

New Orleans Republican. OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF NEW ORLEANS NEW ORLEANS, DECEMBER 25, 1873.

NO PAPER TO-MORROW.

A proper observance of the Christmas holiday on the part of the employees of the REPUBLICAN, will be our excuse for the non-appearance of our paper on Friday morning.

Drawing a jury is a parcel game.

Butchers work for killing prices.

We never object when a tailor gives us fits.

The song "Love Not" will do for wedding occasions.

George Elliott thinks "Middlemarch" is her best novel.

The original toy matinee at the Academy to-day—10,000 toys.

Eighteenth annual toy matinee at the Academy to-day, 12 M.

Women are the most subservient to the man-dates of fashion.

Canal street merchants take great pains to display their goods.

Don't forget the old family reunion to-day at the Academy.

It costs \$9 to whip a schoolmaster in Farmer City, Illinois.

Ten thousand toys given away at the Academy matinee to-day.

A man with squeaking boots on can not claim to have music in his soul.

A manager's character should not be judged by the company he keeps.

Don't forget the old family reunion to-day at the Academy.

The green paper that comes around lozenges is extremely poisonous.

Mrs. Partington rises in the morning at the shrill call of the chandelier.

The bee-keepers association recently met at Louisville, and made things hum.

When ocean steamers are cooled passengers should put on more clothing.

Gentlemen in search of light employment should take to the gas-fitting industry.

Pious Hartford contributed \$1000 to the "Black Crook," and only \$500 to Salvini.

In character, in manners, in style, in all things, the supreme excellency is simplicity.

If a young lady wants something nice in her stocking this morning let her put her foot in it.

The abjuration of capital punishment would injure upholsterers, who depend for hangings.

A reporter who has received a dressing gown and a pair of slippers wants to leave his work just for one night that he may enjoy them.

C. F. Ladd, delegate to the Washington colored convention, returned home yesterday, and at once resumed his important duties as Police Commissioner.

Divine service may be expected in St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church, corner of Magazine and Third Streets, Christmas Day, at 11 A. M. The public are invited to attend.

Many of the country members of the Legislature are in the city, and others are on the way. Their most popular headquarters are at Kenner's club room, over the "Senate," on Dryades street, where they find many friends to welcome them.

Says the Aethiopian Globe: "The soldiers were digging up the dead at old Fort Kearney, a few days since, one coffin was taken up that was literally filled with snakes. Some wag remarked that it was plain enough what that fellow died of."

"What do you sell those fowls for?" inquired a person of a man attempting to dispose of some chickens of questionable appearance. "I sell them for profits," was the answer. "Thank you for the information that they are prophets," responded the querist; "I took them to be patriarchs."

We are informed that it was Master Charles Dowling, of the first class, at the exhibition of the Boys' High School, whose declamation was so much approved Tuesday evening, instead of Master Gilmore. The name not being printed on the programme, nor announced by the principal, caused the error.

"Who hurt you, bub?" asked a pedestrian recently of a small boy who sat howling on the curbstone. "Johnny Kidd," sobbed the victim. "I'll see about him if he does it again," remarked the man, condescendingly, but the boy suddenly stopped howling, and exclaimed: "I just leave him alone. When I grow up I'll get on the police force, and I can belt him all I want to!"

In Ames' Methodist Episcopal Church, corner of St. Charles and Calhoun streets, the annual Christmas festival in connection with the Sunday school will be held this evening. Addresses by Rev. J. C. Hartzell and Rev. James Morrow. A richly laden Christmas tree, with some choice singing by the children of the Sunday school are among the good things promised. Old friends of the school, together with visitors to the city, are warmly invited.

Agassiz was twice married, his second wife being Miss Lizzie Cary, daughter of Mr. T. G. Cary. He has three children, Alexander Agassiz, Ida (Mrs. Higginson), and Pauline (Mrs. Shaw). He died on the seventy-fourth anniversary of the death of Washington, and almost at the same hour, Washington dying between eleven and twelve o'clock on December 17, 1799, and Professor Agassiz between ten and eleven o'clock on the night of December 14, 1873.

