



The South-Western

BY L. DILLARD & Co. Office corner of Texas and Edwards streets, OPPOSITE MITCHELL'S LIVERY STABLE.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 1857

Since our last issue the river has risen about six inches, but is now slowly receding. We have a report that it has risen about five feet since our last issue.

The election on Monday, for mayor and trustees, passed off very quietly. Neither of the candidates for mayor were elected, the vote standing as follows: J. W. Jones, 24; Sam Wells, 93; and James Johnson 37.

Another election, for mayor, has been ordered to be held on Saturday, the 16th inst.

Rev. Dr. Padon, of Paris, Texas, a distinguished member of the Christian church, arrived here yesterday, and intends delivering a course of lectures. The doctor brings ample testimony from the best citizens of Texas. He will, probably, preach his first sermon this evening. We hope our citizens generally will turn out to hear him.

We are indebted to T. Jacobs of the steamer Douglas, and J. Wilson of the Lecomte, for city papers.

One of the heaviest rains we have even witnessed fell on Thursday last. It commenced early in the morning, and at times it fell in perfect torrents, overflowing the streets to such an extent that the streets were impassable for pedestrians. Friday and Saturday continued dark and lowering with an occasional shower. If this weather has been general we may look for a rise in the river.

Judging from the looks of things about the ruins of the old market house institution will soon be rebuilt, upon its old site, where we hope to see our country friends with their produce as in times gone by.

We observed last week a large drove of hogs passing through our streets, to be shipped to New Orleans. In less than ten years, Shreveport will be as celebrated for shipping flour, beef and hogs, as she is now for shipping cotton. Shreveport is destined to become the Cincinnati of the south.

By reference to another column it will be seen that our young friends, Joseph H. Smith and Chauncey Ford, have united themselves under the firm of Ford & Smith, for the purpose of carrying on a general grocery business. Both of them are well known in this community as high-minded, promising young men, and will no doubt receive, as they certainly are entitled to, a liberal share of patronage.

We are pleased to learn that our friend H. P. Bavery has in contemplation the establishment of the ice cream business on an extensive scale. He proposes opening two saloons—one for gentlemen, next door to the Phoenix, and the other for the ladies at the Severy house, on Edward street. Mr. Bavery's reputation as a successful caterer to the public taste is a sufficient guarantee that the lovers of ice cream will be served with the choicest article that can be manufactured.

First—For the last three or four weeks, our market has been plentifully supplied with very fine lake perch, weighing from one to two pounds each. Some of our successful fishermen, have made as high as \$15 a day. What effect the late heavy rains will have on the lake fishing, we are unable to say.

A grand ball will be given at Bellevue on the 15th inst. Great preparations are being made, and it is expected that all the beauty of the surrounding country will be present.

We learn from our old friend, Captain Isaac Wright, of the steamer Lecomte, that the steamer Empress, when endeavoring to pull over the falls, at Alexandria, her captain gave away, killing one man dead on the spot, and severely injuring several others, one of whom it is thought cannot recover.

By the last mail we received the first copy of a new daily paper just started in New Orleans—the Daily Times, published by the "Times Printing Association." In its editorial, selections, and typographical appearance it is equal to any of its city contemporaries.

We find upon our table this week the first number of a democratic paper just started at Vernon, in this State, called the Southern Times, by G. W. McCreane & Co. For a country paper it looks remarkably well.

We learn that the Pacific railroad company have chartered the steamer Wash Valley to tow their barges, loaded with railroad iron, from Albany to Swanson's landing. The late heavy rains will no doubt facilitate this operation.

THE COMING STATE ELECTION.—The New Orleans Creole says, the democracy are moving in reference to the State election, which it to be held in November next. In various parishes delegates have been appointed to the State convention, to be held on the 18th of May, to select suitable candidates.

The national council of the American party holds its regular annual session on the first Tuesday of June next, (24 day of the month) at the city of Louisville, Kentucky. It will doubtless be an interesting session. Several of the States have already elected their delegates, and a full attendance is expected. At the last meeting of the chief council of the district of Columbia, two delegates were chosen to represent the district, to-wit: Messrs. Ellis and J. L. Smith.

