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CONDITION OF MEXICO.

The Mexican and Vera Cruz Railroad—American and English Systems—The Mail Contracts.

The *Trait d'Union* of the fifteenth of December gives interesting details of proceedings in the Mexican Congress. The pressure of business has been so great that, contrary to expectation, an extra session had been voted, the government members unexpectedly siding with the opposition. The session ought to have closed on the fifteenth of this month, but now it was to be kept open until the fifteenth of January. Among the matters on hand the railroad from Mexico to Vera Cruz occupies a prominent place. There is, besides, a proposal for re-establishing order in the State of Coahuila, the international and interoceanic railroad projects, internal improvements, and lastly, a new electoral law.

It was proposed to make these questions special orders to take precedence of all other business, but this was voted down, especially as there were other topics not included in this list and which were held to be of equal importance. The paramount topic has, however, proved to be the freight tariff for the Vera Cruz and Mexico railroad. This subject is one of vital importance to both native and foreigner, and has led to the liveliest debate and to something very nearly approaching offense and quarrel.

On the fifteenth of March last a contract was executed between the minister of public works and the company. This was duly submitted for legislative action, sent to committee, and received a favorable report. The committee report came up for consideration and adoption. The government is, of course, in favor of the contract, and desires to see it ratified, but the opposition is very powerful, and includes many of the members who have usually been found in the government ranks. The opposition adduce the example of the United States as a cogent illustration of freight tariffs pressing unfairly on the agricultural interest. They insist on more liberal arrangements which will, in their opinion, favor the traffic. On the other hand the company, backed by the government, insist on the contract pure and simple, and refuse to submit to demands that may seriously compromise their future profits. It is a question of material interests in opposition which ought to be in unison. The railroad company has every reason to desire the farmers' prosperity and easy transit for agricultural products, if they desire to have heavy freights and a successful traffic business; the people, on their side, can not but look anxiously to the success of this very important line, for any disaster or mismanagement must lead to prejudices and unfavorable opinions; in this sense the end in view is common, and it is a pity that differences should have arisen as to the mode by which it can be obtained.

Party feeling ran high, and the opposition at last called for the terms and conditions of the original concession. A resolution was passed for instant inquiry into the moneys paid or due on the work without taking into account the capital of the enterprise. They also required a statement of the shares issued and their nominal value, with a similar statement of the nominal value and real product of the bonds issued. These accounts, when rendered, would show at a glance the sacrifice made by the country to carry out the work; but the fear is that despite the earnest wish of the government this contract of the fifteenth of March runs a risk of not being ratified.

The *Trait d'Union* argues that this debate and its uncertain issues must serve as a lesson to government in relation to the great railroad lines now competing for public support. To insure low freights there should be moderate cost of construction and economical working expenses. The English and the American systems are before them. The one dear, the other relatively cheap. The intervention of a third company, "the Mexican limited," is illusory; this, if successful, must be supported by English or German capital—probably the only object of this third company is to prevent the success of the North American enterprise.

The concession for a mail service between Vera Cruz and New Orleans, held by R. C. Ritter & Co. should have gone into operation in the month of November. The contractors, however, had asked for an extension on the ground of the financial crisis, and had offered to pay the penalty, $8000. Their proposal had been accepted and the extension granted, so that the service would not be inaugurated until May, 1874. At the same time Messrs. Ritter & Co. obtained an extension for four years of the mail contract between New York and Vera Cruz by way of Havana. The steamship line between Vera Cruz and Havana direct would probably commence work on the fifteenth of January, next.

The Railroad Question.

The Washington correspondent of the Louisville *Courier-Journal* says:

The troubles that have been incident to the strike along the great railroad lines in the West have drawn attention anew to the question of the authority of Congress over railroads. At the last Republican convention in Massachusetts, among the resolutions adopted was one affirming that the federal government had authority over railroad and other modes of transportation, and demanding on the part of the Republicans of Massachusetts that such authority should be exercised. Under this resolution the Massachusetts delegation may vote for some measure to give government such control. Mr. G. T. Hoar, who is a member of the Committee on Railways and Canals, is avowedly in favor of federal control. Among other members of that committee are Messrs. McCreary, of Iowa, and Hurlbut, of Illinois, who are known to be favorable to the Grangers' movement; and it is, therefore, not unlikely that a strong bill will soon be reported, which bill will open up the whole question for discussion. In conversation with New England members outside of Massachusetts a division of sentiment is found, and so with members from the Middle States. Among the Western States there is greater unanimity on the subject. Some members go so far even as to contend that, while the general government could not pass a law that would prevent strikes, they can enact such a law as would punish any persons who would use force and violence to prevent others from working, or who should in any manner impede the progress of railroad trains. The question of the right of the general government to regulate freights and transportation does not (it is asserted) necessarily involve the question of the right to construct roads through the States, but there are not a few Congressmen who think the two questions should be combined in any discussion of the proposition.