We find that the mention we made of the fact that Mr. B. F. Harrison had become publisher of the *Homer* had incurred the general belief that Mr. Blackburn had sold out his paper entirely. This is not so. W. Jasper Blackburn is still editor and proprietor of the *Homer*, and would like for all good Republicans, and Democrats, too, to subscribe for his paper—the oldest Republican paper in the Gulf States—price only \$2 50 per annum. Mr. Blackburn is stopping at the City Hotel.

OUR OUTLET CANAL AS A MILITARY DEFENSE.

We have been permitted to see the response of General G. T. Beauregard to questions addressed to him as a civil and military engineer, "as to the practicability of an engineering point of view of the proposed ship canal below Fort St. Philip."

We attach much importance to the reply of this gentleman, not only from his professional experience in both the departments referred to, but especially because he has been in charge of the works of navigation at the passes. In answer to the questions, he says:

I consider the construction of a ship canal below Fort St. Philip, from the river to Breton Island Pass, entirely practicable to the depth of twenty-five feet, which would be sufficient, probably, for all future commercial and naval purposes. The details of the lock should be, however, properly studied and carefully executed, and a location on the river should be under the protection of the guns of Fort St. Philip and Jackson, due regard being had to the permanency of the river bank. A navy yard of construction and supplies could be established anywhere in that distance, perfectly safe from attack, where all the material for naval purposes could be had in the greatest abundance and at the cheapest rates.

We attach due consideration to the opinion of physical practicability, given by an expert of high reputation. It is, however, to the military view of usefulness that we desire especially to call the attention of the Senate Committee on Transportation, as well as those of our citizens especially charged with the duty of exhibiting evidences of the importance of this great work in a national point of view.

1. Whether the passes of the Mississippi remain in a state of nature, or shall be improved by dredging, using dams, or other concentration of current, there must always be delay in entering the channel. Piloting is indispensable, and but few vessels of heavy tonnage can occupy the channel at one time. There must be, then, anchorage inside and outside of the bar, and there may be, from the cause indicated, an arrest or assemblage of vessels within range of enemy war vessels in the gulf, and entirely without the protection of any works which are or can be founded on the alluvial ooze on each side of the bars. The navigation of the Mississippi outlet would, then, be in danger of injury or destruction from the impossibility of securing suddenly any large aggregation of tonnage which might at any time be entering or departing from the outlet. This danger from foreign war vessels would not be confined to the immediate vicinity of the bar, but would apply to the lower reaches of the river for at least twenty miles. We may imagine a Spanish naval war, with the foreign and coastwise trade of the Mississippi working in and out of the outlets. The compulsory delay of this commerce would expose it to danger.

2. If this ship canal of seven miles be completed. A vessel wishing to pass in or out of this river would be safe from the possibility of injury. A vessel fearing an enemy or indeed a storm would run for the canal. It would be itself a harbor. If menaced by an enemy vessel, any number of ships could pass rapidly and in procession through the canal and into the river. There would be a harbor extending some sixty miles up to the city of New Orleans. We need not state the armament of the two forts, but it would be adequate to arrest the passage of any enemy vessel. The canal would be, in the words of General Beauregard, "under the protection of the guns of Fort St. Philip and Jackson!" Certainly for half the canal, and this would be added to the length and safety of the harbor as stated. Sooner or later a light traffic and passenger railroad will be laid down along the river bank to the forts, and thus troops, supplies and munitions of war can be moved to reinforce and defend the outlet of the Mississippi against any possible danger of destroying or cutting out the shipping. We do not think such a harbor of refuge, so protected from war and from storms, exists in the world, as that demonstrated by the letter of the distinguished military engineer which we have quoted. The difference between this route and outlet, so protected from the interior to the ocean, we particularly address to our friends the grangers. When contrasted with that of the lakes and the St. Lawrence, for hundreds of miles under the guns and within the jurisdiction of a foreign government, the importance of the Mississippi route, in war as well as in peace, will be apparent to them. In this new and impressive view the ship owner of the East and the producer of the West are alike interested. The insurance offices and the marine values insured against damage by war or storms will see an incidental importance in the work scarcely subordinate to the economy of transportation itself.

The importance of this view can not be sufficiently impressed and diffused, and we would address a suggestion to the press of New Orleans to bring it before the Committee of Transportation and the Senate committee all the advantages, commercial, marine and military, of the Fort St. Philip canal.

