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is published every Saturday morning, and contains the news by telegraph, miscellaneous reading, editorials, local matters of general public interest, commercial and monetary reports, and everything that appears in the Daily, except such items as are of little or no public moment. The WEEKLY REPUBLICAN is an excellent family paper, valuable as well for instruction and amusement as information on the current topics of the day.

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## Organization of the State Grange of Louisiana.

From *Our Home Journal*, the official organ of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, we condense the following account of the organization of the State Grange of Louisiana:

Delegates met at Clinton, parish of East Feliciana, State of Louisiana, December 4, 1873.

Called to order by Dudley W. Adams, worthy master of the National Grange. J. H. Jordan was appointed secretary pro tem.; William Akers, A. W. Smith and R. D. Manard, committee on credentials. They reported twenty-five granges represented by masters, seven by proxies. Report adopted, with amendment that proxies have all the privileges of a member of the State Grange, except the right to vote.

Committee on the order of business—H. Richardson, H. C. Newsom, Isaac Odom, Daniel Edwards, Jr.

Committee on constitution and by-laws—W. H. Pipes, R. E. Ambrose, R. K. Felder, W. G. Stovall, R. H. Day, J. H. Jordan, E. Spiller.

On motion of Brother Richardson, worthy master of the National Grange, D. W. Adams exemplified the unwritten work of the order.

Committee on the order of business reported as follows:

1. Adoption of the constitution and by-laws.
2. The election and installation of officers.
3. Suggestions for the good of the order.

On motion the report was adopted.

The committee on constitution and by-laws not being ready to report, W. D. Wetmore, worthy master of Hope Grange, was called upon to make an address, responded; subject, "The monopoly of the Mississippi river by an association called the Towboat Association of New Orleans."

Committee on constitution and by-laws reported.

Motion made and carried to read and act upon each article by sections.

After several amendments, the constitution and by-laws of the committee was adopted.

Motion made and carried to proceed to the election of officers.

H. W. L. Lewis, worthy master of Spring Creek Grange, and A. G. Carter, worthy master of Carter Grange, were placed in nomination. Worthy Master H. W. L. Lewis receiving a majority of the ballots cast, was declared elected master of the State Grange of Louisiana.

At the suggestion of Worthy Master D. W. Adams, of the National Grange, the body now proceeded to elect an executive committee, two members to serve two years, two to serve one year. A. G. Carter and J. H. Jordan receiving the majority of ballots cast, were declared elected for the long term; William Akers and W. H. Pipes for the short term.

The election of officers resulted as follows:

Overseer—J. H. Jordan, Homer, parish of Claiborne.

Lecturer — J. W. Nicholson, parish of Claiborne.

Steward—J. G. Gaden, Clinton, parish of East Feliciana.

Assistant Steward—R. E. Ambrose, Baton Rouge, parish of Baton Rouge.

Chaplain—Rev. W. G. Stovall, parish of Washington.

Treasurer—Henry C. Newsom, Greensburg, parish of St. Helena.

Secretary—W. D. Wetmore, Ponchatoula, parish of Tangipahoa.

Gate Keeper—Leadbetter, parish of Claiborne.

Ceres—Mrs. I Odom, Dennis' Mills, parish of St. Helena.

Pomona—Mrs. A. Burris, Baton Rouge.

Flora—Mrs. M. Wetmore, Ponchatoula.

Lady Assistant Steward—Mrs. M. A. Woodward, Greensburg.

Officers were installed by D. W. Adams, worthy master of the National Grange.

Motion made and carried to ballot for selection of place of meeting of State Grange at its next annual meeting. Baton Rouge, having the majority, was adopted.

*Our Home Journal and Rural Southland*, of New Orleans, was chosen the official organ for the Patrons of Husbandry for the State of Louisiana.

Brother W. Harrington, from Mississippi State Grange, called upon to make an address, responded, thanking the worthy master or the National Grange for attendance, in the name of the order.

Resolution made and carried to appoint as committee on transportation W. D. Wetmore, William Akers and R. D. Manard.

Resolution was offered and carried to adopt rules of order to transact business.

Resolutions offered by F. B. V. Hagaman, as follows was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the master and secretary of the State Grange take immediate steps to have the same incorporated under the general incorporation act of the State.

*Resolved*, That we recommend that each subordinate grange take like action.

Resolution calling for appointment of finance committee under the constitution, carried. F. B. V. Hagaman, H. Richardson and W. H. Pipes to constitute said committee.

Resolution offered by J. H. Jordan, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the Louisiana State Grange adopt the Mississippi agency, represented in the person of Brother W. Harrington, as the purchasing agent and factor of the order for one year, on the same terms of the Mississippi State Grange, to be subject to the rulings of the executive committee.

Resolution offered by W. H. Jordan, to appoint a committee to memorialize Congress to build the Fort St. Philip canal, and for such other relief as will render transportation more certain and cheaper by way of the outlet of the Mississippi river. Carried. W. D. Wetmore, W. H. Pipes and J. H. Jordan constitute said committee.

**Henry Ward Beecher will go to London in May next to preach the annual sermon for the London Missionary Society.**

## THE APPEAL OF FREE CUBA.

General M. Quesada has addressed a calm, dispassionate and statesmanlike letter to the President of the United State, which should be read by every one who desires to be well informed on the questions that effect the present and future relations between Spain and our country. The document is published in full in the New York *Herald* of the eighth instant, and covers a page and a quarter with closely printed matter. Its great length prevents its reproduction entire, but the following careful abstract will indicate its tenor, and present its most salient points.

