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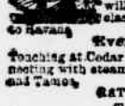

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A Question of Ability.

We rather think the REPUBLICAN is mistaken in pronouncing the Baton Rouge *Advocate* the ablest Democratic daily in the State. It is quite probable that in the enthusiasm of the moment and under the immediate influence of the *Advocate's* stirring eloquence one might become infected with such a belief; but calmer thought and a judicious course of the Shreveport *Times* would be almost certain to modify this sentiment. Of course we do not wish to be understood as saying that the *Times* is a more powerful paper than the *Advocate*. The utmost extent of our proposition is that between the two it seems very difficult to decide. If the *Advocate* is bold and outspoken the *Times* is fearless and uncompromising. If the *Advocate* is positive and unterrified the *Times* is dogmatic and determined. We recall the electrifying burst with which the *Advocate* acknowledged the receipt of a forty-six pound watermelon from a friend in the suburbs, and we are saturated with admiration too intense to be envious. We revert to the majestic apostrophe in which the editor of the *Times* condensed his sentiments on receiving a gold-headed cane from one of the provincial female seminaries, and we feel as though there can be no loftier flight for human patriotism to essay. Presenting points of difference between which it is quite impossible to discriminate, and blending with marvelous harmony in the sphere of unmeasured contempt for dissenting opinion and immeasurable denunciation of dissenters, the Baton Rouge *Advocate* and the Shreveport *Times* are journals whose intellectual force is only to be estimated by astronomical formula, and whose ability acknowledges no limit save the base and sordid confines of opportunity. We object to nasty decisions touching the merits of these great moral and political engines. Let their comparative virtues, like the conundrum of their respective existences, remain among the ineffable mysteries which it is not given to mortal man to penetrate.—*New Orleans Picayune.*

If the *Picayune* will glance again at the article which called forth the above, it will be seen that we said the *Advocate* "is *considered* to be the ablest Democratic daily in the State." We were thus guarded in our praise, not from any desire to shirk responsibility, but rather through fear that we might do injustice to other papers, claiming ability, and claiming the honor of shaping the course and holding the tiller of the Democratic lugger. There are things we feel and known to be superior to all others, and yet, if called upon to do so, we could not prove the fact, and you could not, Mr. *Picayune*. Claims of superiority for men and things are too much a matter of opinion. We see excellencies, and yet can not convince others that they exist. It is the same way with experimental religion, which a man knows that he has as much as he knows he has been to camp meeting, and it is the same with the girls we love. A father said, "I don't know what my John can see in that girl to like; love makes him blind!" And the boy said, "You are wrong, father; love gives me eyes, and I see things to admire in Sarah Jane that you never can see." If a paper might be allowed to testify in its own behalf, we could take such testimony as would undoubtedly prove any proposition. We could prove honesty, ability, enterprise and superior intelligence for many journals, and we could also prove that the whole batch of them had the largest circulation, each one more than the other. Good natured people always utilize such evidence as they can get. The late Mr. A. Ward had a good nature, and he tells of a furious and beastly man he once saw in a California bar room. The man was using the most terrible blasphemous and obscene language, he was brandishing a bowie and cleaning out the place, he had knocked down his father and was fresh from killing his mother. "And yet," said Mr. Ward, "that man was a gentleman. I heard him say so. In fact, he remarked several times that he was a gentleman."

The ability of a Democratic paper, then, is more a matter of opinion than assured fact. The Shreveport *Times* is certainly an able paper, but it is open to the censure of Democrats, it is tainted with Whigism, it has dabbled in Fusion water, it headed the White League movement in the Red river country, and formed what known as the white man's party, putting none but pale faces on guard, and giving tolerance only to deep dyed-in-the-wool Democrats who happened to have been born on the glorious soil of the Pelican State; after that it was found advocating the Wheeler compromise, and counseling moderation in killing colored men. We have heard since that it is conservative, and is published as a religious journal. There has been none of this wavering with the *Advocate*. Its principles do not change. Men change, and grow, and get new ideas, but the *Advocate* goes on forever. It knows intuitively, as it were, what men are honest and who are thieves; it decides musical and political contests; it can call a convention, make a platform and name the winning men; it can knock down the city press, and it knows all about public printing; it has nominated William Allen for President, and successfully defends the Ohio platform against the *World*. This shows ability enough for one paper, and if the *Picayune*, in its jealous conceit, has any other mean or sneering remarks to make about a Democratic paper which happens to be small in size, and happens to be published in the country—also a disgrace—we should like to hear them.

