New Orleans Republican.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE UNITED STATES

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF NEW ORLEANS

LETTER FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

New Orleans Talking in Frisco—The Free Love Lecturers—Mrs. Frances Rose McKinley—Her Lectures a Failure—Suing for Dress Goods that were Presented—Minnie Myrtle Miller—Her Lecture on Joaquin—She Will Come to New Orleans—A Murder Trial—A Two or Three Hundred Thousand Dollar Defalcation.

[Special Correspondence of the Republican.]

SAN FRANCISCO, November 17, 1872.

In the conclusion of my last I touched upon the love question—the criminal side of it, and referred to one of the performers in that phase of the tender passion as hailing from your city. True, she has created quite a sensation in emotional circles in advocating her peculiar views—"free love," but, unlike the rest referred to, has not, so far as my information extends, practiced what she has lectured on. This lady in question, Mrs. Frances Rose McKinley, is really beautiful and gifted with extraordinary intelligence and rare conversational powers, and is very much a lady in demeanor, notwithstanding her peculiarly false ideas of love and indifference to the ordinances of man regarding the marital bonds. Strange to say, her lectures were failures, so far as drawing audiences were concerned.

In this city, where we have so much of that kind of love—and many have found to their sorrow and cost that it was not so free—every participator therein wishes to be the promulgator of their own ideas concerning the matter, and do not wish advice in the premises from novices, and while we wink at its existence or tacitly admit it among ourselves, we frown it down in public and hurl anathemas at the waterfall of her who dares advocate such immoral ideas in our virtuous city. Like the French, we must be told of our faults by our own people (then we know they are criminating themselves), but we can't brook it from strangers, more especially when they hail from the Sunny South, as the local press of this city contemptuously put it in their vituperative and cowardly abuse of the quadroon. Instead of refuting her ideas advanced with better argument, her personal character is assailed, and a labored attempt is made to prove that she is a quadroon, in such a manner as to indicate that the latter, if true, is a crime greater than that of a free-lover. Argument would be worse than futile to those who are so bigoted as to regard color as a crime, and think that superiority is based on anything but intelligence and honesty. Her lectures being financial failures, she soon got into trouble, as every one is likely to when their money gives out, more so here than anywhere. A Benedict storekeeper became impressed with her views, or person, it is immaterial which, and sold her, or presented, as she claims, many yards of heavy silk, with which she had several elaborate dresses made after the most approved fashion. Experiencing a "change of heart," or after learning that there was a difference between the ideal and real love or anticipation and realization, he presented a bill for the goods "sold," Indian like.

No doubt the wayward inclined Benedict loved the amiable Rose because she was a stranger in a strange land, and for the beautiful ideas she advanced: and she loved him for the beautiful silk he had given her, and as much as she could consistently love a married man. But he was the party who was taken in; for though he got judgment by default for $299 worth of fabric, he yet holds that parchment and patron ideal gracefully haunts the silk in defiant victory. Your city has hardly furnished her quota of sensational or criminal material. It seems they are retailed for home consumption, judging from the local columns of the REPUBLICAN. As a first-class sensation Rose was a success, but as a success otherwise she was a failure.

The female sensational field is now occupied by the meek Minnie Myrtle Miller, the divorced wife of the great uncouth Joaquin Miller, the wild, unlassoed, self-styled "Poet of the Sierras." He is, so she says, undoubtedly a heartless brute, for having obtained a divorce, by default, from her, for no other reason than an insane belief that to be great he must do something mean and eccentric. He, of course, affects absent-mindedness, and imitates Byron in his walk, or tries to, and assumes the peculiar eccentricities of the great poet, without an infinitesimal of his learning. All these little foibles—and some larger ones, especially about his leaving her to starve in an Oregon wilderness while he was feasting in London—Mrs. Miller shows up in a humorously sarcastic manner. She is of slight figure, "passing fair, pale and interesting," and possesses extraordinary intelligence, especially for one reared almost beyond the confines of civilization among the "Webfeet" natives. Her deportment on the rostrum is surprisingly graceful, her voice strong, but her manner of speaking a little too rapid and inarticulate—which of course will be improved upon, with other trifling defects, as soon as she learns of them, which will not be long, as she intends going East on a lecturing tour, taking New Orleans in her circuit—repeating the same lecture in the various cities. The lecture is ably and forcibly written; the only fault is in the delivery. In short, she may be regarded in the light of a "rough diamond." A little polishing, and she will shine as bright as the most brilliant.

Some of the country press uncharitably, now and then, revive a little incident of the wild mountainous regions several years ago, in which it is charged that Joaquin "plagiarized" a horse. This little piece of history, Mrs. Miller, though radically vindictive, mercifully excludes from her systematized attacks on "The Poet and the Man."

