New Orleans Republican.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE UNITED STATES

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF NEW ORLEANS

THE DAILY REPUBLICAN.

is published every day (Mondays excepted) at No. 94 Camp street. Terms: $12 a year; $6 for six months; $3 for three months—payable invariably in advance. Single copies five cents.

Office—No. 94 Camp street.

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A liberal commission allowed to those who send us clubs of five or more.

Dominick Murray.

This great artist will enter on an engagement at the St. Charles Theatre next Monday evening. The Memphis *Appeal* says of him:

The highly sensational drama of "Escaped from Sing Sing," which has been on the boards of the Grand Opera House for over a week, was presented to a splendid audience last night, for the last time. As on all former occasions, the very fine acting of Mr. Dominick Murray and Miss Laura Alexander was received with the heartiest of applause. The support given them by the stock company was admirable. The piece has been a genuine success, and Mr. Murray has to be congratulated, both as author and actor, in a drama which is certainly a picture of a peculiar phase of real life on the American continent. The characters which Mr. Murray was called on to assume were, indeed, of an unthankful nature, and although the audience gave him their fullest sympathy, still they withheld from him that genuine emotion which audiences are ever ready to extend to the hero of a play when he is in real trouble or distress.

An Absconding Banker.

W. L. Hull, a banker, formerly of Fort Scott, Kansas, and latterly of Denison, Texas, absconded from the latter place, and was arrested in Houston a few days since. Among his baggage were a five-shooting revolver, one pair of lady's gold bracelets, two hand stamp presses, a handful of copper coins, $30 in mutilated currency, $721 11 notes of hand, certificates of deposit, and unpaid drafts, drawn in his favor, to the amount of $4406 50. These checks are payable at St. Louis, Fort Scott, Kansas City, and elsewhere. Speaking of this individual, the Fort Scott, Kansas, *Monitor* says:

It is said that the patrons of his bank are sufferers to the extent of $15,000 or $20,000. Some of the betrayed ones are residents of this city. Mr. Hull did a small business in the banking line here, and was considered safe and reliable in his business transactions. The report of his sudden "taking off" occasioned considerable surprise among our citizens. His family are still residents of this city.

The New Harbor in Sandwich Islands.

The bay of Pearl river—which sounds very much like the title of one of Mrs. Southworth's romances—is said to be the name of the harbor in the Sandwich Islands about to be ceded to the United States for a naval and coaling station. It is situated about ten miles from Honolulu. It is regarded as an excellent harbor, being almost circular in form and with sufficient depth of water for the largest vessels. The shores are of coral and somewhat precipitous, while the only drawback to the bay is a coral reef at the entrance. This reef approaches within from twelve to eighteen feet of the surface, and is dangerous in stormy weather. The channel at the entrance of the bay is about two hundred and sixty yards wide, of which over ninety yards is covered by the reef. A short distance inside there is an island, after passing which vessels have ample protection. Naval officers who have examined the bay express the opinion that the coral reef will have to be removed to make the harbor available.

The St. Louis *Democrat* of Tuesday says:

Although the river is stationary here, or perhaps falling slightly, there is a very good stage of water to all attainable points. The upper streams are full, and the promise of plenty of water for many months is good. Tonnage is more abundant, and rates threaten to soften almost immediately. The Great Republic and the Richmond—rivals in the carrying trade to New Orleans—were both loading yesterday, and it was said rates were cut about twenty per cent. The general markets remain quiet, with no noticeable changes in prices. Flour continues unchanged and in moderate demand. Nothing new in the aspect of wheat. Corn was steady, with a fair demand prevailing on the east track. Oats were quiet and apparently weaker. There was nothing new in rye or barley. Provisions opened rather weak, there being a sort of stand-off among buyers; but the strong tenor of the dispatches from other points invigorated the market at the close. Tobacco is quiet and unchanged. Nothing doing in cotton worth mentioning. The market is weak. Hay is very dull.