Custom House Frauds in N. O.—Some time during the fore part of last month, the commercial community of New Orleans were thrown into a considerable state of excitement by the announcement that one Meleye, a member of the well-known and extensive house of S. DeVisser & Co., had been detected in passing off fraudulent invoices on the custom house at that place. What added still more to the excitement of the moment, rumor was rife that all the members of the firm were implicated, while their well known character for honesty and integrity created a strong sympathy in their behalf. The investigation, which was had before U. S. commissioner Lusher, on the 24th ult., completely exonerated all of them, except the man Meleye. It was made apparent that the fraud or crime, which ever you may call it, had its origin as much, if not more, in the loose method of doing business in the custom house, as in the rascality of Meleye. The circumstances are these: The sole occupation of Meleye was to attend to the custom house business of the house of S. DeVisser & Co., for which he received fifteen per cent of the profits of the house. (This business he had been doing for their predecessors for fifteen years.) The genuine invoices from Cuban ports were all made out in Spanish; these, Meleye was in the habit of making out anew in English, changing them to suit his own purposes, which was simply in the extension of the total amount. For instance: If the genuine invoice calling for a stated number of pounds, at a stipulated price, would amount to ten thousand dollars, he would make out one in English, calling for the same number of pounds at the same price, while the total amount extended would be but six thousand dollars, making a difference of four thousand dollars, the custom house dues on which, he put in his own pocket. By this simple system, on the thirty-eight invoices produced at the examination, he has swindled the government out of twenty-five thousand dollars. How much more he has accumulated in the preceding fifteen years it is impossible to say. From the foregoing it will be seen that he used no adroit skill, or scientific calligraphy, but simply depended upon the loose method of doing business in the custom house to escape detection. The public may very naturally inquire if there are no persons in the custom house whose duty it is to examine the extension of invoices and attest to their accuracy. Certainly, poor deluded public, there are certain individuals known by the cognomen of liquidating clerks, whose duty it is, to attend to this matter; but, judging from their evidence before the commissioner, we opine that they are liquor-dating the invoices of some St. Charles street bar-room instead of attending to their custom house duties. One of them testified that it had been his duty to examine the extension of invoices since the first of February, but that he had never examined one for the house of S. De Visser & Co. Here Mr. Benjamin, counsel for the defence, said that since that time the invoices had passed through the custom house, most of which being fraudulent. Is not this simple fact enough in itself to prove the laxity of the method of doing business in the custom house? What makes the matter look still worse, the man Meleye was present in the custom house when the fraud was first discovered, and did not leave the city for three days afterwards, yet he was allowed to escape. The reader will no doubt agree with us, that it would have been to the credit of the custom house had this fraud, like hundreds of others, never seen the light of day.

We are happy to learn by our exchanges that the recent action of congress, which gives to aliens the right of suffrage in Minnesota is calling down upon the heads of those who perjured the usage, that condemnation which is so richly deserved. The prediction of senator Brown that the act would add five hundred thousand to the American party, is in a fair way to be fully verified, for it cannot be that men with one spark of Americanism in their souls will allow a president of this kind to be engraved upon the legislation of the country without rebuke. Every republican in New England, New York, and Pennsylvania, who has the least sympathy with Americanism, will repudiate the act, and give up their adherence, to such demagogues as Wilson, Seward and Chase, who for the sake of foreign votes would degrade and denationalize the whole American people. We hazard nothing in saying that one-third of those who voted for Fremont last fall in New York, have become hearty advocates of the democratic party, for they feel it to be as useless as it is humiliating.

It will be seen by the late proceedings of the American party of Kentucky, published in another column, that great preparations are making in that State for the coming August elections. The Kentuckians, when once fairly aroused to action, are hard to be checked. After the disastrous surrender of Detroit in 1812, by Hull, and Winchester's defeat at the river Raisin, Prector and Tecumseh were considered invulnerable, until Shelby, Johnson and Harrison, with the gallant Kentuckians, made a sudden entrance into Canada; destroyed the combined army of British and Indian, killed Tecumseh, and restored the whole of Michigan to the United States. The Kentuckians are once more aroused, and nothing will stay their progress until foreign influence is put down in that State.