Rifling in England.

The correspondent of the New York *Times* gives us a dreary letter of the doings at the camp at Wimbledon and applies a wet blanket of remarkable efficacy to the aspirations of any future enthusiasts for a contest at rifle shooting. In the first place the American team, even on a reconsideration, were not allowed to shoot for the great prize, the Elcho shield, so they assisted their Irish friends with advice and they won it. The correspondent hints the result was due to the advice, but New Orleans riflemen will probably conclude it was the shooting. Next, the common was all mud, wind and rain all the time, and the rain came through all the tents. They lived on preserved meats, barrels of beer, cheese and tins of biscuits. Once in a while a barrister cooked a beefsteak *a la Soyer*, but this was rare. Even the most fashionable event, the contest between six members of the House of Lords and six members of the House of Commons, did not attract a score of ladies to the grounds. Altogether it is apparent the correspondent has no more desire to visit Wimbledon Common.

Death of a Planter.

Information has been received of the death, on his farm in Illinois, on Wednesday evening last, of Mr. E. E. Miott, a wealthy planter of Terrebonne. Deceased was a brother-in-law of J. Q. A. Fellows, Esq., of this city.

Yellow Fever at Pascagoula.

The telegraph announces that yellow fever has become epidemic at Pascagoula, thirty cases being reported yesterday. Already seven deaths have occurred.

From other sources it is learned that the fever made its first appearance at Scranton Friday or Saturday, at the house of Dr. Bradfield, near Riverside—the same house in which it broke out last year. Ten cases have occurred in the doctor's own family, and he and his sister are dead. The captain of the schooner Olaf, or Orloff, was the next victim. The vessel was employed in bringing lumber to vessels in the harbor, and the captain may have contracted the disease on board one of them or at the house of Dr. Bradfield. Monday there were twelve cases, and the people becoming so much alarmed that they were leaving the town for the woods. Two English vessels came into the harbor with cases of fever on board, and this caused an additional panic, and another English captain immediately took his vessel to Ship Island to avoid contagion.

Another account says that the people have stampeded the town, and that there will not be enough left to bury the dead. Mobile has already quarantined Pascagoula, and given warning at that place that her officers remove from the trains all passengers and put them and their baggage off in the woods.

Dr. White, president of the Board of Health, has already requested the Board and Superintendent of Metropolitan Police to take the same measures that were used last year, viz: to stop all trains and examine the passengers and baggage, fumigating all belonging to persons from infected places.

Small-Pox a Result of Negligence.

A few days since a letter reached the Board of Health, complaining that there was small-pox in the families of some Italians living at the corner of Julia and Baronne streets. Of these cases the board had heard nothing, and an investigation was immediately had. From the accounts received from residents of the locality it appears that three weeks ago there were two cases of small-pox among children at the fruit stand. One died, and was buried at five o'clock in the morning in St. Vincent de Paul's Cemetery on the physician's certificate of death from typhoid fever. The child that recovered bore evident marks of having been recently sick with small-pox. At the time of the investigation there were three cases in Nos. 235, 235½ and 237, and a strong probability that three unvaccinated children would be down with it. Since then ex-Governor Weller has become ill with the disease, and undoubtedly was infected from this locality, as he resides at No. 241 Baronne street.

All these subsequent cases are the natural result of want of proper precaution caused by the failure of the attending physician to report the first case to the board. Prompt measures could then have been taken and the later cases prevented. The law requires every physician to make such a report and imposes a fine on delinquents, but this is not the first case of the kind. The board has taken measures to prevent further contagion, and also to obtain a report of the facts from the physician himself.

Personal.

