



The South-Western.

BY L. DILLARD & Co.
Office: Corner of Texas and Edwards streets,
OPPOSITE HITCHCOCK'S LIVERY STABLE.

SHREVEPORT:
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1858.

The river is again rising, and we anticipate good navigation during the remainder of the winter. At last accounts the water had risen fifteen feet at Fulton, and the whole country had been favored with heavy rains. Since our last, the Lucy Holcombe, Leonie, Donita, Hope, B. L. Hodge Yazoo Belle, and Arkansas have arrived from New Orleans; the Era No. 2, from Fulton; the Rescue and Ham Howell, from Jefferson. Several boats from New Orleans are due this morning.

SINKING OF THE R. W. ADAMS.—The steamer R. W. Adams, captain Marshall, hence for New Orleans, on Friday morning, in attempting to descend the falls, at Alexandria, knocked a hole in her bottom, which caused her to fill and sink in about an hour. The passengers with their baggage were landed in safety. The cargo, consisting of cotton, will be saved. A barge was immediately procured, by the assistance of which all the cotton except that in the hold was taken off. Capt. Marshall and his officers made use of every exertion to save the boat, as a card from the passengers in another column will show. We hope that before this time the officers have been able to build a bulkhead in the hull and got the boat afloat.

A meagre synopsis of the president's message will be found in another column. We expected to have laid the document entire before our readers this morning; but as the president refused to allow its being despatched to any point south of Richmond, previous to its delivery in congress, we are prevented from so doing.

OUR GOVERNMENT.—"earnestly requested the good people of the State" to unite in public thanksgiving, some of our churches will be open to-morrow morning, at 11 o'clock, for those in this goodly part of it who may think proper to comply with the request.

ST. MARKS CHURCH.—The members of the vestry of St. Marks church, Shreveport, are requested to meet at the office of Judge Jones, this morning, at 11 o'clock, on business of importance to the church. Punctual attendance is earnestly requested.

GRAND BALL.—A ball will be given at the Commercial Hotel, on Wednesday evening, 22d inst., for which preparations are making. Invitations have been given to the belles of the parishes of Caddo, Bossier and DeSoto, of the cities of Marshall and Jefferson, and the surrounding country. It cannot be otherwise than a brilliant affair. The music will be directed by Mr. Sam'l Williams, which affords a guarantee that it will be satisfactory.

REMOVAL.—C. H. Burnside has removed from his old stand to Col. Hodge's new brick building, on Texas street, adjoining Messrs. Childers & Beard, where he is opening an entire new stock of fine watches, splendid jewelry, fancy goods, etc.

JEWELRY.—V. Shidet has received an entire new stock of superior watches, jewelry, silver and plated ware, mantle ornaments, fancy goods, etc., worthy the attention of those desirous of purchasing.

NEW GOODS.—W. Marks is opening a new stock of reasonable dry goods, embracing all the most fashionable dress goods, embroideries, laces, &c., selected in person expressly for the city trade. The ladies are solicited to call and examine the new styles.

SALES.—The sheriff will sell on Saturday next, at the late residence of Josiah B. Scott, deceased, a number of valuable slaves, several tracts of improved and unimproved land, together with nates, stock, household and kitchen furniture, etc.

The tutor of the minor heirs of J. B. Scott will, at the same time and place, be the highest bidder, for the year 1859, in block 20, in the town of Shreveport.

H. Hunsicker will sell this morning, at the corner of Market and Milan streets, a quantity of carriage and wheelwright work, wagons, buggies, tools, etc., belonging to the succession of John Dellinger, deceased. On Saturday, at the courthouse door, he will sell lot No. 13, in block 20, in the town of Shreveport.

We are indebted to Mr. Mason, of the Lucy Holcombe, Mr. Smith, of the Leonie, Mr. Moore, of the Hope, and Mr. Hall, of the B. L. Hodge, for files of New Orleans papers.

FOR NEW ORLEANS.—The beautiful packet Lucy Holcombe, captain Bateman, will leave Thursday evening, 23d inst., on the arrival of the Marshall stage—positively.