We are much pleased with the zeal with which General Beauregard adverts to the national protection of domestic commerce. Perhaps no man living can judge better the value of military defenses of a commercial harbor than the man who planned the defenses of Charleston. To witness the unanimity with which eminent soldiers of the late Confederacy pledged themselves in the public meeting of New Orleans, and elsewhere throughout the South, to vindicate the honor of the American flag, and avenge the massacre of American citizens; to find General Beauregard, with that extraordinary commander of cavalry, General Forrest, tendering their services to the nation in one or another capacity for the protection of its commerce or its honor—to recognize the prompt response of the Republican President and Congress

in presenting an act of amnesty almost universal—assures us that the alienation of sections is rapidly passing away; and that one blow upon the shield of Columbia will summon all her sons to her defense.

MEETINGS OF WORKINGMEN.

The meetings of workingmen are no longer confined to farmers. The spirit that first drove the tillers of the soil in the West to make their grievances known, and finally found a favorable response from the entire farming interest of the land, has at last stirred up the workingmen of our cities. In New York, Chicago and Cincinnati, significant meetings have already been held; and others will likely take place. The most significant one in New York, in the recent movement, was held in Cooper Institute on the evening of the eleventh instant. The objects of that meeting, as given by the chairman, were to devise means by which the suffering and unemployed of that great city might obtain work for the winter; and that the interests of labor throughout America might be permanently promoted. In connection with these two propositions, the chairman read a telegram from Cleveland, Ohio, saying that the hearts of the workingmen of the great West beat in unison with those of the East.

But this meeting did not confine itself to the objects set forth by its president. There were other features in it that might reasonably lead some persons to believe there were political influences at work not far from the agrarian stripe. These features were displayed in the decorations of the room in which the meeting was held, consisting of mottoes, placards, etc. Among these, good and bad things were made to appear. One of the placards contained the following statement:

All salaries should be reduced; no \$17,000 judgeships, \$300,000 sheriff, \$250,000 county clerk, \$30,000 chamberlain. They are expensive luxuries in these hard times.

Though we are inclined to think the Democratic office holders of New York city who enjoy these high salaries will not agree with us, we think this one of the good features of the workingmen's meeting in question. And this is not the only one of the same nature, though somewhat foreign to the objects of the meeting as given by the president. The chief object was to provide for the one hundred and ten thousand idle persons reported to be walking the streets of New York in search of employment or charity by day, or sleeping in charitable institutions, stationhouses, stables, carts and hallways at night. This was a matter that demanded immediate relief, and the meeting should have confined itself to that work. The committee that reported one hundred and ten thousand idle persons in the city of New York, in a condition next to starvation, also reported one hundred and eighty-two thousand men out of work in the State. The same committee also reported that they had learned from the commissioners of charity that more than two hundred respectable poor persons find lodging each night upon the floors of the overcrowded almshouses, and that no more can be admitted under present provisions; and that at the various lodging-houses for women and girls, about one hundred per night are turned away to the mercies of the street, and that many helpless women, widows and children find themselves on the streets for non-payment of rent, and totally unable to provide themselves with food; and that the average wages of thirty-eight thousand working women and children in the city of New York is only \$3 34 per week when they can get work.

This is certainly a more fearful condition of things in the city of New York than persons unacquainted with them are prepared to believe. There must have been a great influx of poor persons from Europe to have thus overrun all the charitable institutions in that city, noted for its munificent charities, extensive police stations and prison houses. But taking it for granted that the statements made in regard to the poor of New York at the meeting in question are correct, and without stopping to question the cause of so much real poverty in the presence of unbounded wealth, obtained by industry and enterprise open to all, many will deem some of the means proposed to remedy the evils complained of entirely out of place. In the first place, the great mass of Americans will not agree with the assertion put forth at the meeting above referred to, which declares "that government employment is the remedy for strikes." The demand made for a suspension of rents for three months is another bad feature in the meeting. The resolution setting forth that the workingmen of New York being law-abiding citizens, wished to avoid all outrage on the persons or property of any, is strangely inconsistent with the one that follows it, declaring that "they will supply themselves and families with proper shelter and the necessities of life, and send the bills to the city treasury to be liquidated, until such time as they obtain work." In fact, the resolutions throughout breathe a spirit of revolution totally out of place in republican America. If they had been drawn up by George Francis Train himself, they could not have been more pregnant with the elements of revolution of the direct kind. The meeting also favored the American people with an address, recommending a cure for existing evils: First—That a law shall be immediately passed which shall prevent any law being enforced until it has been submitted to and sanctioned by the people. Second—That no individual shall be allowed to hold, directly or indirectly, a sum of money or property represented by money greater than three hundred thousand dollars, or any sum that the people themselves shall determine upon.