The letter commences with a reference to the President's message as a reason for breaking silence, and pledges 100,000 men to aid the United States when they shall determine to put a stop to the outrages. He hopes, by the facts presented, to effect some change in the present policy, and expresses belief in the good faith of Mr. Fish. The gigantic struggle of the rebellion prevented the proper attention to Cuban affairs, and those, commencing at the time of secession, may have been considered in the same light. This view has been fostered by the merchants who control the $100,000,000 of trade between Cuba and the United States, and whose interests are identical with those of the slaveholding Spaniards. It explains the friendship with Spain, whether she is governed by Prim or Amadeus, Serrano or Castelar. He contrasts the rebellion of the South as for slavery and against the Union as that of Cuba is for the Union and against slavery. The society of Cubans, dissatisfied with the education under Spanish rule, sent their children to foreign countries. This produced a refined and educated population opposed to Spain. The outbreak was fixed for April, 1869. It occurred in October, 1868, the Spaniards having discovered the intention. Arms from abroad was the only necessity. The Spaniards confiscated hundreds of millions of their property. Yet they were able to buy fourteen steamers, sixteen sailing vessels, and 40,000 rifles. But private subscriptions did not produce as great an amount of money as was required at one time. Privateers could not be sent out because the American government discountenanced it. Without recognition of belligerency the blockade could not be broken, or a foreign loan negotiated. Spanish diplomacy prevented this. But a regular army was formed, which continually increases in strength. General Sickles shows the Spaniards in four years have lost 40,000 men. The loss in crops in the districts of the seat of war is $15,000,000 a year. Farms and plantations to the amount of $500,000,000 have been destroyed. Notwithstanding this the Cubans are stronger than ever, and render nugatory all Spanish efforts in the field.

With the slow but inevitable march of the cancer, the liberating army is encroaching upon the Spanish dominion in the island. As time moves on this dominion is constantly growing weaker in the midst of its furious convulsions, while the revolution is constantly spreading, and the ultimate result will be to destroy in America the ignominous power of the nation of Torquemada, Alva and Burriel.

The Cubans have always been able to raise money among themselves, and there is no cessation of their efforts. Every man capable of bearing arms has always been willing to do so. They have fought alone, though opposed by a stronger army than Great Britain sent to oppose the colonies. No people has secured its independence without assistance.

Every Cuban, every progressive man will always admire the history of this wonderful country, whose noble and intelligent people have changed materially and morally the world with the marvels of electricity, of steam and of liberal institutions. This beloved land of America, this powerful nation, is the natural ally of Cuba. It is the market of Cuba. Its society is that which must be interlaced with the society of Cuba. Its glories reflect upon Cuba; its misfortunes are hers, and she ever prays for its success in all endeavors. The defenders of the island, however, are inclined to believe that their patriotism is not inferior to the patriotism of the fathers of the American revolution.

It is known that the American colonies were poor, and when the outbreak against the mother country was first initiated it did not have the support of the wealthy portion of the population, which constituted the tory party, and was in favor of a continuance of British rule.

Sixty-six thousand dollars was all the money which the Congress of Philadelphia was able to raise to meet the war of American independence.

He quotes largely from Hildreth's account of the dark days of the revolution, the proclamation of the Howes, the defection of men of property and delegates, and the assistance of France through Beaumarchais. When the American cause was in the greatest distress it received aid from without which opened the way to success. He refers to the condition of Spain when Napoleon held every town and village, and England assisted her with 80,000 men, Wellington and money. The South American nation received aid in money and privateers.

The modern Greek, too, as is well known, owes his independence, first to a recognition of his belligerent rights by the leading powers of Europe, and, subsequently, through the practical assistance of the same. And lately, Lombardy and Venetia owe their independence of Austria to the alliance of Italy and Prussia.

Having shown that no people has acquired its independence without foreign assistance, is it to be assumed that Cuba, which has had no such aid, is it to be conquered by the Spaniards? No; as they have not a single ally on earth, they have the alliance of Providence.

Exhausted Spain can not maintain her present military position. If the Cubans had had arms they would have fairly conquered.

June, 1869, it was proposed by the United States minister that the Cubans should buy the island, the payment to be guaranteed by the United States. Spain refused to entertain it till the insurrection should be put down. In private Prim was in favor of it. In his death he was the victim of the Spanish slave traders. Cuban representatives have never been received as American commissioners were abroad. The Spanish ambassador has been a favorite. The Spanish army has been supplied from here. False proclamations of pacification in the island have been issued by the Captain General to gain time. Laws have been issued pretending to abolish slavery, but which perpetuated it. Cuba, conscious of its own inherent strength, accepted with sorrow the apparently undeniable fact of the hostility of the administration at Washington, and determined to continue its struggle for independence, relying solely upon its own resources and convinced of its ultimate triumph.

The Madrid government is not so inimical to the best interests of the colonies as the Spanish residents. They have surpassed in reality any conception of the despotic courts of Charles V. and Philip II. It is well known that the Spaniards in Peru, commanded by Gonzalo Pizarro, arose in rebellion to the crown because it desired to make the Indians free.

The Creole population could well have endured the tyranny of the government at Madrid, but not that of the Spanish residents, who condemned them to misery, imbecility and death.