During the week we have had but one murder trial, that occupying four days, and it took the jury another day and a half to find out that they could not agree, thus spoiling a marriage, as the defendant and the sister-in-law of the murdered man (the cause of the murder) were anxiously awaiting the verdict in an ante-room, intending to celebrate it, had it been a favorable one, by marriage. But to what sad disappointments are we doomed! She burst into tears, and he was remanded to his cell. At this rate we will never reach the end of our murder calendar, and besides, they are tired of waiting in jail so long; though, much to their credit, they remain, preferring an acquittal to breaking jail. Besides the five remaining murder cases, we have eighteen little cases of assault with intent to murder, and smaller ones in proportion. It is proposed that these latter eighteen cases all be placed on trial at once in order to expedite matters and save further expense—as it is all a mere matter of form, any way.

Offenders are getting very particular lately about having their crimes properly classified. A local report in one of the papers had a married man on trial for "bigamy." With an injured and menacing look, he demanded a correction from the editor. He was only charged with "adultery." Though it all amounts to the same thing in the end, there is a difference you see.

A small defalcation of $200,000 or $300,000 has been discovered to exist in the board of State harbor commissioners. As soon as a new set of books are made out by the defaulters to make things balance properly, an "expert" will be appointed to examine the books. In the meantime, things are being "fixed" on the outside.

S.

[Communicated.]

EQUALITY.

BY A WHITE LADY.

How often you hear people say: There are exceptions to all rules. But in this case there is no exception. A lady very richly dressed went into a confectionery for a glass of soda. She had with her a beautiful child, dressed in the height of fashion. True, she was a mulatto, but above the ordinary class of colored people. When asked for two drinks, the waiter refused to serve the child with any, because she was colored. I was under the impression this was a free country. No aristocracy and the law had freed the slaves, so that they were on an equality with the whites. Of course, there is a distinction between the upper and lower classes of white people. So there should be a distinction of the upper and lower classes of colored people. In England, where it is not a free country, colored people are thought well of, and, when they are well educated, can meet in good society. I know of a colored doctor in England that the rich and poor loved. He was a good man, the friend of the poor; would share the last he had with them. His servants in the winter were solely employed in making soup and taking it to the poor and infirm. When called to fight for his country and tend the sick and dying, he was the first to leave his home, but not before he got up in the pulpit, in the place of a clergyman, to take a sorrowful farewell of his people, and pray to God to help and protect him to do his duty, and guide him safe back to England and his people that he loved most ardently. The prayers lasted an hour and a half, and never before was that church so thronged, and one and all wept many bitter tears. It was the most sorrowful parting I ever witnessed. From the highest to the lowest, children and all, made him a parting gift. He died with fever two days after his arrival on the field of battle. There is now every tribute of affection paid to his memory, and none can speak of him but with tears in their eyes. Here, no matter what they are—good, bad or indifferent, they are all thought of alike, the only advantages you have here—being a free country, you can cut, shoot, take the life of your fellow-creature away, and if you can find bend for a few thousand, no matter who the bend is from, whether they have that much to their name or not, you are free to kill as many more as you like. You can stain your hands with as much human blood as you like, and money will spare your life. This is about the only advantage you have of a free country. The time will arrive when the colored people will be thought the same of as the whites. The whites are obliged to go to the same last resting place, their bodies and beauty, that is while on earth, their only thought, jewels, powder, paint and all outer adornments will evaporate into thin air, and their bodies decay in the same way as the colored people.

Why Coal is So High in England.

[From the New York Sun.]

The working miners in England have been for some time past mercilessly denounced by the thoughtless on all sides for raising the price of coal and indirectly deranging the whole trade of Great Britain by extorting preposterous prices for their labor through their trades unions combinations. In the meantime there are those who have been carefully investigating this subject, and they are finding out that it is not the rise in the price of labor which has so enormously increased the cost of coal, but the extortions of quite a different sort of trades unions from those of the miners—unions or combinations of the coal owners to exact exorbitant profits from the consumers.

The London *News* some time ago sent a special correspondent through the coal districts, and was surprised to find that the increase of the colliers' wages was comparatively slight, while the coal masters had carried up the prices of coal to their present exorbitant rates by means of rings acting in concert to create a fictitious value for their products. Lately, people in England are beginning to realize the true state of affairs, and large buyers are now holding off from making fresh contracts, confident that a great lowering of prices must shortly take place.

A gentleman largely interested in the coal trade, both as a producer and a consumer, and who is therefore well qualified to give an impartial opinion on this subject, in a letter to the *Times* gives some facts that show how unjust have been those accusations against the working miners which have charged them with conspiring to obtain extravagant wages. He says that at the pit's mouth in the neighborhood of Wigan, Lancashire, coal has advanced from 130 to 320 per cent in less than a year; while in the same time the colliers' wages have advanced only forty per cent, and the other workmen employed in the coal trade have had no rise. He speaks of one small proprietor who has realized £100,000 the present year from this state of affairs; of a small company which last year divided £28,000 among its shareholders, and has this year paid them £220,000; of another company which has returned its shareholders the whole of their capital within two years; and of various private firms which are estimated to have netted from £300,000 to £500,000 each during the last twelve months. And during all the time that the rich coal proprietors were rolling up such colossal fortunes, words could hardly be found severe enough for the poor miners who had demanded an increase in their wages somewhat proportionate to the increase in the cost of living which has taken place within the past few years.