The splendid packet Leonie, captain Johnson, (with the veteran, Captain Isaac Wright, at the wheel), will leave on Saturday evening, 25th inst.

These boats have unrivaled accommodations for passengers.

The Columbian, published at Mansfield, comes to us draped in mourning, owing to the death of its proprietor, Wm. B. Abington, esq. He was a young gentleman of much promise, and his loss will be deeply deplored by a host of friends and acquaintances.

Mr. Abney has retired from the editorship of the Upshur Democrat, which station he filled most ably. He is succeeded by Col. A. R. Mitchell, formerly of Mansfield, La., who is well and favorably known to many of our readers as a vigorous and fluent writer. We welcome the Colonel back to the "press-gang."

The Crusader, "an independent journal," published over in Georgia, advances with apparent ardor the dogma that it would be beneficial to the government of the United States and the people at large if all political and political parties could be banished from the land, and all the public offices be filled by men selected solely on account of their probity and qualifications to fill the station and perform the duties appertaining thereto. The dogma looks very well, and the theory sounds plausible enough, if all aspirants to office and public honors possessed the requisite character and qualifications, and all the voters could discern the most worthy and deserving. But, unfortunately, we are forced to take aspirants to office and the independent sovereigns who are delegated to do the voting just as they are. Then, again, it is a lamentable fact, that a very small minority of the people do the thinking for the masses, and in their assumed character of "leaders," or wire-workers, exercise the undisputed prerogative of declaring who shall, and who shall not, run for office. The people at large, in all truth, have nothing to do in the premises, it being altogether arranged by private cliques through the agency of select committees and packed "mass meetings." Without the existence of political parties and ardent politicians in the United States—aye, in every State of the Union—a set of men once in public office would be thoroughly known and familiar to the people, who being honest, unselfish and disinterested, it would require the most gross frauds and deception on their part, (such as could be readily hid from the public gaze,) to displace officials and put other men in their place. We all know that those who vote to put a man in office never scrutinize his official conduct narrowly; and should the functionary do anything wrong; they are ready to deny or excuse the shortcoming, and eagerly palliate the offence. Thus the offices of the country, and consequently the control of the government itself, would remain in the hands of those who first obtained place, and they would have within their grasp the power, if they ever became satiated with spoils, to name their successors.— Usurpations of power on the part of officials is by no means uncommon at this time; and without the existence of political parties, they would first be tolerated, then enlarged upon as they might become precedents, and by gradual degrees the assumptions would increase on the part of government officials, until an aristocracy of hereditary office-holders would be the result. Political parties and politicians are the necessary consequence of a republican government. So long as human nature remains in its present condition, our government cannot exist without them. It is but right that they should exist, and it is best for our country that they do. The government itself and the liberties of the people are only secure from danger when the voting population are equally or nearly equally divided into political parties. The one party serves as a check upon the other, and the one out of power stands eager to scrutinize the behavior of officials, and expose every error they may fall into. The knowledge on the part of public officers that their conduct is narrowly watched, and that the loss of a few votes would turn them out of their places at the ensuing election, would act as more powerful incentive to do right than any other that can be brought to bear. Parties should control the federal and State offices; but justice to the public demands that on every occasion the most worthy and competent men should be brought forward to fill the places of trust.

