New Orleans Republican.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE UNITED STATES

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF NEW ORLEANS

THE GRANT PARISH PRISONERS.

Trial in the United States Circuit Court.

Sixth day's proceedings in the case of the United States against W. J. Cruikshank and others, for conspiracy and murder last April in Grant parish.

Counsel for defense called the attention of the court to the fact that witnesses for defense, now here and to be here, are without means of subsistence, as most of them are very poor. Some of them, unless paid, intend to leave the city. Counsel for defense will make the required affidavit and may, perhaps, obtain the funds.

Martin Johns sworn—Was living in Grant parish last April, eight miles from Colfax; saw something of the fight; saw armed white men; saw Hadnot with sixteen armed men; I was in the same store with them; knew only the three Hadnots; (witness here pointed out one of the Hadnot boys.) On the day of the fight was in the courthouse; fight began at twelve or one o'clock; was there all the morning; the armed white men came in from several directions; heard them shooting with a cannon; saw plenty of armed men; they fired the cannon about six times; they first began to fire when near the quarters; heard plenty bullets flying; they gradually approached the courthouse; they were not near enough for me to know any of them; they took their cannon to the river side, 200 yards nearer to us; nobody was hurt that I know of; can't say how many colored men had guns in the fort, but think about sixty; they shot their cannon ball through a window; we had to go into the courthouse when the cannon was placed on the river bank; can't say how many of us there were in the building; knew several of the men inside; we were scared when we ran into the courthouse; they all carried their guns; some colored men ran off down the road; I saw white men shoot them down as they ran; when the white men got together again they attacked the courthouse and set it on fire; no one inside fired on the whites then; Shack White, on seeing the fire, called out to Irwin that we surrendered; they told us to stack our arms; a white flag was tied to a stick and hung out; when we went out of the courthouse the white men began firing down on us; I was shot in my arm; three bullets went through and one remains inside; nine wounds in all for me; a white man told me to stay by him, that I shouldn't be hurt; afterward a man knocked me down with a gun; saw Bill Irwin, R. Mathers and the two Marsh boys; afterward they placed me on a gallery under guard; don't know the guards or the man who protected me; at sundown they marched about seventy of us to the hotel yard and kept us there until nine or ten o'clock; they said, we will take two niggers each to the sugarhouse and let them go in the morning; they then began shooting our people; we wounded men then ran away, and got down the river bank; Oscar, Gilbert and Gus Lacour, two Hadnots, Nash and Cruikshank were there. (Witness here pointed out Clement Penn.) After I escaped I went into the woods; my wounds were not dressed until Marshal De Klyne arrived; did not notice anything, was so confused; don't know who struck me with the gun; know Alexander Tillman, whom they killed at night; while I was a prisoner heard white men say that they would stew us all at night; saw colored women while I was a prisoner; they were hunting for their husbands; they were not permitted to go near the prisoners; fifteen of us were wounded; the guard went off when they took away the well men; a man said: "Let the wounded men stay on the gallery and I will attend to them afterward;" the white men kept shooting until eleven o'clock at night; heard a voice say something about the wounded men escaping; they looked for us; I saw them strike a light on the gallery where we had been; there were about twenty of them; one said that we ought to have been "stewed" at once; when we left the courthouse at the surrender we all laid down our arms; had nothing when I was shot; saw the cannon when I was in the courthouse; it was on the river bank; it was about 150 yards from Shackleford's house; above the ferry; they shot at the courthouse with it; shooting the door and the window to pieces; one of the slugs disembowled a lad who was inside; Shack White was wounded; saw no one inside shooting; we felt mighty bad in there.

Cross-examined—Can't say that Mr. Lewis was in the fight; I didn't see him there; I was in Colfax several days before the fight; Sheriff Shaw summoned me; I have a brother; I never threatened that I and my crowd would clean out the whites, take their women, and knock the children in the head; did not see old man Hadnot wear a sash, or rosette, or sword.

Direct examination resumed—Saw the Hadnots on the day of the fight.

Jackson Thomas sworn—Was at Colfax last April; was there seven days before the fight; went there for protection; saw no armed white men in Colfax before the fight; the fight took place on Saturday; no, it was on Easter Sunday; the shooting began at 9:30 A.M.; I was behind the breastworks; think I saw 700 armed white men; shot passed over my head; there was plenty shooting; I remained on the ground until the last cannon ball was fired, when I went into the courthouse; stayed in the courthouse an hour; white men were shooting, and they got pine to fire the courthouse; some of our people ran down the road; when the fire began we surrendered, stacking our arms; when we went out the white men fired on us; I was wounded in my right shoulder; do not know the man who took me prisoner; they kept us until dusk; Mr. Nash told me to bring water from the river for his men; there were forty-eight prisoners in the yard; William Cruikshank and another man took out William Williams and G. Nelson to shoot them; saw Denis Lemoine, John Hadnot, John Compton; I know them; will know William Cruikshank when I see him; I see D. Lemoine, William Cruikshank and John Hadnot at the bar; the shooting ceased at eleven o'clock; when they took men in the yard to shoot them I got under the house, but did not remain long; finally ran to the woods; went to Colfax for protection; I live five miles from Colfax.

