

New Orleans Republican. OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF NEW ORLEANS

NEW ORLEANS, SEPTEMBER 18, 1872.

Governor Warmoth was at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York, last Thursday.

Life, say the Arabs, is of two parts, that which is past—a dream; and that which is to come—a wish.

Iowa thinks the millennium is coming. A farmer refused \$1 25 for wheat because he had promised it for \$1.

They are still gleaning about weather at the centre of observation. They invariably speak of the mean temperature.

Two street fashions have departed this life—the perpetually carried street umbrella and the universal bouffanteur.

“Are the angels playing croquet, mamma?” asked a little four-year old, the other evening, when he saw the meteors shoot.

A bronze fountain, cast in Munich from a design by Miss Emma Stebbins, is soon to be placed in the Central Park, New York.

The death rate of San Francisco in 1871 was only 19.6 per thousand, showing it to be one of the healthiest cities in the world.

Why is coal the most contradictory article known to commerce? Because, when purchased, instead of going to the buyer, it goes to the cellar.

Resident Americans in Paris are just now overrun with compatriots, and are presented with letters of introduction at the rate of a dozen a day.

Mother nature never “snubs” her loving children; she welcomes them all with a smile. Her heart is always open to us, always tender and true.

Peace after war. The city of Paris is now utilizing the trenches around her vast line of fortifications by growing potatoes and beets upon their banks.

Two police captains are to be tried by the Police Commissioners on Friday on a charge of making up fraudulent pay rolls, and certifying to their correctness.

“I am speaking,” said a long-winded orator, “for the benefit of posterity.” “Yes,” said one of his hearers, “and if you keep on much longer your audience will be here.”

Emilio Lasero telegraphed from New Orleans on the twelfth instant to Judge W. B. Egan, at Shreveport: “No change in the fugitive ticket, nor any intempered or possible.”

“Boy,” said an ill-tempered old maid to a noisy lad, “what are you hollerin’ for when I am going by?” “Humph!” returned the boy, “what are you going by for when I am hollerin’?”

Specimens and engravings of the great industries of the United States, published by J. B. Burr & Hyde, No. 117 Asylum street, Hartford, Connecticut, have been received by mail.

The secretary of the Kansas City Industrial Exposition and Agricultural Fair sends us a supplement of the Kansas City Times, which devotes a full page to descriptions and illustrations of the grounds and buildings.

The Tensas Journal reports that a dispatch received there from George W. Whitsey, Esq., from his home in Vermont, announces the death of his brother, Senator J. R. Whitney, which occurred on the eleventh instant.

The Parisians are learning to dine at home. It is a hard lesson, but then the restaurateurs are now charging extravagant prices for everything, and the inhabitants of Paris are, as a general thing, an economical class.

A philosophically inclined journal observes: “Genius makes its observations in short-hand; talent writes them out at length.” It strikes us that’s quite so many of the observations of genius are quite intelligible to most people.

Damages to the enormous extent of \$14,000 have just been awarded against the Lyons and Mediterranean Company to eleven families, members of which were killed or injured by a train running off the rails at Champigny on September 16, 1871.

The New York Times says a petition is in circulation in Germany praying the government to acquire territory on this side of the Atlantic, to which the stream of German emigration may be diverted, and the Fatherland thus save the annual loss of thousands of her sons.

Years ago it was the custom for all vessels passing Mount Vernon on the Potomac to toll their bells in honor of the sacred memories of the place. During the war it was manifestly impossible, and since the inauguration of peace again the custom has not been revived.

It is understood from a reliable source that Judge Pierpont and Mr. Steadman, who went abroad in the interest of the Texas and Pacific railroad, have returned, after having effected a loan in England upon the bonds of the road to the extent of \$7,000,000. So the Washington Republican states.

The New York World publishes a report from commission merchants and others about the condition of business. They state that nearly everything is prosperous, and the promise for the season is excellent. One exporting house says the bacon trade is trebled this year. New York has not had such a trade for more than five years.

Despite the net, which gymnasts boast as all-sufficient, a trapezist narrowly missed breaking his neck the other night at the Oxford Music Hall, London. Falling from the trapeze, he alighted upon the edge of the net, but the impetus of his flight had been so great that he was at once shot out, and fell heavily on the stage. He was, of course, stunned, and his chin was cut. Under medical attention he recovered, and is expected to be able to perform again.

The case of death by yellow fever—the first case of the season that has been reported—was that of Twenty-five Hawkins, a native of Alabama, of ninety-five years of age. The young man had but recently returned from a trip through the Yazoo country, Mississippi, where he was soliciting business for a commercial home. The death occurred at the house of Mrs. McNaught, No. 228 Carondelet street, on the eleventh instant, and the deceased was attended by Dr. D. W. Brickell.

A CHANCE FOR MARTYRDOM.

There is a greater demand for honesty and reform than the market is capable of supplying, judging from the constant application, that is made for more. This is a reasonable inference to the general public, which is the body that is best by its demand from all sorts of men. Perhaps the applicants are at fault in not specifying the article they want, or perhaps the reform covered by one set is not the reform dispensed by the set to which they apply. There is a sort of plated honesty retained in the market that sells very well to some reformers; and then, again, there is a species of honesty abroad that is worthless because it can not be put to any practical use. The plated article is demanded by the men who profess a large amount of love for the people and an anxious desire to help them, provided they are elected to office, but who forget to redeem their promises after they have once secured the chance to do so. The unscrupulous honesty is that which a man professes when he holds to a fallacy or a weakness after it has been explained and exploded to the satisfaction of sensible people. The Democrats of the Legislature of 1866 represented the first, and their representatives of the present day represent the latter class of these solicitors for reform. They pretended then as they pretend now, that honesty was and is their delight and yet they did not satisfy the public then nor are they satisfying it at present.

