—abandoned the writer at Gen. Buchanan's headquarters. The writer proceeded to the police station where he was treated with kindness and attention. The sergeant on duty immediately went off to the Camp street beat and brought the watchman, Mr. Cassidy, to the station. Mr. Cassidy was called on to answer the writer's charge that Mr. Cassidy was drunk, and had stopped the writer and insulted him without provocation. Mr. Cassidy, the watchman on duty on Camp street, who was drunk, was hardly able to reply. He said he had arrested the writer at the corner of Girod street and Camp, where he was standing suspiciously; then that he had stopped him corner of Lafayette and Camp streets; and then again that the writer was ringing the bell at Gumbel's Hotel, and on his (Cassidy's) asking him if he lived there, that the writer replied in a very insulting manner, and seemed intent on drawing a weapon to Mr. Cassidy's bodily detriment. In these three statements Mr. Cassidy lied—through drunkenness probably; but at any rate he lied. Mr. Cassidy is a metropolitan policeman. At the time he arrested the writer, and wanted to know what he was doing on the street at that time of night, the upper story of the New Odd Fellows' Hall was brilliantly lighted. The ball room was crowded with ladies and gentlemen, and when the ball broke up, an hour or two later, the watchman, Mr. Cassidy, might as well have stopped a party of ladies and gentlemen on their way home, and required them to state in the name of the Republican party what business they had on the street at that unseasonable hour. Mr. Cassidy, the night watchman on Camp street, from Lafayette street to Julia, must be taught better manners. Mr. Cassidy is entirely unfit to be a guardian of the peace and a watchman, and Mr. Cassidy must leave the police force, or the police force shall be brought to the notice of the Grand Jury as a dangerous public nuisance.

It will be remembered that, a few nights ago, on this same Mr. Cassidy's beat, a young man was knocked down at 11 o'clock, corner of Julia and Camp streets, beat to insensibility, and robbed. Was it because he would not answer Mr. Cassidy's call to him to stop and give a satisfactory reason for being out at that hour of the night?

THE PATRONS of the Varieties Theater and admirers of good acting in general will bear in mind that the benefit of that sterling actor, Mr. W. E. Sheridan, is on the boards for Thursday, 17th inst. His many friends can then have an opportunity to pay their tribute to real merit.

FIVE OR SIX DAIRIES on the outskirts of town are now under seizure by the sheriff. The milkmen are unfortunate. Not only did the overflow from the lake do great detriment to their kine, both in loss of life and in starvation, but a good many families in New Orleans now prefer the prepared can milk from the North and West to the fresh milk furnished in the city. They say it is purer and better tasted, and more wholesome for little children. The milkmen must hold themselves in a measure responsible for this falling off. They come into town before daybreak, stop at a customer's door, and without getting off their seat to ring the house bell, or rap on the knocker, haul out an outrageous, an infernal bell of their own, making all the noise possible, to the discontent of the whole neighborhood, until the frowsy servant is awakened from her slumbers and answers the call. All the fruit and egg vendors, the vegetable gardeners, the oystermen, the poulterers, in New Orleans, concentrated, cannot make so great a nuisance as the milkman, with his heavy cart and his diabolical bell.

MEETING OF THE NEW CITY DRAINAGE BOARD.—The board of engineers appointed to take under consideration the subject of the future drainage of the city met according to notice last evening at room No. 25, City Hall.

The following members were present: Gen. Braxton Bragg, L. Surgi, R. I. Evans, Gen. A. G. Blanchard, Maj. S. L. James, H. C. Brown, Capt. John Roy and J. A. D'Hémécourt. Absent: Gen. G. T. Beauregard and G. W. R. Bailey.

The board was organized by calling Gen. Bragg to the chair, Mr. Surgi being chosen secretary.

A communication from the mayor and the accompanying copy of the ordinance creating the board were read and ordered to be spread on the minutes.

There being no definite instructions to the board as to the manner in which its investigations should proceed, the board by common consent resolved itself into a sort of colloquial committee of the whole, in which the subject and the proper mode of procedure were generally discussed in all their bearings.

After various suggestions from different members, Mr. Evans offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That each member of this board be requested to prepare a written statement of his views in relation to the more perfect drainage and protection from overflow of the city of New Orleans, and submit the same for consideration at a meeting of the board to be held on the 18th January next.

The various modes of drainage, with an eye to the sanitary improvement of the city were discussed in a general way, their different advantages and disadvantages being brought out with suggestions as to the best way of making the one available and overcoming the other.

