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THE SUGAR PLANTATIONS.

If the buildings and inclosures of the sugar plantations on the coast are dilapidated, and the ornamental shrubs show want of care, the old virtue of hospitality still glows with an undimmed ardor among its people. You are received at the landing by your host and his dependents, and ushered into apartments with blazing fires, which gleam on massive old mahogany and shimmer pleasantly on the cut-glass and well filled decanters of the sideboard. After neutralizing the night air with an appropriate protective, the visitor finds his chamber prepared with the same care for his comfort. It is in the diningroom, however, that the most abundant hospitality is displayed. There is found the profusion of those substantial supplies which the farm alone can furnish in perfection. Meats, milk, poultry and vegetables are the staples; the adjacent Gulf waters furnish to many on the coast oysters, fish and wild fowl. Commerce brings her tribute from far lands, and there may be assembled at the table of the lower coast Louisiana planter as many of the luxuries of life as fall to the lot of any cultivator of the soil any where. If we indulge in memories it would be found that in the elegant and refined incidents of wealth no people surpassed the former and some of the present occupants of these lands. Libraries, pictures, wines, furniture, servants, carriages and horses, of the most select character, rendered each dwelling a palace in its appointments. The intelligence derived from education and travel made the occupants instructive associates. With a change of industrial systems much of this elegance has passed away; the substratum of hospitality upon which it was based remains. Let us hope that with the necessity has arisen a developed enterprise, which will replace all the pleasures of social intercourse which it is the chief object of human enterprise to create. Such has been the history of every change in the political or industrial relations of most intelligent peoples. The abolition of nobility in France, of primogeniture and of slavery on this continent, have produced great loss and disturbance, but the innate resolution of a class determined on personal independence, soon replaces the system of the past with another applicable to the present.

THE MANUFACTURE OF SUGAR.

The sugar planter goes one step further than other farmers. After having incurred the toil of cultivation during a long and doubtful season, the value of his labor depends upon a successful process of preparation for market. This occurs at the critical moment when a sudden frost may impair the product of the crop grown, as well as of the crop coming. Hence the necessity of a rapid and judicious administration. The cane must be cut and protected from the possibility of frost. It must be carried promptly to the mill and this supply regulated so that neither a surplus of the cut cane remains exposed in the field nor a deficiency obstruct the regular process of manufacture. It may as well be remarked here that the sugar planter of Louisiana has, in his short season, a good deal to do from which his competitor in the tropics is exempt, nor can any class of men be shown to have demonstrated a better application of science to the problem before them than is manifested by our planters.

Our home readers are familiar with the process of sugar manufacture—how the cane passes into the roller mill at one end of the building, while the juice of the crushed cane, evaporated by the heat of the furnace, or of tubular steam pipes, flows steadily along the vats, until, having parted with all its aqueous qualities, the thickened syrup granulates, and the grained sugar is separated from the molasses by one of two processes: by heaping it in hogsheads to dry with draining and evaporation, or by pouring it into an open cylinder having a revolution of about 1000 per minute. The centrifugal action thus imparted to the sugar separates and dries the particles which are lodged in a compact and white mass on the concave of the cylinder, while the molasses is drained away at the bottom. The economy of time effected by this process, and the purity of the product, commend it greatly to the planter. It serves to show them how much all the industries are indebted to science, and leads to the obvious propriety of embodying this department in our system of popular education.

As this process of maturing the crop continues for some two weeks, it involves a corresponding vigilance and activity on the part of all. The planter, the manager, the engineer must be all instant at their posts, the attendants upon mill and boilers must be competent, so that no interruption shall occur in this extended chain of operations. To have made and milled a sugar crop so as to present a fair marketable article requires a degree of practical intelligence not often needed in the pursuits of life elsewhere.

It is perhaps to a want of these combined attributes of administrative skill that the failure of the neophyte planter may often be attributed. There is more of such ability required in the care of the people, animals, and other agencies employed in making a crop; in the financial management of purchases, sales and wages, and in the culture and manufacture of a sugar crop, than there is in the management of many institutions whose business may be much larger, but which are so well arranged that it is subdivided amongst many competent subordinates. Certainly it would involve less labor and require less ability to govern some State well regulated by law, than to conduct a Louisiana sugar estate through a single crop—especially if there were a few mortgage creditors to be consulted on the subject.

But there is a little poetry about a sugar mill. Visit it at night. The darkness is illuminated by numerous bright lights. The cane mill crushes and clanks and the steam puffs as if it was some vast monster gorging its meal. The smoke rises from kettle and vat, while the ebony attendant, with his long ladle skims the boiling syrup, regulates the flow of the syrup, or hoars the mass of moist sugar to the humming centrifugal. This gloomy view with, these dark attendants flitting around the smoking liquid, tends to remind the observer of far more serious scenes. An ever burning furnace which diffuses a sulphuric vapor encourages somewhat the delusion. The cheery communication of the planter, however, who tells you how this perfected product will sell in the New Orleans market, restores us to the comfort of sublunary contemplations, especially as a visit to the sugar-house may conclude with a return to a good fire, a good drink, a late supper, cheerful conversation, and not improbably dancing, cards and music, and elegant society in the drawing room.

