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VOLUME IX.—NO. 301 NEW ORLEANS, SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1876. WHOLE NUMBER 2762.

The North Louisiana Railroad Bill.

The people of the city of Shreveport seem to be thoroughly in earnest in their determination to secure the promulgation of the act passed by the Legislature, granting a charter and right of way to the North Louisiana Railroad Company. The following is copied from the Shreveport *Telegram* of the twenty-second:

As soon as we learned of the unprecedented action of Mr. Wheelock yesterday, we reported the fact to Mayor Murphy, who immediately telegraphed to Hon. George L. Smith, in New Orleans, and this morning received the following reply:

NEW ORLEANS, March 21, 1876.

Hon. N. W. Murphy, Mayor of Shreveport:

Though destroyed by Wheelock, the bill was re-enrolled and signed by the Speaker last Saturday. I am remaining here to secure the Governor's signature. False representations and unfair opposition shall not defeat the almost unanimous will of the Legislature and the best interests of Shreveport, if vigilance can prevent it.

GEORGE L. SMITH.

Our reporter sought Mayor Murphy about nine o'clock this morning, obtained a copy of the dispatch, and soon had it published as an extra and distributed throughout the city, realizing the interest felt in the matter by our citizens. As soon as the contents of Mr. Smith's dispatch were known, the following dispatch to Governor Kellogg was drawn up, and, at the solicitation of Messrs. Joseph Boisseau, Thomas Poland, John J. Horan and W. S. Haven, signed by a large number of our citizens and forwarded:

SHREVEPORT, La., March 21, 1876.

To His Excellency William P. Kellogg, Governor of Louisiana:

The undersigned citizens of North Louisiana, most respectfully ask that you sign the North Louisiana railroad charter, passed at the last session of the Legislature. The charter of this road is of the most vital importance to this section, and its promulgation as a law will be hailed with pleasure by all North Louisiana. Hoping to hear of its speedy promulgation, we are most respectfully.

N. W. MURPHY, Mayor;
N. GREGG,
President Cotton Exchange,
And nearly every citizen of Shreveport.

A meeting of the Cotton Exchange was also held, at which the matter was discussed, and the president on motion of Major W. H. Elstner, was unanimously authorized to forward the following dispatch:

SHREVEPORT, March 21, 1876.

To Hon. George L. Smith, New Orleans:

North Louisiana demands that the bill incorporating the North Louisiana Railroad Company shall be made a law. We repel the insinuation that there is any connection between this and the Backbone road. You have our thanks. N. GREEG,
President Cotton Exchange.

[Mayor Murphy to Governor Kellogg.]

Mayor Murphy forwarded the following dispatch to Governor Kellogg this afternoon:

SHREVEPORT, La., March 21, 1876.

To His Excellency W. P. Kellogg, Governor of Louisiana:

The following petition, signed by a large number of citizens of North Louisiana, will be forwarded to you by mail:

The undersigned citizens of North Louisiana most respectfully ask that you sign the North Louisiana railroad charter, passed at the last session of the Legislature. The charter of this road is of the most vital importance to this section, and its promulgation as a law will be hailed with pleasure by all North Louisiana. Hoping to hear of its speedy promulgation, we are most respectfully, etc.

N. W. MURPHY, Mayor.

In connection with the above we learn that dispatches have been sent to the several parishes through which the road will run, and petitions will be gotten up and forwarded to Governor Kellogg.

Funding Parish Bonds.

At the session of the Legislature of 1874 two bills were passed giving the parishes of Terrebonne and Plaquemines permission to fund their indebtedness. These were the cause of so much fraud and dissatisfaction that they were repealed at the last session.

At this year's session, however, a bill of the same character for the parish of Jefferson, right bank, was passed. Considering the results of the former bills the Governor was reluctant to sign it until he obtained more information. He therefore addressed the following letter to the authorities:

STATE OF LOUISIANA, Executive Department, New Orleans, March 22, 1876.

R. Gardere, Esq., President, and the Members of the Police Jury of Jefferson Parish, right bank:

GENTLEMEN—The Governor has before him an act to empower the police jury of the parish of Jefferson, right bank, to issue interest bearing bonds in liquidation of the floating debt of the parish.

Acts of similar character were passed by previous Legislatures in regard to other parishes, and in practice were found so burdensome to the taxpayers and so provocative of fraud that they have been repealed.

The Governor respectfully requests you to inform him specifically in writing whether in your judgment the interests of the property owners and taxpayers of the parish of Jefferson, right bank, will be advanced by his signing the bill in question.

Very respectfully,
H. CONQUEST CLARKE,
Private Secretary.

The following reply was received:

PARISH OF JEFFERSON, RIGHT BANK, March 24, 1876.