[For the Sunday Republican.]

ROMANCE OF POLITICS IN THE BACKWOODS

Life in North Louisiana Since the War

BY W. JASPER BLACKBURN, EDITOR OF THE HOMER ILIAD.

2.—Temper of the People at the Close of the War—Stealing of Cotton and Robbing of Citizens—An Editor to be Hanged—Murder and Assassination of Freedmen.

At the close of the war North Louisiana was badly scared, but not much hurt. The iron tread of war had never, in a local sense, blighted her soil. She was not in a condition to exercise or appreciate that pure, safe and unselfish friendship which always, among honorable parties, follows a sound thrashing in a fair and honorable fight. She had not had her manhood tested at the mouth of the cannon, the edge of the sword or the point of the bayonet. Her people, in the main, had only snuffed the battle-breeze from afar, had only read of carnage in the safe distance, which lends an enchantment rather than a terror.

But North Louisiana was scared at the close of the war, and her people were therefore the more agreeably surprised when they learned that they were permitted to live on any terms; and they were indeed very much rejoiced when they found that they were not to be hurt at all.

But alas for human ingratitude! This information is what at once commenced to demoralize many, and put bad instead of good and generous notions into their heads. Had the government which had conquered rebellion only been a little more exacting in behalf of its friends and against its enemies, it would have freed the country of many a folly and many a foolish notion—would have saved many a noble life, and prevented the shedding of much innocent and generous blood.

The people of North Louisiana, though they had not been in a comparative sense with other sections at all hurt by the war, had nevertheless lost something in a pecuniary sense—had lost their slaves—and with their slaves, had also lost their pride and self-respect. They had thus been in one sense—though a low sense to themselves—humbled and consequently maddened; maddened to desperation in the absence of danger.

These were the former slaveholders; but there were others who felt aggrieved at the result of the war—who felt that their occupation was gone. These were the slave drivers; those who for a stipulated price had lashed the bleeding slave to his daily and nightly task, and made the trembling virgin, often as white as they and a thousand times more pure, know her place in the shambles. Men of this class were also maddened, and, in the absence of danger, commenced to work evil in the land.

But by no means were all the slave holders and slave drivers of this sort. Some of each were of a better type and of better character. All such are known now, and are admired and appreciated over the more vicious; for the times have revealed the good as well as made known more prominently the evil. I wish only to suggest, in passing along, that men who, perchance through necessity, have occupied evil and demoralizing positions in society, should not bear the fact in remembrance to glorify, but rather to lament. It is simply foreign to my purpose now, and shall be on every occasion, to remember with hatred those who may have in the past owned slaves or overseen slaves—this mere fact of itself shall be no cause or reason of castigation at my hands; but I can not refrain from recording the fact, at least incidentally, on all proper occasions, that the barbaric spirit engendered by the "civilization of slavery"—its debasing and brutalizing influence upon the white element—has been the main cause, the root and branch of woes innumerable in our land; of acts and scenes that are sickening to contemplate; and this has been no less the case in North Louisiana since the war than in other like localities of equal scope and range.

But there were those in the land of North Louisiana who were not maddened with the result of the war at its close, but were gladdened, and that gladness was of a like character with that which shall attend the redeemed of the Lord when they return unto Zion with everlasting joy upon their heads—the joy of gladness and the gladness of joy—when sorrow and sighing shall flee away and there shall be no more pain. To these, political and social salvation had come. From some, the bondage of a most unreasonable and murderous "public opinion" had been shaken off and turned away, while from the weary and bleeding limbs of a far greater number the galling chains of slavery had been stricken forever! But, strange as it may seem, no loud songs of public thanksgiving and defiance went up; no menaces, no extraordinary shouts of exultant victory were heard; but the modest meekness of closet devotion was indulged to the God of Justice who brought the victory, while the kindest tokens of civility and personal respect, and even sympathy, were exercised toward those who had failed in the effort to perpetuate slavery in the name of liberty—who played for a slave oligarchy and had lost, and, in the inglorious and yet glorious failure, had cemented unawares the American Union of liberty forever.

Such were the feelings and such the conduct of the white loyalists and liberated slaves of North Louisiana at the close of the war, and therefore is it so much the more damnable that they should have fared as they have since that time.

But war demoralizes all things, and maddens the human soul and corrupts the human heart above measure—it is to be feared, in some cases, beyond redemption.