In our next it will be proper to state on behalf of the planter, some of the drawbacks to prosperity of which he complains.

OUR SAN FRANCISCO LETTER.

The Supreme Court—Chinese Testimony—Shooting Police Officers—The Brotherton Brothers—Sensational Play of the "Wife's Ordeal"—Chinamen at the Theatre and Gaming Table—The Great Diamond Fiasco—Revelations of Brutality.

[Special Correspondence of the Republican.]

SAN FRANCISCO, December 8, 1872.

Undoubtedly our Supreme Court will soon have another opportunity to show its astuteness, and render another model decision. This tribunal has held, and reaffirmed, by way of a clincher, its former decision, that Chinese testimony was incompetent against white persons. Our last Legislature enacted a law, admitting Chinese testimony, which goes into effect on the first of next January. A man is now in the calaboose, charged with the little every day occurrence of robbery, and the main point of the case hinges on Chinese testimony. He has refused to violate the trust imposed in him by the officers, and has refused to break jail or walk out during any of the jail deliveries, such is his great faith in his liberation on this technicality about the admissibility of testimony. His counsel boldly moved for the release of the prisoner in the absence of *legal evidence* of his guilt, citing the decision of the Supreme Court, but was overruled. This new law, when it goes into effect next month, will conflict directly with the Supreme Court—the supreme power of the State—and we are anxious to hear from them on that point. Whether they will blindly adhere to their former opinion, or gracefully back down, or more probably decide both ways, and leave us in greater doubt still. But then the most important point which the prisoner would like to have settled is, whether, in case this testimony is admitted, can it be urged against him when his offense was committed prior to the admission of that testimony, when it was held to be illegal.

Heretofore it has been the custom of public officers to shoot citizens, but now that, too, is being reversed—probably in imitation of the Supreme Court, which reverses any and everything that comes in its way—and the citizen shoots the officer. A policeman attempted to interfere with an amorous youth while on a lark in an immoral locality. In firing four shots he succeeded in getting two bullets into the officer, one of which punctured his ear, and will probably have the effect of giving him a new set of brains. The police force subscribed and offered a reward of $1000 for the bungling marksman, and in less than three hours he was captured by two members of the force.

During another of those investigating seances, it was ascertained by several affidavits that the Brotherton brothers *did* escape; that they were subsequently captured, and that *somebody* was to blame for the first, and that there was a great deal of mysterious mystery connected with the latter, especially the reward of $1000, and—that's all. It is shrewdly suspected that a barrel of whitewash is being prepared by the investigating committee.

Just now we are undergoing the severe ordeal of seeing the "Wife's Ordeal" slaughtered. As you have not had it down there yet, I will just merely, by way of an idea, state that it is one of these new "society plays," adopted from the French, highly sensational and equally immoral, in which that "old, old story"—"as old as the world, and as new"—is passionately, philosophically, foolishly and politically considered and realized. The virtues of a pure wife are depicted in glowing colors, the wrongs of womankind and tyranny of man alluded to in no mild or complimentary terms, creating such sympathy for the fair sex in general by the remorseful male auditors that many were moved to such a degree of compassion as to be compelled to go out and take a drink at the conclusion of each act. In the temporary triumph of vice over virtue the Jezzabel of the occasion was loudly applauded; but in justice to that democratic body it would be proper to state that this approval did not arise from the lobby but the dress circle.

The sympathy for the wronged wife certainly seemed not to be among the aristocracy—at least not the codfish portion of it—for when the mistress of her infatuated husband was detected, denounced and driven from the home she had dishonored, and worst of all, not permitted to cross its polluted portals to get her diamonds, the sympathy seemed rather to turn into indignation. But the most enjoyable and relishing of the whole drama was the little "tea party," in which the three darling dames of the season directed the representation of a half dozen women in as many minutes, and the whole subject matter of men disposed of in one sweeping sentence, which means both a great deal and nothing—just the same as a woman's—when she can not command words to express her sentiments. This little tete-a-tete by the "Turn-over Club" did not meet with general approval or the faintest applause, as it struck too near home, or held the mirror a little too close to the society of to-day; though, of course, no reflections were intended to be cast. It is only when the shoe does not pinch too tight that applause is given.