Yesterday Attorney General A. P. Field left New Orleans on a short leave of absence for St. Louis, on the City of Alton. Colonel Field has well earned his few weeks of relaxation in his official duties, and his absence at this time, when all courts are adjourned, will only cause a hearty wish that he may return strengthened and reinvigorated. In the meantime Hon. Henry C. Dibble will attend to such matters as may arise. Colonel Field has not yet decided how far this trip may extend. He intends to visit Chicago and then, if possible, New York and the Eastern cities.

Senator T. C. Anderson accompanied Colonel Field on the City of Alton, intending to visit St. Louis.

General Hugh J. Campbell having sufficiently recovered from his late severe illness to be about the streets, is still too unwell to attend to his duties. He left last night and will for a short period seek relaxation and health in the mountains of Georgia.

That Voucher.

A letter, too long for publication, has been received from Mr. Ben Jacobs, explanatory of the manner he obtained knowledge and possession of the blank voucher from the holder, but nothing to show how it came into the hands of an unauthorized person. He says he himself considered it of no value, mentioned the matter to Mr. Herwig, brought it to him at his request, and saw it shown to Mr. Eicholz, who could not understand how it got out of the office. Both told him it was of no value, and he obtained it again from Mr. Herwig for the purpose of returning it to the person who gave it to him, but he does not say that he did so. He subsequently handed it to Mr. Kinsella, who did not give it to him when he called for it again. He says his object was to establish the fact that there was such a paper.

Appointments.

Acting Governor C. C. Antoine has appointed A. Pichon and T. Lacroix, aldermen of Covington, parish of St. Tammany.

J. H. Randall is appointed clerk of court parish of Rapides, vice Levi Wells, resigned.

James Lewis is appointed member of the Board of Metropolitan Police, vice W. M. Robinson.

General James Shields, whose shingle is in front of a law office in Kansas City, delivered in that city an oration on Daniel O'Connell, and like many Southern orators, failed to do O'Connell justice. The grandest trait in O'Connell's character, that for which he will be longest remembered by Americans, was his heartfelt sympathy and co-operation with the Abolitionists of America, who were inaugurating a work akin to his own, looking to the liberation and elevation of the down-trodden bondmen. Irishmen who clamored for the freedom of Ireland and left it to fight in our war for the perpetuation of American slavery, give O'Connell too little credit for his theories of universal freedom when pronouncing eulogies on the great Irish statesmen.

Of all useless and cruel men, Bogardus, the pigeon shooter, appears to carry off the palm. He is now abroad making a rifle team of himself.

General Butler on Daniel O'Connell.

At a banquet at the Revere House, in Boston, presided over by General P. R. Guiney, which occurred on the eve of the centennial celebration of the birthday of Daniel O'Connell, General B. F. Butler responded to the toast "The United States," and spoke as follows:

Mr. President—First, as in duty bound, thanking you and the gentlemen here for the kind impression toward myself, I take pleasure in responding to what I believe to be the sentiment of the people of the United States toward him whose memory we are here this night to keep green, and toward the nation whose champion he was. We of the United States had a peculiar birth. Our fathers were of different nationalities, different creeds, different modes of thought, almost in every regard different, except they were all animated by a common love of liberty. They all had one watchword—liberty and freedom, and equality of rights to all. Much has been said of Plymouth Rock. You will allow me to say, in the words of another, without offense to Irishmen, that Plymouth Rock is the blarney stone of America. Your sweet woman poet, Mrs. Hemans, has said that our fathers sought and there they found freedom to worship God. Oh, no! that is exactly what they didn't seek. They sought for freedom to worship God as they desired, and for the right to prevent anybody else from worshiping God in any other way. And they whipped the Quakers, drove out the Baptists, and made the Episcopalians take back seats, because they felt that they were going straight to hell fire and eternal damnation. And in that, my friends, they were logically correct, because believing that they, the Puritans, were right, and that everybody else was wrong, and that everybody that did not worship God in precisely the manner that they worshiped God was sure of eternal fire and brimstone, why should not they do all that they could in this world to prevent others from suffering hell through all eternity? They came here from Holland, not because they were there oppressed, but because they had too much religious freedom; and, in the language of one of their chief leaders, they came here because the religious freedom of Holland allowed their young men and maidens to stray into other churches where God was not worshiped according to the views they held. And we have had some of that even to this day. I remember, sir, a long time ago—more than, thank God, most of this assembly can remember, for they have before them that long life of usefulness, honor and endeavor for the country of their adoption which is fast passing from my grasp—I can remember when on the neighboring hill I saw the flames of the burning pile in a religious community, because in opposition to the spirit of our Puritan fathers. I can remember, sir, that while we claimed that here was freedom for all men, that here every man could follow the dictates of his own conscience as he pleased, that still some portions of our country, against the spirit of our institutions, against the spirit of our laws, against that spirit for which our fathers contended at Bunker Hill and Lexington, at Concord and on all the bloody battle-fields of the Revolution—men were persecuted for not only religious opinions, but because of their nationality and the land of their birth.