To His Excellency W. P. Kellogg, Governor of the State of Louisiana:

SIR—In answer to the query, "whether in my judgment the interest of the property owners and taxpayers of the parish of Jefferson, right bank, would be advanced by the Governor signing the bill to fund the floating debt of the parish?" I beg respectfully to answer, that said bill was prepared with the unanimous consent of the members of the police jury, and is considered by them as a measure necessary to protect the taxpayers from too heavy taxation. With respect, sir, I am your obedient servant. R. GARDERE,
President of Police Jury, Parish of Jefferson, right bank.

This being satisfactory, the bill was signed and is ready for promulgation.

The Voice of Massachusetts.

The New York *Tribune* says:

A memorial has been signed by the members of both branches of the Massachusetts Legislature almost unanimously, irrespective of party, asking the United States Senate to confirm the nomination of the Hon. R. H. Dana, Jr., as minister to England. The memorial was signed by 200 Senators and members, and was to-night forwarded to Senators Boutwell and Dawes. A paper was also forwarded, signed by all the leading members of the bar of both parties, headed by Sidney Bartlett and ex-Chief Justice George Tyler Bigelow, complimenting the President on the selection of Mr. Dana, and urging the Senate to confirm him.

Don't forget it,
Don't forget it,
The Golden Drawing,
The Golden Drawing, April 29,
April 29,
April 29,
Fifty dollars wins a fortune.
Fifty dollars wins a fortune.
Fifty dollars wins a fortune.
Fifty dollars wins a fortune.

Amusements.

The play at the Varieties Theatre last night was the operatic drama of "Guy Mannering," produced for the purpose of allowing Miss Mary Anderson to make her first appearance as *Meg Merrilies*. The occasion called out a theatre full of the best of the New Orleans patrons of the drama. In speaking of the character assumed by the young actress, memory will go back to the great queen of the tragic drama just laid to rest at Mount Auburn. No one who has seen Charlotte Cushman as *Meg Merrilies* can forget the electrical effect of her first entrance, where she darts from the Gipsy hut, and with outstretched arm stands rigid and transfixed for many minutes at sight of *Harry Bertram*. The play of "Guy Mannering" has had a singular life. Nearly sixty years ago it was popular solely on account of the music associated with it, and in this country it was first acted to give prominence to tenors like John Barham, who acted *Bertram*. The part of *Meg* was almost created by the genius of Miss Cushman, and latterly the play has kept the stage on her account, and been associated with her name, though *Meg* is well played in this country by Augusta L. Dargan and Emma Waller. It would be unjust to compare Miss Anderson to any of these trained actresses. She has yet to master the part and make it her own. Considering her as a young girl, new to the stage, her assumption of the part proved a wonderful success. She did not appear as an imitator, but as a beginner, trying to do her best, and she played to an audience most willing to applaud and sustain her efforts. If anything the audience was too lavish of praise, and Miss Anderson allowed herself to spoil the effect of her first exit by reappearing smilingly in answer to calls. In tragedy an actor should be unconscious of all but the business and characters of the play. The death scene was well acted, and the attention to that and the applause which followed is something for Miss Anderson to be proud of in the future. No actress has ever had a better start on a stage career, and she has many friends here who hope she will hold the place she has won and go successfully onward. The play was not particularly well acted. The remembrance of Frederic Robinson as *Dandie Dinmont* told against the uneven attempts of Mr. Mordaunt, and Mr. Polk failed to grasp the simplicity of the *Domine*. Miss Annie Bleakley made a charming little *Lucy Bertram*, a character ingenuous and in her line, and in the second act she sung the lullaby song sweet enough to call for an encore. Such of the music of the piece as was given was well rendered, and Mrs. Chanfrau, the manageress of the theatre, showed her interest in the success of the piece to such an extent that she appeared herself in the Gipsy scene and led the chorus. At the end of the play Miss Anderson was called, and was the recipient of several floral tributes, and on behalf of the Washington Artillery was presented with a purse and a medal of considerable value, Mr. James making a few remarks with the presentation suitable to the occasion.

Visitors from Louisville.

A large party of excursionists from Louisville, Kentucky, arrived in this city yesterday morning. The party is composed, in the main, of the city officers and city council of Louisville, and they have made the trip by invitation of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company. The party left Louisville on Monday morning, at ten o'clock, and arrived at Nashville at seven o'clock in the evening. They went next to Montgomery, Alabama, thence to Mobile. They will remain here until Saturday, at five o'clock, when they will leave for home.

The party consists of Messrs. John McAteer, H. T. Jefferson, William Rubel, Dr. Miller, C. Mercke, George Bremer, T. E. C. Brinly, James Gilbert, Charles Rudd, Thomas Rankin, Oliver Lucas, John Clifford, R. D. Hall, John M. Letterle, William O'Connor, W. W. Smith, J. W. Stine, John A. Specht, Al. Bourlier, Jake Bickel, J. A. Isert, Lewis McCleery, L. Snapp, H. C. Courtney, Charles Kremer, R. T. Snowden, H. Woolford, George W. Levi, Ben. F. Bache, George W. Anderson, Dr. J. A. Krack, Ed. Kaiser, A. A. Stone, Dr. M. K. Allen, W. Geisel, Detectives Gallagher and Cave, and George Cozad, of the Louisville *Ledger*.