It is not likely that the present extravagant prices for coal can long be maintained in Great Britain, but they can never return to the low standard of former years. The virgin coal deposits of England are almost exhausted; and hereafter, though there is an abundance of coal there, it will cost more to raise it to the surface. Moreover, the cost of living in England has been rapidly increasing for many years past, and labor wages can never again descend to the miserable pittance which were accepted years ago. Though the extravagant profits of the coal owners will doubtless be cut down and the cost of coal be measurably reduced, there are many causes to prevent its ever falling to the low prices ruling a few years ago.

The little girls who go about with baskets and beg for cold victuals are very persistent in St. Louis, and call regularly. The *Republican* says: "One day when they thus called at Mrs. Smith's, guests were being entertained, but one of the girls, nothing abashed, marched up to the table and inquired if there were any cold victuals. Mrs. Smith, slightly vexed at the impudence of the girl, replied: 'No, they are all hot.' The girl went out on her dignity, and her companion, who had remained outside, seeing the empty basket, exclaimed in surprise, 'didn't she give you anything?' 'No,' replied the other, 'she was sassy,' a remark which was heard by the company at the table, greatly to their amusement."

The remains of a mastodon have recently been discovered in Washington, Indiana, in a stratum of blue clay, eight feet below the earth's surface.

Danville, Illinois, boasts of two dilapidated inns, which welcome as in "ye olden time," when stages were in vogue, the weary traveler.

CITY COUNCIL—OFFICIAL

CITY HALL, NEW ORLEANS, Saturday, November 30, 1872.

At noon to-day Hon. L. A. Wiltz, Mayor elect, entered the Council chamber, accompanied by Hon. R. Brewster, Administrator of Police elect, Hon. H. F. Sturcken, Administrator of Assessments elect, Hon. Charles Fitzenreiter, Administrator of Waterworks and Public Buildings elect, Hon. B. M. Turnbull, Administrator of Commerce elect, and Hon. John Cockrem, Administrator of Improvements.

The secretary called the roll.

Absent—Hon. Alfred Shaw (Public Accounts), and Hon. John S. Walton (Finance).

Qualification.

The Mayor said: This being the first meeting held under the new organization, I will appoint a committee of two to examine my credentials.

The Administrators of Commerce and Police were appointed a committee for that purpose, and the Mayor's credentials were handed to them, as follows:

STATE OF LOUISIANA, Office of State Registrar of Voters, New Orleans, November 27, 1872.

I hereby certify that by the official count of the votes cast in the various precincts of the city of New Orleans, made by me according to law, the whole number of votes polled at the general election held on the fourth day of November, 1872, for the office of Mayor of New Orleans, was 36,807, of which L. A. Wiltz received 23,896 votes, W. R. Fish received 12,981 votes, scattering 27 votes; and that L. A. Wiltz received a majority of votes over all other candidates for Mayor.

B. P. BLANCHARD,
State Registrar of Voters, and Supervisor of Registration, Parish of Orleans.

State of Louisiana, Second District Court for the parish of Orleans.—In the matter of Louis A. Wiltz to qualify as Mayor of the city of New Orleans, No. 35,919.

Now before the court appears Louis A. Wiltz, who took the following oath, which was ordered to be spread on the minutes:

I, Louis A. Wiltz, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have not been convicted of treason, perjury, forgery, bribery, or other crime, punishable by imprisonment in the Penitentiary, and I do further solemnly swear that I am not subject to the disabilities contained in the third section of the fourteenth amendment of the constitution of the United States; that I accept the civil and political equality of all men, and agree not to attempt to deprive any person or persons, on account of race, color or previous condition of any political or civil right, privilege or immunity enjoyed by any other class of men.

That I will support the constitution and laws of the United States and the constitution and laws of this State, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on me as Mayor of the city of New Orleans, according to the best of my ability and understanding, so help me God.

LOUIS A. WILTZ.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this twenty-third day of November, 1872.

A. L. TISSOT,
Judge of the Second District Court for the Parish of Orleans.

I certify the foregoing to be a true and correct extract from the minutes of November 23, 1872. FRANK PACE, Jr.,
Clerk Second District Court for the Parish of Orleans.

Messrs. Turnbull and Brewster reported that they had examined the Mayor's certificate and qualification and found them correct.

The Mayor thereupon took his seat as presiding officer of the Council, and requested the new Administrators to hand him their credentials.

The certificates and qualifications of the Administrators of Commerce, Police, Assessments and Waterworks and Public Buildings were examined by the Mayor, reported correct, and were ordered to be spread upon the minutes together with those of the Mayor.

Mayor's Inaugural.

The Secretary read the following inaugural message from the Mayor:

MAYORALTY OF NEW ORLEANS, November 30, 1872.

