

AMUSEMENTS.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

Farwell engagement of LYDIA THOMPSON.

Monday, February 9.

EVERY NIGHT AND SATURDAY MATINEE.

OPERA HOUSE—OPERA HOUSE.

Thursday, February 12, 1874.

Matinee at 12 M.

PERFECT BLUE.

Performances at seven o'clock—Benefit of St. Charles Theatre.

Admission fifty cents. Reserved seats one dollar.

ST. CHARLES THEATRE.

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THE LEGISLATURE YESTERDAY.

Senate.

Mr. Blackburn introduced a bill to amend the charter of the town of Homer, in the parish of Claiborne, and for other purposes. It was read and referred to the Committee on Corporations.

Mr. Thomas called up an act to legalize certain judicial and other proceedings in the parish of St. Martin. Under a suspension of the rules the bill finally passed the Senate.

An act making an appropriation to pay the expenses of the State auditing committee appointed by Governor Kellogg, was read a second time. The act appropriates \$2500 to pay clerks, etc.

Mr. Wharton said the appointment of the committee was authorized by the Superior District Court of the parish of Orleans, and he thought the expense of the same ought to be taxed as costs in that court.

Mr. Anderson argued that as the money would have to come out of the State in either event, it made no difference whether the money was obtained through the action of the Legislature or the Superior Court. He would therefore move that the bill be placed on its second reading.

Mr. Burch called the bill recommissioned, and pending that motion Mr. Harris called for the unfinished business—an act providing for the greater security of the public in the issuance of promissory notes secured by mortgage. The pending motion on this bill when the Senate last had it under consideration was the adoption of the amendment, proposed by Mr. Howe, to Mr. Harris' amendment making the fee fifty cents for each note paraphrased by the recorder. Mr. Howe's amendment proposed to make the fee ten cents, instead of fifty.

Before taking a vote on the amendment to the amendment, Mr. Howe obtained the floor and gave his views of the bill. He objected to it as it stood, and wanted the country parishes exempted from its provisions, and when Mr. Harris expressed himself willing to have the bill so amended, Mr. Howe was still dissatisfied with it, and thought it would be an outrage to pass it in any shape. He was in favor, however, of making the fee ten cents.

Mr. Burch thought if the bill was necessary, fifty cents was not too high a fee for the services required of the recorder. If it would be an outrage to charge fifty cents, he (Mr. Burch) thought it would be an equal outrage to charge ten cents. He did not, however, think the proposed measure an outrage, nor was he partial to cheap reform, and was therefore opposed to the amendment making the fee ten cents.

Mr. Thomas thought it wrong to place any tax on notes. He was therefore opposed to the bill in toto.

Mr. Harris said the passage of the bill into a law would be a clear saving to the public of much expense, besides serving as a protection to persons executing promissory notes secured by mortgage against forgery. He intended to introduce an additional clause exempting the charge of four dollars now made by notaries public. Mr. Harris disclaimed any interest in the parish of Orleans not compatible with the public interest, and said his sole object was to obtain good laws for the government of the people of the entire State.

After some further discussion Mr. Harris announced, making the fee fifty cents for recording a note, was adopted.

Mr. Harris then offered an additional amendment, providing that in no case shall the fee on a series of notes exceed four dollars. Without adopting this amendment, the Senate, on motion of Mr. Dejeu, ordered the recommitment of the bill to the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Stamps called up Senate Bill No. 73, an act closing the drinking-houses of public resort, and to prohibit the sale of spirituous or malt liquors on Sundays. It came up as the special order of the day, and upon its second reading. The bill was ordered to be read, and pending the motion to adopt it on its second reading, Mr. Harris addressed the Senate in opposition to it. He declared himself opposed to every section of the bill, and said he did not believe in such legislation; did not believe in depriving the people of any of their rights. Mr. Harris said a gala day in New Orleans was regarded as a gala day—a day when the mechanics and working people in general went forth to enjoy themselves as best they could. They had been in the habit of doing this without molestation—going to places of religious worship, to places of amusement and to places of refreshment, just as their inclinations led them, and he would not vote to deprive them of the right of choice in such matters. If the people want to go to church on Sunday he was in favor of their going, but he did not want any to be deprived of the right of going to the theatre, or of the right to have all the refreshments and amusements that are to be obtained on any other day. He regarded this as the correct American doctrine of freedom, and he would do nothing to abridge it. He (Mr. Harris) held that the Legislature had just as much right to pass a law compelling the people to vote the Republican ticket as to pass a law depriving them of their right to make Sunday a day of recreation and pleasure. He concluded his remarks by moving to lay the whole subject upon the table.