And herein is where our almond-eyed and pig-tailed fellow-citizen, the Chinaman, has the best of us. He will sit through the most affecting drama, wherein a half-dozen hearts are broken, and the tender passion depicted in the most melting and soothing words, which would almost melt a heart of adamant or "salted diamond," and his features remain implacable and his opaque eye not moistened with one tear of compassion or remorse. But this may be partly owing to the fact of his knowledge that no female hearts are concerned in the matter, the female characters being played by men, or, rather, youths especially trained for that line—in feminine apparel. Neither does the Chinaman make any noisy demonstration by applauding, but quietly smokes his opium and looks on, and his approval or disapproval of the play is left a matter of conjecture to the actor. And he further shows his good breeding by not hissing if he does not like the acting or play, but as quietly walks out, slakes his thirst with a cup of boiling tea at an adjoining restaurant, and thence probably to a gaming house, where he tries his luck at "fan," a very fashionable and enchanting game among the Chinese, as much so as is our great national game "faro" with us. He may drop in again during the evening to see if the piece changes for the better, as the performance lasts several hours, frequently until two or three o'clock in the morning; if its tendency or drift does not suit him, he will not put in another appearance for several days.

The Chinese plays are founded on the history of the ancient empire, and weeks, months, or even a year, is occupied in one play, according to the period and historical incidents it is intended to cover and embrace. So the auditor, like the reader of a book, can "skip" about and select his own passages, ignore the whole, if it does not start out to suit, or if so, take the whole bill by wholesale, in which are embodied comedy, ballet, juggling, high and low tumbling, opera, farce, tragedy, and in fact a "little of everything." In the portions of the history (I would call that the tragic part) where petty governments were pitted against each other, miniature armies are arrayed on the stage, and after a display of splendid and scientific fencing, the stage is literally covered with the dead—no wounded or dying, they readily give up the ghost without any further ceremony or trouble. Then the two generals, or "High-U-Muck-a-Mucks," who are the only ones remaining, dressed in all the richness and splendor of oriental magnates, advance to the foot of the stage, and have a lively "setto," with swords little shorter than an ordinary fence-rail. They are generally scientific fencers, and it is astonishing with what agility they can wield such unwieldy weapons. After no little skirmishing, one of the chiefs is killed, and the day is won. Then it is that the "Johns," with one accord, turn to each other and audibly chatter, in the midst of clouds of opium-smoke, as to the merits of the play, and whether that particular part was done right or not. In the meantime that "heavy" adjunct, the much-abused "supe," is called into requisition to haul off the dead.

The stage being cleared, acrobatic feats are in order, in which the victorious warrior takes part, and is the best of the lot. During all this time, throughout the entire performance, the orchestra—which is on the stage in the rear of the performers—composed of bones, gongs, horns, clappers, castinets, etc., keeps up an incessant whanging. Sometimes during the evening the actors join in chorus with the orchestra, and keep it up vigorously for half an hour or so, but not knowing at what point they get the cue, I am unable to say whether they chime in at the right time or not. But I reckon it's all right, though. Actors, in going to rehearsal in the morning, take their dinners with them frequently, and stay all day. This must be nice in rainy weather, such as we are having at present, with threatening prospects of more.

Additional and "astounding revelations" have been made in regard to the great diamond fiasco, implicating high men in high places and low men occupying a more inclined plane in the business world.

A few cases of conscientiousness extraordinary, or probably fear, have excited no little comment. Many were induced to invest in the swindle on the representations of some of the principal stockholders and managers of the corncern—who, of course, were supposed to be on the "inside"—and they were undoubtedly. Since full light has been thrown on the "unsurpassed brilliants," these gentlemen have voluntarily come forward and handed their checks for the various amounts their friends lost in acting on their advice, which, of course, was "business." There is something beneath the surface of this great bubble—deeper than were the "salted diamonds" in those ant-hills—and which will very probably never be unearthed.

Revelations of brutality are now being unearthed in another locality—our Industrial School or House of Correction, where refractory lads are placed for proper discipline. The superintendent, it seems, is a "perfect brute," or at least as near perfect as it is possible for anything to approach to that degree. The "bent-back" torture, stripping, tying to an iron post and flogging with a leather strap two and a quarter inches wide, and then standing the boy up, stark naked, on an iron safe for three or four hours, without food or water, are stated in the investigation as some of the barbarities practiced by this model tyrant. The matter was officially investigated, and a very thick coat of white-wash spread over the whole thing, though it is so thin that the public can see through it. The matter will be referred to the grand jury, who, not bearing the same official relations to the guilty party as the investigating supervisors may look upon it in a very different light.

J. M. S.

A Novelty in the Coal-Barge Line.

[From the New York Times.]