The first palpable indication of this maddened and corrupted condition among the people of North Louisiana after the close of war exhibited itself in the stealing of "government cotton," the robbing of citizens, and the murder and assassination of the liberated slave. Nor was this confined alone to the wandering and reckless Confederate soldiers. Some of the leading Christian gentlemen of the country went openly into the cotton stealing business—that is, they got themselves appointed as agents to collect the "government cotton," and under this license robbed their old friends and neighbors with a deliberation and determination, and cold-heartedness, that would have been amusing, had it not been so lamentable to Christian civilization. And some of the "chivalry" who had pretended to be influenced by principle in the warfare against the Union—and who pretended to be brave—turned to robbing, or attempting to rob, the few men in the country who chanced to be suspected of having a little "good money" left on hand—and especially the "Union men"—with an eagerness and earnestness which proved that they were frauds upon manhood, and cheats upon humanity; and some of them turned to assassinating and murdering innocent and inoffensive and unresisting freedmen, in a manner which proved that they were also cowards and murderers by nature and of choice, and only required a favorable occasion to put into practice their hellish natures.

But perhaps more excoriation than condemnation should be indulged in these premises; for the great and transcendently brilliant poet and philosopher, Shelley, has well remarked, that whatever may be said of the abstract principles of the justifiableness of war, it can not be denied that the common soldier is a mere machine, put forward and driven by superiors to kill and slay those to whom he owes no animosity or ill will. Therefore war, in all its phases, can not fail to demoralize and brutalize the human heart.

Homer, in Claiborne parish, is the most pleasant little village in all North Louisiana. It is located in a healthy and pleasant country. Its society is first class for what might be termed a backwoods community. They have churches and school houses in that locality—had them long before the war, all through the war, and have them still. The general tone and temper of the people may be classed far above and in every way superior to that of the adjacent localities generally. The town is symmetrical and picturesque, and the forest scenery, both in the town and the immediate neighborhood, romantic and poetical at all seasons of the year, but more especially in the month of May, which is the most beautiful and pleasant month known to the sunny South.

The entire community of Claiborne parish was strongly tinctured with "Unionism" at the commencement of the war, and wholesomely imbued with that patriotic feeling throughout the war. The Homer *Iliad* was kept up and maintained as a Union paper throughout. The editor was menaced from time to time and threatened with extermination, but his personal friendships and the general good temper of the community saved him.

At the time General Lee surrendered, General Marmaduke's command was at Homer, in charge of General Green—General Marmaduke himself being a prisoner of war. When President Lincoln was assassinated, the Homer *Iliad* was indiscreet and candid enough to denounce the act in the most bitter terms. This of course greatly incensed the Confederate troops. They contended that Quantrell, one of their chosen and celebrated guerrilla chiefs, was the man who had assassinated Lincoln, and declared that the editor of the *Iliad* "must look up a limb."

This looked squally. The editor of the *Iliad* had "many a time and oft" looked up a limb when listening to the hum of bees and the song of birds in his beautiful native forests of Arkansas, in the spring time and innocence of his gushing and joyful youth; but to look up a limb with rope around his neck, he imagined would not be a very pleasant view; the only consolation being that it would hardly last long.

But he did not look up a limb on that occasion. General Green was a gentleman, and came to the rescue of the poor, reckless and outspoken Union editor. He interceded and saved the editor's life; and the wild and blood thirsty troops were soon marched to Shreveport and disbanded forever.

But the editor of the Homer *Iliad* found many other friends in that command besides General Green—among them a generous and most talented nephew of General M. Jeff Thompson. He was wild then, but had a heart and a soul, and I believe is now preaching the gospel of Christ near Baltimore. May he live long and prosper, and be the means of saving many souls from the wrath to come.

The first assassination in North Louisiana after the close of the war, that I now recall to mind, occurred in the town of Homer. I regret to state it, because that beautiful town is really entitled to a better record than this would indicate. It is not a town of assassins nor of assassination, by any means. But a poor innocent negro was assassinated there soon after the close of the war in the most unprovoked and cold-blooded manner. The negro had chanced to become acquainted with some facts connected with the stealing of some cotton, which implicated certain itinerant parties then in and about Homer. So he had to be murdered, and was murdered—basely assassinated. Two men called at his house and called him out to the gate in a seemingly friendly manner, and in the presence of his family deliberately shot his brains out. They rode away, and were never molested.