The Cherokee Sentinel, published at Rusk, Texas, says, the large and fine steam saw and grist mill, belonging to D. Tullar, and situated about one mile and a quarter from Rusk, on the Palestine road, together with a very large amount of lumber, was entirely consumed by fire on Saturday night, the 18th ult. The loss is estimated at about \$10,000, which falls very heavily on one or two honest, industrious men of ordinary means.

The same paper learns that Mrs. Spilvan, living some few miles from Rusk, came very near getting burned to death a few days since, by her clothes taking fire. Had it not been that she happened to be near a creek she would doubtless have been burned to death, but having presence of mind, she leaped into the water and extinguished the flames. Notwithstanding the first report that she died immediately, she has sustained no very serious injury and will be well in a few days.

We see by the New Orleans papers that the presidents of the different banks of that city, except the Citizens', at a meeting convened for that purpose, have decided not to receive the bank notes issued by James Robb.

SO FAR AS mere prudence is concerned, there is no one bit of advice so likely, if followed, to benefit the tyro when about to enter the arena of the world, as that which indicates a close tongue and an open countenance as the best motto to be acted upon in his intercourse with men. Behind such a shield, he can go forth into the struggles of life, and pass unharmed through perils in which the less guarded will be brought down at every step. He can pass on through every scene with a smiling countenance—can gather and profit by the opinions and weaknesses of his fellow men, without ever letting a scintilla of his own escape, and thus by being a stealthy witness of the failings of others the better learn to avoid those pitfalls in which he will see them frequently engulfed. Neither do the advantages attending such a line of conduct end here, if we are to credit the "neutral" press. While those pursuing an opposite track are perhaps at every moment throwing themselves into collision with those against whom they entertain not the slightest ill-will—even making enemies of those for whom they cherish kindly feelings, the prudent looker-on provides the enemy of no single individual, while perhaps he sees daily enrolled amongst his friends men of most opposite character, and of the most opposite sentiments towards each other. In fact, such a line of conduct how you will, it offers, so far as prudential motives are concerned, inducements to the mere traveler of life which must render perseverance in it desirable to a degree that cannot easily be calculated, the more especially to those who are placed in a situation which compels them to strive for power and place. Yet there is something in the practice which must ever render it in a measure repulsive to an ingenious mind.—This sternly unruled bearing, this unbroken chaining of the tongue, amid every current of existence, however it may suit the worldly minded and cautious, has features about it which a generous and enthusiastic temperament will shrink with insensitive sensitiveness. Such an enduring fetter on every impulse of the moment must appear to a mind so constituted in the same light as does a grinding censorship of the press, where the best and most virtuous emanations of the pen have, before seeing the light, to go through the ordeal of an examination by petty officials equally with those of the most corrupt and obscene character. Under such a restraint, it would appear naturally to result that the impulse which would impel you to the open and enthusiastic assertion of dogma, inevitably in the end come to be weighted, by those making the maxim their rule of life, with the same coldness of judgment before receiving utterance as the one which would induce to evil. On the other hand, the cautious will say, the bad consequences springing from being too unguarded, are equally apparent.—How many a bitter pang has been caused by an imprudent remark, or thoughtless expression? How many a bright prospect has been overcast by a too reckless expression of thoughts which were perhaps but as the growth of an instant, and which most likely had no more permanence than the words which revealed them? On the whole, of the two paths, he who pursues one commands the approbation of the head and of the crafty, while he who follows the other is equally sure to win the heart of the free and manly. It is plain the former may be persevered in without any breach of truth, so long as the wayfarer is imbued with a strong sense of honor; but it must also equally plain that such an eternal chain on the utterance will in the end have a tendency to give a hypocritical cast to the character of whoever makes use of it, and we all know that when hypocrisy makes an entrance into the bosom of man, truth will but fight away. From an open and unreserved frankness, whatever may be its results as regards others, corruption to the heart of the practiser can assuredly never spring, and hence comes the feature in the habit, which if it does not require it to be classed among those failings which "lean to virtue's side," at least afford no small degree of palliation for the ill effects which it too frequently produces.—One thing at all events is self-evident: that the man whose character is very strongly identified with one habit or the other—who is either remarkably open or remarkably close in his general intercourse with men—can never make a pleasant companion in society. Can any of our readers explain why such is the case?