A number of gentlemen interested in the coal business assembled, on Thursday, at Wilkesbarre coal-yard, foot of East Twentieth street, to witness the unloading of a gigantic coal-barge, by means of a movable steam elevator. The barge has capacity for 1000 tons of coal, which can be discharged at the rate of 200 tons an hour. The coal barges in use generally contain about 250 tons of coal, and by means of buckets and a derrick crane, can discharge about 25 tons an hour. The vessel is divided into four compartments, and can carry at the same time four different kinds of coal. The elevator is movable to any part of the barge, and is provided with two huge tubs, capable of containing three tons each. The tubs are filled by lifting a grate and allowing the coal to run in. The tub being filled, the grate is shut down, and, the engineer receiving a signal, the tub rises rapidly, and when at a proper elevation, overturns into a chute, through which the coal is discharged to the wharf, or into the ship, as the case may be. In order to facilitate the passage of the coal into the tub, the deck on which the coal is placed inclines. It is claimed that a river steamer can, by means of this barge, "coal-up" while discharging her passengers. About one hundred tons of coal were discharged yesterday in twenty minutes.

Horse Car Politeness.

[From one of "John's" Letters.]

I got into another episode last week. I was sitting subdued and quiet in a horse car. I wasn't aware that I was occupying more space than was desirable. The conductor came along. He had a tin plate, stolen off some dog collar, hitched to his hat, and says he, "make a little room, sir?"

Says I, "You want me to make a little room, do you?"

Says he, "Yes, I do."

Says I, "What kind of a room do you want, a bath-room or a billiard-room?"

Says he, "Sir, there is room for eleven on this seat."

Says I, "Sir, there isn't."

Says he, "There are eleven on the other side."

Says I, "I see it, and there are ten on this side now, and you tell me there is room for eleven more."

Says he, "I mean there is room for one more."

Says I, "Well, why in thunder didn't you say so? One isn't eleven."

He smiled with such an expression of entire woe, that the driver shouted whoa to his horses.

Captain W. P. Walker, of Memphis, claims that he has invented a "marine camel," as he calls it, which is capable of carrying the largest vessels navigating the Mississippi river over shoals and sandbars with safety, economy and dispatch. His "camel" is an immense double dock that incloses and fits around a steamer or other vessel, and after sinking itself by means of sluices and valves, a network of heavy rope hawsers is passed under the hull and lifts it clear of the bottom, while, by means of sternwheels and heavy engines, it carries the vessel to deeper water. The cost of the apparatus is estimated at $250,000, and the cost of running it will not exceed the current expenses of an ordinary steamer. Captain Walker has been granted letters patent, and, if his invention accomplishes all that its inventor promises, it will be a grand acquisition to the commerce of our western and southern rivers.

A wag went to the station of one of the railroads one evening, and finding the best car full, said in a low tone, "Why, this car isn't going." Of course this caused a general stampede, and the wag took the best seat. In the midst of the indignation the wag was asked: "Why did you say this car wasn't going?" "Well, it wasn't then," replied the wag, "but it is now."

Stanley has fizzled. People only wanted to look at him, and, after the first lecture, audiences were wanting. Bullman is out $15,000.

The Commercial Convention at St. Louis—Speech of Thomas Allen.

In the commercial convention at St. Louis Wednesday, Hon. Thomas Allen addressed the members on commercial matters. He said:

Gentlemen of the Convention: With fresh memories of large local disasters, and in the immediate presence of a widespread and inconvenient malady seriously affecting our noblest race of animals, we feel quite sure that nothing short of a high sense of patriotic duty, and an earnest desire to promote the best interests of your country, could have induced you, at this inclement season, to honor St. Louis with your convention. Appreciating this noble spirit, and well knowing that your actuating motive is the common good, we hail your presence with emotions of pleasure, and cordially embrace you with the warmest welcome of our people.

He who has noted the drift of thought and the results of your former conventions can not fail to have observed that your efforts concentrated public sentiment, and in some instances the recognition of the President of the United States and Congress. This is realization and encouragement to perseverance. It is a compliment to your good sense, but, at the same time, an acknowledgment that the government sometimes needs extraordinary influence to get it to do those right things which local jealousies or party spirit would not otherwise permit it to do. Besides, mere politicians are not always good judges of business matters or commercial principles, and, if honest, will sometimes gladly avail themselves of the advice of high-toned men of knowledge and experience.

It is possible that we look to the government for too much. It requires, however, not a little judicial wisdom to determine precisely where the duty of the federal government ends, and where that of the States and people begins. Without attempting any definition, it is probably sufficient for us to know that we may consistently look to that government to regulate commerce between the States and with foreign countries; to coin money and regulate the value thereof; to improve such rivers and harbors as are of national character; to aid the building of roads through the public lands; to equalize the burden of federal taxation, and to interfere in the affairs of the States and people no further than is necessary to preserve order and secure union and liberty. We must invoke the federal government also in respect to navigation laws, the law of bankruptcy, the postal service, and those laws which gave uniformity to the value of money and to weights and measures. For one, I would invoke the influence of every convention like this in behalf of a uniform system of weights and measures throughout the civilized world. For one, again, I would ask your influence to stop the further inflation of paper money until it is convertible into gold on demand. Long acquiescence in wrong induces forgetfulness of right. When the senses have been benumbed by the severities of war, we are apt to bear quietly the ills that have fallen upon us rather than exert ourselves to devise a remedy. People can accustom themselves to any policy that has the merit of stability. Doubtless they would rejoice to see an end fixed to irredeemable paper money, but they wait for the government to set the example of redemption. The great progress made by the railways of the country is a proof of what private enterprise may do without the assistance of government. The artificial state of the currency, in spite of the increased facilities of transit and communication, has done much to equalize prices. And so are commercial advantages diffused and equalized by the same means. If there be a surplus, it is rapidly diffused; if a vacuum, it is as rapidly filled up. If there be a new invention or a new fashion, the knowledge and enjoyment of it are universal and simultaneous. For this we are indebted to those marvels of modern times, the railroad, the telegraph and the commercial traveler. But what is peculiar is our quiet acquiescence in an exclusive paper currency as the medium of exchange, and a sort of marriage relation between the government and the banks, after a divorce of many years.