I remember, sir, when on yonder common a band of young men, organized in military array, learning the art of war, in order that they might defend the interests of the country which they had made their own, and they were driven from it, from the line of the military command, with stones and jeers, and scoffs and gibes, simply because they were not born on American soil. I remember again, sir, in 1855 and 1856, when the cry went out, "Put none but Americans in command," and when men were ostracized because they felt that these men that fled from oppression in Europe, who had come here searching for liberty and freedom, were fit to be citizens of a free republic. That day, thank God, has passed away, and now on this soil there is no persecution against men for the place of their birth.

And what has led to this great change? Let me go back a moment. In 1798, there was on the green isle of the ocean a happy, industrious, prosperous people. Manufactures flourished, and industry, peculiar to the country, had made everything flourish, and riches and honor and prosperity unexampled seemed to belong to that people. But the oppressions of the government, which has not yet raised its hands from them, the exactions of the bonded landlords soon reduced that 8,000,000 of people down to 4,000,000, and that 4,000,000 came to America, and the Jacksons and the Johnsons and the Polks of North Carolina, and those that gathered around Carroll, in Maryland, laid here the deep foundation of religious, political, national liberty, and, as I have before recalled to your mind, still there lingered a prejudice among those who were here before them. That prejudice descended from father to son with the results I have named, but the spirit of O'Connell animated the bosoms of men like Garrison and Phillips. They looked abroad in this land and saw there was an oppressed race here, and, with the same devotion to liberty and right that O'Connell had, they insisted that that race should be free. That conflict of opinion brought on the war, and in that war brother was arrayed against brother, men were arrayed in deadly strife against each other upon an idea, and that idea was of social and political equality of all men, and in defense of that idea thousands of Irishmen sprang to arms and stood shoulder to shoulder, fighting the battles of the country which they had adopted, and which had become to them a very ideal of the Ireland of their fathers, a home of liberty and freedom to all men, and Antietam, the Wilderness, and the battles of the war settled the question that Irishmen in this country were the true defenders of liberty and equality of rights of all men.

And what has been the result? All prejudice of nationality is gone, but one still remains. A certain religious prejudice, which is always the most difficult of eradication. We are not quite willing that every man shall worship God exactly in accord with his own conscience. We insist upon setting up our conviction of right, but that is the last vestige of prejudice or of wrong that remains in the United States, and that, thank God, is fast passing away. There are now nearly as many Irish men and women in this country as in the Old World. There is the largest Irish city in the world in this country—the city of New York. And there are more Irishmen in the good city of Boston than in any city of Ireland, save Dublin. You and your fathers—stop a minute—we and our fathers have brought to this city that ideal Irish opinion of freedom and of equality of right, of that power which belongs to every man to carve out his own fortune in his own way, that Emmett dreamed of, Wolf sought and labored for, Grattan thundered his eloquence for, and O'Connell laid down his life for; for he died of a broken heart because of British oppression on his countrymen and the failure of his great effort to redeem them from oppression at home; and that oppression drove them here. And as a not very remote son of Ireland, I look forward to the time when Ireland shall govern New England, and New England govern the United States.

Some men are opposed to their religion, but who would not prefer the teachings of a Church which inculcates the responsibility of man to man, the responsibility of man to God hereafter for sins committed in the body, to that infidel skepticism which acknowledges no God, no hereafter, no future state and no responsibility, and teaches that we are like the beasts that perish and go to the ground? Give me, sir, an educated, high-toned, moral, hard working priesthood, who shall instruct the people in some faith, rather than that no faith, and no instruction, and no religion that comes to us from some parts of Europe.