THE TREATY WITH PERSIA.—The first suggestion concerning the opening of commercial relations with Persia was made about two years since by Prof. L. B. Breisch, of New York. We recollect very well that at that time he had a long and interesting conversation with us on the subject in which he dwelt upon the importance of some mode of diplomatic intercourse with that power of Asia, in order to take advantage of any increase of our commerce with its ports. He spoke also of the importance of appointing an agent of our government to reside at Teheran. At that time Prof. Breisch addressed a memorial on the subject to Mr. May, our secretary of state, in which he maintained that the Russia-Turkish war, whatever might be its issue, would inevitably lead to the civilization of Asia, that commerce would then flourish in the Mohammedan countries, and that through the exports from the United States to Persia, which were small, and but little was imported thence, there was every prospect of their increase as soon as the war should be brought to an end. The same views of the subject were communicated by him to some eminent ship-owners in this city. The author of the memorial was to Washington for the purpose of supporting the views he contained. Ex-secretary May seemed struck with the suggestions in the memorial, which we have every reason to believe were at that time entirely new to our commercial men. They probably led to the negotiation of the late treaty with the Shah.

THE LATE COLD SPELL.—We regret to learn that our friend Col. John Hebron of Leverage, in Warren county, has lost his entire pear, peach and apple crop, by the late cold weather. And in this connection we remark, en passant, that Col. H. can boast of the largest pear orchard in the world, yielding alone an annual profit of \$20,000. Corn, cotton, fruits, &c., are all killed by the frost and freeze, and our farmers have gone to work replanting. We sympathize with them, but feel much for ourselves at the deprivation of our much loved milk and peaches, (Jackson Miss.) Flag of the Union.

THE WHEAT CROP IN ILLINOIS.—In southern Illinois, as far north as Montgomery county, the crop is said to look very fine. In the vicinity of Alton and Monticello there is a promising prospect for a good yield. Between Bloomington and Alton very few good looking fields can be seen. From the northern part of the state the accounts are favorable. The crop promises to be a good one in northern and southern Illinois.

STREAM TUGS FOR THE STRAITS OF MAGELLAN.—The latest American enterprise is that proposed in a Baltimore paper, to establish steam tow boats to sail vessels through the Straits of Magellan. The Straits are only 400 miles long, the navigation is so bad under sail alone, that a vessel is forced to pass through with all its vessels prefer to double Cape Horn. If such steamers as some of the first class tug boats in this harbor, would take large ships through in two days.

THE NEW YORK EVENING POST says a few years since 300,000 Canton crabs shawls per annum were imported into this country—while this year none can come. It asks, "What will the ladies do?"

A WOMAN'S REVENGE.—St. Charles street, in the aristocratic and fashionable neighborhood of Canal, is becoming famous for scenes of startling importance. It is but a few days ago that we had to chronicle one of the boldest as well as one of the most successful cases of garrotting, in this vicinity, that ever occurred, and the morning papers are called upon to notice a similar case, which only wanted a change of time, from day to night, and the total annihilation of the victim, to equal the celebrated Burdell tragedy.

The first question of an eccentric friend of ours, whenever he hears of a difficulty, row, or anything approaching the tragic, invariably is, "Who's the woman?" always taking it for granted that a woman must be at the bottom of such things. Its appropriateness was illustrated in the tragedy of St. Charles street, yesterday, for a woman (Mrs. Mary Jane Charles) wielded the dagger, James Andrews, dagger-wielder, being the victim.

From the best information that we could obtain, we learn that Mrs. Mary Jane Charles lives and has lived for some time past in a large and elegant establishment at No. 269, Common street, where she rents furnished rooms. She is a widow, and has been for some time; is about thirty years of age, beautiful, highly accomplished and fascinating in her manners.—Andrews is a young artist of lofty aspirations and byronic exterior, and as he, some two years ago, took rooms at the establishment of the beautiful and fascinating widow, it may be supposed that a unity soon sprung up between two congenial spirits. They loved but did not get married—they progressed on the mutual confidence for nearly two years, when their honeymoon began to wane. Andrews abandoned the ideal and became practical. The charming widow was fush of the "sordid lure," and with a true Jacksonian energy he laid his plans for a transfer of the deposits, which he soon accomplished, and instead of erecting a villa on the banks of Lake Como he established two daguerotypy saloons. This was not all, for he married a Miss Hoffman, a young and beautiful widow, who was yesterday morning, and died for the sequel.