To the Board of Administrators:

GENTLEMEN—At an election unsurpassed for fairness and good order, and unequaled for the number of votes, as well as for the interest felt in the result, we have been chosen to superintend and manage the business of this city, to defend its corporate franchises, to promote its prosperity, to re-establish its credit, to extend its commerce, to preserve its public works, to foster its schools and charities, to win back its lost prerogatives, and to provide for the health, peace and security of its inhabitants.

There has been felt among our people during the past year a growing interest in municipal affairs. This feeling culminated in the late election, wherein the chief anxiety among voters centered upon the choice of Mayor and Administrators. This is proof enough, if such evidence were needed, that the people expect at our hands the reforms for which they have long prayed, and that honest and judicious management by which municipal prosperity is to be restored.

It is plain that the great majority of the people anticipate from us far more than can by any means be accomplished, and more than can be promised in our name during the brief period of our incumbency and with the limited functions left to us by the State government. So many and so great are the difficulties of the task imposed upon us, that we have good reason to solicit, in advance, the patient indulgence and considerate forbearance of all friends of reform. While we duly appreciate the honor bestowed, and feel heartily grateful for the favor, we likewise feel the great and peculiar responsibility. We may properly value the congratulations of our fellow-citizens at the beginning of our labors, but we shall value far more their help as we progress, and their applause, when those labors are successfully ended.

We enter upon our duties under adverse auspices. The taxable property of the city is cumbered with two vast public debts, that of the city, which exceeds $21,000,000, and three-fifths of that of the State, which now amounts to $42,000,000. The property of the city is subjected to a State tax and a city tax both enormously high, while the business of the city is loaded with a double schedule of licenses on trades, professions and occupations, calling each for $500,000 annually. Since 1867 the real estate of the city has declined more than thirty per cent, and the downward tendency can only be checked by relief from high taxes. Excessive licenses have equally damaged business. Capital has fled from these impositions, and the process of withdrawal has not ceased. Building has almost ceased, while thousands of over-taxed houses are left without tenants. The registry and late city vote, numbering nearly 40,000, show that the population of New Orleans numbers nearly 240,000, but the number ought to have been much greater. Extravagant port charges have driven off ships and damaged our commerce. Northern and foreign capitalists, looking with keen-eyed scrutiny into the management of our public affairs, have recorded their verdict against public abuses in Louisiana, and that verdict may be read in every stock list where the bonds of New Orleans and the State are quoted, showing that our credit has been damaged to a ruinous extent. We can not borrow more money from those who think that we already owe more than we can pay promptly and with certainty. Depreciated public credit has a disastrous effect upon the general credit of individuals. Where the double public debt of a city is more than one-fourth of its property assessment and many times more than the value of all the available property owned by the corporation, strangers must draw an inference disparaging to the sagacity of our citizens and of our rulers and legislators.

Beginning our labors at such a time, with an exhausted treasury, with trammeled resources, with declining property, with clouded public credit, surrounded by eager claimants and after many years of profuse expenditures, it is well that we make known to the public the real condition of our affairs, in order that expectations of reform may not be too sanguine, and that we may not bear a responsibility which does not belong to us. I therefore recommend that you prepare a full and explicit statement of the condition of your respective departments and of the resources and condition of the city, to be published and remain as official evidence of the situation of our municipal affairs.

The total expenditures of the city for the past twenty years, including interest on funded debt and the redemption of bonds, have been as follows:

In 1852, $1,331,000; 1853, $2,849,000; 1854, $2,687,000; 1855, $2,395,000; 1856, $2,332,000; 1857, $2,246,000; 1858, $2,476,000; 1859, $3,127,000; 1860, $3,078,000; 1861, $3,261,000; 1862, $3,767,000; 1863, $2,911,000; 1864, $3,108,000; 1865, $3,562,000; 1866, $4,301,000; 1867, $6,937,000; 1868, $7,062,000; 1869, $4,986,000; 1870, last nine months, about $5,590,000; 1871, $5,634,504; 1872, approved budget or official estimate, $6,261,381.

The total valuation of property in New Orleans in 1852 was $66,631,000; in 1855, $71,128,000; in 1860, $121,030,000; in 1867, $139,022,000; in 1869, $127,912,000; in 1871, the State assessment on which the present State tax is based, $158,214,000. Although the area of the city has been greatly extended since 1852, and the present assessment was made at currency values instead of gold, I believe the valuation greatly exceeds the actual present worth. It may be assumed that the taxable property in the four districts in 1852 was worth far more than half of the similar property in the enlarged city in 1872, but while our capital has scarcely been doubled our expenses have been increased more than five fold for city purposes, besides paying more than six times as much into the State treasury each year. Our budget for the current year calls for nearly seven millions of dollars, in addition to various bonds issued or contemplated for paving, drainage and embankments, to the amount officially estimated at $2,682,500. The expenditures of 1870 and 1871, and of the first nine months of 1872, give reason to fear that the actual expenditures for the current year will at least equal the budget for that year. The budget adopted November 22, 1870, for the year 1871, called for $5,511,358, but the actual disbursements exceeded that amount.