Last night most of the party visited the Varieties Theatre to witness the acting of Miss Mary Anderson—a young lady of Louisville, who has met with great success in her brief career as an actress, and of whom her town's people are especially proud.

Colonel George W. Levy is chief of the fire department of Louisville, and Captain B. F. Bache assistant. While in town they are the guests of Chief Engineer O'Connor. They will make an inspection of our fire department to-day.

Broken Ears.

The *Picayune* occasionally strikes a good thing. Among its editorial items of Friday afternoon's edition was the following paragraph:

The REPUBLICAN this morning prints an extract from *Harper's Magazine* headed "Strange Revelation by the Microscope," which is a clumsily executed plagiarism of a portion of Edmond About's famous story of "The Man with the Broken Ear."

The *Picayune* had us there, and our publication of the article in question can not be denied. But on the fifth page of the *Picayune* of Friday morning, same date, appears the identical extract from *Harper's Magazine*, entitled, "Strange Revelation by the Microscope. That publication, though in the *Picayune*, is no business of ours. The *Picayune* has a right to publish as many clumsily executed plagiarisms as it pleases, providing it pays the printer, and does not offend public taste.

SALE CONTINUED.—The sale at auction, by the sheriff, of the contents of store No. 108 Canal street, consisting of jewelry, watches, etc., will be continued to-day at 10:30 A. M. Catalogues can be had at the sheriff's office.

Insure your luck
By buying a ticket
In the next great
Golden drawing,
Saturday, April 29,
Saturday, April 29,
Golden drawing,
Half a million gold,
Distributed in 3580 prizes.
Capital prize, $100,000.

Board of Health.

The adjourned meeting of the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Health of March 3 was held last evening.

Present—Dr. C. B. White, president; Dr. Smyth, Dr. Gaudet, Dr. Finney, and Messrs. Heath and Woodward.

The new members, Dr. W. H. Hire and Alfred Shaw, Esq., presented their commissions.

The following statement of expense of maintenance of health and quarantine for 1876 was presented:

GENERAL EXPENSES.

Salary of president per annum	$2,000 00
Salary of Secretary per annum	2,000 00
Salary of clerk (balance)	1,500 00
Salary of attorney	600 00
Wages of portress	200 00
Wages of messenger	300 00
Office rent	750 00
Stationery estimated	500 00
Gas	85 00
Incidentals (postage, fuel, etc.)	125 00
Subscription to city papers	50 00
Telegraphing	25 00
Postoffice box rent	12 00
Unforeseen expenses, say	500 00
Total	$8,647 00

MISSISSIPPI STATION.

Balance of salary of resident physician	$4,166 66
Balance of salary of assistant physician	1,666 66
Balance of wages of employes	3,000 00
Groceries, about	1,000 00
Fresh meat	150 00
Fresh bread	150 00
Fuel, lights, etc	200 00
Freight on supplies, say	125 00
Disinfectants	350 00
Incidental expenses	200 00
Total	$11,008 33

RIGOLETS STATION.

Salary of resident physician	$500 00
Wages of employes	450 00
Incidental expenses	25 00
Total	$975 00

ATCHAFALAYA STATION.

Salary of resident physician	$600 00
Incidental expenses	25 00
Total	$625 00

RECAPITULATION.

General expenses	$8,647 00
Mississippi station	11,008 33
Rigolets station	975 00
Atchafalaya station	625 00
Grand total	$21,255 00

The sanitary reports for February were published in the REPUBLICAN March 4.

The total deaths for February were 460, at the rate of 28 to 1000; white, 302; blacks, 123; mulattoes, 35; males, 264; females, 195; not stated, 1; still-born, 32. The principal causes of death: Consumption, 60; all fevers, 51; small-pox, 25.

Dr. Gustave Devron sent the following communication:

OFFICE SANITARY INSPECTOR, THIRD DISTRICT, New Orleans, March 22, 1876.

Dr. B. C. White, President Board of Health:

DEAR SIR—I consider it my duty to inform you that Dr. Hayes, the proprietor or manager of the Small-pox hospital, continues to disobey the sanitary ordinances of the board, and that unless he be compelled to, the other physicians will soon imitate him, and it will be impossible to arrest the progress of small-pox. Dr. Hayes is the more reprehensible, from the fact that he being pecuniarily interested in the existence of this most loathsome disease, it would seem that he was using all the means in his power to counteract the efforts of the sanitary inspectors to check it.