O'Connell attempted to do in Ireland what his countrymen have done in America—established the right of every Irishman to be exactly that which his endeavor, his temperance, his labor, his knowledge, his ability will make him; established a country where all men shall begin even, and start the race of life upward and onward precisely as they will have it, failing only when they fail, and outstripped only by those that can run faster and do better than they can. That is a fair race, and he is a coward who would interfere to trip up anybody in that race.

A Republican Senator's Views.

In a conversation with Senator Anthony, of Rhode Island, to-day, he said, smilingly: "You ask for the solving of some very difficult conundrums when endeavoring to ascertain the future political situation. It is almost as difficult to fix upon a satisfactory probability as it is to harmonize the opinions of thousands of newspapers."

The Senator added that he was free to give his opinion for what it might be worth. Undoubtedly, he said, the two great questions that will receive the most attention in the national campaign will be, first, the maintaining of the Union on the principles that prevailed during the late war; and secondly, the currency question. The tariff and labor questions, in his opinion, would receive but little attention.

"Will the fact that the next House of Representatives will have a Conservative majority, largely made up of ex-Confederate officers, have any particular influence in the selection of a Democratic candidate for the Presidency?"

"That will entirely depend upon whether the wishes or the fears of those who control the Democratic party will have the greater influence. Those who fought against the Union would like to have their principles represented on the ticket, but I think their fears will prevail. I do not think the Southern Democrats will be so unwise as to press a candidate against the wishes of their Northern friends. The Northern Democrats will probably kick up a little if any such attempt shall be made."

"What is your opinion as to the chances of either Governor Tilden, Governor Allen, Hendricks, Pendleton, or Senator Bayard in the contest?"

"As for Mr. Tilden I know nothing more than I read in the newspapers. Pendleton is an inflationist, isn't he? Senator Bayard is a strong man, and a good man for his party, but I think Hendricks by a long way now has the inside track. The row in Ohio over the currency question makes it impossible that any candidate can be taken from that State, and in looking over the field I believe Hendricks is way ahead. It is simply absurd for the South and West to be crying for more currency with money at three per cent. The revenue is more than the expenses of government other than what we have agreed to pay in gold, and other agreements such as the sinking fund provision for the reduction of the national debt. An inflated currency could not be used for the payment of that debt. We have agreed to pay that in gold. What will the currency be good for? I don't know of any other way to get rid of more of it than we now have, unless it be to distribute it about over the country pro rata, as New Hampshire did, among the counties, with the proceeds of the sale of her public lands.

"How do you think the hard money Democrats can come to an understanding with the inflationists and settle the discord now existing?"

"There is no middle ground. They have either got to go for hard money or for irredeemable paper. The only semblance of middle ground that can possibly exist will be the question whether there shall be less or more of the paper money. And then, when the issue of it is begun, there will be no end of it. As the situation now appears, although Mr. Hendricks has the best chance, it would be a safe bet of one to fifty against the field as it now stands, as far as the possible candidates for the presidential nomination are concerned, that neither of them will receive the nomination, and that some new man not yet mentioned will be presented."

"Will the third term prospect have any weight?"

"Oh, no! President Grant has settled that question in his letter very plainly, I think. I don't believe he desires it. He has had enough of it by this time."

"What position do you think the Liberal party will occupy next year?"

"They will undoubtedly go with the Republicans. I do not know how it will be in the South, but North and West their principles are with us. They only differ as to men and policy."

"What is your judgment of the political importance attached by the Democrats to the November elections?"

"They have been overestimated. They were the results of accident, and as much a surprise to the Democrats as they were to the Republicans. I would have much preferred to have had them on our side."

"Have you any opinion regarding the feasibility of placing the telegraph lines under the control of the government?"

"Well, that's a big question. There's a good deal to be said on both sides. The principal difficulty that would be presented in such an event would be to find a good administration for such an arrangement to successfully carry on a government work of that kind. There is no doubt that the mistake made in amending the postal laws at the last session increasing the rates of postage will be corrected as quick as may be after Congress meets. The public may rest easy on that score."