Cross examination—I heard W. Cruikshank tell a gentleman that he was going to take out G. Nelson and William Williams twenty-five yards and shoot them; once before the fight I saw John Hadnot with others riding near Colfax; his gun was at half cock, and it had a cap on the tube; he was on the right, I on the left side; had a gun in the courthouse; there was no drilling and no captains or sergeants among the colored people.

Woodbury Gabriel sworn—Was at the Colfax fight; was born in that neighborhood; fight begun between six and seven o'clock; was before the courthouse door, in the breastwork; stayed there until the hot iron began to fall too thick; some ran down the road and others into the courthouse; Shack White called to Bill Irwin that we had surrendered; after the surrender I ran to the river bank when Mr. Hopkins shot me; was wounded in my back, and the ball went through to my breast, and my aunt cut it out next day; I crawled down the bank and was there when the steamboat came; Lacour asked Hopkins who killed that nigger (pointing to me as I laid on the ground); Hopkins said he did; went to Colfax for safety; we never intended to harm the white people.

Cross-examination—I had a gun; loaded it myself with bird shot; did not shoot it; took my provisions with me; we had no drillings and no captains; heard of no fight before that of Easter Sunday; did not know that Scarber was chased; did not hear of Judge Rutland's house being robbed; there was a gas pipe fixed up for a gun; some of our people said that if we surrendered we would be killed; Irwin told us to surrender and stack our arms; he was armed; the breastwork was two or three feet high.

Laurinda McKinney sworn—Live in Grant parish, near Colfax; was living there the first day of last April; my husband was murdered on Saturday about noon; he was killed at his place; I saw the white armed men there when he was killed; Denis Lemoine, Oscar Givens, Bill Irwin, and old Mr. Hadnot were in the party; they passed before they shot my husband; he was at work on a fence; only one shot was fired; there were lots of white men; the ball entered his head; they stayed there two hours, dancing and yelling; my husband was alive but couldn't speak when I went to him; Eliza Smith and Minnie Sadler were at my house; we took him into my house; the United States soldiers buried him after about four weeks; I have seven children, who ran away; one man said, "I got him, he is as dead as hell;" saw Alfred Lewis going to Colfax; would know the men I have named. (The witness pointed out the accused.) They did not enter my house; husband had been to Colfax that morning; saw white men on horseback chasing colored people and shooting them like they were dogs; did not go home until the United States soldiers arrived.

Cross-examination—My husband had no gun; he was not more than twenty-four steps from our house when he was murdered; Eliza Smith helped me to take care of my husband; could see Colfax from the house where I was stopping on Easter Sunday.

Kit Smith sworn—Last April was living near Jesse McKinney's house; I was not there the day McKinney was killed; the fourth day after McKinney was killed went to the house and saw a good many men there feeding their horses; among them were D. and P. Lemoine, Nalbert, Henry Andrews, Bill Irwin and Charles Smith; I know them well. (Witness pointed out Irwin and the Lemoines.) I went to Colfax with the United States marshal, and saw the worst sight I ever saw; saw the bodies of Shack White and Lank Pitman; the dogs had eaten the latter's legs; the clothing had been burned off of White's body; McKinney's body was placed in my house, and finally smelled so bad that buzzards settled all around.

Anna Elsie sworn—I live in Grant parish; my husband was killed last April; he was in Colfax on Easter Sunday; saw armed white men in Colfax and knew some of them; I found my husband; he was a prisoner and I did not speak to him, but saw him; Clement Penn, Bill Irwin, Denis Lemoine, Johnny Hadnot and Prudhomme Lemoine were there; (witness pointed out these men); Clement Penn is the man who shot my husband; saw these accused armed near the prisoners; the white men did plenty things; my husband was called out and Jim Raisin also; I was looking directly at Penn when he shot my husband; others shot at the same time; Penn shot him with a carbine; I was standing near; Penn was about —— steps from my husband; saw my husband before he was buried; I did not leave Colfax until I saw his body, which was not buried when the United States marshal arrived; on the day of the fight saw Billy and John Burch; some of the men who were shot begged for their lives; my husband begged for his life; some of the men yelled; others did not say a word.