A Washington special says:

A determination is manifested in certain quarters to resist the confirmation of Miss Elizabeth Van Lew, who was to-day reappointed to the position of postmistress at Richmond, Virginia. The opposition comes from the politicians, who assert that this lady rendered no services in the late political campaign which entitle her to this appointment, the most lucrative of all the federal offices in the State. On the other hand, the Postoffice Department states that the lady has been efficient in the discharge of her duties, and under the civil service rules is entitled to appreciation on that score.

We copy this from the Cincinnati *Gazette*:

Governor McEnery, of Louisiana, says the movement of the militia was made with his consent, and "as an unavoidable necessity in the discharge of duty." If it was a part of his duty to bring on a scene of disorder and bloodshed to let loose the passions of men already excited, to give even his friends reason to blame him for gross injudiciousness, to add to the complications of a situation sufficiently complicated before, he has evidently discharged it. But he has gained no recognition that he had not already, and he has not presented the issue between his own and the Kellogg government so that it can be any the more readily adjusted.

OFFICIAL.

Laws of the United States Passed at the Third Session of the Forty-Second Congress.

[GENERAL NATURE—No. 22.]

An act to abolish the franking privilege.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the franking privilege be, and the same hereby is, abolished from and after the first day of July, anno Domini eighteen hundred and seventy-three, and that thenceforth all official correspondence, of whatever nature, and other mailable matter sent from or addressed to any officer of the government or person now authorized to frank such matter, shall be chargeable with the same rates of postage as may be lawfully imposed upon like matter sent by or addressed to other persons; provided, that no compensation or allowance shall now or hereafter be made to Senators, members and delegates of the House of Representatives on account of postage.

Approved January 31, 1873.

[GENERAL NATURE—No. 23.]

An act making an appropriation to defray the expenses of the American and British Claims Commission, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of one hundred and thirteen thousand five hundred dollars is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to supply a deficiency in the appropriation for the fiscal year ending June thirty, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, to defray the expenses on the part of the United States of the mixed commission on American and British claims, appointed under the twelfth article of the treaty between the United States and Great Britain, signed May eighth, eighteen hundred and seventy-one.

SEC. 2. For payment of contractors for stone work, and other employes, on the postoffice and courthouse in New York city, five hundred thousand dollars.

Approved February 3, 1873.

[GENERAL NATURE—No. 24.]

An act to provide for the holding additional terms of the circuit court of the United States for the southern district of New York.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That additional terms of the circuit court of the United States for the southern district of New York shall hereafter be held in each year, commencing as follows: On the second Wednesday of January, on the second Wednesday of March, on the second Wednesday of May, on the third Wednesday of June, on the second Wednesday of October, and on the second Wednesday of December. The holding of any of the above-mentioned terms shall not dispense with or affect the holding of any other term of the court at the same time, nor shall the pending of any other term of the court prevent the holding of any of the terms hereby appointed.

SEC. 2. That the terms hereby appointed shall be devoted exclusively to the trial and disposal of the criminal cases and matters arising and pending in said court. The terms of said court appointed by this act may be held by the circuit judge of the second judicial circuit and the district judges for the southern and eastern districts of New York, or any one of said three judges; and at every such term held by said judge of said eastern district he shall receive the sum of three hundred dollars, the same to be paid in the manner now prescribed by law for the payment of the expenses of another district judge while holding court in said district. All recognizances and bail bonds taken in criminal cases for an appearance at a circuit court in said district conditioned upon an appearance at the next one of the terms hereby appointed shall be valid, and grand and petit jurors shall be summoned to attend the said terms as now at other terms of the court.

Approved February 7, 1873.

[GENERAL NATURE—No. 26.]

An act to fix the time for holding the annual session of the Supreme Court of the United States, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the passage of this act the annual session of the Supreme Court of the United States shall commence on the second Monday of October in each year, and all actions, suits, appeals, recognizances, processes, writs, and proceedings whatever, pending or which may be pending in said court, or returnable thereto, shall have day therein, and be heard, tried, proceeded with, and decided, in like manner as if the time of holding said session had not been hereby altered.

Approved January 21, 1873.

[GENERAL NATURE—No. 26.]