The meeting was addressed in the English, French and German languages, and the laboring men urged to support none but laboring men for office, and one of the speakers, a Mr. Maguire, closed his speech by saying:

Let all the unemployed workingmen march down to the City Hall and demand

work, and if they don't give it to us, by God, we'll take it!

The resolutions concluded as follows: We recognize in the farmers' grange movement throughout the country our most efficient co-workers in the limitation principle, and bid them God speed in combat with the hydra monster of monopoly upon our national highways.

It seems hardly possible that American farmers can be prepared for the revolutionary measures proposed by those persons who met in Cooper's Institute. Wherever the meetings of workingmen are characterized by features so uncomely to the American character we are satisfied they will do more harm than good to the cause of the poor workingman. In this country there is no necessity for idlers, paupers or pensioners upon the public work. The country is large enough for all—and the test way to relieve the workingmen of our cities when they become so thick that there is not work for all; so thick that the supply of labor is much greater than the demand; so much greater, indeed, that persons are frequently compelled to work for a bare subsistence, and sometimes can not even get that, is for the surplus to adopt that pursuit which yields an almost unending supply of comforts and many of the luxuries of life—agriculture. We can readily appreciate the difficulties that frequently surround the workingmen of the Old World and drive them from their homes and country to avoid the necessity of laboring for a life time for a bare subsistence. But here no such necessity exists. There is yet plenty of room for all that are here, and millions more, in the broad domain of our country. And there is plenty of work and bread, meat and raiment for all who have but the will to seek them rightly.

THE RETURN OF CHRISTMAS.

The annual return of Christmas has long been looked upon by the Christian world as a joyful event; not only because it is the day on which the nativity of the Saviour of mankind is celebrated, but because it is especially a day of festivity to the little children, for whom Christ expressed the warmest affection. There is certainly much in the history of the day that is well calculated to arouse the better feeling of mankind—something that should call forth the wish of a merry Christmas for all. There was a time when the return of the day gave rise to a melancholy instead of a merry feeling; that, according to good authority, was before the days of Constantine, and during the reign of Dioclesian, the tyrant who then kept his court at Nicomedia. He was noted for his acts of cruelty to Christians; and upon one occasion, finding multitudes of them assembled together to celebrate Christ's nativity, he ordered the church doors where they were met to be shut, and fire put to it, which soon reduced them and the church to ashes. Those were the melancholy days of Christianity—days when it was regarded as a crime by such men as Dioclesian to be merry at the approach of Christmas. But those days have long since passed away; and under the civilizing influences of Christianity Christmas has been growing in popularity since the second century. Mr. Selden, an eminent writer of the sixteenth century, gives some idea in his "Table Talk" of the manner in which the day was kept in his time. He says:

Christmas succeeds the Saturnalia; the same time, the same number of holidays; the master waited upon the servant like the Lord of Misrule. Our modern sports (such of them) have relation to church-work. The coffin of our Christmas pies, in shape long, is in imitation of the crutch. Our chess kings and queens on twelfth night, hath reference to three kings. So likewise to our eating of fritters, whipping of tops, roasting of herrons, jack of lent, etc.; they were all in imitation of church-work, emblem of martyrdom. Our tansies of Easter have reference to the bitter herb, though at the same time, it was always a fashion for a man to have a rampon of bacon to show himself to be no Jew.

We see from Mr. Selden's talk that the descendants of those who would have crushed Christianity in the second century were now in danger of being crushed. But as the world advances in civilization the disposition to persecute on account of religious beliefs dies out, clearly demonstrating that the time is coming when, in the language of the Scripture, the lion and the lamb will lie down in peace together.