I may, however, be permitted to congratulate you that the President of the United States has perhaps gone as far as the most liberal mind would justify under the circumstances, in commending to Congress a ship canal around Niagara Falls, a canal to connect the Chesapeake and Ohio, and a canal to connect, through the Southern States, the waters of the Mississippi with the tide water of the Atlantic. There is also a recommendation, I believe, to bring the Mississippi, the Missouri and the Ohio under the care of the "Lighthouse Board," so that the navigation of these rivers may have the same benefit from beacons and buoys as the navigators of the ocean. After urging upon Congress for thirty years the propriety of treating fresh water commerce with equal care and liberality as salt water commerce, it is gratifying to see at length the efforts and progress of the Western people aroused in this behalf. Power responds to power. Notwithstanding the very great increase of railways in the last ten years, the increase has not been in excess of the demand, nor has it, indeed, kept pace with the increased wealth and production of the country. More facilities are undoubtedly required to remove the crops of the West to market. More facilities are needed in the large cities to handle freight with economy. Every improvement of this sort enhances the value of commodities to the producer, or cheapens them to the consumer. All labor or money saved in handling or moving commodities is so much saved for production. Every man is stimulated to exertion when he has a market for its results at his own door. Every railroad that can shorten its line or reduce grade, is to that extent taking off a tax on commerce.

Our internal commerce is several times larger than our foreign commerce, and only thirty per cent of the latter is carried in American ships, while all of the former is handled by our own people. The President thinks it would be a gain if $5,000,000 were appropriated annually until we regained our just proportion of the carrying trade of the ocean. Of how much greater value to the nation would be the increase and perfection of our interior channels of communication, so that our country might be still more developed and our products sent down for export to such an extent as to turn the balance of trade in our favor, as it ought to be. When we produce more than we consume, and export more than we import, and carry our exports to market ourselves, then our country will be in a healthy and independent condition.

Look to the navigable waters of the Mississippi valley, over 16,000 miles in extent—the whole people of the Union are intereted in their improvement. Who can calculate their value? By so much as you sink through the perils of navigation; by so much as you enhance the cost of transportation upon them; by so much do you lessen the wealth of the country and increase the cost of commodities to the consumer. The improvement of the Mississippi river, whether by deepening the channel, by dikes, by levees, by removal of obstructions, is just as much the duty of the government as the maintenance of a lighthouse on the coast of Massachusetts. All commerce is based upon the doctrine of equivalents. It is immaterial whether it is foreign or domestic, carried upon salt water or fresh water, or on dry land, in city or country, there is no movement in it without an equivalent sought if not obtained. He who handles the most of it at the least cost is the largest gainer, but in the eye of the government, whatever is lawful is equally entitled to protection, and it can not bestow special favors on one class without, to a certain extent, taking from all others.

Our country is full of resources, and the demand for labor and capital exceeds the supply. What we want is a market for our productions at such a cost of transportation as will leave a profit to the producer. All are interested, therefore, in cheap transportation. All are interested, therefore, in cheapening the means of transportation by competition, by improvements in roads, bridges and railroads, river and ocean navigation, elevators and cheap transfers in cities, steam, if possible, on canals, commodious wharves and depots, bridges across our great rivers. Every improvement of this sort is a relief to commerce and a contribution to the public wealth.