The next thing of this sort that is now recollected occurred near the same pleasant and beautiful village. A negro woman—quite a young woman—and her husband or brother, I do not now remember which, were arrested in the country under the charge of stealing some clothing from a white woman, and brought to town for trial. There was not yet much civil rule in that locality, and no military force in Homer. General Foley was in command of some federal troops at Minden, twenty miles distant, and so it was concluded to send these negroes to him for trial or some disposition. A lingering Missouri Confederate soldier volunteered to take charge of them and delivered them to the federal commander, as he said he was going to Minden anyway. He took charge of them and took them about a mile from Homer, into a little cove or glen, surrounded by a dense forest of oaks and pines—it was a retreat something like those in which the early Christian martyrs of Scotland took refuge from their persecutors—and there in deliberate fiendishness shot them both through the head and left them lying to be devoured by the hogs and buzzards. Their skeletons were finally recovered, but the assassin never was—was never molested.

The romance of politics in the backwoods is made up of such scenes and transactions, many of which are but too well known to those who have spent life in North Louisiana since the war; and many of which if permitted I may continue to relate in print.

George Eliot, the lady novelist, one of the keenest observers of men and things, makes note of one essential difference between workmen who take pride in their trade and those who are indifferent, and expresses her thoughts through one of the characters of Adam Bede:

"I can't abide to see men throw away their tools i' that way the minute the clock begins to strike, as if they took no pleasure i' their work, and was afraid of doin' a stroke too much. I hate to see a man's arms drop down as if he was shot before the clock's fairly struck, as if he'd never a bit of pride or delight in 's work. The very grindstone 'll go on turning a bit after you loose it."

Some one has defined polite society as being a place where manners pass for too much, and morals for too little.

Quarantine Without Obstruction to Commerce.

The following paper, prepared by Dr. Alfred W. Perry, of New Orleans, was read before the American Health Association at its recent session in New York:

The desire to exclude epidemic disease seems to be universal among all civilized and half-civilized people, but unfortunately the means used have not been adopted on scientific foundation, and have proved so burdensome to commerce, and at the same time so inefficient in their results in excluding disease, that they have been time and again adopted and abandoned. Quarantine has been enforced and abandoned already two or three times at New York, Philadelphia and New Orleans. These vacillations have depended on the changing theory of the spread and development of epidemic diseases, and ideas of business expediency. A large number of diseases have been supposed to be caused by germs diffused in the air, or upon some so-called epidemic constitution of the air, or to be spontaneously generated. The modern investigation and observation of diseases which have become epidemic has continually diminished the number of those diseases which were supposed to spread by atmospheric diffusion over long distances, or which are caused by some peculiar diffusion of the air, and has rendered it almost certain all epidemic diseases spread only by solid disease germs which must be carried from place to place by human intercourse. Not long ago it was the general opinion that cholera poison was in the air, and it followed, of course, that a quarantine against the disease was perfectly useless. It is almost needless to say that this idea in regard to cholera has been thoroughly disproved; the conclusions of the cholera congress, held at Constantinople, were that cholera depends on a solid living germ, and that it is invariably propagated by human intercourse. The theory has been advanced in regard to yellow fever that it depended on some contamination of the air. This, of course, soon met with the objection that yellow fever does not appear suddenly to spread all over a city, which it should do if the poison was in the air, because each individual is exposed at the same time to the same influence. But it commences in one locality and spreads gradually, though sometimes irregularly, through a whole city.

These obstinate facts required a modification of the general air contamination theory. The idea was then advanced that the air which was poisoned by yellow fever formed an upper layer in the atmosphere, and when thrown into waves the lowest point of the wave touched the earth, and produced yellow fever where it struck. The steady progress of the disease from a focus, which has frequently been accurately measured in feet per day, and the successive sickening of persons visiting or working in an infected locality have pretty well broken up, in the medical profession, these theories.

These theories are the common resorts of persons who are too lazy to trace the slow personal communication of disease. The solid germs in the case of yellow fever have not indeed been demonstrated, but the close analogy between yellow fever, small-pox, measles and scarlet fever, renders it beyond a doubt true that they do exist. The germ theory applied to yellow fever is the only one that will fully explain and make agree the hitherto apparently contradictory facts which have been observed in regard to the disease. The spontaneous generation of yellow fever in New Orleans has been deduced from the frequent cases in which it has occurred, in which there seemed to be no possibility of its importation; these have been too numerous to be denied, but they have been evaded by the invention of paludal or malarial yellow fever, to which all indigenous cases are said to belong. The yellow fever germ may be compared to the cotton worm egg. The cotton worm was unknown in this country thirty-five years ago, and must have been imported from some foreign country, as many other insects destructive to vegetation are known to have been. The severity of our weather in winter destroys all but a very few; perhaps not more than one out of a hundred millions survives until the next season—those which are hid away in warm, sheltered places. These increase during the first warm, moist weather, requiring weeks or months before they have become numerous enough even to be noticed. The importation of the eggs of the cotton worm in May or June would cause earlier increase, and therefore greater ravages.