The history of the several overflows which have occurred since 1830, was rehearsed, and the views of the members given as to the causes, their effect upon a system of underground drainage, and the best mode of guarding against them in future.

The meeting last night was merely a preparatory one to the commencement of active investigation on the part of the members of the board, but proved a very interesting one, and from the unanimity and earnestness displayed by the members, our citizens may expect the subject to receive full and enlightened consideration. The board adjourned to 10 A. M. January 15th, 1869.

IN THE FREQUENT VISITS made by our reporter to the office of the chief (or superintendent) of police, he has seen, once, twice, a dozen times, resting upon the mantel, awaiting a claimant, a letter addressed to "Mr. DuBose, care of Chief of Police, New Orleans, La." For seven long months has this letter been there, containing its little history, locked up within it, but through all this time no Mr. DuBose ever came to claim it, nor were the officials able to discover any one of that name. So, finally, the letter was opened. It was from St. Louis, and was written in the language and handwriting of a lady. It informed the gentleman to whom it was addressed, that a little boy answering the description of one of whom he was in search, was, at the time of writing, in that city, living under the charge of a faithful, aged colored man, and that the boy had at one time been in their employ as errand boy. In connection herewith it may be stated that during the war, a gentleman named DuBose, who had gone off with the Confederate armies, was reported dead. His wife, and all but one of his children also died. The survivor, a boy very young, was taken to St. Louis by a faithful negro, as soon as the opening of navigation permitted, and there lived. He was later put at work as errand boy in a store there, but becoming dissatisfied, ran off one day; was followed by his faithful guardian and reconducted to St. Louis, where he was at the time the letter was written. Mr. DuBose, meanwhile, had returned home from the war, the report of his death being, happily, incorrect, and had taken steps to ascertain the whereabouts of his only remaining child. To this end, he telegraphed the chiefs of police in the principal cities. In St. Louis, the receipt of this inquiry by the chief of police for that city, was mentioned in the Missouri Republican, and this mention attracted the attention of the lady who wrote the letter, which fortunately has been opened. But that was seven months since. If the father and son be still living, that kind letter, though opened after so long an interval, may yet, we trust, be the means of reuniting them.

AT A MEETING of Polar Star Royal Arch Chapter No. 21, held last evening at their room, in Masonic Hall, the following named companions were elected officers for the ensuing Masonic year: Comp. J. G. Fleming, M. E. P. H.; Comp. J. W. Homan, E. K.; Comp. W. H. Wells, E. S.; Comp. W. H. Holland, C. H.; Comp. T. A. Bartlett, P. S.; Comp. S. J. Flatow, R. A. C.; Comp. T. D. Van Horn, Treasurer; Comp. W. S. Cox, Secretary; Comp. P. F. Herwig, G. M. 3d N.; Comp. Berry Russell, G. M. 2d N.; Comp. J. S. Herwig, G. M. 1st N. The installation of officers will take place on Tuesday evening next, the 22d inst.

VIGILANT FIRE COMPANY NO. 3.—On Monday last this company held their annual election for officers, with the following result: *Frank Keehn, president; *Henry Weisenbach, vice president; *John H. Bernos, secretary; Charles Hemard, treasurer; *Ferdinand Schiebert, foreman; *Geo. H. Tardy, first assistant; *Louis Weisenbach, second assistant. Delegates to Firemen Charitable Association: *C. Hemard, F. Schiebert, *J. H. Bernos. Substitutes: *L. Weisenbach, J. Herschaff, C. H. Tardy. *Re-elected.

It will be noticed that all but four of these are re-elected, which shows how well the officers discharged their duties last year.

THE GRAND CONCLAVE OF S. W. M. of the State of Louisiana held its annual convocation on Thursday evening, at No. 48 St. Louis street, and elected the following officers for the ensuing year: Grand archon, Wm. E. Fitzgerald, of Ætna No. 15; grand chancellor, M. H. Nicoll, of Dean No. 12; grand provost, Wm. De Lacy, of Aurora No. 14; grand scribe, L. A. Richards, of Ætna No. 15; grand treasurer, H. Brand, of Schiller No. 6; grand herald, E. R. Boehler, of Boehler No. 19; grand inspector general, Stephen M. Terrell, of Dean No. 12; grand prelate, M. A. Calonge, of Ionia No. 11; grand guide, Joshua Corprew, of Allen No. 18; grand warder, M. O. Lawrence, of Washington No. 20; grand sentinel, H. P. Walter, of Oliver No. 16.