The Spaniards are bitterly opposed to any improvement of the natives, interested only in the slave trade and the degradation of the Cubans. They constitute an uneducated population of bachelors, careful to create no ties in the country. They constitute the 25,000 "volunteers"—more ferocious than Mamelukes or Janizaries. No census is taken, the estimate of the population being 1,500,000, one-third colored, 300,000 of them being slaves. There are 100,000 Spaniards. The volunteers being the only armed bodies in the towns, they perpetrate their outrages with impunity, and rebel against every Captain General who does not obey them. They have the monopoly of the interior and retail trade, the slave trade, which still exists, and the management of the confiscated property. The triumph of the Spanish cause would be the extermination of the Cubans. The volunteers oppose representation in the Cortes and restitution of property. The Cubans can only expect death from them. This is proved by the treatment of the blacks in 1844. Many of them were wealthy. To deprive them of it the Spaniards affected to believe that a conspiracy existed among them, a conspiracy of which no proof has been found after thirty years, and under the lash and by the rifle they were all exterminated. A great poet, Placido, perished among them. Considering these precedents, demonstrating as they do that the Cubans are fighting for life, it is easy to see how they have been able to neutralize the most energetic efforts of the Spaniards.

Placed in close proximity to this great republic, identified in their interests with it, and this nation being the only one which from its character and position was likely to favor them, they have applied to it—not for arms, not for vessels, not for men. They limited themselves to asking a recognition of the fact that a war existed between the colony and the home government, and that in such war the American Union should remain neutral. There is a wide difference between this modest request and the petition of Deane, Franklin, Arthur Lee and John Adams, asking for money, arms, vessels and soldiers.

The Cubans purchased a man-of-war, which put into Wilmington, and was there seized and dismantled, and the Cubans were forced to admit the United States did not recognize their flag. They were compelled to run the blockade to supply their forces. They believed Spain had no right to overhaul American vessels carrying arms, or more power than to arrest persons breaking municipal laws in her jurisdiction. Vessels were sent without violating the laws of the United States. Not to compromise the American flag, those in charge were directed to make no resistance in case of an attack by the Spaniards outside of Spanish waters, as should they be captured by a Spanish man-of-war on the high seas they would receive the protection of this nation; a protection which, on several occasions, had been extended to the Hornet, the Edgar Stuart and the Virginius by American national vessels. It is well to state the fact that if the Virginius was really intended to land arms in Cuba the cause of her surrender without any resistance was the conviction that she was not subject to legal capture outside of Spanish jurisdiction. The world knows the result in the recent slaughter in Santiago. What can be said against the Cubans? They were not permitted men-of-war. They were not allowed to assist their struggling countrymen in any other way. Will it be exacted of them by Americans that they should give over all attempts at such assistance and yield to the inevitable extermination which would follow?

The Cubans have expended many millions of dollars. Spain imposes a contribution of $32,000,000 in addition to municipal extortions. The United States takes the products of Cuba and returns supplies of every kind, notwithstanding the high rate of duties. It is a resort of Cubans for residence and investment. Had the outbreak of 1868 been postponed for three years few wealthy Cubans would have remained on the island. Large numbers of them are naturalized citizens, and from them supplies are drawn. The resident Cubans of the United States have increased five-fold the wealth of the cigar manufacturing interest since 1868. They have contributed constantly to the Cuban fund. They have distinguished representatives in all the professions, trades and sciences. As many have gone in the expeditions to Cuba as could be provided with transportation. Only few capable of bearing arms remain. There are 5000 only, including women and children, in the United States. They are peaceable, sober and industrious.

The objections to recognition are answered by the facts that the Cubans have a government, a constitution and a legislature. It has existed since April 19, 1869, and in no instance have its orders been disobeyed. The military strength of the Cubans is proved by its successful combats with the Spaniards, the occupation of Holguin and Santa Cruz, and the land blockade around Manzanillo and Puerto Principe. There are daily fights. The advance guard of the Cubans is always in sight of the advance guard of the Spaniards. The Spanish official reports present evidence of the constantly increasing strength of the liberating army. Twenty thousand patriots are to-day on a war footing. While they have no marine force it is useless for them to retain possession of forts they capture. Give them recognition, and they will have forts and a marine. It is not necessary to have forts to be a belligerent. Texas had none. Juarez had none when driven to the frontier. St. Domingo had none in 1851.

Belligerency results from the existence of an armed force which fights against another force, the ultimate result of the contest remaining in doubt, and this condition certainly exists within the republic of Cuba. The fact is that the question of the recognition of belligerency is not based on any fixed rule and depends upon the will and the interest of the nation having to deal with it. The United States and England recognized the belligerency, and afterward the independence of the Spanish-American republics, not only because they thought it just, but because it harmonized with their own interest. The allied nations, in their recognition of the belligerency and independence of Greece, were actuated by the same motives. Belgium was recognized as independent in 1830 by the nations of Europe because they considered it in keeping with their own interest. The United States recognized the belignerency and independence of Texas because they considered it to their own interest. The same United States treated Mexico as a republic when she was a *de facto* empire because they considered this course to their own interest. Interest, and, before everything, interest, has always ruled diplomacy since this modern invention was applied by Louis XI. and Ferdinand V. And there is no other conclusion than that, in the disposition of the Cuban question, interest, and only interest, will control the action of this nation.

The letter goes on to analyze the causes which made the then dominant party of the Union discountenance the design of Bolivar to free Cuba, the guarantee to Spain by the tri-partite alliance; shows the immense advantage in pursuing an opposite policy to the United States, to justice and humanity; the increase of wealth (it an alliance) would produce and the honor and glory arising from it.

The Cubans await the decision of the American government at this critical moment. If it is in favor of justice, humanity and freedom, they will bow in gratitude to Providence, acting in conformity to the sacrifices already made. If in favor of the maintenance of the present condition of affairs, they shall continue to the end in the struggle in which they have so long, and at the cost of so much blood and treasure, been engaged.

The admirable document concludes as follows:

The undersigned, in the name of the government which he has the honor to represent, anticipates the expression of his gratitude to the government of the United States.