The yellow fever germ is an exceedingly tender organism of foreign origin, not developing below 70° Fahrenheit, and killed by a temperature of 32°. Out of millions of disease germs which exist at the close of an epidemic, only a few survive some of our winters, and give rise to the cases of domestic, or indigenous yellow fever, the next season. In some winters all the disease germs are destroyed, and there are no domestic cases of yellow fever the next summer, or perhaps for several summers, until the germs are again imported. If some germs remain over from a previous summer, then the fever should occupy about the same neighborhoods for several successive years, which it has actually done in the Fourth District of this city (New Orleans) for the past three years. The fact of the indigenous growth of yellow fever does not prevent the importation, or render useless a quarantine. The foreign yellow fever must be kept out, and the domestic destroyed or delayed by disinfection. It has been found by past experience that yellow fever does not develop into an epidemic here in less than fifty to sixty days. Indigenous cases rarely occur before August 1, and this is so late that an epidemic can not follow. No epidemic has ever followed in this city when the first case has been as late as August 1. Most, if not all of our epidemics of yellow fever have resulted from the importation of foreign yellow fever in May or June. If quarantine does nothing more than to prevent the importation of the foreign disease, it is worth far more than its actual cost to the State. The demonstration that disease germs are solid bodies makes it logically possible to exclude foreign epidemic disease by absolute non-intercourse, or by destroying the disease germs in transit. The first is not to be entertained for a moment, and the second has hitherto signally failed. Both cholera and yellow fever have been imported scores of times in New York, Philadelphia and New Orleans, through a so-called strict quarantine. All these failures have occurred because the quarantine was not based on sound principles.

The following are instances in which yellow fever has been brought through a strict quarantine:

1871—To New York, by steamship Cleopatra.

1859—To New Orleans, by brig Elizabeth Ellen.

July, 1862—To New Orleans, from Key West.

September, 1862—New Orleans, from Nassau.

1871—To New Orleans, by brig Mary Pratt, from Cuba.

1873—To New Orleans, by bark Valparaiso, from Cuba.

1873—To Pensacola, by ship Golden Dream, from Cuba. Kept twenty-one days at quarantine.

1870—To New Orleans, by steamship Agnes, from Honduras.

The principle has been that vessels infected with any disease would be spontaneously purified by remaining a time varying from ten to forty days at detention. No doubt that most infections lose vitality after a time, but to depend upon time as a purifier we should take the longest time that any disease has been known to remain latent on a vessel as a basis. Many vessels have been known to carry yellow fever poison across the Atlantic to France, England and Spain during voyages of from forty to fifty days.

The following facts show a number of instances in which the yellow fever germ has preserved its vitality during a time of forty days or more:

Brig Alderman Pirree brought yellow fever germs from Cuba to Swansea, Wales, after a passage of forty days, in July, 1813.

Brig Henrietta brought yellow fever to Swansea, Wales, from Cuba, after a voyage of forty-five days, in August, 1851.

Brig Aime Marie brought yellow fever from Cuba to St. Nazaire, France, after a voyage of forty-two days, in June, 1861.

Brig Mangosteen brought yellow fever from Cuba to Swansea, Wales, in 1864, after a voyage of forty days.

In the above cases no persons were sick on board of the vessels when they arrived, but yellow fever, immediately after the vessels arrived, attacked persons who visited or were employed in discharging these vessels.

The vessels should then be detained longer than fifty days which arrive from yellow fever infected ports, to be secure, if we depend on simple detention.

I think that time as an element in quarantine is the least to be depended on, the most oppressive to commerce, the most costly, and at the same time the least effective. There is at most quarantines a nominal disinfection of infected ships. This consists in pouring into the bilge water a few pounds of chloride of lime or carbolic acid, and sometimes, though rarely, opening the hatches and putting small quantities of disinfectants on the cargo immediately underneath. The disease germs may occupy any part of the the vessel or cargo, and to be effective the disinfectant should reach every part of the vessel, every crevice in the cargo. This can only be done in a cheap, quick, and thorough manner by the use of gaseous or volatile disinfectants applied by a special apparatus which I will describe. This method will perfectly destroy all disease germs, and can be performed in four to six hours, and will detain infected vessels less than one day.