OUR FORMER COLABORER and our friend, J. M. West, was brutally beaten and abused on St. Charles street a few nights ago by two or more metropolitan policemen. Capt. West, who is one of the most adventurous and chivalrous men alive, is badly bruised about the head. Luckily for the policemen the first blow from a club stunned him, otherwise the report might have been different.

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. 58 degrees; 12 M. 60; 3 P. M. 57; 6 P. M. 49.

THE REPORTER OF THE CRESCENT tenders his thanks to Capt. Woelper, the courteous, efficient and industrious clerk of the Sixth District Court, and to Messrs. John H. Ilsley and St. C. Davis, his deputies, for their kindness and attentions.

MR. GEORGE JACOBSHAGEN, the proprietor of that popular saloon, the Sumter, has our thanks for a bottle of the fine whisky which he daily dispenses to his customers at the Sumter—opposite the post office. He has a fine lunch daily at 11 A. M.

WE ARE INDEBTED to Mr. M. J. Fitzgerald, secretary, for the following account of the proceedings of the Third Ward Club last night:

At a meeting of the Third Ward Central Democratic Club, the following officers were elected to serve for one year: John Roy, president; Wm. Davis, first vice president; R. B. Harris, second vice president; C. Taylor Gauche, third vice president; M. Wood, fourth vice president; M. J. Fitzgerald, secretary. The following gentlemen were appointed to revise the constitution: J. G. Campbell, J. M. West and Wm. Davis. The meeting adjourned subject to call by the president.

EIGHT NEGROES, in charge of Deputy Sheriff DeBlanc, of the parish of St. Bernard, were marched down from the United States District Court to Sheriff Wurzburger's office, and thence to their newly elected domicil in the Parish Prison, the grand jury in the United States Court having found a true bill against them on the charge of beating and killing a citizen in the parish of St. Bernard, a few days before the presidential election, setting fire to his premises, driving off the ladies and children of his family, and putting them in peril of their lives. These negroes were in charge of a squad of the First United States infantry. The negroes are a very ill-looking set, and, to judge from their truculent and savage physiognomy, would be capable of any atrocity. However, the devil is seldom as black as he is painted. Their names are: Andy Mayo, declared to be the murderer of the citizen, Mr. Pablo Filleu; Jim Brown, who shot at a white girl named Cecilia Gilmore, and Philo. Reggio, who is stated to have fired the premises. These are the ringleaders. The others are: Henry Hall, Edmond Page, Paul Milican, Prosper and William Toles.

A GHOST STORY.—This reporter has had an apparition; in truth, we have seen a ghost, or at least we saw something Sunday night which we at first thought was a real ghost. We were just entering our domicil, (it was about the hour, when it is said that churchyards yawn, and hell itself breathes forth contagion to the world,) and as our readers are aware it was a fearful night, not a gleam of light was vouchsafed us from the heavens—the skies being covered by dark rain clouds which were pouring their contents down upon us with relentless fury. During our walk home not a living soul crossed our path or obstructed our way—not even a metropolitan policeman. But to our ghost, or rather to our subject. As we ascended the steps leading to our room a tall, gaunt figure, clad in white, suddenly arose before us, and with one spring grasped us by the throat, laying its cold, clammy hands upon our shoulders. An involuntary shriek escaped from our lips, whilst our right hand naturally sought our pistol. The outcry caused the ghost to relax his hold upon our neck, and at the same time aroused every one in the house. A light was brought and the mystery unraveled. A servant had, through a kindness of heart truly commendable, placed upon the gallery an old mosquito bar for our watch dog to lie upon, and he mistook us—muffled as we were—for a burglar, sprang upon us, carrying with him the bar in the meshes of which he had become entangled. Our nerves received quite a shock, but we are now more than ever attached to our dog.

ONE OF THE CRESCENT REPORTERS, who has a sweet tooth for whisky, was favored yesterday with a drink of most excellent corn juice, manufactured a year ago in the State of Louisiana. Better or purer whisky is rarely found anywhere, and the reporter's wish, after his heart had warmed to the generous liquor, was that the liberal host had a barrel of "that same."

DURING THE ABSENCE OF GEN. NEILL, whose departure for Washington in charge of official records, was mentioned yesterday, his duties will be filled by Lieut. Nathaniel Burbank, who brings to their discharge two years of constant service in connection with business at military headquarters.

LIEUT. J. H. BERRY, having been detached from the revenue tug Ella, stationed in Mississippi Sound and the adjacent waters, the command of the vessel has been assigned to Lieut. W. C. Coulson of the cutter Wilderness.