An act to authorize the construction of eight steam vessels of war, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Navy be authorized to construct eight steam vessels of war, with auxiliary sail power, and of such class or classes as, in his judgment, will best subserve the demands of the service, each carrying six or more guns of large caliber; the hulls to be built of iron or wood, as the Secretary may determine; provided, that the aggregate tonnage of the whole number shall not exceed eight thousand tons, and that the cost of building the same shall not exceed three million two hundred thousand dollars; and provided, that four of said vessels shall be built, in whole or in part, in private yards, upon contract with the lowest responsible bidder therefor, upon public competition and proposals, due notice thereof being given by advertisement, upon models, specifications and drawings furnished by the Navy Department, and under its direction and supervision, if, upon full examination and consideration, the same shall be deemed practicable, by the Secretary of the Navy; or the hulls of any portion of said vessels may be built upon private contract in the government yards upon like proposals, models, specifications, drawings and supervision, and upon like examination and consideration, the government in either case furnishing such materials as may be deemed practicable by the Secretary of the Navy.

SEC. 2. That neither of said vessels shall be commenced until full and complete models, specifications, and drawings shall be made for its construction in all its parts. And after such models and drawings are approved by the proper authority, they shall not be changed in any respect when the cost will exceed one hundred dollars, except upon the recommendation of a board of survey composed of not less than five officers of the navy, and approved by the Secretary of the Navy; and if changes are thus made, the actual cost of and damage caused by such change shall be estimated by such board of survey; and the terms of the contract shall provide that the contractors shall be bound by the estimate of said board as to the amount of increased or diminished compensation they are to receive, if any, in consequence of any such changes.

Approved February 10, 1873.

[GENERAL NATURE—No. 27.]

An act revising and amending the laws relative to the mints, assay offices, and coinage of the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the mint of the United States is hereby established as a bureau of the Treasury Department, embracing in its organization and under its control all mints for the manufacture of coin, and all assay offices for the stamping of bars, which are now, or which may be hereafter, authorized by law. The chief officer of said bureau shall be denominated the Director of the Mint, and shall be under the general direction of the Secretary of the Treasury. He shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall hold his office for the term of five years, unless sooner removed by the President, upon reasons to be communicated by him to the Senate.

SEC. 2. That the Director of the Mint shall have the general supervision of all mints and assay offices, and shall make an annual report to the Secretary of the Treasury of their operations, at the close of each fiscal year, and from time to time such additional reports, setting forth the operations and condition of such institutions, as the Secretary of the Treasury shall require, and shall lay before him the annual estimates for their support. And the Secretary of the Treasury shall appoint the number of clerks, classified according to law, necessary to discharge the duties of said bureau.

SEC. 3. That the officers of each mint shall be a superintendent, an assayer, a melter and refiner, and a coiner, and, for the mint at Philadelphia, an engraver, all to be appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

SEC. 4. That the superintendent of each mint shall have the control thereof, the superintendence of the officers and persons employed therein, and the supervision of the business thereof, subject to the approval of the Director of the Mint, to whom he shall make reports at such times and according to such forms as the Director of the Mint may prescribe, which shall exhibit in detail, and under appropriate heads, the deposits of bullion, the amount of gold, silver, and minor coinage, and the amount of unparted, standard and refined bars issued, and such other statistics and information as may be required. The superintendent of each mint shall also receive and safely keep, until legally withdrawn, all moneys or bullion which shall be for the use or the expenses of the mint. He shall receive all bullion brought to the mint for assay or coinage; shall be the keeper of all bullion or coin in the mint, except while the same is legally in the hands of other officers; and shall deliver all coins struck at the mint to the persons to whom they shall be legally payable. From the report of the assayer and the weight of the bullion, he shall compute the value of each deposit, and also the amount of the charges or deductions, if any, of all which he shall give a detailed memorandum to the depositor; and he shall also give at the same time, under his hand, a certificate of the net amount of the deposit, to be paid in coins or bars of the same species of bullion as that deposited, the correctness of which certificate shall be verified by the assayer, who shall countersign the same; and in all cases of transfer of coin or bullion, he shall give and receive vouchers, stating the amount and character of such coin or bullion. He shall keep and render, quarter-yearly, to the Director of the Mint, for the purpose of adjustment, according to such forms as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, regular and faithful accounts of his transactions with the other officers of the mint and the depositors; and shall also render to him a monthly statement of the ordinary expenses of the mint or assay office under his charge. He shall also appoint all assistants, clerks (one of whom shall be designated "chief clerk,") and workmen employed under his superintendence; but no person shall be appointed to employment in the offices of the assayer, melter and refiner, coiner or engraver, except on the recommendation and nomination in writing of those officers respectively; and he shall forthwith report to the Director of the Mint the names of all persons appointed by him, the duties to be performed, the rate of compensation, the appropriation from which compensation is to be made, and the grounds of the appointment; and if the Director of the Mint shall disapprove the same, the appointment shall be vacated.