I conceive that the financial embarrassments of our corporation are due in great part to the practice of making appropriations and issuing certificates for the same before money has been received with which to meet such payments. These certificates have thus become a species of city scrip, bearing no interest, payable at no certain date and having no fixed value. Divided into small sums and issued for services or materials to those who are not able to wait, they are sold on the street at an enormous discount. Those who have money to spare speculate upon the poverty or necessities of meritorious laborers, mechanics and teachers, who must lose one-third or one-half of their wages, although the wealthy contractor charges in advance for the anticipated loss upon his certificates, with a wide margin in his own favor for changes in the market values. This reacts upon the corporation in the form of extravagant prices for all purchases. The greater the volume of outstanding certificates, the lower they fall in market value, and the more of them are required for future services. Depreciation thus accelerated, at length suggests the empirical and shallow expedient of funding the floating certificates in city bonds payable in gold at some distant date, the city often giving a premium to the holder of certificates which bear no interest for taking in exchange interest bearing bonds. Thus the city bonds issued during the past four or five years may have cost to the holders an average of less than seventy cents in the dollar, though bearing large interest and redeemable in coin or its equivalent. Every increase in the amount of the funded debt of the city proportionately depresses the market value of all its bonds, new and old, so that the extravagance of the present will impose vast burdens upon the future, while damaging the general credit of the people. Can we put an end to the pernicious practice of anticipating receipts by certificates of appropriation? The public demand this reform at our hands, and I trust that their hopes will not be disappointed. But, whatever financial policy the incoming administration may pursue, I can with confidence assure the holders of certificates of appropriation that their payment will not be jeopardized or unreasonably deferred. If they will patiently wait until the system of cash payments and receipts can be established, they will be paid in full, thereby saving the heavy discounts which they have heretofore been compelled to suffer. The cash system must prove a benefit to the creditors of the city, as well as to the corporation at large.

Our constituents will not lose sight of the fact that New Orleans contributes to the support to the State government about $63 in each $100 to pay State expenses and the interest on the State debt, the city having been assessed in 1871 for $158,000,000, while the rest of the State was assessed for about $92,000,000. The whole State, assessed for $250,000,000, pays nearly three times as much interest on State debt, and more than five times as much for general State expenses as was paid in 1860, when the taxable property of the State was assessed at $470,000,000. The city in 1860 was assessed for about $125,000,000, and bore less than one-third of the cost of the State government, when that cost was only one-fifth as much annually as now. A leading item of State expenditure will suffice to illustrate the fearful increase of this exhaustive drain upon our resources. The contingent expenses of the General Assembly in 1860 were $89,435; in 1861, $131,18[illegible]; in 1862, $5[illegible],911; in 18[illegible], $5[illegible]; in 1864, $6[illegible]; in 186[illegible], $[illegible]; in 186[illegible], $1[illegible]; in 1867, $[illegible]; in 1868, $363,156; in 1869, $370,214; in 1870, $722,231; in 1871, $958,956; and in 1872, an uncertain sum, probably exceeding $500,000.

The facts and data referred to show that a reform in the administration of the State government, a diminution of State taxes, debts and expenses and a return to honest economy, interest our people quite as much as reforms and economy in our city government. While we do our part in the great work of retrenchment, we have a right to expect and insist that the members of the General Assembly will promptly unbind the grievous burdens which their predecessors have bound upon the backs of our citizens. According to such a plan of action as may seem to them appropriate, I presume that the members of the board will employ proper means to assist our Senators and Representatives in laying our grievances before the General Assembly early in the session of 1873. All such citizens as feel deep interest in the welfare of our city and in the inauguration of reform are invited to co-operate with us, as individuals or in associations, by personal appeals, by memorials, by argument and remonstrance, to obtain such prompt and efficient legislation as the case demands. If our city government should cost nothing to us, and our city taxes were to cease, yet the burden now imposed by the State would, if continued, ruin New Orleans in a few years, but if still loaded with an enormous State debt, as well as with a vast city debt, with two governments to sustain, with two heavy taxes upon all our property, a two-fold heavy license upon all branches of business, trades and professions, the load must soon become altogether intolerable. Every increase of debt must involve an increase of tax, and every new tax works a further depreciation of property, a further expulsion of capital, a new discouragement to trade, a new stumbling-block to enterprise, and a new incubus upon production and commerce. As our public debts increase, property falls. If the double debt of New Orleans equals a fourth of assessed valuation of property, it is equivalent to a mortgage of one-fourth of its value upon every lot and building. Whoever buys property here buys with it a share of the vast public debt.

At the approaching brief special session of our General Assembly there may not be time to introduce, mature and pass the several bills requisite for the relief of New Orleans, but an act to repeal all State laws respecting the Metropolitan Police would occupy but a short time, yet enable our Council to provide for a city police adapted to our wants and proportioned to our resources. Such a repeal would be most cordially welcomed here, and it would be received as an earnest of other and greater measures of reform to be adopted at the regular session. We may expect with confidence that members from other parishes and cities will cheerfully aid in all legislation that can relieve the finances, build up the credit, promote the prosperity and vitalize the commercial resources of their great metropolis.