"What is your opinion generally regarding the policy toward the South, and what does the South hope for?"

"There are a thousand questions in connection with the subject. Generally, I believe the Republican party has done the best it could under the circumstances. There have been numerous and great difficulties to overcome. These have been met as promptly as the circumstances would allow, and the progress made is not altogether unsatisfactory. The Southern States hope for a remission of the cotton tax. They think the war impoverished them in this respect. Why, they didn't pay the cotton tax. The manufacturers paid it, and it would be just as reasonable to donate to them an equal amount of money from the United States treasury as it would be to remit the cotton tax. They also expect payment for slave property. Well, we'll see about that when the question comes fairly before the people."—*New York Graphic.*

The Statutes at Large.

A Washington dispatch of the American Press Association says:

When the United States Statutes at Large were revised by a commission appointed for that purpose, by a singular oversight all laws in relation to the District of Columbia were left out. To remedy this defect Hon. T. J. Durant, a very able lawer, who had previously been employed to compare the work of the commissioners with the statute laws, was engaged to revise this portion of the statutes, and the work has been completed and indexed, making a volume of about 300 pages.

The first volume has been carefully indexed by Mr. Durant and Judge James, the latter a member of the commission to revise the statutes. The same gentlemen have also arranged and indexed the second volume, which embraces the laws in relation to the District of Columbia. The treaties and post roads have been arranged in alphabetical order, and the former, besides the general index, has an index in chronological order. Under the provisions of the law the acts of the first session of the Forty-third Congress were revised, edited and indexed by Messrs. Durant and James. The work on the acts of the second session was performed by Judge James. All laws to the present time have been prepared for publication and are in the hands of the government printer, who will have them ready for delivery in a few days. As soon as ready they will be for sale at the State Department.

An ancient maiden lady boasted that she had never told her love, but acknowledged that she might have done so if she had been pressed.

BY TELEGRAPH.

WASHINGTON.

A Steamer's Fine.

WASHINGTON, August 12.—The Secretary of the Treasury refuses to remit the fine incurred by the steamer Plymouth Rock for carrying passengers in excess of the legal allowances.

Minister to Belgium.

Adam Badeau has been commissioned as minister to Belgium.

Ordered to Tripoli.

The Navy Department has advices that Admiral Worden has ordered the steamer Congress to Tripoli to act with the Hartford in demanding the punishment of the Tripolitan sailors who insulted the United State consul.

A Council of the Indians.

Rev. S. D. Hinman telegraphs to the Indian Bureau, as follows, from Cheyenne, August 11: The Indians at Cheyenne and Standing Rock consent to go with Red Cloud for a council. The agent is instructed to furnish them rations for the journey, and attend personally if possible. There will probably be 3000 Indians at the council besides those belonging to the Red Cloud and Spotted Tail agencies. It is important that presents should be sent for them, and horses ordered to be purchased. The failure to remove the whites from the Black Hills is causing trouble.

NEW YORK.

The Sioux at Mischief.

NEW YORK, August 12.—A Bismarck, Dakota, dispatch says Robert Henry was killed within two miles of Fort Abraham Lincoln, and his stock run off. The next night the Indians ran in a party cutting hay.

At Standing Rock agency the Sioux held a pony dance, rode into the quarters of the military commander and trampled the tents and blankets under their horses' feet, as if to provoke a collision.

Sale of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

The Northern Pacific railroad, with all franchises, was sold by order of court, and was bid in as entirety by the purchasing committee, consisting of Livingston, Billings, Stark, Moorhead, Hutchinson and Dennison, representing the general body of bondholders, who have or may hereafter assent. There was no competition, consequently the price was nominal. This sale will result in a transfer of the company's property to the bondholders, who, upon surrender of their bonds, will receive stock in the reorganized company.

Duncan, Sherman & Co.

The *Tribune* says the discovery has been made that a large amount of the indebtedness of Duncan, Sherman & Co. held in this city is "accommodation paper," in the form of drafts drawn on them by a confidential clerk in their office, accepted by them, and sold to various banks through note brokers.