Levin Allen sworn—Was in Colfax first of April last; saw a squad of men, headed by old man Hadnot; Gilly, John and Luke Hadnot and Dick Torrey were with him; it was after breakfast that I first learned that we were to be attacked; saw two squads of men; Nash came into town and inquired for me, and for some one else; he saw John Meyers; I went up half a mile and met Nash, in the Smithfield quarters; his force was behind him; Nash said he wanted us to stack our arms and disperse, and if we did we would not be hurt; I reminded him that colored men had been hurt, and I was afraid to trust the word of any of them; Nash said he would give us thirty minutes to take away our women and children; there were a good many of them; they left and were strung all along the road; it was more than thirty minutes before we were attacked; they fired a cannon five or six times, and they had a line of skirmishers who used small arms; the bullets fell thick; Robert Aaron stood on the opposite bank and told the men to place the cannon on the river bank; this was done, and on the first shot our people broke; some of them went into the courthouse and some down the road; these latter were pursued and shot; I took my horse and escaped, going into the woods; I turned out my horse and went to a place where I could see the courthouse; saw it when burning; heard the report of small arms almost continually; stayed in the woods until midnight; at the fight saw all the Hickmans; they were in the crowd that chased the men down the road; I see Tom Hickman in court; Bill Irwin, now in court, I saw then; next morning, when I left the woods, saw the Hickmans and Alfred Lewis, all armed, going from Colfax on horseback; I was told not to go to Colfax, for Nash had said he would kill me; B. Hickman shot Bounce; I saw him do it; there were skirmishes before Easter Sunday; on one occasion Nash's party made an attack; there were about 200 men; knew only four of them—Messrs. Cazabat, Compton, Willy and George Marsh; went to Colfax, for I was afraid to remain at home; Shaw left before the fight, and I never saw him until I arrived here; our people generally said that they assembled in Colfax for safety; once I wrote to Nash informing him that he could have the courthouse if he would let us have peace, but never got an answer; saw Shaw walked off from Colfax; Nash's men were then in sight, and in line.

At this time the court was adjourned until to-morrow at ten o'clock, when Allen will again be put on the witness stand.

[For the New Orleans Republican.]

Scandinavian Seamen's Friend Society of New Orleans.

During two winters before the present season religious services have been held in the Seamen's Bethel, in the Marigny building, in both the English and Scandinavian languages. The increasing demand for labor among Scandinavian seamen led to some incipient measures last spring and summer, both here and at New York, to supply the need. In autumn, as the Scandinavian flotilla returned, and till the present time, religious meetings of much interest have been regularly held in the Bethel, in their language, with a goodly number of hopeful conversions. Mr. John Rudeen has labored among them with great fidelity and acceptance.

On the evening of February 4 a meeting of Scandinavian captains and seamen and citizens was held in the Bethel, and the desirableness of a more commodious place of worship and a missionary to speak to them in their own language, was universally acknowledged. A lively interest in the object was expressed, and a subscription list was opened to meet the expense, and a committee was appointed to carry the plan into execution.

As the result of the labors of this committee, a society has been regularly chartered and completely organized, and is in active operation, not in rivalry with or opposition to any other organization, but a fraternally co-operative specialty, styled "The Scandinavian Seamen's Friend Society of New Orleans, auxiliary to the American Seamen's Friend Society."

Its board of trustees and officers consist of the following persons: Rev. John Mathews, D. D., president; W. J. Johnson, D. D., vice president; Rev. L. H. Pease, secretary; John Nelson, treasurer; Hon. R. K. Howell, Colonel William Wright, James B. Guthrie, George Brewer, John Rudeen, W. H. Matthews, A. H. Nelson and C. P. Seymour.

The character of these men is a sufficient guarantee of the integrity and capability of the society, and the object is one that deserves the hearty sympathy and co-operation of all our citizens of every name and nation. These hardy mariners from that great northern hive do greatly need and deserve a more commodious place of worship and a missionary to labor regularly among them who can speak their native tongue.

And—let me tell the whole truth—the seamen who speak our mother English have long stood in much greater need of a better place for daily reading and writing and daily and nightly religious worship. And if these brief visitors and strangers are ready to contribute so generously, as they are, for this object, what should the Queen of the South, this commercial metropolis of the great Southwest, which is nothing without her commerce, do to aid them, and to benefit her own servants and brothers, to whom, as common carriers, we are so largely indebted for all our comforts and luxuries.

L. H. PEASE, Secretary.

[Copy of Telegram.]

VICKSBURG, February 28, 1874.

To George D. Hite:

Leave here with good trip; will arrive on time, and leave on Monday, as usual, for mouth of White and Arkansas rivers.

J. W. CARLTON,
Master Steamer Katie.

Remarks of Senator Blackburn on the Governor's Veto of the Act to Regulate the Private Markets of New Orleans.