Our purpose at this time is to remind the readers of the REPUBLICAN that the world is gradually approaching the millennium; the time of general rejoicing, when, all without regard to color or previous condition, can join in celebrating the natal day of the purest man and best Republican that ever trod the earth or entered the portals of heaven. The general desire, therefore, at this time should be to make everybody happy, especially the little children, whose hearts leap with joy at the coming of Christmas and Santa Claus. The rich should help to make the poor joyful upon this occasion, and reap their rewards here as well as hereafter in the consciousness of having performed a Christian duty. We close with a Merry Christmas to all.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

The truth of the saying, "It is better to give than to receive," is appreciated in all its significance, by every generous soul at this gift-giving season. Almost everybody loves to give, but few know how to do so advantageously, so as to enhance the pleasure accompanying their gift to its utmost capacity.

The character of gifts is as varied as are the sentiments which inspire them. There is the gift of benevolence, that of munificence, and that of its bastard brother, ostentation; the gift of mere kindness, that of friendship, and the tender token of love. Besides these, there is the offering of gratitude, which recognizes benefits received, and the base donation of self-interest, which is intended to elicit a reciprocation of ten-fold value. Lastly, there is the duty gift, a sort of tribute; grudgingly given, and unthankfully received.

The very essence of a true gift, that which imparts to it its sole value, is the good will it expresses, for, as Ophelia

plaintively says in returning to Hamlet his love tokens—

"To the noble mind, Rich gifts were poor, when given prove unkind."

Not that any gift can adequately express this inspiring good will; because to friendship or even to benevolence any benefit seems small compared with the feeling from which it springs. Without this inspiration no gift has any value except its market value, appraised only by a beggarly spirit.

The magnanimous soul revels in giving, has a veritable talent for it, selects, as it were by inspiration, the very object which will give most pleasure to the recipient, whether that be something useful, something ornamental, or a mere gratification of the fancy. The selection of a gift is, indeed, almost as important as the spirit in which it is given. To send a gilt-edged Bible to a starving family, or a choice painting to a blind man, would be a sad mockery. In fact, where want exists it does away with all difficulty in the selection of gifts, the needful being the only thing in place. Otherwise, a gift should be something to gratify the taste—"a thing of beauty is a joy forever." Women generally display their good will by gifts, in which their personality has some share. Little articles of fancy, the work of their hands, testify more than the most expensive objects bought ready manufactured from the shops, the kindness of their sentiments. A something of themselves goes with the gift. Books are always acceptable when selected with reference to the taste of the recipient. Trinkets, too, that have peculiar appropriateness may be properly given by the gentler sex. Of course, as rule, the gifts of men can not represent their lives and talent as those of women can, though if a man possesses the skill to make anything suitable for a gift, such a present would be treasured far beyond its intrinsic value. Dosses cultivated by the hand of love, to a woman of sentiment, would far outvalue purchased gems offered by the same hand.

But, after all, the gift counts for less than the giver. Love, the genius and god of gifts, must not be prescribed. In the language of Emerson, "let him give kingdoms or flower leaves indifferently. There are persons from whom we expect fairy tokens; let us not cease to expect them. This is prerogative, and not to be limited by our municipal rules."

If the spirit and manner of giving be a test of magnanimity, that of receiving gifts is no less so. There are persons who know not how to accept a present properly. They are too glad or sorry; either take it with vernal delight, as regarding rather its value than the sentiment that inspired it, or as a tribute for which no thanks are due; or, worse still, receive it ungraciously as an invasion of their independence. It is only the noble soul which knows how either to give or receive.

AN IMPORTANT REPORT.

The committee of nine citizens, appointed by the Superior District Court a few months ago, to overhaul the State indebtedness, has made a very important report, which we publish in full in another column. Eight members of the committee, to-wit: Messrs. Greenwood, Robert Watson, B. F. Joubert, Benjamin F. Flanders, H. Peralta, John R. Clay, Louis Schneider and John A. Stevenson sign the report, thus signifying their approval of the recommendations therein contained.

The propositions submitted respecting the State debt and the proper way to dispose of that chronic cause of complaint will strike the reader at first sight as a little startling; but we are of the opinion that some plan of the kind will have to be adopted this winter to relieve the taxpayers from the heavy burdens that now oppress them. We are called upon to pay more than three millions a year for taxes. This amount is raised upon property assessed at two hundred and fifty millions, besides other demands for current State, municipal and parochial expenses, which must be met. There have been heavy drafts drawn upon posterity by the dwellers in the older days, and posterity is looking around to see what chance there is for an accommodation. We can not pass it down to our successors in its present shape because the interest is too heavy for us to bear. We find it necessary to throw overboard a part of the load to save the ship. We shall examine the recommendations of the committee at an early day, and suggest a plan by which we hope to afford some measure of relief to our sadly burdened taxpayers.