The apparatus consists of one or more force-blowing machines, put in motion by steam power, which are connected with a furnace for generating sulphurous acid gas, with an apparatus for impregnating air with carbolic acid vapor, and with a furnace for producing heated air. By the action of the blowing machines, air, which has been charged with one of these disinfectants, is forced through flexible pipes into every compartment of the vessel to be disinfected, until it is filled with a saturated atmosphere. All the apparatus is to be placed on a small steam tug, which will be moored alongside of the vessel to be disinfected. The air forced into the hold is diffused everywhere, and penetrates every crack and crevice by virtue of its elasticity and diffusiveness. This diffusive power of gases is shown by an experiment of Berthelot, performed at the Paris Observatory. He took two glass globes, provided with stop cocks, and filled one with carbonic acid gas, and the other with hydrogen gas: he then connected them by the stop-cocks, and opened the stop-cocks so that the two globes communicated with each other by an opening one-eighth of an inch in diameter. The globes were placed so that the one containing the light hydrogen was on top, and the globe containing the heavy carbonic acid gas underneath; now, as carbonic acid is twenty-two times heavier than hydrogen, if the gases obeyed the usual law of gravitation, the carbonic acid should remain in the lower globe and the hydrogen in the upper; but this was not so; for, after a few hours rest Berthelot examined the contents of the globes and found that they consisted of a uniform mixture of the two gases; that is, one-half of the heavy carbonic acid had risen to the upper globe, and one-half of the light hydrogen had fallen to the lower globe.

Most iron steam vessels are provided with a system of pipes which lead from the engine room to every part of the vessel, and which are intended to distribute steam in case of a fire among the cargo. Through these pipes any goseous disinfectant can be distributed by connecting with the pipes of the disinfecting vessel. In disinfecting sailing vessels small holes (about three inches in diameter) can be made in the sides. The disinfecting gas must vary with the cargo and with the disease. For disinfecting clothes, heated air of the temperature of 212° Fahrenheit should be used. For disinfecting the hold of a sugar or coffee laden vessel, sulphurous acid should be used.

This method of disinfection, although originally designed for yellow fever, is equally applicable to cholera, small-pox, or typhus fever, or any communicable disease. The cost of the apparatus would not exceed $3000 or $4000. It could be placed either on a wharf, to which vessels to be disinfected could be towed, or it could be placed on a small steamboat. The cost of disinfecting materials for a vessel would vary from five to ten dollars.

This cost is trifling compared with the cost of detention to vessels, as will be seen by the accompanying table, which gives the direct cost of detention to vessels at the New Orleans quarantine. The indirect losses to commerce by the restrictions of quarantine, which drive trade to other ports, are incalculable. During the quarantine season at New Orleans, from June 15 to October 15, there arrived from ports against which quarantine was declared sixty-four vessels.

Number of steamers arrived from quarantine ports	19
Number of steamers detained at quarantine station	15
Number of steamers not detained	4
Average detention of steamships days	5
Number of sailing vessels detained at quarantine	28
Number of sailing vessels not detained at quarantine	16
Average detention of sailing vessels, days	4
Cost of the detention to fifteen steamships, estimated at their daily average gross earnings, less the cost of fuel	$26,134
Interest on the value of cargoes of these steamers during detention	1,200
Cost of the detention to twenty-eight sailing vessels	10,352
Interest on their cargoes	304
Total	$38,990

Frauds Committed in New Orleans in November, 1872.

B. P. Blanchard, who was the Fusion State Registrar of Voters in 1872, states under oath the following facts, showing the frauds committed in the First District:

That in furtherance of this scheme he caused a careful compilation to be made of the lists of deceased male persons over twenty-one years of age who had died since the close of the registration in 1870, which lists were required by law to be furnished to him by the sextons of the various cemeteries in the parish of Orleans, and that said lists, so compiled were carefully collated with the registration books and the registry number and the election precinct in which the deceased was registered were noted. That instead of carrying out to the full letter the provisions of section seven of the registration law above referred to he caused to be erased from the lists of registered voters only the names of such deceased electors as were well known in the community, and in cases where the deceased was an obscure personage (a large majority of the whole number being composed of such) he caused to be made out a duplicate registration certificate in his name, the same to be retained and used at the general election as hereinafter set forth. That for this purpose he caused to be printed fac-similes of the blank forms of duplicate registration certificates used in 1870, which were in a different style of type from those intended to be used in 1872, in order to have them filled up with the names of deceased electors as above stated. That the number of duplicate certificates, so filled up for the purpose aforesaid was as follows, more or less: For the first ward, 76; second ward, 85; third ward, 243—making 404 fraudulent votes.

P. B. Blanchard testifies that he instructed the assistant supervisors of registration for the parish of Orleans that in all cases where persons who had been registered in 1870 in other wards than those in which they resided in 1872, and who should apply for registration on account of change of residence, to require such persons to surrender the certificates of registration of 1870 to them (the assistant supervisors), to be by them returned to the office of deponent, State registrar of voters, ostensibly for the purpose of cancellation and erasure on the books, but in reality to be preserved and voted on at the ensuing general election, in the manner hereinafter set forth, and that this course was pursued and persisted in notwithstanding the formal protest of the United States supervisors of election.