In the Senate, February 26, Mr. Harris moved that this bill, vetoed by the Governor, become a law, the veto of the Governor to the contrary notwithstanding.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Blackburn, who, obtaining the floor, spoke as follows:

Mr. President—I have refrained heretofore from saying anything on this question, contenting myself with simply voting for the measure, believing that even a wayfaring man, though a fool, could not fail to see the justice and propriety of it. But, sir, as the matter has assumed the seriousness of a veto, and since the Republican organ *par excellence* of this State, the REPUBLICAN newspaper of this city, has come to the rescue on behalf of the opposition in a prominent and authoritative editorial, I must ask your indulgence, and the indulgence of the enlightened majority of the Senate, while I make a few remarks to the issue—sufficient at least to indicate some reasons why I support the measure.

Were I a demagogue, Mr. President, I would support what is termed the free market system of this city, and oppose the measure now before the Senate; but, as a statesman, legislating for the whole people, upon an enlightened, safe and healthy basis, I would certainly do otherwise. A law maker should always look deeper than the mere surface of current events for a rule of action—the whims of the hour should not control him; and, above all, should he guard well against the common slogan of common rights, which, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, is specious and hypocritical in its fruits and results, if not in original intention. And precisely, in my opinion, is this the case with the opposition to this bill abolishing free markets or regulating the free markets of this city. The plea is that every man has the common right to open a market at any corner he pleases, so that every other citizen may have the right to buy meat wherever he pleases, and eat as much of it as he pleases, whether sound or rotten. This, I say, is both special and specious pleading—it is mere surface reasoning, designed solely, in my opinion, to catch the ear of the unthinking masses. You might as well say that a man has the right to tie a millstone about his neck and roll into the Mississippi river; you might as well say that every man in the city who eats meat has a right to have a pigstye of his own, and the right to slaughter his own pig, or his own calf, and throw whatever portion thereof he can not eat into the streets, to be taken up by the scavenger carts, or perchance to be sprinkled over with some sanitary drops of the learned Board of Health, to save it from putrefaction and kill its pestilential odors. This, I say, is the logical sequence of the reasoning of those who oppose the measure now before the Senate. Gentlemen may deny it, and say that they advocate no such ruinous results; and I am willing to agree that they do not so intend, but I assert that the loose doctrine of common rights, which they so flippantly advocate, lead irresistibly to the results indicated. For there must be a limit somewhere to define and distinguish freedom from licentiousness; and if you do not found this limit in written law, you must leave it to the unbridled whims and caprices of man, which I assert always lead to and result in the destruction of all safe and well defined liberty.

Now, sir, I can have no interest in this matter, other than to aid in establishing in this great city of our State, a well regulated system of wholesome marketing; and in this I am about as much interested as any other citizen of the State, whether he lives in New Orleans or the country. And you need not tell me that it is not better and safer to confine this matter, in the main, at least, to the regular market places of the city. I agree with the Governor, as expressed in his veto, that the matter of revenue to the city should have but little to do with the question—this should be merely an incidental consideration—the main question being permanent and healthy markets. And I assert that the leading intelligence and enlightenment of New Orleans is opposed to this promiscious free market system—if a system could justly be called free, which really deteriorates and at the same time enhances the price of provisions—the learned letter of the learned head of the Board of Health accompanying the Governor's veto to the contrary notwithstanding. It is only a case of the common disagreement of doctors. And when doctors disagree, who shall decide? I think that in this case the Senate should decide, and I think it will decide, and decide judiciously and justly, by passing the bill over the well worded and plausible veto of the Governor—plausible but certainly not well founded—and over the manifesto of the clever president of the Board of Health, and over the dictation of that most able and influential journal, the New Orleans REPUBLICAN.

Now, Mr. President, let these numerous free markets go on, and you will find in the end that all I here say and indicate is true, and will prove more than true. It will be like efforts I have often seen to build up a permanent and efficient institution of learning, against a number of small and badly managed and totally inefficient schools, taught or presided over by Tom, Dick and Harry, themselves without education and without responsibility to the community. Directly all would go down, and the community would find itself left without any educational facilities whatever. And just so you will find it in the case of these so called but misnamed free markets if they are allowed to go on in opposition to the regular and more responsible market system. You will find your city without any markets at all—or none scarcely that a dog would feed at.