HOME AGAIN.

By yesterday's early morning train our distinguished Senator elect, Governor P. B. S. Pinchback, arrived home, and throughout the day, at the State House, or wherever else he visited, he was the recipient of the most cordial welcomes. The Senator is enjoying excellent health, and is perfectly satisfied with the condition of affairs at Washington. The recognition of his rights was delayed solely by the all-important financial questions which the country demands speedy action upon; but this very delay has served to develop highly gratifying manifestations of friendship from unexpected quarters which otherwise might not have been given. Senator Pinchback is justly proud that the President takes a warm interest in his success, and makes no concealment thereof. We tender our representative the compliments of the season.

It is positively refreshing to read in the *Pionyeer* an implied approval of an act of Judge Durrell in issuing an order in chambers. None of the usual accompaniments of allusions to midnight secrecy, star chamber, etc., appear in the reference. This is a most hopeful change in a certain direction which almost prompts us to look for a reconsideration of hasty and unjust judgment pronounced against the same jurist for such an order last year. We hope the learned judge will pay as little attention to his flatterers and be specially mindful of the political axiom that "Whenever your enemies praise you look out for a job."

STAND FROM UNDER.

A contemporary threatens to "ventilate the histories of some of the members" of the school board unless certain teachers who have been dismissed without cause are reinstated at once. Of course we know nothing of the merits of such a controversy, as we are not aware of any dismissals of teachers without cause, good or bad. The school board is the sole judge of the qualifications of teachers. The members have been selected to perform this duty, and they are very properly given a large discretion. But we recognize in this threat of a city paper to expose certain members of the school board in case they do not instantly discharge their duties in accordance with the notion of some gentleman not on the board, a spirit which has often manifested itself on previous occasions. If our contemporary is in possession of facts derogatory to the character of any members of the board of directors, he should lose no time in making the exposure, without regard to their taking the back track on a matter of mere personal interest. If there are members on the board who can be influenced in the discharge of their duties by a threatened attack on their character, they should be removed at once or resign. The members who have reputations to protect probably know how to protect them and still be able to sustain an independent attitude.

DIED.

ALYSIU—On Wednesday, December 24, 1873, at 9 A. M., JULIUS ALYSIU, a native of Germany.

The friends of the deceased and those of Mrs. and Mr. Alex. Marks, and Mrs. and Mr. B. Brice, are invited to attend his funeral on Thursday, twenty-fifth instant, at 8 A. M., from his late residence No. 175 Annunciation street.

CHRISTMAS NOTICE.

The drawing for the BUGGY donated to Mrs. FRY and children, will take place in front of the Academy of Music on CHRISTMAS MORNING, at ten o'clock. Messrs. Bidwell and Kittredge will superintend the drawing, and little BABY BENSON will draw the number out for the prize.

D. M. HOLLINGSWORTH.

HOLIDAYS, HOLIDAYS.

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A large stock of the finest French Bonbons, Candies, Preserved Fruits, such as Apricots, Cherris, Gooseberries, Peas, etc., and Chocolate from the famous manufactory of Societe Coloniale, Paris. de21 6t 2p.

PROCLAMATION.

FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS REWARD.

STATE OF LOUISIANA, Executive Department, New Orleans, December 11, 1873.

Whereas it is often charged that persons connected with the police department of the government are guilty of complicity with street gamblers and those who practice the so-called "bunko game" and other swindling games, whereby strangers and other unsuspecting parties are cheated and robbed; I hereby offer a reward of FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS for any evidence that will lead to the conviction of any person or persons connected with the police department guilty of complicity as aforesaid.

Given under my hand, and the seal of State at New Orleans, this eleventh day of December, A. D. 1873, and of the independence of the United States the ninety-eighth.

WILLIAM P. KELLOGG, Governor.

By the Governor: P. G. DESLONDE, Secretary of State, de21 6t 2p.

TO TAXPAYERS.

I am now prepared to offer an inducement, in the shape of a VERY LIBERAL DISCOUNT, to payers of city taxes of all past years.

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