SEC. 5. That the assayer shall assay all metals and bullion, whenever such assays are required in the operations of the mint; he shall also make assays of coin or samples of bullion whenever required by the superintendent.

SEC. 6. That the melter and refiner shall execute all the operations which are necessary in order to form ingots of standard silver or gold, and alloys for minor coinage, suitable for the coiner, from the metals legally delivered to him for that purpose; and shall also execute all the operations which are necessary in order to form bars conform able in all respects to the law, from the gold and silver bullion delivered to him for that purpose. He shall keep a correct record of all transactions with the superintendent, noting the weight and character of the bullion; and shall be responsible for all bullion delivered to him until the same is returned to the superintendent and the proper vouchers obtained.

SEC. 7. That the coiner shall execute all the operations which are necessary in order to form coins, conformable in all respects to the law, from the standard gold and silver ingots, and alloys for minor coinage, legally delivered to him for that purpose; and shall be responsible for all bullion delivered to him, until the same is returned to the superintendent and the proper vouchers obtained.

SEC. 8. That the engraver shall prepare from the original dies already authorized all the working dies required for use in the coinage of the several mints, and, when new coins or devices are authorized, shall, if required by the Director of the Mint, prepare the devices, models, moulds, and matrices, or original dies, for the same; but the Director of the Mint shall nevertheless have power, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, to engage temporarily for this purpose the services of one or more artists distinguished in their respective departments of art, who shall be paid for such service from the contingent appropriation for the mint at Philadelphia.

SEC. 9. That whenever any officer of a mint or assay office shall be temporarily absent, on account of sickness or any other cause, it shall be lawful for the superintendent, with consent of said officer, to appoint some person attached to the mint to act in place of such officer during his absence; but all such appointments shall be forthwith reported to the Director of the Mint for his approval; and in all cases whatsoever the principal shall be responsible for the acts of his representative. In case of the temporary absence of the superintendent, the chief clerk shall act in his place; and in case of the temporary absence of the Director of the Mint, the Secretary of the Treasury may designate some one to act in his place.

SEC. 10. That every officer, assistant and clerk of the mint shall, before he enters upon the execution of his office, take an oath or affirmation before some judge of the United States, or judge of the superior court, or of some court of record of any State, faithfully and diligently to perform the duties thereof, in addition to other official oaths prescribed by law; which oaths, duly certified, shall be transmitted to the Secretary of the Treasury; and the superintendent of each mint may require such oath or affirmation from any of the employes.

SEC. 11. That the superintendent, the assayer, the melter and refiner and the coiner of each mint, before entering upon the execution of their respective offices, shall become bound to the United States, with one or more sureties, approved by the Secretary of the Treasury, in the sum of not less than ten nor more than fifty thousand dollars, with condition for the faithful and diligent performance of the duties of his office. Similar bonds may be required of the assistants and clerks, in such sums as the superintendent shall determine, with the approbation of the Director of the Mint; but the same shall not be construed to relieve the superintendent or other officers from liability to the United States for acts, omissions, or negligence of their subordinates or employes: provided, that the Secretary of the Treasury may, at his discretion, increase the bonds of the superintendent.