The certificates of registration so returned deponent caused to be examined and sorted out in his office and such as were not marked or checked in any way by the United States supervisors of elections were preserved to be voted upon in the wards from which they were originally issued, and only such were returned to the ward officers for cancellation and erasure as were deemed unfit or unsafe for use by repeating voters. The number so cancelled was to the following extent only: First precinct 80, second precinct 43, third precinct 101, making 224 fraudulent votes used by the reissue to the Fusionists of registration papers of 1870 and voted by them for the Fusion party.

Deponent further says that he also instructed assistant supervisors of registration in the parish of Orleans, that whenever they found upon the registry of 1870 names of persons making their marks (X) and supposed to be negroes, and not known personally to them, to procure two persons, registered voters in their respective wards, to prepare a list of such names, and make an affidavit that they "had reason to believe and did believe" that the persons named therein were not the persons in the ward on the tenth day preceding the election, and the assistant supervisors were directed to erase from the lists of voters all names put down in such affidavits, and this was done, although the law made it the duty of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners to cause a canvass of the city of New Orleans, and prescribed that the names of such persons as should be reported by them as "not found" only should be stricken from the registry list, and resulted in the erasure from the books of the following number of names, supposed to be all colored men, namely: First ward 182, second ward 36, third ward 289; making 498 votes of colored men and Republicans fraudulently erased from the registration.

And Walter Sully Long who was chief clerk to B. P. Blanchard, then holding the office of State registrar of voters for the State of Louisiana. In that capacity he was in the fullest confidence of his chief, and was aware of all and every transaction of a political nature in the office during the campaign of 1872.

The necessity of carrying the election for the Fusion party was frequently a matter of discussion between Blanchard, himself and others, and a plan of operations was finally adopted at his suggestion and carried out as follows:

I. The sexton's monthly returns of burials of persons over the age of twenty-one years were carefully compiled by wards, the registration number ascertained and noted, and a list made of them.

II. A thorough examination was made of the registry books of 1870, in order to ascertain the number of names of fictitious persons registered in that year. In every ward where the persons having control of these false registry papers were acting with the Fusion party, these names were used, but in wards where the supervisors of 1870 were not acting in harmony with the Fusion party, particular care was taken to prevent their using the fraudulent papers, and to detect any attempt at so doing.

III. A system was established requiring all persons who had been registered as voters in 1870, and who had subsequently removed, to deliver up their papers of that year before receiving certificates of registration in 1872. These were sent to the office of the State registrar of voters every week, and were carefully sorted out by myself and others, and all that showed no evidence of having been examined by the United States supervisors of election were set aside to be used by repeaters on election day.

IV. During the ten days preceding the election a list was made out by me of the registry numbers and names of the dead, removed and fictitious persons before described and given to each assistant supervisor of registration for the city wards.

Two or more persons in each ward, who were to serve as commissioners of election, were set to work making lists of those names upon sheets of paper similar to that designed to be used on the day of election in keeping the written list of voters required by law at each polling place.

V. The poll lists were printed, containing the entire registration of both 1870 and 1872. No erasures were made until the Saturday and Sunday preceding the election, when the names that could not be made available for the Fusion cause were crossed off in black pencil on the lists for certain polls in each ward and in number to correspond with the written lists of names before alluded to.

These preliminaries having been completed, it was a mere question of manual dexterity on the part of the commissioners of election to get within the box a number of ballots to correspond with the names crossed off in black from the printed lists and written in advance upon the tally lists.

The estimate of the number of votes required to carry the election was as follows: For the first ward, 500; second ward, 500; third ward, 1000.

VI. The number of fraudulent votes actually counted, and which can be proved by my own testimony and that of other persons concerned, is—

In the first ward	261
In the second ward	243
In the third ward	703
Total	1207

Beyond this the papers given to repeaters were about 2000. I can not at present remember the exact number, but I think that 1400 were given out to be used in the First, Fourth and Sixth Municipal Districts, and 600 to be used in the Second and Third Districts.

Making a total of 2453 fraudulent votes cast in the First District.

Red (all wool) Shaker flannel undershirts and drawers for $1 50, at Garthwaite, Lewis & Miller's, No. 100 Common street.

SHERIFF'S SALES.

State of Louisiana vs. D. B. Penn.