For it is impossible to suppose that the high-minded statesmen of the Great Republic have determined upon a *status quo*, which will leave the Cubans unable to obtain their independence through want of the requisite arms end materials—the Spaniards at the same time unable to suppress their efforts—until both parties become so weakened that the island will fall an easy prey to the government they represent. This would be far more ferocious and cruel than the conduct of the Spanish volunteers of Havana, which is so much deprecated by the civilized world. No Machiavelian policy ever adopted in the history of mankind could be compared with this. No; it would be unjust so to insult the high and Christian members of the American government. Your Excellency's obedient servant,

M. QUESADA.

New York, December 4, 1873.

The Rev. Celia Burleigh says of the prevailing style of feminine attire: "Woman was originally created a biped, and the Creator doubtless intended her to remain a biped; but at present, thanks to her swinging, trailing, cumbrous dress, woman is forced to make use of her hands in locomoting through any narrow passage-way, up or down stairs, and so virtually reduced to a quadruped."

## THE OPERA.

### Lucie de Lammermoor.

We have always listened to this beautiful production of Donizetti with delight, and rarely with more pleasure than when presented by the excellent troupe of Mr. Calonge. There is, no doubt, field for criticism to one who will watch the voices for that purpose, but we should never think of exercising our talent in that way. The toil and responsibility of selecting and importing such a concert under all the difficulties which surround us render the conscientious manager who has so faithfully done his duty sacred from any captious cavil, and he has nothing to apprehend from any other. With the interruption of opera for a year, and the unexpected success of this season, he who would attempt to dissatisfy the public by carping at a weak note or a faulty cadence would have found fault with the manna in the wilderness as badly baked, and would have reproached Moses as a bad contractor to conduct immigrants northeast of the Jordan.

The *Edgar* of M. Gadilbe was very fairly sung, and acted with the extravagant fervor assigned that character. Mlle. Lagye is a charming artiste. The extended range and rapid inflections of voice required by the solo score were given with a correctness that bore the test of the comparative instrumentation which accompanied it. No voice in the troupe requires less aid from the orchestra. None can sustain a theme with more independent effect, or can throw ornament or emotion around it with more beauty. The concerted pieces were admirably rendered, especially the duets in the first two acts and the quintette in the betrothal scene. The orchestra, under direction of Mr. Momas, could not certainly be excelled. To close the eyes and adopt the illustration of the blind man, that the sound of a trumpet was to him the ideal "color of scarlet," we might fancy that orchestra a pictured harmony in which the shades and lights are thrown in by the baton of the conductor as by the touch of the painter. It harmonizes so completely with the voices that they become the leading instruments, whose effects are illustrated by the tenor and rendered more impressive by the bass and choral departments. All indeed seem to compose one harmonious instrument whose expression is evoked by the hand of the master who directs them all. We shall not tantalize the reader by giving them the first line in French of the solos or concerted pieces. It is to us not unlike inclosing a bill of fare to a hungry man as a sample of a dinner one has eaten.

The music of Donizetti excels in melody, and there is a beautiful similarity in the solo gems of "Lucie" and of other productions of the same composer, especially of the "Fille du Regiment," and even of "Lucrezia." But, though the mythology places Clio and Euterpe as administrators of history and the lyric art, those who manufacture librettos often dissociate and even antagonize them. As, however, no composer is responsible for the plot or dialogue upon which his gems are strung, the libretto is often a very meagre exposition of the merits of the music. Lucie de Lammermoor is in this last respect very unfortunate. A more miserable paraphrase of history and sentiment could not well be offered. The modern Italian could not, perhaps, well comprehend the stern sentiment of the people and period to which that painful story refers, and it is vouched for as founded on a skeleton of well marked fact. The players "play their parts as they have been set down," and sent down to them, but there is nothing of Scotland or of the Scotch except the plaid, and even that we think belongs to the clan Campbell and not to the Ashtons or Ravenswood. This point we leave, however, to others. The master of Ravenswood was a young and solitary man, the descendant of a once proud family, upon whom the abolition of fudalism had worked its usual effects. He was poor, sensitive and proud, willing to labor, but unhappily society, in striving to resist this revolution, had provided no system by which its refined and estimable victims might have been relieved from ruin. The pall of poverty had fallen upon the ancestral halls of Ravenswood. The former serfs of his house had acquired the competence and the independence of freedom. The heir had no alternative except to go abroad and offer his sword in that continental service which has given such renown to the exiled and gallant aristocrats of Scotland and Ireland—the MacMahons, Dillons, and even the Dalgettys. The master of Ravenswood had a relative in the councils of England, and he was endeavoring to remove some political bar to the advancement of the young man, when the tragical events commemorated by Scott occurred. The leading character in the real novel is omitted in the libretto. Lady Ashton was a Lady Macbeth in her ambition, and in the imperious rule of her family, but her designs were carried out by intrigue and deception, rather than by intentional murder. She is weakly replaced in the libretto by her son. The catastrophe of blighted affection is the same in both, but the lyric drama could not shadow the moral of this unhappy young man's death. He was lost in a quicksand, and the tradition of his family fulfilled:

He shaul stable his steed in the kelpies flow,
And his name shall be lost forevermoe.