From what has been stated as to our exhausted treasury, our hampered resources and our pressing wants, citizens owing taxes will infer that their public agents will need ready money to meet the necessary current expenses of the city. I believe that you are resolved to avoid resorting to a new loan, and to withhold appropriations until you have money in the treasury to pay them; in that case you will have nothing to depend upon but cash receipts for taxes, licenses, and other dues. I therefore respectfully, but earnestly request our fellow citizens to aid us in the work of reform and pay their taxes without delay, being assured that their money will be used only in expenditures strictly necessary. Their contributions will not be applied to the payment of any illegal or fraudulent claim nor be squandered under any pretext; but they will be disbursed only as reason and justice demand and for the best interests of taxpayers and the city. We are the agents of the people for using their money for their own good, and if I rightly interpret your sentiments and purposes, we may cordially and jointly promise an economical and judicious disbursement of all receipts. Let the people, who have imposed upon us so great a trust and responsibility, bear in mind that the city treasury is empty, that many of its resources have been anticipated or tied up, that large sums will soon be needed to meet the interest of the funded debt, and that many meritorious claimants are eagerly expecting settlement.

I am not now ready to make specific recommendations for the Board of Administrators, believing you will not enter upon legislative business until you have had time to become familiar with the condition of your respective departments. If you adopt the rule of confining appropriations strictly to the amount of cash actually in the treasury, the work of reform and retrenchment will begin at once and be greatly simplified. If you appropriate only cash on hand, you will naturally give preference to expenditures which are of the most urgent necessity. If contracts are to be paid at once in money, you can enter upon none which can be safely postponed. While each Administrator recommends such appropriations as seem to him necessary in his own department, it is the duty of all to scrutinize each recommendation with extreme care. While you strive for economy and reform, you, as wise guardians of the rights, interests, credit and treasure of the city, can not err in your action.

I would urgently recommend to your early and careful attention the subject of licenses, a mode of taxation full of inequality and injustice, hostile to industry and enterprise, calculated to drive away business from our midst, discriminating against the least fortunate, checking manufactures, driving off labor and capital, and discouraging that spirit of enterprise without which no commercial centre can be prosperous. Trades, professions and occupations ought to be relieved entirely from State license taxes, while those imposed by the city government should be now greatly reduced, and as soon as practicable entirely removed.

As economy, like charity, begins at home, you will naturally seek to discontinue superfluous and needless assistants, and to abolish all offices not absolutely necessary for good government.

Our city, deeply in debt and sadly impoverished by extravagance, can now afford no improvements nor public works, except such as are strictly needed for the preservation of health and the protection of property. The subject of levees and drainage will require your early and constant attention. At any expense the city must be secured against overflows and the surface drainage must be regularly provided for.

I commend to your very careful attention the schools of the city and their teachers. The subject of education has paramount claims upon our consideration. The teachers of our public schools work hard for wages, small enough at best, but subject to a discount which reduces them below the requirements of a comfortable and decent subsistence. The payment of these zealous and pains-taking laborers in a highly meritorious and most useful vocation with depreciated scrip which must pass through the hands of money changers and speculators, is assuredly a public reproach and a disgrace to our city.

As the claims of humanity supersede all others, I need not urge upon you the duty of fostering and improving the charitable institutions of New Orleans and of caring properly for the indigent, the sick, the blind, the mute, the insane and the destitute widows, orphans and aged persons. Whatever else may be left undone for want of means, you are called upon by public feeling, as well as prompted by your own sentiments, to provide judiciously but amply for these afflicted classes. Alike in days of adversity and of prosperity the crowning ornaments of our city have been its noble charities. Their liberal support will fully accord with the wishes of a generous people.

As you enter upon your duties you find the property of citizens under the protection of a fire department well equipped, thoroughly disciplined, prompt, zealous, vigilant, and in all respects highly efficient. The calamities which have lately visited Chicago and Boston admonish us to maintain our means of protection with ceaseless care and to seek diligently for any improvement that may further fortify us against the ever present and remorseless enemy. We ought especially to protect from pecuniary losses that generous and honorable guild of charity whose voluntary labors have so signally benefited the city. While the officers and members of the Firemen's Charitable Association give us the gratuitous benefit of their experience, organization and personal service, the city can not justly do less than reimburse their actual and necessary expenses.

In compliance with law, your predecessors have prepared a budget or official estimate of expenditures for the year 1873, amounting to $5,654,926. It is less than that adopted by them for 1872 by $1,300,000, but I trust that it will be more than sufficient for your lessened and measured disbursements for the coming year. You have had no time to inspect and revise the budget, but you may safely accept the amount as far greater than you will require, and far greater than our depleted city can afford to expend. While we may regard it as a mere limitation, we can not consider it as a guide.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I promise to you my aid and co-operation in all measures aiming at retrenchment, reform, economy and strict accountability in the administration of our municipal government. If we all work in earnest and with one accord for the same great purposes, our success can not be doubtful.