A LOST CHILD, named Catharine Cronan, seven years old, and wearing a white dress with red spots, is reported as lost. Any information as to her whereabouts will be grateful to her parents, residing at No. 279 St. Thomas street.

PATROLMAN FRETAG yesterday delivered at the Third District station a bale of cotton, which he found in the street, and which was supposed to have been dropped from a dray.

ROBBERIES.—During night before last, burglars entered the coffeehouse of Mr. Geo. Geier, corner of New Levee and Sorapara streets, by way of a back door, but after an unsuccessful effort to open the safe, made off stealing only some cigars and liquor.

On the same night, thieves stole about forty dollars from one of the inmates of a house, corner of Gravier and Rampart streets. A colored man named James Lucine has been arrested, charged with being the guilty party.

The police have arrested two men named Simpson Fox and William Brice as having been concerned with the recent heavy burglary upon Mr. Bartelles' tailoring establishment, No. 18 Carondelet street.

Mr. H. Winteler, a German about fifty years of age, was set upon on Canal street, between Baronne and Dryades streets, about half past eleven o'clock, last Saturday night, by three negroes, who robbed him of four dollars, all the money he had about him; another knocked him into the gutter, where he remained for some time insensible, his arm being broken in the fall. He finally recovered, and made the best of his way homeward without assistance. This information we have from a gentleman at whose house, on New Levee street, he is now under treatment.

A COMPLETE OUTFIT FOR A SOLDIER, including musket, knapsack and cartridge-box, are reported by Officer Cunningham as having been found on Conti street, between Chartres and New Levee.

A BOY NAMED ED. PARKER, who was found sick, destitute and homeless by Officer Sale at the Jackson depot, has been sent to the Charity Hospital.

THE GRAND GROVE OF DRUIDS of the State of Louisiana on Sunday elected the following officers, viz: George Henry Pabst, noble grand arch; Charles Assenheimer, deputy grand arch; George B. Ebeling, grand secretary; John Reich, grand treasurer; Valentine Fuchs, grand marshal; Caspar Schneider, grand guardian; John H. Muller, grand sentinel.

WHILST STROLLING along St. Charles street last Sunday evening, we were attracted by a sign of a saloon, the Ætna, and our curiosity led us into it—not into the name, but the saloon. After passing its portals we met our friend, Wm. Doughty, who informed us that for the present he had deserted his first love—the levee—and that henceforth his river friends could find him at the Ætna. We wish William every imaginable success in his new undertaking, and can say truthfully that those who thirst can find the best of wines and liquors at the Ætna, No. 17 St. Charles street. "Nuf ced."

PAUL MOREL, COLORED, was arrested by Special Officer Hennessey, on Bienville street, at 10 o'clock last night, charged with burglary. In the morning this officer, accompanied by another, had made a descent upon a house at the corner of Columbus and Johnson streets, and found there a quantity of valuable property recently stolen from two different places. Among the articles recovered was a magnificent ormolu clock, two rarely wrought vases of large size, decanters, clothing, and a great variety of smaller articles. It was in connection with this affair that Morel was arrested.

ABOUT A DOZEN DENIZENS of Basin and Philippa street were last evening arrested, charged with violation of city ordinance 558.

DAVID WHITE AND ROBERT BUTLER, ALIAS JONES, both colored, were arrested on Poydras street yesterday evening, charged with burglary.

PIERRE BERTRAND was arrested by Superintendent Cain on Tchoupitoulas street, at half past 9 o'clock last night, while in the act of entering the store No. 61 Tchoupitoulas street, by means of a key which had evidently been prepared for the purpose. He was brought to the central station and locked up to await examination.

MILITARY.—Ordnance Sergeant Thomas Cooney, U. S. A., having performed the duty for which he was ordered to this city, will return to his proper station—Fort Pike.

A general court martial is appointed to meet at Baton Rouge, La., on Thursday, the seventeenth day of December, 1868, at 10 o'clock A. M., for the trial of such persons as may be properly brought before it.

SUPREME COURT.—*Cain vs. Diamond.*—Yesterday, whilst Judge Cooley, of the Sixth District Court, was sitting in judgment on an important case, a special messenger from the Supreme Court waited on him and stated that his attendance was requested at the bar of that august tribunal. The judge adjourned court and was absent half an hour. He was represented by H. J. Leovy, Esq., attorney-at-law, in the mandamus case, on which he was cited, which was taken out before the Supreme Court by Capt. Cain against Mr. Diam