But we did not intend to make a political article out of this when we commenced it, but rather an instructive treatise on honesty and reform in general. The demand for an improved condition of the community is so universal that the stranger would rationally conclude there was strength enough in the solicitation to secure the end. Herein the stranger would fall into error, for there are many things that the majority ask for and require which it has not the ability to secure. If the State is not reformed it will be because we do not know how to put our demand for it in force. There is too much noise and confusion about the work that we all pretend to be pushing forward, in the first place; and in the second place, there are too many hotches employed in the enterprise. Then there is no general plan of the work. Each citizen seems to have a plan of his own, which he insists on striving at, and in ninety-nine cases out of every hundred cowardice or ignorance impedes even the individual effort. Men do not come out boldly for what they want, or else they do not know what they want. The great necessity is for a better understanding about details, and less noise and tumult about generalities.

In the first place, then, the people want reforming themselves. Then they need to be honest. Citizens must practice what they preach if they expect to make their reforms effective. Resisting the entire tax levy because one tax is considered illegal, is not honest, and the man who repudiates his contract with the community sets an example that his neighbors may practice toward himself. It is not honest to vote for a dishonest man because he is the nominee of the party, for no indorsement can purify a forgery. Then it is stupid to demand reform without being prepared to suggest the specific evil that needs adjustment. Of all the men who have made themselves conspicuous in asking for an amelioration of our existing evils, Mr. Marks was, probably, the boldest, and he fell because of his intemperdy. The fact is, plated honesty is so much in excess of the genuine article that any man who proposes to do the decent thing is in more danger than the citizen who says nothing. Even the stupidly honest people, who do not know what they require, will fall upon an intelligent man who offers to tell how to abate their evils.

Is there no way to reform this abuse of reform? Have we no real politician who can furnish the public with a list of the pernicious things that require extinction? Politics is not the mere scramble for office, but it is a science that detects the evils that infest the government, and suggests remedies for their destruction. We are suffering from a host of wrongs, some large and apparent to the common eye, and some small and only perceptible to the practiced observation. The way to reform these evils is to name them, and to demand their overthrow. Now, who will subject the body politic to a critical analysis, in order to discover the bane worms that destroy its vitality and corrupt its morality? A genuine politician is necessary for this work, and he must be a bold man, too. He will have to attack an army of blood-suckers who will swarm out to consume him. But such men have existed in other communities, and we ought to have one here. He will become a martyr, but this is not objectionable when the wreath follows immediately after death. Have we a martyr ready for the stake?

A VIEW OF CITY FINANCIAL AFFAIRS. An informal report of city affairs, made by the Administrator of Public Accounts, is before us in pamphlet form. It is quite an elaborate document, presenting facts, figures and suggestions in regard to the present city administration that will prove interesting, because they form an exposé of its workings under the present form of our city government. The bureau system was advocated and finally adopted as a means of securing a more efficient and economical administration of affairs than had been realized under the old city charter. If the anticipated benefits under the new system have not yet been realized, that fact should not, necessarily, condemn the new form of government. It may be that further legislation is necessary, as suggested by Mr. Shaw, to secure all the benefits that were confidently looked for under our present system of municipal government; but it is at least unfortunate that the Administrator could not see the difficulties that lie in the path of his official duties at the commencement instead of the close of his term.

The Administrator of Public Accounts says “the body politic is like the physical man; it will have its maladies.” This is very true. And these maladies were well known. The object of the new charter was to cure these diseases, and the Administrators were the doctors called in to prescribe the necessary medicine. If the body politic is still diseased, our physicians must explain the cause. Mr. Shaw has attempted to do this. But his explanation does not show that our physicians have even checked the maladies that have been eating, like a canker worm, the body politic. The public debt of the city has continued to increase until it has reached the sum of \$29,763,658, and the public credit declined accordingly. The great fault of the present city administration is the old one. The yearly expenditures have continued to exceed the receipts of revenues. The estimated budget always proves inadequate to the expenses incurred. In other words, to make the matter plain to the most simple-minded, the affairs of our city government are like those of a man who has an income of one thousand dollars a year, and spends double that amount during that time. The continuance of such conduct is bound to result in increased debt and ultimate loss of credit. The government of our city should be run strictly upon the cash principle and the current expenses never permitted to exceed the estimated budget. Administrator Shaw admits this when he says:

“In any reform legislation a primal necessity will be to prevent the City Council and all other boards representing or claiming to represent the city of New Orleans, from incurring any debt beyond the budget of receipts, and the budget must be carefully adopted, so that they can be counted upon as certain, or beyond all reasonable doubt. We are astonished that it should require legislation to compel Administrators to pursue this wholesome course in the conduct of the city government. Common sense and the desire for success should prompt men in public life to do this. In answer to the question why the city government has not been run upon a cash basis, the Administrator assigns the following reasons, which may be good as far as they go:

“The causes are several. First, the five eighth amendment of 1871, this applied to the city of New Orleans, and the total tax of that year. The budget had been adopted, and was already five months in operation. The Metropolitan had been made, and nearly half the estimate for the year had been expended. The issue of paper under the present system was then continued for many months, the deficit created being full \$800,000, which we have never yet caught up with. The increase of prices since caused prevented any effective retrenchment. The Metropolitan declined to consider any of the loss, as coming upon or from their tax, and though they suspended issuing their warrants three months, making appropriations instead, they resumed at a critical time, and the deficit created, because exceeding two per cent. The city had construed the clause forbidding the levy of any tax exceeding two per cent. to apply only to any particular tax, and not to the aggregate. 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