On motion of Mr. Turnbull, it was resolved that the message be received and spread upon the minutes, and that fifteen hundred copies be printed in pamphlet form.

Resolutions.

By Mr. Turnbull:

Resolved, That the resolution adopted November 29, 1872, purporting to authorize the Mayor "to employ special counsel on the part of the city and to consult with said counsel relative to the claims of candidates for office, etc., be repealed, and that payment for any legal service therein referred to be refused.

The resolution was passed to a second reading, and at the suggestion of Mr. Cockrem was laid over until the next meeting for final action.

The Council then adjourned till Tuesday next.

H. CONQUEST CLARKE, Secretary.

Steam on the Canals.

[From the St. Louis Democrat.]

The New York papers are filled with accounts of the exploits of a steam canal boat which is alleged to have successfully made the trip from Buffalo to New York in a short time with a heavy load. The *Shipping List* says that "the fact that a canal boat with a cargo of grain, propelled by steam, has made the trip from Buffalo to this city in five days and eighteen hours' running, is to be regarded as a practical solution of the problem of steam traction on the canals. Besides the saving in time, the owner of this boat (the William Baxter), claims that she effects a decided reduction in the cost as compared with the expense of propulsion by two horses. The expense of an ordinary horse boat is thirty-five cents an hour, whereas this is only twelve and one-half cents. In all, not more than six tons of coal were consumed.

The same boat has made two round trips between this city and Buffalo in less than fourteen days each. If this can be done in the first season of steam navigation, under great disadvantages, it is only fair to presume that experience will suggest improvements whereby two or three days more can be saved. If the round trip can be made in two weeks, the saving of time would be equivalent to multiplying the capacity of the Erie canal two and a half times. This practical multiplication of the capacity and use of the canal, and the shortening of the trips in so great a degree, will not fail to produce results most satisfactory to New York and to all the Western territory which here seeks a market. The commissioners appointed by the State to decide upon the merits of the boats competing for the $100,000 prize offered by the Legislature, express themselves highly pleased with the Baxter, whose owner now lays claim to the reward, on the ground that he has filled his part of the agreement under the requirements made by the commissioners.

It is said that a company has been organized for the purpose of building a large number of boats for a new transportation line, and to introduce steam apparatus into the ordinary boats that have been built and are building, so that next season we may look for a number of steamers on the canals, and a general increase in the traffic. Cheap transportation is the great demand of the day, and it is hard to conceive of anything that would effect a greater cheapening in the rates of freight than would a large increase of the carrying capacity of the Erie canal. There must be a multiplication of transportation facilities corresponding to the wants and conditions of the great food producing sections of the country, and to the demands of returning supplies of merchandise, without which there will assuredly be a check to interior development."

There can be no doubt that cheap transportation is the great demand of the day, and the fact related above has a phase that this city can not ignore. We must immediately arrange for the removal of the gravel beds in the river between this point and Cairo, so that we can always enjoy an uninterrupted stage of not less than seven feet of water. The sooner that enterprise is placed vigorously afoot the better it will be for our future prospects. Steam on the Erie canal will double its carrying capacity and cheapen the cost of carriage. This means competition with the Mississippi, and a low rate of freight will be fixed upon, depend upon it. We have the broad Mississippi to help us in this contest. Let us remove the bars, cut down the expenses of navigating our boats to a point as low as can be borne, and fight the battle for commercial supremacy through to permanent victory.

The New Iberia *Sugar Bowl* says:

The office of the *Planters' Banner*, which has been suspended for several months, has been purchased by Mr. William Smylie, of Mr. Daniel Dennett, its former owner, and is this week being moved back to Franklin, where it was for so many years a successful journal, and will be again published under its old name, with Mr. William Smylie as editor.

OFFICIAL.

TREATIES AND PROCLAMATIONS.

Postal Convention between the United States of America and the Republic of Ecuador.

The undersigned, John A. J. Creswell, Postmaster General of the United States of America, in virtue of the powers vested in him by law, and Antonio Flores, minister of the Republic of Ecuador at Washington, in the name of his government, and by virtue of the powers which he has formally presented to this effect, have agreed upon the following articles, to wit:

ARTICLE I.

An exchange of mails shall hereafter take place between the United States of America and the Republic of Ecuador, by the ordinary means of communication via the Isthmus of Panama, the government of the United States to be at the expense of the transportation thereof between New York and Panama, San Francisco and Panama, so long as direct service by United States steamers, including the Isthmus transit, is maintained under existing conditions; and the government of Ecuador to be at the expense of the transportion thereof between Panama and Ecuador so long as the present or other similar arrangement for the ocean mail service between Panama and Ecuador is continued. The correspondence so exchanged shall comprise:

1. Letters and manuscripts subject by the laws of either country to letter rate of postage.

2. Newspapers and prints of all kinds, in sheets, in pamphlets, and in books, sheets of music, engravings, lithographs, photographs, drawings, maps and plans, and such correspondence may be exchanged, whether originating in either of said countries and destined for the other, or originating in or destined for foreign countries to which they may respectively serve as intermediaries.