Mrs. Charles, it seems, made up her mind to wreak her vengeance on her faithless swain by assassinating him, and then ending life's troubles by killing herself. She procured a dagger and went to his establishment. She met him on the sidewalk, and as quick as thought the glittering blade had pierced his neck. As he turned and reeled she inflicted two more wounds on his left arm, and before the bystanders could interfere she gave him another stab in the high, when the dagger dropped from her hand. With the utmost coolness she forced her way through the crowd, to a carriage and was driven to her home, without being molested. Andrews is dangerously wounded.

Mrs. Charles has since been arrested and awaits her trial. [N. O. True Delta, 24 ult.

HORRIBLE MURDER IN FISH-TOWN.—The season is just opening, Fish-town begins its annual saturnalia, and its career blood-stained already. We take the following from the Alexandria Sentinel of the 12th ult.

On Sunday night, a horrible murder was committed there. It seems that two men named Jas. Clark and Goodrich were sitting with others around the stove in a booth belonging to captain Hubbard. Some wrestling, &c., having occurred, and all the party in good humor, the proprietor called to them to stop the noise and sit down.

They had hardly done so, when Clark asked Goodrich for a chew of tobacco instead of giving it Goodrich went over and took hold of Clark—Clark said "if you choke me that way I'll put you out of doors." With that Goodrich pushed Clark down on the seat. Clark stood up some feet from Goodrich, who went towards him. Clark retreating. When he arrived near enough he raised his hand, and several witnesses saw, for the first time, perceived that he held a knife (a sheath knife such as is used for cutting fish,) with which he stabbed Clark in the abdomen. Clark exclaimed, "I am cut"—fell, and in fifteen minutes was a corpse.

Goodrich was immediately arrested by the police, and was committed to jail by Justice R. M. Smith.

This morning coroner Neal held an inquest over the body of the murdered man, and the jury found that the deceased came to his death in the manner above stated.

The accused subsequently had another examination, and was recommitted by Justice Cummins.

AMERICAN STATE CONVENTION OF KENTUCKY.—The convention was called to order this morning, April 2, and opened by an address from the president, hon. Thomas H. Clay, which was received and ordered to be published. ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT.

BROTHERS: It gives me great pleasure to meet in council at this important crisis, so many true and patriotic Americans.

The election in August will, perhaps for some years to come, decide the political position of the State of Kentucky. No exertions will be spared by the democracy to carry the State. It is needless to speculate now upon the presidency, or the means employed to give the vote of the State to Mr. Buchanan. That the principles of the American party have not been invalidated by the result, is certain. Is there a delegate present who does not feel that the platform upon which we stand is sound, and the only true and national one upon which Americans should rest?

The agitation of the subject of slavery, whenever it suits the policy of the democratic party, has heretofore been used to elect their candidate for the presidency. At the north they have always been ready to unite with the most ardent abolitionists, whilst at the south they are found to amalgamate as readily with those who are most violent in their advocacy of pro-slavery sentiments. But it is to be hoped, for the sake of our country and its institutions, that there are good and true men enough to be found, both at the north and at the south, who will unite to put down this continued agitation, and to maintain inviolate the constitution and its compromises. It remains yet to be seen what effect the recent decision of the supreme court of the United States, in the case of Dred Scott, will have upon the law-abiding people of the northern States.

Mr. Buchanan, in his inaugural address at Washington on the 4th of March, has avowed his opposition to any change in the naturalization law, and his opinion, that foreigners should be entitled to all the rights and privileges now enjoyed by native citizens in the territories of the United States; that squatter sovereignty is one of the principles of the democratic party; that, under the power given by the constitution to the general government to make military roads, congress may make appropriations of the public money for the construction of railroads to the Pacific. The sentiments expressed in the odious Ostend Manifesto are again put forth, opposed as they are to the laws of nations. Such doctrines for the first time avowed by a president of the United States are sufficient to stigmatize the people, and should convince every man who has given his vote to one who is endeavoring to bring down her institutions and add to the present preponderance of the free States.—Where are the old States' Rights men and strict constructionists to take refuge? Is it in the arms of this modern demagogue, whose principles are thus promulgated by the president of their choice?