I assert for myself that the very best physicians of this city favor the passage of the pending bill, as a sanitary measure; and I know that the capital and leading majority of the city, including all colors and conditions, desire its passage; and I speak from quite as good authority and correct information as Governor Kellogg. Dr. White, or the New Orleans REPUBLICAN. And it ill-becomes the REPUBLICAN, I think, to speak of monopolies—to charge the Senate with fostering and favoring monopolies. I totally deny that in passing this bill over the Governor's veto, the Senate will thereby foster or favor monopolies, in any offensive or dangerous sense, any more than it does so in giving the REPUBLICAN newspaper all the public printing, of whatever character, including State, parish and city. This might be termed a monopoly, if one was disposed to be captious or critical—equal almost to that which prevailed in the grain market once upon a time down in the land of Egypt, under the commissaryship of that great dreamer, the chaste and immaculate Joseph—only the price of printing at the REPUBLICAN office does not compare with the price of corn under the liberal and free dispensation of the said Joseph. But I by no means object to the monopoly or just reward of printing bestowed upon the New Orleans REPUBLICAN. Without it, we would have no Republican organ here, and without such organ we would have no Republican party, and without a Republican party in power we should have no practical liberty. I only wish to give the REPUBLICAN a small dose of its own physic—an exemplification of its own specious reasoning. I am more than willing to give that able journal all the public patronage it needs for its healthy and prosperous existence, knowing that thereby we shall in some measure aid in throttling and abating the demoralizing and fly-blown Democratic and Fusion sheets which so taint the moral and political atmosphere of the land with their rotten teachings—just as these so-called free markets, with their unwholesome remnants lying thick about their promiscuous shammels, taint the sanitary condition of this great city.

And I might say something of the special and individual influences which I believe are being used of late to induce the Governor to veto bills passed by large and in every way responsible majorities of the General Assembly—the whineing and begging of those who can give no reason for what they want. But I will forbear for the present, with the simple remark that if our worthy Governor thinks he can rule in the interest of the minority over the majority, I think he will find himself very much, if not sadly mistaken.

I appeal to the Senate to vindicate itself in the passage of this just measure over the veto of the Governor, notwithstanding that veto is backed by the written opinion of the worthy president of the Board of Health, and indorsed editorially by the able columns of the influential and well-fed New Orleans REPUBLICAN.

The President put the question:

"Shall this bill become a law, the Governor's objections to the contrary notwithstanding?"

On call of the yeas and nays the Senate voted to pass the bill by the following vote, the same being more than two-thirds of the members present:

Yeas—Anderson, Barber, Belden, Blackburn, Blunt, Bovee, Burch, Butler, Cage, Chadbourn, Daigle, Greene, Glaudin, Harris, Harper, E. F. Herwig, Ingraham, Kelso, Maiscot, Pollard, Rey, Stamps, Swaizie, Thomas, Whitney—25.

Nays—Alexander, Brewster, Crawford, Detiege, Sypher, Twitchell, Weber, Wharton—8.

Hancock Literary Association.

At the last meeting the claims of the modern novel were considered at length by a variety of speakers. Its history from the times of Horace Walpole was taken up by the president, Dr. Whitaker, and brought down to the present era. The romance, as exemplified by the author of the "Castle of Otranto" and Mrs. Radcliffe, the novel of English life and manners introduced by Fielding, the historical novel of Sir Walter Scott, and the sensational novel of which Wilkie Collins in England and Mrs. Southworth in America furnish examples, were passed under review, and their merits and demerits considered. Of the novels illustrating the social life of England of the present day, Dr. Whitaker paid a high compliment, *en passant*, to those of Albany de Fonblanque, Esq.

Professor Foley, the vice president, was not greatly impressed with the utility of the novel. It was a kind of writing invented, he said, simply to kill time. He quoted with high approval a remark of Lord Campbell, that the counselor or advocate should confine himself to that class of reading which he could turn to practical account next day in court. Sir Walter Scott, Mr. Dickens, Mr. Bulwer, and Anthony Trollope, had introduced into their novels ingenious accounts of imaginary trials, which might be read with advantage, although they could not properly be quoted before the judges as authority. As for the characters introduced into novels, the specimens of men and women we met with every day in our ordinary intercourse, were often just as extraordinary; and the landscapes and scenery presented to the eye of the curious observer in nature, were more beautiful and entrancing than any that could be found in the most highly finished novels.

Judge Whitaker said, that much of the best literature of the day was embodied in novels. It was not a kind of writing that was to be indiscriminately condemned. The novels of Walter Scott were great epics in prose; transcripts of past ages and their history; as worthy of being studied for the lessons they inculcate, and the varied and valuable information they impart, as the Iliad of Homer, and more so than the Paradise Lost of Milton. To the professional man, this kind of composition—he spoke from experience—afforded the most agreeable relief, after a day spent in the dialectical battles of the forum. The morality of Fielding did not suit the refined ideas of the present century, but what we had gained in refinement was, he feared, greatly discolored by hypocrisy. Life itself was a great poem, and events, as they transpired every hour in the arena of affairs, filled with competitors, was full of novelty. Novels were only a reproduction of the actual, or of what strongly resembled it.

J. W. Overall spoke respectfully of the poem and novel, and somewhat in depreciation of what declaimers and stockjobbers call the eminently practical. There was something, he said, that ought to be an object of higher solicitude than the mere accumulation of pelf. There were jewels of the mind more valuable than those found in the mines of Golconda. The dreams of some men, highly gifted, whom poetry and the novel have immortalized, had produced greater effects on the progress of civilization than the calculations of the profoundest mathematician. Mr. Overall was very eloquent.