ARTICLE II.

New York and San Francisco shall be the offices of exchange on the side of the United States, and Guayaquil and Manta shall be the offices of exchange on the side of Ecuador, for all mails transmitted between the two countries under this arrangement; and all mail matter transmitted in either direction between the respective offices of exchange shall be forwarded in closed bags or pouches, under seal, addressed to the corresponding exchange office, and the mails so dispatched from either country to the other shall be forwarded to the United States consul and resident mail agent at Panama, who is hereby designated as the agent of the two governments for receiving the bags or pouches at that port from either direction, and for dispatching the same to their respective ultimate destinations.

The two Post Departments may, at any time, discontinue either of said offices of exchange or establish others.

ARTICLE III.

The standard weight for the single rate of postage and rule of progression shall be:

1. For letters, or manuscripts subject by law to letter rate of postage, one-half ounce (avoirdupois).

2. For all other correspondence mentioned in the second paragraph of the first article, that which each country shall adopt for the mails which it dispatches to the other, adapted to the convenience and habits of its interior administration; but each country shall give notice to the other of the standard weight it adopts, and of any subsequent change thereof. The weight stated by the dispatching exchange office shall always be accepted, except in cases of manifest error.

ARTICLE IV.

No accounts shall be kept between the Postoffice Departments of the two countries on the international correspondence, written or printed, exchanged between them, but each country shall levy, collect and retain to its own use the following postal charges, viz:

1. The postage to be charged and collected in the United States on each letter, or manuscript, subject to letter postage, mailed in the United States, and addressed to any place in the Republic of Ecuador, shall be twenty cents, United States currency, per each weight of half an ounce or fraction of half an ounce; and the postage to be charged and collected in Ecuador on each letter, or manuscript subject to letter postage, mailed in Ecuador and addressed to any place in the United States of America, shall be two reals, or the fifth part of a dollar (hard), Ecuador currency, the same to be in each case in full of all charges whatever to the place of destination in either country. Either country, however, is at liberty to reduce this charge, but not to increase it without the previous assent of the other.

2. On all other correspondence mentioned in the second paragraph of the first article the Post Departments of the United States and Ecuador may respectively levy, collect, and retain to their separate and exclusive use such rates of postage adapted to their interior administration and to the cost of sea transportation as they shall deem advisable. But each office shall give notice to the other of the rates it adopts, and of any subsequent change thereof.

Newspapers and other correspondence of the class referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be sent in narrow bands or covers, open at the sides or ends, so that that they may be easily examined; and packages of such correspondence shall be subject to the laws and regulations of each country in regard to their liability to pay customs duty, if containing dutiable goods, or to be rated with letter postage when containing written matter, or for any other cause specified in said laws and regulations.

ARTICLE V.

Letters, and other communications in manuscript, which, from any cause, can not be delivered to their address, after the expiration of a proper period to effect their delivery, shall be reciprocally returned every month, unopened and without charge, to the Postoffice Department of the dispatching country; but newspapers, and all other articles of printed matter, shall not be returned, but remain at the disposal of the receiving office.

Letters erroneously transmitted, or wrongly addressed, shall be promptly returned to the dispatching office without charge.

ARTICLE VI.

The Post Department of the United States shall establish, in conformity with the arrangements in force at the time, the conditions upon which the Post Department of Ecuador may exchange, in open mails, the correspondence originating in Ecuador and destined for countries to which the United States may serve as an intermediary; but such correspondence shall only be charged with the international postage established by this convention, augmented by the postage rates in force between the United States and the country of destination, and any other tax for exterior service.

The Post Department of the United States shall furnish the Post Department of Ecuador with a list stating the foreign countries to which the foreign postage and the amounts thereof must be absolutely prepaid, or can be left unpaid, and shall modify such list from time to time, as the exigencies of its foreign postal service may require.

In conformity to the requirements of the preceding paragraph, a table marked A is hereunto annexed, enumerating the countries with which, and specifying the terms and conditions on which, Ecuador may exchange correspondence by way of the United States.

Correspondence of this class must be accompanied by a letter bill from the dispatching exchange office of Ecuador, specifying the amount due thereon to the United States, and the receiving exchange office of the United States shall return by next post to such dispatching exchange office an acknowledgment of receipt and verification thereof, which letter-bills and acknowledgments of receipt shall be in conformity to the models B and C, hereunto annexed, and shall serve as vouchers in the settlement of the accounts.

The accounts to be kept between the two Post Departments upon this class of correspondence shall be stated quarterly, transmitted and verified as speedily as practicable; and the amounts found due shall be paid promptly to the United States office, under such regulations as the respective Post Departments may from time to time prescribe. Such quarterly statement shall be prepared by the United States