Others, it is the duty of this council so to organize the American party in every county and voting precinct in the State, that the full and entire vote may be brought out, in support of such candidates as the nominating delegates may place before them for their suffrages.

Our opponents are alive to the importance of the election to be held in August. Their strongest men will be brought forward as their candidates, and their most untiring and strenuous efforts will be made to secure their election.

They must be met by corresponding exertions on our part. Is there an American present who is not ready to devote a portion of his time and his services to the success and maintenance of his principles? Is there any one here who does not desire that our glorious commonwealth should preserve her integrity, and throw aside her fetters in scorn with which this modern demagogue would bind her?

I will detain the council no longer with my remarks, but commending our cause to God and our efforts to his guidance, I will not suffer myself to doubt the result.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The report of the secretary was read and received.

Hon. Humphrey Marshall, Hon. Garrett Davis, Col. Thomas L. Jones, Roger W. Hanson, Gen. J. M. Hurlan, Hon. A. K. Marshall, and Thomas L. Crittenden were added to the committee on resolutions and organization.

(Twelve delegates to the National council which meets on the first Tuesday in June next were then elected.)

Adjourned till Friday morning. Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

The committee on resolutions reported the following resolutions, which were taken up and adopted unanimously:

Resolved, That the election of Mr. Buchanan was not a rejection by the people of the United States of the controlling and fundamental principles of the American party.

Resolved, That we sincerely believe that a majority of our countrymen are of the opinion that a radical change in the naturalization laws is necessary to maintain the purity of our institutions, and to preserve our nationality.

Resolved, That the Federal Union being the only safeguard of American liberty, every true patriot should devote his best energies to its preservation.

Resolved, That the systematic agitation of the slavery question has brought our Union into peril, and it is the duty of every American patriot not to interfere with the institutions of other States over which he has no legitimate control.

Resolved, That we are opposed to the interference of the general government in the settlement of the slavery question in the territories, and that we believe that the citizens of the United States, bona fide residents in the territories, have the right to determine the question of slavery when they come to the adoption of a State constitution.

Resolved, The principle enunciated by the president of the United States that "it is the imperative and indispensable duty of the United States to secure to every resident inhabitant the free and independent expression of his opinion by his vote" in the territories of the United States, is a departure from sound policy, and should be resisted by every patriotic citizen of the Federal Union, as the worst form in which the odious doctrine of squatter sovereignty can be offered to the acceptance of the American people.

Resolved, That the Americans of Kentucky require their candidates for congress to avow their determination to oppose the passage of any law establishing the basis of suffrage in the territories upon mere inhabitancy. They demand citizenship as the first requisite and qualification for suffrage, and they regard the proposition of the Buchanan administration to allow aliens to participate in the formation of State constitutions, as a gross perversion of principle, and the best evidence that time and events have added to the reasons which originally induced the organization of the American party.

Resolved, That while the American party in the State of Kentucky tolerates free discussion and free expression of individual opinions on the various political questions of the day, yet, under every political complication, the pure question of Americanism shall take precedence of all others.

Resolved, That it is important for the best interests of the American party of our common country that there shall be a full representation of all the States in the national convention to be held in the city of Louisville, Kentucky, on the first Tuesday in June next, and that the coadjutors of the party in Kentucky be and are hereby tendered to the delegates from the other States.

DISREGARDING ANCIENT USAGES.—The New Orleans True Delta, of the 24th ult., says that a correspondent from St. Helena parish, (whose communication we publish below,) gives some curious particulars relative to the recent election of judge for the eighth judicial district, which resulted in the selection of the known ship builder, from the parish of St. Charles, another candidate for the same office, by a British war vessel.

The clipper Swardfish, from Manila, was on the 24th inst., in latitude 35 30, longitude 95 30, another cutter on the same edge. The cutter was another cutter on the same edge. The cutter was another cutter on the same edge.

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