The connection of the great Northwest with the cotton producing States by railroads extending to the Atlantic and the Gulf, has had an important bearing in making beneficial changes in the channels of trade. It has, at the same time, relieved somewhat the lines running to New York from the plethora blockade which otherwise have ensued, and enlarged the market. The Western trade built the canals and railroads of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and vastly enriched those great lines of communication, and the cities at their termini. As the trade extended further west, and the area of production increased, any attempted barricade of the Mississippi was not only an impossibility, but lines of railroad upon either bank were indicated as a necessity, as well as other new outlets to the Southeastern States of the Gulf. Thus the Northwestern producers and the Southern consumers have been brought into direct communication, with a marked saving of time, cost of transportation, insurance and commission. This has brought about a healthy competition between the eastern and western lines of transportation which reach common points in the South, greatly blessing the latter, which is presented a choice of markets, and enabled to look to the Northeast for money for its cotton, and to the Northwest for food for its money. Thus our country is doubly blessed by an equalization of the supply of commodities on the same parallel of latitude, and by an exchange of the various products of the different lines of latitude across the lines of longitude. No other country on the globe presents to mankind similar advantages. Thus the blessings which Providence has bestowed upon this nation fall like the dews of heaven upon all the people in every part. One of the happy effects of opening these new lines of rapid transit is renewed life in the principal cities and ports of the gulf. There is a growing commerce not only with Europe, but with the countries on the southern borders of the gulf and with the West Indies and South America. Through these developments and the improved lines between the East and West, and the laws of Congress allowing bonded cars, the principal interior cities are becoming largely engaged in direct foreign trade, thus breaking up old monopolies and lessening charges. High tariffs and harassing customhouse delays have offered rewards for improved devices of trade.

Within the next few months, all Texas, and Louisiana, and Arkansas, and New Mexico, and the Indian Territories of the Northwest and of the Southwest, hitherto mostly isolated and undeveloped, will be brought into the magic circle of our commerce by our outreaching lines of railway, and shortly, if we may include our Canadian neighbor, not less than five lines will cross the continent. The buffalo, the Indian and the Mexican, and all the prejudices of illiberal policy are becoming disturbed and uprooted in their ancient haunts, and the light of civilization will shed its benificent beams into regions hitherto in darkness, accomplishing the manifest destiny of the republic, and subduing all to the conquering forces of science, industry, commerce, liberty and Christianity.

American commerce! How vast and comprehensive! It courses through every vein and artery, and gives life and strength to every muscle of the continent. It threads its way among the ice floes of the Arctic; it battles boldly with the traditional giants of the old world; it batters down the moss-covered walls of exclusion which hid the mysteries of Japan and China, penetrates the untold barbarism of Africa, and plants its marketmaster, the consul, on the remote islands of the sea. Its increase is so prodigious and rapid that statisticians try in vain to state it, and the world wonders and fails to comprehend it. Three thousand millions invested in the appliances of transportation can keep pace with it, and five hundred millions of annual changes made in the attempt can not impede it.

We have reason, therefore, gentlemen, to congratlate ourselves on the rapid progress which has been made in every direction. All around us we behold welcome signs of vigorous prosperity. Great disasters have fallen upon particular localities, local disturbances have happened, some of our social, financial and political peculiarities are acquiesced in rather than approved, but the great republic is undoubtedly steadily going forward, and increasing in all the elements of power, wealth and grandeur. Freedom of speech and the liberty of the press, and the right of peaceably assembling in convention, are in the fullness of fruition, and if there be any wrong we can not rectify, any error we can not expose, any fallacious policy we can overturn, or any necessity of the country which we can not supply, it should not be for want of full and free discussion. This, then, I presume, is your mission, gentlemen, and inasmuch as you are business men of practical knowledge, and not traders in politics, your presentation and discussion of topics connected with the business interests of the country can not but commend themselves to the notice of those who bear the responsibilities of government. If, then, you can devise any plans to ameliorate the condition of commerce, or to make its wheels revolve more smoothly or profitably, or as successfully remove impediments of art as we have those of nature, I am sure you will receive for your reward not only the approval of your own consciences, but the benedictions of your country. To this reward of your efforts you are cordially welcome, and thrice welcome to the hearts and homes of St. Louis.

Miss Charlotte Thompson.

This lady will enter an engagement at the Varieties Theatre next Monday evening, appearing then in the play of "Jane Eyre." The Memphis *Appeal* says of her at the Grand Opera House:

Miss Charlotte Thompson was simply marvelous last night in the character of *Mrs. Van Dyke*, the principal one in the play of "One Wife." The piece is truly and entirely modern, and represents life as we know it. It is one of much gossipy interest, not without deep feeling and lots of unholy passion. Jealousy is the ruling passion strong in the plot, and *Mrs. Van Dyke* is the victim of it. There is much to condemn in the character, for passion of so base a nature as jealousy ought not to find lodgment in so fair and womanly a bosom as that of *Mrs. Van Dyke*. It is, however, to be expected, perhaps, that being mortal she should be subject to some infirmity. The grand features of that strongly drawn character were beautifully portrayed by Miss Charlotte Thompson, a most loveable woman. Nothing could be finer than her conduct in all the trying circumstances of that irritating correspondence between *Van Dyke* himself and *Mrs. Hoffman*. Although the piece is much overdrawn, and is, in fact, exaggerated from nature, yet the superior style of Miss Thompson compelled sympathy and intensified interest to the close. There is not much necessity for criticising the play itself, except in so far as criticism may serve to display the astonishing merit of a great artiste, which Miss Thompson undoubtedly is. The passion of simply unadulterated jealousy never was better shown forth by one so lovely, but yet it was over-mastered by love, the divine attribute. It was a beautiful and interesting philosophical as well as aesthetic study to watch how those two agents of light and darkness struggled for the mastery in the bosom of the fair actress. She carried the whole audience along with her; and it would be injustice to human nature to say that one person left that house last night who was not the devoted personal friend of Miss Thompson. She not merely dazzles by her genius, but she captivates by her beauty and sweetness, and truth to nature. There can be no hesitation in pronouncing her a great actress—great in her style and in her sphere. She has not that degree of objectionable *manliness* which enables some deeptened ladies to do Hamlet, but she is a true woman, and lacks no quality to take any woman's part on the stage.