Dr. Walker spoke strongly and earnestly in praise of science, and its practical applications, but was not averse either to poetry or the novel. They now, he said, constituted fascinating and indisputable portions of our literature.

Mrs. Whitaker, the lady-president of the association, offered a few pertinent and trenchant remarks in advocacy of works of fiction. No person of taste, now-a-days, she said, would venture to condemn outright the masterly productions of such writers as Scott, Bulwer, Byron, Dickens, Thackeray, Miss Edgworth and the Misses Porter. Writers of the sensational school were no favorites with her.

Mrs. Case, of Baltimore, contributed an exquisite poem entitled "The South," preceded by some glowing remarks on the influences of the imagination upon the actual in the history of events, which awakened the most enthusiastic responses.

Mrs. Dr. Walker read a paper on the claims of women to equal opportunities of education, occupation and emolument with the stronger sex, which was listened to with deep interest, and elicited unanimous approval.

Miss L. W. maintained that, although the beauties of nature were obvious to every beholder, yet that the painter, the sculptor, the musician and the poet performed a great service to society by the reproduction of them. Art and nature were combined in all the productions of men of genius.

Miss I. W. contributed an essay on "Thought," which was duly appreciated.

Mrs. Charlotte Smith, editress of the *Island Monthly*, from Missouri, graced the occasion by her presence, and was evidently much interested in the performances.

Messrs. Lancaster and Wilson, without discussing the main question of the evening, offered some remarks upon it, which were received with the highest satisfaction.

The Virginius Outrage.

The conclusion of the startling opinion of Attorney General Williams in the case of the steamer Virginius was to the effect that she was not at the time of her seizure by the Spaniards an American vessel, sailing under a register properly obtained. It has not been credibly announced that the attorney of the Spanish government, son-in-law of the Secretary of State, had aught to do with the procurement of this opinion, but were it known that he took part in the contrivance the inference would be that he was moved by the prospect of a fee on a Spanish claim for indemnity to be preferred against the United States government on account of compelling the return of the Virginius; but whether or not the opinion was procured through such agency, and for the object named, there is little doubt that it will be used as the basis of a claim for indemnity.

Papers have been filed in the State Department with this end in view, and it has been intimated by officials connected with the business that these papers constitute an ample foundation for the claim. More than this, the department has been for a week past engaged in making up the case in anticipation of a formal demand for indemnity. This suspicious haste in preparing the way for a dive into the public treasury appeared hardly creditable. The truth of the assertion is insisted upon by a gentleman who has been found reliable in many other instances.—*New York Sun.*

Monetary--Commercial.

MONETARY.

OFFICE OF THE DAILY REPUBLICAN, SATURDAY EVENING, February 28, 1874.

There i no change to notice in the money market. The offerings at the banks are of moderate extent, and the demand for discounts on the street is limited, and confined mostly to loans on collaterals. No transactions are reported that indicate any variation in the rates of commercial paper. We continue to quote first class paper with collaterals, at 10@12 ₱ cent ₱ annum, without collaterals at 12; A1 at 1@1½ ₱ month, and second grade at 2. First class mortgages rule at 10@11 ₱ cent ₱ annum, but nothing is reported in second class.

NEW ORLEANS CLEARING HOUSE.

	Clearings.	Balances.
February 23	$1,661,267 35	$207,522 83
Same time last week	2,060,710 59	150,599 17
Total last week	12,750,135 30	1,365,923 66
Total week before	14,536,530 59	1,510,513 41

We are indebted to Mr. T. N. Maynard, manager of the New Orleans Clearing House Association, for the following statement:

WEEKLY STATEMENT OF THE ASSOCIATED BANKS.

	Increase.	Decrease.
Deposits	$199,000	.....
Loans	.....	$3,000
Specie	57,000	.....
Currency	.....	323,000

The following telegrams were posted at the Cotton Exchange:

New York, February 28, A. M.—Money rate 4@5, carrying rate (gold) 3.

Evening—Carrying rate (gold) 3. Money rate 5.

LONDON, February 28, 2:30 P. M.—Amount of bullion withdrawn from the Bank of England on balance to-day, £47,000.

Gold opened at 112⅝@112⅞, against 112⅝ at New York, and after a liberal business closed at 112⅝@112¾, against 112⅝ at New York. The sales amounted to $155,000, embracing $5000 and $15,000 at 112⅞, $60,000 at 112⅝@112⅞, and $25,000 at 112¾.

No sales of silver were reported. American half-dollars were still quoted at 108½@109½, and Mexican dollars at 110½@111.