SUPERIOR DISTRICT COURT FOR THE PARISH of Orleans, No. 4250.—By virtue of a writ of fieri facias to me directed by the honorable the Superior District Court for the parish of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, for State taxes for the year 1871, I will proceed to sell at public auction, at the Merchants and Auctioneers' Exchange, Royal street, between Canal and Customhouse streets, in the Second District of this city, on MONDAY, January 5, 1874, at twelve o'clock M., the following described property, to wit—

ONE LOT OF GROUND, in the First District of this city, in square number one hundred and eighty-two, bounded by St. Charles, Camp and Delord streets, known as lot number nineteen of said square, fronting thirty-two feet on St. Charles street, by ninety-four feet in depth.

Seized in the above suit.

Terms—Cash on the spot.

W. P. HARPER,
de4 18 ja4 Sheriff of the Parish of Orleans.

State of Louisiana vs. Anthony Mertzweiler.

SUPERIOR DISTRICT COURT FOR THE PARISH of Orleans, No. 5009.—By virtue of a writ of fieri facias to me directed by the honorable the Superior District Court for the parish of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, for State taxes for the year 1871, I will proceed to sell at public auction, at the Merchants and Auctioneers' Exchange, Royal street, between Canal and Customhouse streets, in the Second District of this city, on WEDNESDAY, January 21, 1874, at twelve o'clock M., the following described property, to wit—

ONE LOT OF GROUND, in the Fourth District of this city, in square number fifty-eight, bounded by Sixth, Chippewa, Washington and St. Thomas streets, known as lot number nine, on the corner of Sixth and Chippewa streets, and measuring fifty by one hundred and ten feet ten inches.

Seized in the above suit.

Terms—Cash on the spot.

W. P. HARPER,
de29 ja4 21 Sheriff of the Parish of Orleans.

Meyer Weil vs. Marx Kaufman.

FIFTH DISTRICT COURT FOR THE PARISH OF Orleans, No. 5132.—By virtue of a writ of seizure and sale to me directed by the honorable the Fifth District Court for the parish of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, I will proceed to sell at public auction, at the Merchants and Auctioneers' Exchange, Royal street, between Canal and Customhouse streets, in the Second District of this city, on MONDAY, January 19, 1874, at twelve o'clock M., the following described property, to wit—

THREE CERTAIN LOTS OF GROUND, with all the buildings and improvements thereon, and all the rights, ways and advantages thereunto belonging, situated in the Fourth District of this city, in the Jackson streets, designated as lots numbers seven, eight and nine, of square number twenty-five, on a plan drawn by C. A. Hedin, architect, dated the fifteenth of April, 1848, as plan number thirty-five, in the office of the late G. R. Beard, then notary public in this city; said lots adjoin each other, and measure each thirty-one feet eleven inches five and a half lines front on Magazine street, by one hundred and thirty feet in depth. Which property was acquired by the defendant herein by purchase from the plaintiff herein, per act passed before Joseph Cohn, notary public in this city, on the tenth day of May, 1872.

Seized in the above suit.

Terms—Cash on the spot.

W. P. HARPER,
de17 ja4 18 Sheriff of the Parish of Orleans.

State of Louisiana vs. Adam Ruth.

SUPERIOR DISTRICT COURT FOR THE PARISH of Orleans, No. 4856.—By virtue of a writ of fieri facias to me directed by the honorable the Superior District Court for the parish of Orleans, in the above entitled cause, for State taxes for the year 1871, I will proceed to sell at public auction, at the Merchants and Auctioneers' Exchange, Royal street, between Canal and Customhouse streets, in the Second District of this city, on FRIDAY, January 23, 1874, at twelve o'clock M., the following described property, to wit—

ONE LOT OF GROUND, in the First District of this city, in square number two hundred and sixty-two, bounded by Thalia, Berlanne, Erato and Dryades streets, known as lot number twenty-one, on Thalia street, and measuring forty-one by one hundred and twenty-eight feet.

Seized in the above suit.

Terms—Cash on the spot.

W. P. HARPER,
de23 ja4 23 Sheriff of the Parish of Orleans.

SHERIFF'S SALES.

The City of New Orleans vs. Frank Laroix—Same vs. Same.

SUPERIOR DISTRICT COURT FOR THE PARISH of Orleans, Nos. 64,848 and 55,188.—By virtue of two writs of fieri facias to me directed by the honorable the Superior District Court for the parish of Orleans, in the above entitled causes, for city taxes for the years 1870 to 1873, I will proceed to sell at public auction, at the Merchants and Auctioneers' Exchange, Royal street, between Canal and Customhouse streets, in the Second District of this city, on THURSDAY, January 22, 1874, at twelve o'clock M., the following described property, to wit—

Eight certain lots of ground, in the First District of this city, in square number four hundred and eighty-six, bounded by Roman, Melpomene, Thalia and Prieur streets, and known as lots numbers three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine and ten of said square, and