An effort is making to unite Denmark, Sweden and Norway under one common head. At the present time the people of the above named countries favor the project, and it is also supported by the King of Denmark, and the ruler of Sweden and Norway. King Oscar, who has but lately succeeded to the throne left vacant by his brother, King Charles XV., has repeatedly expressed his willingness to waive his right to the crown, if, by such abdication, the union could be accomplished.

During President Grant's administration so far, the public debt has been reduced $106,093,459 51.

Hazing is practiced by the young ladies of Michigan University.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE

EXTRA SESSION

OF THE

THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

STATE OF LOUISIANA.

Fifth Day's Session.

SENATE CHAMBER, December 13, 1872.

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate met at twelve o'clock M.

Hon. A. B. Harris, Lieutenant Governor and President, called the Senate to order.

On call of the roll the following Senators answered to their names:

Hon. A. B. Harris, Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate, and Messrs. Anderson, Barber, Blackburn, Blunt, Butler, Burch, Brewster, Cage, Green, P. F. Herwig, E. F. Herwig, Harper, Ingraham, Jenks, Kelso, Noland, Pollard, Sypher, Stamps, Twitchell, Weber, Wharton, Worrell—24.

The President announced a quorum present.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Daily.

Reading of the minutes was dispensed with, and the same duly approved for yesterday's proceedings.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

Mr. Barber, chairman of Committee on Elections, submitted the following report:

COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS, New Orleans, December 13, 1872.

To the President and Members of the Senate:

Your committee have the honor to report upon the petition of J. A. Masicot, claiming to be Senator from the third senatorial district.

In the absence of any claimant upon evidence furnished by the returning board of canvassers, we recommend the seating of J. A. Masicot, subject to a contest if any should arise.

Respectfully submitted.

A. E. BARBER, Chairman;
M. H. TWITCHEL,
THOMAS H. NOLAND,
JAMES H. INGRAHAM.

By unanimous consent the report was taken up for action, and under a suspension of the rules of the Senate the report was adopted.

Mr. Masicot, the claimant in the aforesaid report, was then introduced to the Senate by Mr. Noland, and went to the President's desk and took the usual oath, and afterward took his seat in the Senate.

The Senate then went into executive session on the suggestion of the President of the Senate.

The executive session having been raised, the roll was called and the following members answered to their names:

Messrs. Anderson, Barber, Blackburn, Blunt, Butler, Brewster, Cage, E. F. Herwig, Harper, Ingraham, Kilso, Jenks, Masicot, Noland, Pollard, Sypher, Stamps, Twitchell, Weber, Wharton, Worrell and President Harris—25.

The hour for the time of taking up the resolution offered by Senator Harris and adopted yesterday relative to the expulsion of certain alleged members of the Senate having arrived, on motion of Mr. Ingraham the resolution containing the allegation made by the special committee and adopted by the Senate was then read to the Senate.

On motion of Mr. Ingraham the yeas and nays were called on the question of expulsion of Mr. Hugh J. Campbell from the roll and membership of the Senate.

On a call of the roll the sentence of expulsion was passed by the following vote in quorum present:

Yeas—Barber, Blackburn, Butler, Brewster, Blunt, Burch, Green, Harris, E. F. Herwig, Harper, Ingraham, Kelso; Masicot, Pollard, Sypher, Stamps, Weber, Worrell, Wharton, Twitchell—20.

Nays—Anderson, Cage, Jenks, Noland—4.

The President of the Senate then announced that it became his duty to proclaim the seat of Hugh J. Campbell, one of the incumbents representing the second senatorial district in this Senate, to be now vacant; he having been expelled by a concurrence of two-thirds of the members of this Senate in quorum convened, according to article thirty-five of the constitution of the State.

On motion of Mr. Ingraham the next name upon the catalogue for expulsion being William L. McMillen, was taken up

On call of the yeas and nays, the following is the result upon the question of expulsion:

Yeas—Barber, Blackburn, Blunt, Butler, Burch, Cage, Harris, E F. Herwig, Harper, Ingraham, Jenks, Kelso, Masicot, Pollard, Sypher, Stamps, Weber, Wharton, Worrell, —19.

Nays—Anderson, Brewster, Green, Noland, Twitchell—5.