So it was. Family, fame and fortune had perished. The bonds of the hereditary serf had been broken. The means of hospitality and refinement had perished. Bards and women nurtured in the young heir memories that were no more and sent him into a new world with the discarded system of antiquity. It was sending him to battle with the "cloth yard arrow" against the Remington rifle. And so the saddest chapter in all human history tells of the gallant and helpless Ravenswoods and Nigels and other victims of that change from bondage to freedom which will forever go on, leaving thronging thousands on the shore, praising God for salvation, but leaving on the wrecked system from which they have escaped other victims of a catastrophe which they could neither foresee nor avert. Have we not, in our own day and clime, types of the same doomed and gallant class? Let us be thankful that the preparation of modern civilized liberty has stripped the same revolution here of most of such sorrows. Emancipation, which elevated the slave, has neither depressed nor destroyed the energies or resources of those who were formerly his masters. But no Italian libretto could comprehend all this, nor could the most kabHe artists be expected to present it in all its sad philosophy. But Donizetti as interpreted by the troupe of Mr. Calonge, makes a beautiful and touching episode, which we commend to our readers to witness.

What are you going to give your wife's mother for Christmas?

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

THREADING MY WAY. An autobiography. By Robert Dale Owen. Published by G. W. Carleton & Co., New York. For sale by George Ellis & Brother, No. 82 Camp street, New Orleans.

The author of this new work is well known as a philosopher, philanthropist and able writer. He is the author of "The Debatable Land," "Footfalls on the Boundary of Another World," and other works of great merit. His autobiography, so far as published at present, covering twenty-seven years of the writer's life, was originally prepared as a serial for the *Atlantic Monthly*, and it attracted much attention during its publication in that magazine. His story is modestly and charmingly told, and the result is a most remarkable book, full of delightful gossip and interesting reminiscences of persons and places. That portion of the book which relates to his honored father, Robert Owen, is most interesting, giving an account, as it does, of the establishment of the first Kintergarten in the manufacturing village of New Lanark, Scotland. The senior Owen was also a philanthropist and philosopher, and established his village on principles akin to communism, and what is more remarkable, notwithstanding the wild and strange utopian ideas he entertained, he was most successful as a man of business. The present autobiography of the younger Owen is full of meat for thoughtful readers and well worthy of perusal.

LITTLE WANDERERS, and other Sunday stories. By Samuel Wilberforce, D. D. Published by G. W. Carleton & Co., New York. For sale by George Ellis & Brother, No. 82 Camp street, New Orleans.

Dr. Wilberforce was the late bishop of Winchester, England, and gifted in a remarkable degree with the power to hold the attention of children and to interest them in his talks on religious subjects. The stories in the present volume were originally told by the bishop to his own children, and are models of simplicity and beautifully written. They will not only instruct children, but serve as apt lessons to Sabbath school workers who assume to train young minds.

FANNY FERN. A memorial. By James Parton. Published by G. W. Carleton & Co., New York. For sale by George Ellis & Brother, No. 82 Camp street, New Orleans.

The book before us, bearing the above title, contains a short and simple memoir of the graceful writer, whom we knew as "Fanny Fern," well written by her husband. The book is illustrated by Arthur Lumley, and its present form will be a source of delight to thousands who have been helped and brightened by the earnest words of the lamented authoress. Besides the memoir, depicting her early life and its mid-career of toil, ending in triumph and honor, selections from the best of her short sketches fill the volume to one of 500 pages. Handsomely bound and illustrated, and most readable, it comes welcomely to us at this season of the year.

### Masonic.

In addition to the lists of officers published a week ago, we give the following of officers elected for the ensuing Masonic year:

Concordia Lodge No. 3—Louis Prados, worshipful master; Alcide Delpeuch, senior warden; Benjamin Dacosta, junior warden; H. Messeau, treasurer; E. A. Louis, secretary; J. A. Ottman, senior deacon; V. H. Loez, junior deacon; Daniel Hikok, steward; Hy. Kuntz, tyler.

Foyer Maçonnique Lodge No. 44—B. Campiglio, worshipful master; David Weil, senior warden; Louis Sorapuru, junior warden; J. B. Sorapuru, secretary; George B. Ittmann, treasurer; M. Scooler, orator; Aug. Erath, master expert; A. Suari, master of ceremonies; F. Constantini, almoner; J. Raas, senior deacon; Jules Rose, junior deacon; H. Sbisa, inner guard; J. L. Daussat, tyler.

Hiram Lodge No. 70—G. Samson, worshipful master; P. H. Leonard, senior warden; George Oliver, junior warden; William Davis, treasurer; William D. Taylor, secretary; Henry Cearns, senior deacon; C. Franz, junior deacon; Henry Cruise, tyler.

Quitman Lodge No. 76—G. L. Hall, worshipful master; John K. Collins, senior warden; John Kouns, junior warden; Ed. A. Tyler, treasurer; Fred Eyle, secretary; J. C. Carpenter, chaplain; T. M. Gill, senior deacon; A. J. Armstrong, junior deacon; E. H. Levy, master of ceremonies; R. Fletcher, senior steward; W. H. McChesney, junior steward; Robert Wilson, tyler.

Hermitage Lodge No. 98—George S. Pettit, worshipful master; Joseph D. Taylor, senior warden; Charles Geiger, junior warden; Ambrose Leitz, treasurer; William Weser, secretary; William D. White, senior deacon; Charles Russell, junior deacon; Fritz Hufft, senior steward; J. W. Reich, junior steward; H. Herinhausen, tyler.

Orleans Royal Arch Chapter No. 1—H. S. Jacobs, most eminent high priest; Z. M. Pike, excellent king; T. F. Hedges, excellent scribe; J. J. Lee, captain of the host; F. H. Wilson, principal sojourner; G. W. Collins, royal arch captain; Henry Winslow, grand master, third veil; L. L. Ellis, grand master second veil; J. A. Pickert, grand master first veil; S. M. Todd, treasurer; F. A. Dentzel, secretary; H. Cruise, guard.