Mr. Stamps replied by saying that a similar law was in force in every State of the Union but Louisiana, and he thought the gentleman from Concordia (Mr. Harris) had not represented the wishes of his constituents in opposing the bill under consideration. Mr. Stamps thought the best interests of society in Louisiana were involved in a proper observance of the Sabbath.

Mr. Harper claimed to be as near being in the church as any man that is not a preacher, but he did not feel that he had any right as a Senator to tell the people how they shall employ their time on Sunday or deprive them of any right that has hitherto been guaranteed to them. He wanted the people in and out of the church kept free to act like intelligent freemen, and any Senator who voted to deprive the people of these rights, he (Mr. Harper) thought, would meet with a cold reception when he was called by his constituents to give an account of his stewardship.

Mr. Wharton moved to reconsider the vote by which the bill was considered crossed, and pending this motion a motion

to adjourn was made and the Senate adjourned until to-day at 12 M.

House.

A great deal of business was got through with in the House yesterday without discussion, the time being principally occupied with the report of the Judiciary Committee, which, through its chairman, returned a large number of bills to the House.

The resolution of Mr. Demas indorsing Judge Durell was called up by him, and the Speaker announced that Mr. Hahn, of St. Charles had the floor on it.

Mr. Hahn said: The resolution as presented to the House is apparently a friendly one, but it is not calculated to do much good. It is not that Judge Durell has any knowledge of it, or that the particular phraseology in which it is put, to me, it seems to place this Legislature in an extremely ridiculous position. The resolution says that the opponents of the Republican party in Congress have assailed the character of Judge Durell. Suppose they have, how does it concern this Legislature? It is one of the greatest privileges of a Republican officer held by Democrats—

it is one of the glorious privileges of a Republican country. All know that Judge Durell is a Republican and he is the nature and character of all Democrats to assail Republicans in office; and this Legislature might be the most wise, virtuous and pure deliberative body that ever met in this country, and it would never get a word of praise from a Democrat. Judge Durell does not need white washing from us. It is charges made against him, and his conduct in a proper manner they will be investigated and examined by an impartial body of men and sifted to the bottom with our eyes and ears. The passage of a resolution under such circumstances is simply ridiculous. When Warmoth attempted to cheat this Legislature out of its rights, it was Judge Durell who, by obeying his oath and justly administering the law, defeated him. This Legislature owes its existence to his upright and honest course, and it is not a dignified nor a proper measure to make a party issue on a purely judicial action. What effect would it have? The Louisiana case was a question of law and Judge Durell's decision was his opinion on it. "Pass this resolution," says the speaker, "and you are in Congress will pay any attention to it. He is not before Congress, if he is there at all, on his decision in the Louisiana case. Other charges have been made against him, entirely different nature, and of a nature that this resolution does not consider at all. No doubt it Judge Durell's decision in the Louisiana case has been the opportunity to what it was, he would have made enemies in the Republican ranks. But that decision, no matter which way it had gone, was a matter of opinion on a question of law which the House had no right to charge, and subject to no attack which need be repelled.

As to the charges which are before Congress, that body will pass upon them, and will be influenced by nothing that does not directly concern them. I will say that I do not regard it as a matter of course, and in expressing it he is liable to no charge, and subject to no attack which need be repelled.

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Chamber of Commerce.

A special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held last evening.

After the call to order the secretary read the request for the meeting, signed by Messrs. Cople, York, Slayback, Moulton and Fossick.

Mr. Fossick stated the request for the meeting was caused by the action of the Senate of the United States in passing a bill placing a military dictator in control of the mouth of the Mississippi river.

President Oglesby stated the Chamber had taken some action relative to that matter about a year ago.

The secretary, Mr. Burwell, read the report of the meeting of last April, in which the report of the committee on obstructions at the mouth of the river, and a resolution relative to them, had been adopted.