Under higher rates for New York sight and a fair demand, together with a slight advance in gold at New York, private sterling advanced 1-16 ₱ cent, but bank, being less in request, fell off 1-16. The sales summed up £73,000, comprising £3000 and £4000 bill of lading at $5 41, $2000 do and $3000 A1 clear at $5 41½, £30,000 bill of lading and A1 clear at $5 41@5 42, £15,000 bill of lading at $5 41½@5 42, £7000 bill of lading and £2200 and £3000 A1 clear at $5 43, and £1050 bank at $5 47.

The sales of francs included 50,000 commercial at 4.68¾, and 15,000 private bankers' at 4.62½.

At the close sterling bills were quoted at $5 40½@5 41½ for bill of lading and A1 clear, and $5 44½@5 45½ for bank, and francs at 4.66¼ for private and nominal for bank.

The offerings of domestic exchange were moderate, and while the demand was limited, rates were a shade higher for commercial. The sales of New York sight covered $200,000, embracing $10,000 commercial at ¼ ₱ cent discount; $15,000, $35,000 and $45,000 private bankers' at par; $25,000 and $50,000 private bankers' at 1-16 ₱ cent premium, and $20,000 bank at 3-32. We noticed sales also of $10,000 commercial on Providence at ⅛ ₱ cent discount, and $15,000 commercial on Boston 1-16.

The banks continued to check on New York at ¼ ₱ cent premium, and commercial sight was quoted at par@1-16 ₱ cent premium.

In stocks we notice a sale of 12 shares Louisiana Mutual Insurance Company at $50. Sales also reported of other insurance companies and railroad companies, of which the particulars were withheld.

City gold bearing seven per cents were more active. The market opened at about 58½, but closed unsettled, being quoted by some authorities at 57½@58, and by others at 58@58½. The sales and resales summed up $100,000, embracing $10,000 at 58½; $7000 at 58¼; $5000, $3000 and $15,000 at 58⅜; $30,000 in several amounts at 58⅛, and $5000 at 58¾.

We also noticed some demand for Carrollton city bonds, excited by anticipations of annexation to New Orleans, but no particulars transpired.

The sales of city appropriation certificates included $3000 at 64. They were quoted at the close at 65.

A sale of $5000 Metropolitan Police warrants was reported at 72 and $300 at 72½, which were about the closing rates.

The only sale of State warrants reported was $2000 at 50. The market closed nominal at 49 for large denominations and 53@55 for small.

COMMERCIAL.

SATURDAY EVENING, February 28, 1874.

COTTON—The sales to-day (not including 900 bales additional yesterday) embraced 5000 bales at steady prices for the lower grades, but easier for the medium and better, requiring a reduction of ⅛c in our inside figures for good ordinary, strict good ordinary, low middling, middling and strict middling, and in our outside figures for strict low middling and good ordinary. We give also the Exchange figures, as below:

	General quotations.	Exchange quotations.
Low ordinary	8½@ 9½	9
Ordinary	10½@11¼	11½
Strict ordinary	11½@12	—
Good ordinary	13 @13½	13½
Strict good ordinary	13½@14	—
Low middling	14½@14¾	14¾
Strict low middling	15 @15½	—
Middling	15½@15¾	15¾
Strict middling	16 @16½	—
Good middling	— @17	17

The inquiry was fair, but the movement was checked by the assortment being poor, and buyers finding it difficult to fill their orders, as well as by their claiming concessions from factors, which the latter would not admit. We heard of sales at 11c for ordinary, 12c for strict ordinary, good ordinary at 13c, strict good ordinary at 13½ and 14c, low middling at a fraction under 14½ and 14½c and strict low middling at 15c.

The amount on shipboard not cleared, going on board and engaged for shipment was set down at the opening this morning at 121,000 bales, embracing 59,000 bales for Liverpool, 16,000 for Havre, 3000 for Spain, 3000 for Bremen, 32,000 for the North Sea and 6000 for the North, which, when deducted from the stock on hand by our running statement of yesterday evening, leaves 294,000 bales to represent the quantity at the landing and in presses unsold or awaiting orders.

The Exchange reports: "Sales 5300 bales including 1300 after 3 P. M. yesterday. Market quiet and unchanged." Its quotations are unchanged, and an addition to its late figures give those for good middling.

The following tables are copied from the bulletin board:

RECEIPTS AT UNITED STATES PORTS FROM SEPTEMBER 1 TO CLOSE OF FEBRUARY.

	1874.	1873.	1872.	1871.
New Orleans	808,642	873,266	767,909	.....
Galveston	266,000	264,147	156,507	.....
Mobile	255,294	271,912	259,002	.....
Savannah	577,151	552,112	397,056	.....
Charleston	261,267	296,759	275,068	.....
Wilmington	1,417	22,609	41,997	.....
Norfolk	254,322	262,087	262,352	.....
Baltimore	17,192	9,153	24,046	.....
New York	119,961	87,520	87,293	.....
Boston	16,062	12,552	33,077	.....
Various	49,984	34,620	27,602	.....
Totals	2,827,493	2,707,803	2,225,780	2,043,735
Balance of season	637,335	456,966	1,114,038	
Corrections	436,076	249,600	110,754	
Totals	3,851,346	3,732,236	3,968,571	
Overland and Southern consumption	279,162	247,085	278,429	
Total crops	3,590,564	3,484,951	3,847,096	

*Including Port Royal.