Announcement is also made that the letters of credit for which the father of Mr. Duncan has become responsible amount only to about $30,000. Mr. Duncan claims the transactions were legitimate, while prominent bankers say they are irregular.

A member of the firm of Duncan, Sherman & Co., regarding the statement in the *Tribune*, said the bills of accommodation were placed by the firm in a perfectly legitimate manner and according to the practice prevailing to-day with houses of good and extensive credit. The amount of acceptances issued was about $1,200,000, of which $550,000 is held in Rhode Island and a considerable part of the balance in other parts of the country. Regarding the letters of credit for which Alexander Duncan is responsible, he stated that the aggregate amount of this form of indebtedness of the firm was about $130,000, for which Alexander Duncan had deposited $200,000.

Specie.

Specie shipments to-day nearly $500,000.

Western Union Affairs.

President Orton, of the Western Union Telegraph Company, in a letter to an afternoon paper says: "The Western Union Company can use to advantage and may absolutely require, within the next year, 10,000 miles of additional wires. If these additional facilities can be acquired of companies now using them in competition with us cheaper than we can erect them, clearly it would be for our interests to buy out such companies rather than to erect new wires. But we have made no proposition for the purchase of any competing lines, and no proposition has been made us that would be for the interest of the Western Union to accept."

Mr. Orton also refutes an allegation to the effect that he had entered into a conspiracy or an arrangement or was a party to an understanding with Jay Gould looking to the turning out of certain of the present associates in the Western Union board at the annual election in October and the substitution of Gould and his friends.

At the meeting of the executive committee of the Western Union Telegraph directors yesterday, a committee consisting of ex-Governor E. D. Morgan and Messrs. Harrison Durkee and Frank Work, was appointed to confer with representatives of the Atlantic and Pacific telegraph in regard to a consolidation of interests.

Effects of the Storm.

The loss caused by the storm in New Jersey to-day has been very heavy. In Orange county the damage is estimated at $200,000, and in Passaic county at $50,000.

THE TURF.

The Races at Saratoga.

SARATOGA, August 12.—*First Race*—Kenner stakes for three year olds, $100 entrance, h. f., with $500 added; second horse to receive $300 out of the stakes; two miles. There were fifty-six entries—six started. The track was in fair condition, and the horses got off well together. Ozark led for a mile and three-quarters, with Milner second. On the last quarter Ozark, who had fallen to third position, made a splendid rush for the front, passing Warwick, who was running second, and grappling with Milner desperately for the lead. From the furlong pole to the finish there was a magnificent contest between Ozark and Milner, the horses passing so closely together under the string that the judges declared it a dead heat; Warwick third, St. Martin fourth, Willie Burke fifth, Chesapeake sixth. Time—3:43½. Stakes divided.

Second Race—Purse $600, for all ages, one and a half miles. Six started, Madge, Aaron Pennington, Donahue, Dublin, Scratch and Grinstead. At the start Dublin got off first, holding the lead for half a mile, when Grinstead passed to the front, with Dublin second and Pennington third. Grinstead won by a length, Pennington second, Dublin third, Scratch fourth, Donahue fifth, Madge sixth. Time—2:40.

Third Race—Selling race, for all ages, purse $500, one mile and a quarter. Nine started; won by Brigand by three lengths, Survivor second, Caroline third, Leander fourth. Time—2:14.

THE FRESHET.

Bridge Destroyed—Railroad Damaged.

WILLIAMSBURG, Mass., August 12.—Mill river reached its highest point last midnight. The abutment of the stone bridge here was destroyed, and the railroad badly damaged. This will delay travel a day or two. The people in the villages along the river fled to the hills.

The River at Memphis.

MEMPHIS, August 12.—The river rose very little last night, and now marks a fraction of an inch above the spring flood, and within two inches of the danger line. The bottom opposite this point is slowly but steadily filling, and only a few inches of the rim of the bank is visible, and in numerous places it is running over on this side from the foot of Jefferson street up to the mouth of Wolf river. Much damage is feared from the caving in of the bank when the decline sets in, as along this portion of the city's front the river has been gradually cutting away the bank for the past three or four days.