Delta Royal Arch Chapter No. 15—W. S. Benedict, most excellent high priest; Harvey Cree, excellent king; Edward Baker, excellent scribe; Samuel Nathan, captain of the host; George J. Pinkard, principal sojourner; Owen Gernon, Royal Arch captain; David Hughes, grand master third veil; Jotham Potter, grand master second veil; A. Solomon, grand master first veil; Henry R. Swasey, treasurer; Hilel Marks, secretary; J. W. McGuire, sentinel.

### Meteorological and River Report.

The signal service, United States army, reports, for the benefit of commerce, the meteorological record, and rise or fall of the rivers, at 3:43 P. M., local time, yesterday, as follows:

| Place. | Ther. | Wind. | Weather. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cairo | 45 | N. W. | Fair. |
| Chicago | 28 | W. | Clear. |
| Cincinnati | 35 | N. W. | Cloudy. |
| Davenport | 23 | W. | Clear. |
| Dubuque | 28 | W | Clear. |
| Galveston | 54 | N. | Clear. |
| Indianola | 55 | N. | Clear. |
| Keokuk | 27 | W. | Clear. |
| Leavenworth | 36 | N. W. | Clear. |
| Louisville | 33 | S. W. | Cloudy. |
| Memphis | 38 | N. W. | Clearing. |
| Nashville | 37 | N. W. | Cloudy. |
| New Orleans | 56 | N. W. | Clear. |
| Omaha | 31 | W. | Clear. |
| Pittsburg | 36 | W. | Cloudy. |
| Shreveport | 47 | N. W. | Clear. |
| St. Louis | 29 | W. | Clear. |
| St. Paul | 19 | S. W. | Clear. |
| Vicksburg | 52 | N. | Clear. |
| Fort Gibson | 41 | W. | Clear. |
| Fort Sully | 38 | N. W. | Clear. |
| Yankton | 31 | N. W. | Clear. |

THE RIVERS.

| Stations. | Rise, inches. | Fall, inches. | Above low water mark. Ft. | In. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cairo | 16 | .. | 29 | 4 |
| Cincinnati | 113 | .. | 37 | 8 |
| Davenport | 2 | .. | 2 | 9 |
| Dubuque | .. | 2 | 6 | 7 |
| Keokuk | .. | 7 | 1 | 5 |
| Leavenworth | .. | .. | 4 | 0 |
| Louisville | .. | 1 | 11 | 9 |
| Memphis | 12 | .. | 19 | 2 |
| Nashville | .. | 16 | 22 | 2 |
| New Orleans | 7 | .. | .. | .. |
| Pittsburg | 131 | .. | 21 | 9 |
| Shreveport | 6 | .. | 16 | 8 |
| St. Louis | 27 | .. | 11 | 10 |
| Vicksburg | 103 | .. | 23 | 1 |

The river here is ten feet two inches below high water mark of 1871.

At a recent Spiritualists' meeting in Chicago Miss Anna Hinman made a most sensible speech on the social question. She said "As I am an old maid, and never had a husband to quarrel with, and never happened to love the husband of any other woman, and have no special experience in that respect, I can not say that I feel competent to discuss the social question."

## COURT RECORD.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1873.

### First District Court.

INFORMATIONS FILED.

Assault and battery—John Brown.

Larceny—Jacob Hartman, Bridget Hurley, Lizzie Davis, Emily Trindle.

Breaking and entering a store, etc., Michael Hanahan.

Assault by wilfully shooting at—J. J. Tanner.

SENTENCES.

Celestine Bilot alias Ann—Larceny. Two years in Penitentiary.

ON TRIAL.

State vs William J. McCall, Dan Carr alias Buffer, and William Connors—Arson.

### Second District Court.

Successions of Felice Tonna, Leonard Beverungen and Edward P. Tileston were opened.

### Fourth District Court.

Judge Lynch has rendered the following judgments:

John McVittie vs. F. A. Bienvenu.—Judgment for plaintiff for $1009 50, with legal interest from December 27, 1872, with special lien and privilege on the house and improvements on lot No. 184 Bourbon street, and costs of suit.

Charles Donelly vs. St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church.—Judgment in favor of plaintiff for $800, with interest at eight per cent per annum from August 10, 1872, and $3 50 costs of protest, with lien and privilege on said church building, and on the lot or lots of ground on which said church building is situated, and costs of suit.

Hortense Werkle vs. F. Huppenbauer, her husband.—Judgment in favor of plaintiff for $12,500, with interest from judicial demand, and dissolving the community of acquests and gains heretofore existing between plaintiff and defendant. The defendant to pay costs of suit.

Mrs. Louisa Reich, wife of F. Rodor, vs. Hyacinth Roselin.—Judgment for the plaintiff, perpetuating the injunction and decreeing the note and mortgage herein to be null and void—the said note to be returned to the plaintiff and the mortgage annulled. Defendant to pay the costs of suit.

Mayer Goldman vs. Richard C. Bond.—Rule herein taken on the first of December, 1873, to set aside the sequestration, is made absolute and the sequestration is vacated and set aside.

Mrs. D. Lester vs. William P. Harper et al., submitted.—Judgment dismissing the petition and demand of plaintiff and declaring her alleged title simulated and fraudulent. Also dissolving the injunction with ten per cent damages on the amount enjoined and eight per cent per annum interest. That plaintiff, together with her securities, be thus condemned for damages as aforesaid in solido and costs of suit.