†Excess in Chronicle's figures receipts made up from corrections at New Orleans, Mobile, etc.

‡Philadelphia receipts not included until close of season, and other small places and corrections.

§Florida cotton not elsewhere counted.

RECEIPTS AT UNITED STATES PORTS DURING MONTH OF FEBRUARY.

	1874.	1873.	1872.	1871.
New Orleans	196,449	186,806	154,322	.....
Galveston	56,000	50,115	20,645	.....
Mobile	34,008	57,639	24,757	.....
Savannah	65,149	54,086	43,057	.....
Charleston	41,159	29,619	24,475	.....
Wilmington	4,175	5,871	5,225	.....
Norfolk	51,646	45,315	28,352	.....
Baltimore	1,926	3,239	6,771	.....
New York	27,275	25,625	16,672	.....
Boston	1,524	4,841	4,215	.....
Various	14,675	4,737	2,545	.....
Total	493,906	459,865	341,519	573,076

RECEIPTS AT UNITED STATES PORTS BY MONTHS.

	1873-4.	1872-3.	1870-1.
September	419,445	353,903	321,339
October	561,095	446,258	352,010
November	544,193	536,736	342,339
December	653,421	516,524	424,605
January	494,552	564,539	422,875
February	493,906	459,865	573,076
March	....	548,322	450,146
April	....	416,605	257,216
May	....	199,835	302,293
June	....	92,376	107,209
July	....	42,114	56,212
August	....	45,899	39,352
Total	....	3,656,941	3,857,265
Overland, Southern consumption and corrections	....	328,329	328,163
Crops	....	3,990,542	4,187,428

COTTON STATEMENT.

	Bales.
Stock on hand August 31, 1873	7,417
Arrived since last statement	2,904
Arrived previously	1,095,424—1,098,328
Total	1,100,745
Cleared to day	22,600
Cleared previously	767,956—790,556
Stock on hand and on shipboard not cleared	310,227
Same time last year	195,241

To-day's exports embraced 17,439 bales to Liverpool, 1922 to Amsterdam, 1124 to Boston and 2125 to New York.

Receipts proper since last evening 7000 bales, against 2978 on last Saturday and 4836 last year, and since August 31 of 904,304 bales, against 876,488 last year—increase 106,216.

The Exchange telegrams make the receipts at all the ports to-day 18,216 bales, against 14,297 on last Saturday and 9193 last year, and since August 31, 3,077,163 bales, against 2,717,154 last year—increase 360,032.

Exports yesterday to Great Britain 1076 bales, against 2757 last week, and 5030 last year; to the Continent 14,721 bales, against 16,052 last week, and 300 last year.

Stocks at all the delivery ports, made up to 12 M., 831,284 bales, against 820,669 last week, and 565,214 last year.

SUGAR—Received this morning 450 hhds. The market is dull and depressed, and prices are irregular. 300 hhds sold at 6c for inferior; 6⅛c for common; 6⅝@7c for fair; 7⅛c for good fair; 7⅜ for fully fair; 8c for prime; 8⅛@8½c for strictly prime; 8⅝c for low yellow clarified, and 9@9¼c for yellow clarified.

MOLASSES—Received this morning 90 bbls and 12 half bbls. The market is dull, and there were no sales to-day. The receipts are of poor quality, while only the better grades are wanted.

FLOUR—Is in request for Cuba, with a scarcity of round lots suitable for shipment. There were sales to-day of 1325 bbls, of which 500 bbls taken for Cuba, on private terms, and the balance for the local trade, comprising 100 on its merits at $5 62½; 25 double extra at $6; 100 do at $6 30; 100 at $6 50; 200 low treble extra at $7; 50 choice extra at $8; 50 at $8 25; 100 and 100 on private terms. Stock on hand 61,110 bbls in first hands. Of this 3000 bbls are sold and awaiting shipment.

CORN MEAL—Is dull, and more depressed; 50, 100 and 100 bbls sold at $3 25; and 200 at $3 30 ₱ bbl. It is jobbing at $3 50 ₱ bbl.

PORK—Is dull, and quoted at $16 ₱ bbl for mess. Only 50 bbls over weight mess sold at $16. It is retailing at $16 50 ₱ bbl.

DRY SALT MEAT—Is very dull. Shoulders are quoted at 5¾@6c; clear rib sides 8c; clear sides 8½c and no