BACKING DOWN.—For some weeks a spirited controversy has been going on between the Charleston Mercury, the great exponent of southern rights democracy, and the Montgomery Confederation, the central organ of the Alabama democrats. In reviewing one of the articles put forth by the Mercury, the Confederation makes the following remarkable confession: "We thank the Mercury for its article, since it gives us an opportunity of expressing what we understand by southern rights democracy. We understand southern rights democracy, as generally accepted and understood of late years, and particularly as preached by latter-day politicians, to be a fiction. It is merely a name, a slogan cry, a rallying watchword for disappointed reasoners to ride into power! What rights have the south in the Union that do not equally belong to the north, the east, and the west? What rights have Alabama in the confederacy that do not equally belong to Maine? And under what clause of the constitution can Mississippi claim rights that are not guaranteed to Illinois? Away, then, forever with this miserable cry of southern rights, and let the true rights of all the States, and the equal protection of the laws to every man in every State and territory of the Union for his life, his property, and his religion. State rights and national democracy are one and the same, and can by no manner of argument be made to differ in the hundredth part of a degree, since a man who is a state rights democrat, believing in the 'equal rights of all the States,' is by very necessity a national democrat, in its broadest and best sense; while a 'national democrat' is necessarily a state rights democrat by virtue of the doctrine which makes him national.—These miserable distinctions in party appellations—distinctions without meaning—have already been sufficiently productive of evil to the south and her interests, and it has come to be full time that these party watchwords should be abandoned."

So we now have the authority of the organ of the Alabama democracy for proclaiming the southern rights democracy to be "a fiction!"—in plain terms, a humbug.

The British parliamentary evidence of the condition of the dressmakers' apprentices in London, according to the Times, shows that in ordinary cases eighteen hours a day is the allotted period for work, and during the height of the season young girls are often only allowed four hours repose, when they are aroused to resume their toil. Strong coffee is administered to enable them to ply their needles for 24 hours without relaxation. This is truly a melancholy state of affairs, and deserves the serious attention of the philanthropic much more than all the missions to the barbarians and societies for the enlightenment of mankind. But, even in this country the condition of those poor girls who are compelled to toil with the needle to obtain a livelihood is deplorable. By the N. York Express we perceive that in city caps for men and boys are made at 12 cents per dozen, pantalons at 15 cents a pair, shirt-bosoms at 14 cents per dozen, and shirts at five cents each. There are full 80,000 working women in the city of New York, not all working at these starvation rates, but a vast majority of them are. The laborers generally, and clerks, in New York, are forced to labor day and night for nominal wages, whilst their employers style themselves "merchant princes," and riot in wealth, or cut a swell on credit. The root of the evil, is the disposition of the people to crowd into large cities and towns, instead of cultivating the soil.

The secretary of the navy has received an official letter from the veteran commodore Stewart, avowing his determination to resign from the service, unless he is restored to the position he held previous to the action of the naval retiring board. In that case the gallant hero—who while in command of the U. States frigate Constitution, during the last war with Great Britain fought and won one of the most brilliant naval battles which illumine the pages of history—he intends to return to the president the sword, medal, and other tokens he received from congress and several States as evidence of their appreciation of his gallant services in times past. The old sailor is right. In these days of progress, the government can appreciate the services of none save the political demagogue, or the servile tool of the office holder.

The official report of the Jackson and Great Western railroad to the city council of New Orleans, shows the great value of that enterprise both to the corporation and the company. The estimated receipts for this year are one million of dollars; and when the connections are completed through Tennessee, cannot be less than two millions per annum. The vast resources of the region of country penetrated by the road are just beginning to be appreciated. Already lands bordering on the line of the road have advanced 500 and often 1000 per cent. on their value three years ago. The railway makes the surrounding country for a hundred miles the suburbs of the city. Such are the wonders it works.

A bill has been introduced in the Georgia legislature providing for the removal of all free persons of color from the State after 1st day of January, 1860. If they remain after that time a method is prescribed by which they shall be sold into slavery; or, if they choose, they may select masters and convey themselves by deed formally executed and recorded, and continue in the State as slaves.

It is announced that postmaster-general Brown has matured, and in his annual report to congress recommended, a plan by which money orders, on the basis of the British system, may be transmitted through the different postoffices. This plan will prove of great convenience to the public, as well as put an end to the stealing of registered and other valuable letters.

The New York papers announce the receipt of intelligence from Madrid to the effect that president Buchanan has assured the queen of Spain that the government of the U. States will not interfere in the pending conflict between Spain and Mexico, and the executive of the United States recognizes the justice of the Spanish claims.