Miss Rose Mansfield vs. Walter Heffron—July 21, 1870, defendant executed his twelve months note for $2000, indorsed it, and gave it to plaintiff and secured it by mortgage. July 1, 1872, plaintiff sued on the note, obtaining an order of seizure and sale. An appeal was granted and subsequently dismissed. August 24, 1872, Heffron, in his petition, admitted a debt of $1400; alleged fraudulent representation, which induced him to sign the note, with a promise not to force it beyond $1400, and obtained an injunction. Mrs. Mansfield alleged purchase of property at sheriff's sale for $1500, costs and fees, the prior right of first mortgage, taxes to the amount of $359 66, giving a credit to Heffron of $1553 02. October twenty-fourth she was put in possession of the property. A new trial was granted. Plaintiff and defendant's wife, who managed his business, are cousins. The plaintiff contended that there was originally a debt of $1400 in her own handwriting, an additional loan of $1100, and a credit of $500. The defense says the memorandum of $1400, and $1000, to be added with a credit of $885 25, leaving a balance of $1514 75. Heffron's wife, though transacting all the business, can not testify.

In the second trial parol testimony was admitted to show fraud as against the notarial act on which the $1000 was paid and the consideration of the note. Mrs. Mansfield's evidence is vacillating and contradictory. It is partly sustained and partly contradicted by other testimony. She has failed to prove the $100 interest on $1000. She says she only received $500 back. She is contradicted by three witnesses. She says she never acknowledged $1400 was the whole debt. Two witnesses swear differently. Other discrepancies appear. From the manner in which the parties have made and unmade the issues, the matter must be considered as an ordinary suit. Judgment for plaintiff for $1514 75, with eight per cent interest from July 21, 1870, and costs.

### Sixth District Court.

Judge Saucier rendered the following decision:

First National Bank of Macon vs. B. B. Simmes —Plaintiff having obtained an order of seixure and sale against defendant, upon a conventional mortgage granted by him to secure the notes given for the balance of the price of the property seized under said writ, is stayed in the execution of the same by an injunction, which defendant insists should be made perpetual on several grounds, all of which were overruled at the trial save one, and that is, the alleged imperfection of the title to the property for which the note sued on was given.

Defendant purchased the property mortgaged at public sale, had by virtue of an order of the Second District Court for this parish, on May 13, 1871, for the price of $12,000. He complied with the terms of the adjudication by paying $4000 cash and by furnishing his two notes for $4000 each, payable to his own order, and by him indorsed, at one and two years after date, secured by the usual mortgage on the property sold.

He paid the note payable at one year, and resists the payment of the other to plaintiff, who is proved to be a bona fide holder of the same, for value, on the ground above stated and now being considered. He does not allege that he has been disquieted in his possession of the property, nor that he has just cause to fear that he will be disquieted. No disturbance or apprehension of disturbance is distinctly alleged. It is not perceived how he can be allowed to suspend the payment of the note sued on. C. C. 2557, 3 A. 2683. It is true that he alleges that he has acquired a good and clear title to only three undivided fourths of the property conveyed to him, and that he can not, for that reason, in justice and equity, be compelled to pay "said last note until he obtains a good and valid title to the whole property;" but on examination it is found that he now, for the first time, objects to the validity of certain proceedings had in the Second District Court for the parish of Orleans, which culminated in a solemn judgment, releasing the property from the very incumbrance (i. e., the rights of the minor Mark Lewis) which he now urges for the perpetuation of the injunction. Defendant's purchase was subsequent to the said proceedings and judgment. He made no objection to his vendor's title then. He complied with the adjudication. He alleges now no disturbance or apprehension of disturbance. For these reasons the injunction must be dissolved.

It is ordered, adjudged and decreed that there be judgment in favor of plaintiff, the First National Bank of Macon, and against defendant, B. B. Simmes, dissolving the injunction sued out herein, and condemning defendant and his surety, Edward Philips, in solido, to pay the plaintiff ten per cent per annum interest on the amount of the writ enjoined, and $200 as attorney's fees, and costs.

### Heavy Guns.

Visitors to the St. Louis arsenal years agone, before that military park was cut up and despoiled of its machine shops and beautiful natural grove, will remember as one of the features of the place, the long, black rows of ordinance of all calibres, which lay slumbering with open mouths, and looking for all the world like saw logs in a mill yard. These dogs of war will soon be no more. The Iron Mountain railroad company yesterday commenced shipping, under a contract for delivery at Pensacola, all the big guns, cannon and mortars which have been stored there since the war. Among the large pieces are hundred-pound Parrotts and the same calibre of mortars. They go over the Iron Mountain and Mobile and Ohio railroads via Mobile. Colonel McKissock, superintendent of the Iron Mountain road, turned soldier yesterday, and superintended the embarkation of the guns on the cars, a work that required considerable engineering skill.—*St. Louis Republican.*

### A Fearful Disaster.

Yesterday afternoon the steamer Royal George left our port for Jefferson, under the command of Captain Mat Scovill. She had proceeded as far as Quitman's bluffs, on Twelve Mile bayou, when one of her boilers exploded, killing and wounding a number of persons. Captain Charles McLarey was at the pilot's wheel and Mr. John Holm[illegible] in charge of the engines. He is a regularly licensed engineer, and was employed yesterday evening by Captain Scovill to make the round trip from here to Jefferson because he knew him to be competent and reliable.

There was no warning given that a fearful and disastrous explosion was soon to occur. The boat was slowly and quietly making her way along the narrow stream under a pressure of only about seventy-five pounds of steam, and all felt safe, not dreaming that soon some would be hurled unannealed and unannounced into the presence of their Maker, and that others would be mangled and bruised. A little after [illegible] P. M. the explosion occurred, and several lives lost, the full extent of which we have not yet learned.