The President of the Senate then announced that it became his duty to proclaim the seat of William L. McMillen, one of the Senators representing the seventeenth senatorial district of the State of Louisiana in this Senate, as now vacant, he having been expelled by a concurrence of two-thirds of the members of this Senate in quorum convened, according to article thirty-five of the constitution of the State.

On motion of Mr. Burch, the reconsideration of the two votes just taken in the two cases of expulsion of Hugh J. Campbell and William L. McMillen was laid upon the table, on call of the yeas and nays, ordered by Mr. Cage, by the following vote:

Yeas—Barber, Blackman, Blunt, Butler, Burch, Green, E. F. Herwig, Harper, Ingraham, [Masicot, Pollard, Sypher, Stamps, Weber, Wharton—15.

Nays—Anderson, Brewster, Cage, Harris, Jenks, Kelso, Noland, Twitchell, Worrell—9.

On motion of Mr. Ingraham, the further consideration of the names reported by the committee for expulsion, was postponed together with all questions concerning the expulsion of the said Senators, until tomorrow, Saturday, December 14, at one o'clock.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS.

The following communication was received from the Governor, and ordered to be spread upon the minutes of the journal of the Senate, at the date as follows:

STATE OF LOUISIANA, Executive Department, New Orleans, December 14, 1872.

To the Honorable President and Members of the Senate:

I am directed by his excellency the Governor to inform your honorable body that he has approved and signed the bill originating in the Senate, to wit: An act to establish an additional district court for the parish of Orleans, and to abolish the Seventh and Eighth District Courts for the parish of Orleans.

H. N. CORBIN,
Private Secretary.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE.

The President then announced the committee to prepare rules for the trial of impeachment: James H. Ingraham, Chairman; O. H. Brewster, J. H. Burch, Green, Robert Worrell.

[NOTE.—The order of the Senate authorizing the chiefs of departments to fill offices, adopted on the eleventh instant, was read, "Subject to the approval of the President of the Senate."]

On motion of Mr. Ingraham, the Senate voted to adjourn till to-morrow at twelve o'clock M.

The President then announced that the Senate stood adjourned till Saturday, December 14, 1872, at twelve o'clock M.

C. H. MERRITT,
Secretary of the Senate.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EXTRA SESSION

OF THE

THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

STATE OF LOUISIANA.

Sixth Day's Proceedings.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, New Orleans, December 14, 1872.

Pursuant to adjournment the House met at twelve o'clock M., Speaker Lowell in the chair.

The roll being called, the following members answered to their names:

Speaker Lowell, and Messrs. Allain, Armstead, Bowman, Bryant, Boyd, Benham, Blackstore, Barrow, Cousin, Demas, Davis, Devezin, Dejoie, Dumont, Dayries, Elliott, Greene, Gair, Gantt, Guichard, Heffner, Hubeau, Hill, Hahn, Heath, Hedgepath, P. Jones, Keating, Kirkman, Kenyon, Kern, Lewis, Landry, Lawes, Murrell (Lafourche), Murrell (Madison), Martinet, Mathews, Montaldo, Page, Paris, Rochon, Rodrigues, Souer, Sawyer, Stewart, Snaer, Southard, Sutton, Sewell, Thomas, Williams, Wilson, Washington, Ward, Wands—57.

A quorum present.

Prayer by the Rev. E. Green.

Mr. Dewees, of Red River, introduced Mr. Grant, of Morehouse, who was sworn in as a member.

Mr. Dewees, of Red River, moved to dispense with the reading of the journal.

Carried.

On motion of Mr. Gair, of East Feliciana the journal was approved.

On motion of Mr. Dewees, of Red River, the Committee on Elections and Qualifications was authorized to print all evidence in contested election cases.

Mr. Dewees, of Red River, on behalf of the Committee on Rules, submitted a report, recommending the adoption of the rules of the House for 1872, with the following amendment:

"Strike out section sixty-five, and insert the following as

SECTION 65. The Speaker of the House shall remain in office during the term of the present General Assembly, unless two-thirds of the House may deem it expedient to dispense with this rule."

The report, as amended, was adopted, and, on motion of Mr. Dewees, of Red River, one hundred and fifty copies of the rules were ordered to be printed for the use of the House.

The following resolution, lying over under the rules, was called up by Mr. Paris, of Orleans, and adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of three members from the Senate and five members from the House of Representatives be appointed to examine into the accounts of the Auditor of Public Accounts, relative to the issuance of vouchers to the amount of $80,000 for the purpose of paying for printing registration blanks.

Mr. Hahn, of St. Charles, chairman of the committee to prepare charges against H. C. Warmoth, Governor of the State of Louisiana, submitted the following articles of impeachment:

Articles exhibited by the State of Louisiana in the name of themselves and of all the people of the State of Louisiana against Henry C. Warmoth, Governor of the State of Louisiana, in maintenance and support of their impeachment against