The latest intelligence from below is that the water is running over at the gap between the two levee districts in Coatoma county, Mississippi, 150 miles below here, and has badly damaged the Burk & Butler plantation.

White river is reported as backed up 150 miles, and the Arkansas about the same, while the back water in the St. Francis extends up some eighty miles.

Later—A Crevasse in Mississippi.

During the twenty-four hours ending at six o'clock this evening the river has risen only one-third of an inch, and only shows thirty-three feet ten inches flush on the gauge, which is a trifle above the spring rise and two inches below the danger line. Additional news from below in reference to the crevasse at Burk's place, in the lower end of Coahoma county, Mississippi, states that there is a gap of twelve miles between the levee districts of Coahoma and Bolivar counties, and at the lowest point, which is Burk's, a private levee had been constructed which broke on last Friday night, since when water has been pouring through the crevasse and thence into Hushpucany and Sunflower. About 3000 acres of cotton and corn have already been destroyed in that vicinity. At Chicot City they report the railroad inundated at the four and eight mile posts, and that most of the lands between there and Red Fork, on the Arkansas river are submerged. Planters are reticent in regard to their losses, and steamboatmen are not inclined to array the planters against them by giving information concerning damage except in general terms.

Bridge Broken and Travel Delayed.

BOSTON, August 12.—The bridge between Huntington and Russell, on the Albany and Boston road, was forced from its foundations. No passengers from Albany had arrived up to one o'clock.

Damage in New Jersey.

NEWARK, N. J., August 12.—The storm yesterday did great damage in Orange valley. Dams, bridges, roads and crops were swept away. The damage is estimated at $75,000.

Another Massachusetts Dam Gone.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., August 12.—The dam of the reservoir on the west branch of Mill creek was swept away. No loss of life reported.

FOREIGN.

The Turkish Frontier.

CONSTANTINOPLE, August 12.—The presence of a Servian corps on the Turkish frontier seems to furnish encouragement to the insurgents.

Sailed for Home.

LIVERPOOL, August 12.—The American rifle team sailed on the City of Berlin.

Drafts for the Spanish Army.

MADRID, August 12.—A decree was issued to-day ordering a levy of 100,000 men from nineteen years of age upward. Another decree orders the issue of £60,000,000 consolidated interest scrip to pay the floating debt.

Bombardment.

The man-of-war Victoria is bombarding the town of Lequito, on the Biscayan coast.

Important Victory Over the Carlists.

General Martinez Campos, in a dispatch dated Seo De Urgel to-day, announces that the troops under his command, after desperate fighting, entered to Olsans Tower. He lost 100 killed. The Carlists' loss was still heavier, and many of the garrison were taken prisoners. The explosion of the magazine in the citadel made a large breach in the walls.

Conference of Old Catholics.

BONN, Germany, August 12.—The conference of Old Catholics, called by Dr. Dollinger, was formally opened here to-day. The session will last three days.

In attendance at the Old Catholic conference there are about thirty English and American clergymen, and several archimandrites and bishops of Eastern churches. Among the American divines are Rev. Drs. Langdon, Nevin, Potter and Parry. Dr. Dollinger opened the proceedings with an address, which lasted an hour, and treated of the relation of dogmatic controversy between the Latin and Greek churches to the whole course of ecclesiastical history.

At the conclusion of his address the conference entered upon the business for which it had met, which was the consideration of Dr. Dollinger's plan of confederation and intercommunication among the separated churches. This union is to be based on a mutual recognition of primitive truth, which may enable each church to admit members of other communions to its privileges. In respect to divine worship and Christian sacraments, at the same time an actual fusion, or the sacrifice of national or traditional peculiarities of form or church constitution is not contemplated, an ambiguous expression of the substance of Christian docrine and practice, as taught by the Bible and fathers of the ancient church, is sought as the real bond of union. The discussion of this subject occupied the remainder of today's sitting.

The Turks Again Routed.

LONDON, August 12.—An obstinate fight is reported, from Sclavonia sources, near Belchiz, between the Herzgovinians and Turks; in which the latter were