As soon as they could possibly do so Captain Scovill, Captain McLarey and his mate, Andrew Little, all severely wounded, started in a skiff for Shreveport to procure surgeons, medical supplies and assistance. On the way down Mr. Little died, and his remains were buried in the Shreveport cemetery this morning. On reaching here Captain Scovill went on board the steamer Maria Louise, and sent immediately for a physician. From the steamer he was removed this morning to his residence, in the suburbs of this city. His jaws are broken and the lower portion of his face badly injured. It is also feared that he sustained internal injuries, but a thorough examination had not been made up to the time of removing him to his home. His face and head are badly swollen, but we hope that he is not fatally hurt.

Captain McLarey, although suffering from wounds and bruises, yet made it his duty to secure physicians, medicines and all necessary appliances, and to make arrangements with the steamer Clifford to take him back to the wreck. It was about eleven o'clock when he arrived here, and before daylight the Clifford, under the command of Captain James Smith, was speeding on her way to the assistance of the dead, dying and wounded at the wreck. Dr. D. L. Turner and P. J. Trezevant were the surgeons and physicians on board.

At 2 P. M. the Clifford returned, having the wreck of the Royal George. Hundreds of people gathered at the wharf to look upon the remains of the ill-fated boat, and a fearful spectacle it was. It is wonderful how any one escaped, and no one can fully appreciate the completeness of the disaster without seeing the debris of machinery, timbers and miscellaneous articles.

There were only two dead bodies found near the wreck, viz: Mr. Ross, a part owner of the steamer Lotta, now lying up in the bayou, and for which he was bound, and a negro by the name of Charles Washington. Bob White and Dave Crawford, colored, are the only ones missing, and it is thought that their bodies may be covered up by the debris. This, with the mate, Andrew Little, will make five dead and lost. Among the wounded, in addition to those already mentioned, are Mr. Kountz, clerk, and Mr. Ware, a young colored man; the latter badly burned. Captain McLarey's wounds are not as severe as at first supposed, although quite painful and annoying.

We understand that there are none of the officers or employes charged with any neglect of duty or blamed in the matter. The accident was caused by defection in the machinery, and while it is a terrible calamity, it is fortunate that no more lives were lost.—*Shreveport Southwestern Telegram.*

### The Improvement of the Mississippi River.

The early consideration of Senator West's bill in relation to improvements at the mouth of the Mississippi river is of great importance, not only to New Orleans, but to the whole Mississippi valley. Congress annually makes a large appropriation to pay for dredging and other work at the passes of the Mississippi in order to keep that river open, with a channel deep enough for the passage of vessels drawing from twelve to twenty feet of water. The bill referred to proposes to give the engineer in charge of this work complete control of the use of the passes during the time the work is going on. Major Howell, who is now United States engineer in charge in Louisiana, in his report, just printed, calls particular attention to interference in his work by the Towboat Association of New Orleans. He says:

"Even the popular prejudice against dredging has been overcome, and the people of New Orleans, most interested, today acknowledge the good done. So far, well; but there is a powerful monopoly known as the 'Towboat Association' domiciled in New Orleans, controlling its commerce, opposed to the improvement of the channels across the bars at the mouth of the Mississippi, and having it in its power at any time to render valueless any improvement attempted. This association has, time and again, willfully and maliciously retarded my work, and damaged and destroyed its fruits. In 1871 and 1872 I checked it by an assumption of authority I had not the power to enforce. In 1873 this did not serve. My report for the month of March, 1873, gives the details of the last blockade effected by the association at Southwest Pass, and maintained with such persistence as to force the removal of the dredges to Pass-a-l'Outre. The fact that this monopoly holds the commerce of New Orleans at its feet is too well known to necessitate more than the simple statement."

These artificial obstructions have turned aside the commerce of a great part of the West into more expensive channels, and the object of Mr. West's bill is to give the engineer in charge, while the dredging is going on, the power to decide when and how vessels shall pass over the bar.—*New York Tribune.*

### Gerrit Smith's Plea for Cuba.

Gerrit Smith has published a long letter, warmly urging the intervention of Great Britain or America, or both, to make Cuba independent, in which he says:

Idle and worse than idle—even very wicked—is all this talk about settling the Virginius matter with Spain and then letting Cuba remain in the hands of her torturer and murderer. What she would hereafter do with Cuba is but too plain in the light of what she has heretofore done with her. Nor is there any wisdom in the advice to delay decisive action regarding Cuba until the Spanish republic is consolidated. The probability of such consolidation is exceedingly slight. No nation has poorer materials for a republic than Spain. I see that some of our prominent old abolitionists look to the Spanish republic, and especially to the influence of that admirable and eloquent Republican, Castelar, for the abolition of Cuban slavery. But what if Spain should become an established republic, would the abolition of Cuban slavery necessarily follow? By no means. Republicanism no less than monarchy accomodates itself to slaveholding. We were a republic when we held so tenaciously to the enslavement of many millions. But for the timely advent of John Brown—of the grand old hero, whose "soul goes marching on"—slavery would have been as vigorous upon our soil to-day as it ever was. God grant that this dear old soul may keep marching on until not only in Cuba but all the broad earth, the sun shall not rise upon a slaveholder nor set upon a slave!

The *Christian at Work* says: "According to Rev. Theophile Larriaux, of Paris, who preached in Boston on Sunday of last week, the cause of Protestantism in France never stood better. A deeper religious feeling seems to have sprung up in the minds of all since the war, spite of the loss of Alsace and Lorraine, in which provinces were many adherents to Protestantism. There are now nearly 1,000,000 Protestants in the country."

"Who cuts your clothes, Tommy?" asked a visitor of a curiously rigged boy. "We," said he, ingeniously, "ma cuts my pants and pa cuts my jackets."

A thorn in the bush is worth two in the hand.