The Memphis Bulletin, of the 1st inst., says that the Tyler and Pierce, proprietors of the Commercial hotel in that city, having become heavily indebted, privately departed on the 29th, on the steamboat Eclipse, with their families—the decamping being so skillfully managed that it was not found out until the next day that the hotel was without managers, and the boarders without breakfast.

Our streets are daily filled with emigrants bound for Texas.

LYSTERINGE DECISION.—Judge Eggleston of the fifth district court at New Orleans, last week decided a case of general interest. The plaintiff was Edward S. Sewell, and the defendant Mrs. Annie G. Howard, wife of Thos. H. Howard. The plaintiff sued for \$4320, principal and interest of certain promissory notes drawn to defendant's own order, held by plaintiff, and to secure the payment of which she had given him mortgages on certain property, with the authorization of her husband.

The defendant pleaded, in answer, a general denial; and, further, that the consideration for the notes did not enure to her benefit, that she had signed them at the instance of her husband; that the object and character of them were never explained to her; that she had never received from the plaintiff any benefit or advantage, and that the security by mortgage was not binding on her.

The judge held that he might assume, for the purpose of argument, that the plaintiff's allegations were established; but that was not the point at issue, and the strong press of equities and surrender up to the command of equity law. The question for adjudication was, were the ancient laws concerning the power of a wife to bind herself contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of the statute of the State of Louisiana, approved March 15th, 1855. The court held that recent legislation abolished the law of the code, and rendered null and non-obligatory the decision of the supreme court. The ancient law allowed the wife freedom to enter into contracts with authority of her husband, if the consideration of the contract enured to her own separate and exclusive use, and in case the marital authority was withheld, the judge might impart to her the contractual power.

The decision was given against the plaintiff in view of the following provisions of the recent statute: "The amount of her separate and distinct property and capacity of a wife to enter into obligations," and in accordance with which it was not shown the contracts had been made. "All married women in this State, over the age of twenty-one years, may, by and with the authorization of their husbands, borrow money or contract debts for their separate benefit and advantage, and to secure the same, grant mortgages or other securities affecting their separate estate, paraphernal or dotal.

"In carrying out the power to borrow money or contract debts, the wife, in order to bind herself or her separate property, must be examined at chambers by the judge of the parish or district in which she resides, and if she shall ascertain either the one or the other are for her husband's debts, or for his separate benefit, or for the benefit of his separate estate, or for the community, the judge shall not give his sanction authorizing the wife to perform the acts of incur the liabilities set forth above."

The fanatical abolition legislators of Vermont are endeavoring to throw obstacles in the way of the enforcement of the fugitive slave law in that State. Two bills relating to the subject are now before the legislature. The first, which has passed the senate, prescribes the method in which the claimant shall prosecute all proceedings for the recovery of the alleged fugitive. The latter shall not be arrested until the claimant has filed with a supreme court judge an affidavit, setting forth the facts of the case, and also, in case the person whose services are claimed, is in the sum of \$2000, that he will prosecute his claim to effect, or pay all costs and damages. The case shall be tried on the facts of the affidavit; and if any person shall make an arrest in a claim of this nature in any other way, "he shall be punished by imprisonment in the State prison not more than five years, nor less than two years, and be fined not exceeding \$1000."

The other bill, which has been introduced by senator Everts, of Rutland county, is as follows: Section 1. Any person who shall bring within this State any other person, held as a slave by law or usage, in any other of the States, with intent to hold such other person in servitude within this State, restrain such other person of his or her liberty, or shall assert or maintain, or attempt to maintain, any claim or property in such other person, or any person so offending shall be considered and deemed guilty of a felony, and shall, on conviction thereof, be punished by imprisonment in the State prison, for a term not more than ten years nor less than five years, and by fine not exceeding \$5000. Sec. 2. Any person within this State who shall restrain or attempt to restrain, the liberty of any other person, upon pretence or claim of owning any property in such other person, such person, so restraining or attempting to restrain, the liberty of such other person, shall be deemed to be guilty of a felony, and on conviction thereof, be punished by imprisonment in the State prison not more than ten years nor less than five years, and by fine not exceeding \$5000.