SEC. 12. That there shall be allowed to the Director of the Mint an annual salary of four thousand five hundred dollars, and actual necessary traveling expenses in visiting the different mints and assay offices, for which vouchers shall be rendered; to the superintendents of the mints at Philadelphia and San Francisco, each four thousand five hundred dollars; to the assayers, melters and refiners, and coiners of said mints, each three thousand dollars; to the engraver of the mint at Philadelphia, three thousand dollars; to the superintendent of the mint at Carson City, three thousand dollars; and to the assayer, to the melter and refiner, and to the coiner of the mint at Carson City, each two thousand five hundred dollars; to the assistants and clerks such annual salary shall be allowed as the Director of the Mint may determine, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury; and to the workmen shall be allowed such wages, to be determined by the superintendent, as may be customary and reasonable according to their respective stations and occupations, and approved by the Director of the Mint; and the salaries provided for in this section, and the wages of the workmen permanently engaged, shall be payable in monthly installments.

SEC. 13. That the standard for both gold and silver coins of the United States shall be such that of one thousand parts by weight nine hundred shall be of pure metal and one hundred of alloy; and the alloy of the silver coins shall be of copper, and the alloy of the gold coins shall be of copper, or of copper and silver; but the silver shall in no case exceed one-tenth of the whole alloy.

SEC. 14. That the gold coins of the United States shall be a one-dollar piece, which, at the standard weight of twenty-five and eight-tenths grains, shall be the unit of value; a quarter-eagle, or two-and-a-half dollar piece; a three-dollar piece; a half-eagle, or five-dollar piece; an eagle, or ten-dollar piece, and a double eagle, or twenty-dollar piece. And the standard weight of the gold dollar shall be twenty-five and eight-tenths grains; of the quarter-eagle, or two-and-a-half dollar piece, sixty-four and a half grains; of the three-dollar piece, seventy-seven and four-tenths grains; of the half eagle, or five-dollar piece, one hundred and twenty-nine grains; of the eagle, or ten dollar piece, two hundred and fifty-eight grains; of the double eagle, or twenty dollar piece, five hundred and sixteen grains; which coins shall be a legal tender in all payments at their nominal value when not below the standard weight and limit of tolerance provided in this act for the single piece, and, when reduced in weight, not below said standard and tolerance, shall be a legal tender at valuation in proportion to their actual weight; and any gold coin of the United States, if reduced in weight by natural abrasion not more than one half of one per centum below the standard weight prescribed by law, after a circulation of twenty years, as shown by its date of coinage, and at a ratable proportion for any period less than twenty years, shall be received at their nominal value by the United States treasury and its offices, under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe for the protection of the government against fraudulent abrasion or other practices; and any gold coins in the treasury of the United States reduced in weight below this limit of abrasion shall be recoined.

SEC. 15. That the silver coins of the United States shall be a trade-dollar, a half-dollar, or fifty-cent piece, a quarter-dollar, or twenty-five-cent piece, a dime, or ten-cent piece; and the weight of the trade dollar shall be four hundred and twenty grains troy; the weight of the half dollar shall be twelve grams (grammes) and one-half of a gram (gramme); the quarter-dollar and the dime shall be, respectively, one-half and one-fifth of the weight of said half-dollar; and said coins shall be a legal tender at their nominal value for any amount not exceeding five dollars in any one payment.

SEC. 16. That the minor coins of the United States shall be a five-cent piece, a three-cent piece, and a one-cent piece, and the alloy for the five and three cent pieces shall be of copper and nickel, to be composed of three-fourths copper and one-fourth nickel, and the alloy of the one-cent piece shall be ninety-five per centum of copper and five per centum of tin and zinc, in such proportions as shall be determined by the Director of the Mint. The weight of the piece of five cents shall be seventy-seven and sixteen-hundredths grains, troy; of the three-cent piece, thirty grains; and of the one-cent piece, forty-eight grains; which coins shall be a legal tender, at their nominal value, for any amount not exceeding twenty-five cents in any one payment.