We extract the following from a leading article in a late N. York Herald, entitled "Our Demoralized Democracy—The Mystery and its Solution." The role of Douglas of 1858, the same more complicated, is substantially the same as that of Van Duren in 1848—the destruction of the democratic party. It is a singular fact, too, that the democratic leaders of the Van Duren faction in this State of 48 are now among the most active of the secret managers of this Douglas conspiracy. There can be no doubt that when Mr. Douglas resolved upon his Kansas rebellion he resolved to push it to the extremity of a coalition with the great anti-slavery movement of the north for the next presidency. It was his only alternative. The Fremont ticket of 1856 left but a small margin in the north to the dismantled democracy, which a small democratic defection would wipe away. Mr. Douglas has produced that defection; he inherits the glory; and who shall say that an accommodation with the republicans is beyond his reach, comprehending Mr. Seward as the joint stock candidate for 1860, and Mr. Douglas for 1864.

It will be remembered that the legislature of Kansas territory, in 1855, designated Leconte as the seat of government, pursuant to a requirement of congress. Subsequently, congress made an appropriation for the erection of public buildings at that point, and the appropriation was expended. In April last the Kansas legislature passed a law changing the location to Minnesota, and that, too, despite the veto of governor Denver; and an attempt was made to divert the unexpended portion of the moneys appropriated by congress to the erection of public buildings at that point. Attorney general Black has, however, decided that the latter law of the legislature involves a violation of the law of congress making the appropriation, and that the diversion of the appropriation from Leconte is a fraud upon the general government.

The 9th and 10th ballots for U. S. senator were held by the legislature on the 2nd inst., and resulted as follows: 9th ballot—Ex-governor J. L. Manning, 53; Jas. Chesnut, jr., 46; ex-governor J. L. Adams, 55. 10th ballot—Jas. Chesnut, jr., 92; Adams, 55; Manning, 53. The legislature consisted of a majority of 6 votes over the number necessary to an election on a full vote. Senator Hammond is reported to be highly gratified by this choice of a colleague.

A dispatch of the 2d instant, from Columbia, S. C., says, resolutions were introduced in the Carolina house of representatives, to-day, instructing the senators and requesting the representatives in congress to send all federal papers, for a removal or repeal of the tariff, to the secretary of the African slave trade, on the ground that such restriction is disadvantageous to the rights of the south. The resolutions took no effect, and were ordered for consideration on the 4th inst.

It becomes our painful duty to record the melancholy death of one of our oldest citizens, Archibald M. Starks, esq., by his own hand, as his residence, in Starksburg, Va. The gentleman was afflicted with death, as related to us, as substantially his wife had been drinking for some weeks, from the effects of which he had many a week. He had imagined that she was poisoning him, but he was not permitted to leave any weapons. Last Sunday he was managed to get hold of his pistol, whereupon he immediately placed the muzzle to his head, fired it, and fell a single shot. Brandon (Miss.) Rep.

General Intelligence.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6th.—The thirty-fifth congress commenced its second session to-day. The president received the president's message at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

SYRACUSE AND THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.—The president, in his message to congress, referring to the tariff, said that the business of the country had been crushed by one of those periodical revulsions, caused by an unusual and extravagant bank credit system, which had destroyed the country, and manufacturers and all public and private enterprises were suddenly arrested and thousands of mechanics and laborers were deprived of employment in consequence.

The commercial manufacturing and mechanical classes, he says, suffered severely not because of the reductions of duties but because there is no demand for their products. He says that such a state of affairs is not a permanent one, and that the country will be restored to its normal condition by the time the tariff is restored to its normal condition.

The president says that no government, and especially none of limited powers, could have prevented the revulsions which have occurred. He says that the tariff of 1857 had no agency in the recent financial disturbances which exist throughout the country, and that such a tariff could not be controlled by legislation in any particular country. The effects of the late revolution, he says, are now slowly but surely passing away, and the country is now in a normal condition.

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