SEC. 17. That no coins, either of gold, silver or minor coinage, shall hereafter be issued from the mint other than those of the denominations, standards and weights herein set forth.

SEC. 18. That upon the coins of the United States there shall be the following devices and legends: Upon one side there shall be an impression emblematic of liberty, with an inscription of the word "Liberty," and the year of the coinage, and upon the reverse shall be the figure or representation of an eagle, with the inscriptions "United States of America" and "E Pluribus Unum," and a designation of the value of the coin; but on the gold dollar and three-dollar piece, the dime, five, three and one cent pieces the figure of the eagle shall be omitted; and on the reverse of the silver trade-dollar, the weight, the and fineness of the coin shall be inscribed; and the Director of the Mint, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, may cause the motto "In God we trust" to be inscribed upon such coins as shall admit of such motto; and any one of the foregoing inscriptions may be on the rim of the gold and silver coins.

SEC. 19. That at the option of the owner, gold or silver may be cast into bars of the metal, of of standard fineness, or unparted, as he may prefer, with a stamp upon the same designating the weight and fineness, and with such devices impressed thereon as may be deemed expedient to prevent fraudulent imitation, and no such bars shall be issued of a less weight than five ounces.

SEC. 20. That any owner of gold bullion may deposit the same in any mint, to be formed into coin or bars for his benefit, but it shall be lawful to refuse any deposit of less value than one hundred dollars, or any bullion so base as to be unsuitable for the operations of the mint, and when gold and silver are combined, if either metal be in such small proportion that it cannot be separated advantageously, no allowance shall be made to the depositor for its value.

SEC. 21. That any owner of silver bullion may deposit the same at any mint, to be formed into bars, or into dollars of the weight of four hundred and twenty grains, troy, designated in this act as trade dollars, and no deposit of silver for other coinage shall be received; but silver bullion contained in gold deposits, and separated therefrom, may be paid for in silver coin, at such valuation as may be, from time to time, established by the Director of the Mint.

SEC. 22. That when bullion is deposited in any of the mints, it shall be weighed by the superintendent, and, when practicable, in the presence of the depositor, to whom a receipt shall be given, which shall state the description and weight of the bullion; but when the bullion is in such a state as to require melting, or the removing of base metals, before its value can be ascertained, the weight, after such operation, shall be considered as the true weight of the bullion deposited. The fineness of the bullion to be received shall be determined by the assayer, and the mode of melting by the melter and refiner.

SEC. 23. That from every parcel of bullion deposited for coinage or bars, the superintendent shall deliver to the assayer a sufficient portion for the purpose of being assayed, but all such bullion remaining from the operations of the assay shall be returned to the superintendent by the assayer.

SEC. 24. That the assayer shall report to the superintendent the quality or fineness of the bullion assayed by him, and such information as will enable him to compute the amount of the charges hereinafter provided for, to be made to the depositor.

SEC. 25. That the charge for converting standard gold bullion into coin shall be one-tenth of one per centum; and the charges for converting standard silver into trade dollars, for melting and refining when bullion is below standard, for toughening when metals are contained in it which render it unfit for coinage, for copper used for alloy when the bullion is above standard, for separating the gold and silver when these metals exist together in the bullion, and for the preparation of bars, shall be fixed, from time to time, by the Director, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury, so as to equal but not exceed, in their judgment, the actual average cost to the mint and assay office of the material, labor, waste, and use of machinery employed in such operations, and of such operations.

SEC. 26. That the assayer shall verify all calculations made by the superintendent in the value of deposits, and if satisfied of the correctness thereof, shall countersign the certificate prepared for the same by the superintendent for the depositor.

SEC. 27. That in order to procure uniformity of the coins authorized by this act, the superintendent, with the approval of the Director of the Mint, may, from time to time, order by purchase such coins as may be found, the gold dollars from the coinage of such other nations as may be deemed advantageous, the coins of each nation being of the same standard and weight as the coin of the United States of which it is a fraction, and the silver coins from the coinage of such nations as may be deemed advantageous, the coins of each nation being of the same standard and weight as the coin of the United States of which it is a fraction, and the minor