During the month of March he has visited at least eight cases of small-pox, and has failed to report any of them to the board, as it is his duty to do; four of the above cases were also seen by Dr. Zingler who likewise failed to report them, and they were only discovered by the fact that Dr. Hayes gave a certificate for one of the cases whom he did not see until dead, having thereby performed the duty of the coroner.

The attention of the city physician having the supervision of the small pox hospital of said Dr. Hayes should be called to the gross carlessness with which the inmates of the hospital can have intercourse with persons on the outside, and to the want of isolation of said hospital which, in my opinion, has produced nearly all the cases of small-pox in this district since January 1, 1876.

During the whole of 1875 we had only fifty-four cases in this district, none on January 1, 1876. But since then small-pox patients being sent to the Hayes hospital, we have had one case in January, twelve in February, and thirty in March, to this day.

Four of the cases were in premises corner of Liberal and Elysian Fields streets, opposite the wards of the small-pox hospital.

Yours, respectfully,
GUSTAVE DEVRON,
Sanitary Inspector, Third District.

The president was authorized to take legal means to abate the nuisance.

A large number of communications of less importance were read.

The application of Messrs. Rivers & Lonsdale, of the St. Charles Hotel, for a remission of the fines imposed by the Second Justice Court for the nuisance of emptying filth into the gutters was rejected.

The financial matter coming up again it was shown that the deficit would be over $11,000. The quarantine stations produced nothing and the General Assembly had provided nothing. Unless the Governer would give the revenues of the registration office, estimated at $3000, and those from the Slaughterhouse inspection the board would be at a standstill.

It was determined to present the matter to the Governor as soon as possible.

In Congress.

In the House of Representatives, on the twentieth instant, Mr. Morey presented the petition of General E. S. Dennis, with accompanying papers, for the payment of his claim which was rejected by the Southern Claims Commission. It was referred to the Committee on War Claims.

Mr. Ellis introduced a bill for the relief of Mrs. Mary H. Walker, widow of Colonel Thomas F. Hunt, late of the United States army; also a bill for the relief of W. H. Tegarden, a citizen of Mississippi; also a bill for the relief of G. P. Work, a citizen of Louisiana; all of which were read a first and second time, referred to the appropriate committees, and ordered to be printed.

Appointments.

Governor Kellogg has made the following appointments:

Leon Gauthier, notary public of the parish of Avoyelles.

A. Jolet, justice of the peace of the sixth ward of Terrebonne.

L. B. Briant, notary public of St. Martin, confirmed by the Senate, February 26.

The Temperature.

The thermometer at Louis Frigero's, No. 50 Chartres street, stood as follows March 24: At 8 A. M., 64°; at 2 P. M., 65°; at 6 P M., 64°. Lowest point during the night of March 23, 52°.

FOURTH DISTRICT PROPERTY AT AUCTION.—Messrs. Nash & Hodgson, auctioneers, sell at twelve o'clock M., to-day, at the St. Charles Auction Exchange, for account of the succession of Mrs. Mary Mertzweiller, the cottage house corner of Chippewa and Sixth streets, with rear double cottage, etc. See the advertisement.

COURT RECORD.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1876.

United States Supreme Court.

The following were decided March 20, 1876:

No. 633. The Commissioners of Immigration, appellant, vs. the North German Lloyd.—Appeal from the Circuit Court of the United States for the District of Louisiana. Mr. Justice Miller delivered the opinion of the court affirming the decree of the said circuit court in this case, with costs.

No. 104. Gaines vs. Fuentes.—Error to the Supreme Court of Louisiana. In this case it was decided that the defendant, being a citizen of New York, under the popular prejudice act of Congress of 1867, had the right to have the cause transferred to the Circuit Court of the United States, and that all proceedings in the State court after the motion to remove the cause were nullities, and that the subject matter of the suit is of no consequence upon such a motion. Mr. Justice Field delivered the opinion. Dissenting Mr. Justice Bradley, with whom concurred the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Swayne.

No. 11. Samuel N. Burbank, tutor, etc., appellant, vs. E. B. Bigelow et al.—Mr. Justice Bradley delivered the opinion of the court, reversing the decree, with costs, and remanding the case to Louisiana, with directions to proceed therein in conformity to law.

United States Circuit Court.

E. D. Morgan and James Raynor, trustees, vs. New Orleans, Mobile and Texas railroad.—Accounts submitted by plaintiffs referred to F. A. Wolfley, Esq., special master in the case.

Leberman & Co. vs. Ferdinand Henke.—Verdict for defendant.

The petty jury were discharged to Monday.

The grand jury returned certain findings which were placed on the secret files.

Allain Eustis and D. Urban, assignees of American Mutual Insurance Company, vs. Jacob Alt and fourteen others.—Discontinued as to nine defendants, on plaintiffs' motion.

Superior District Court.

Mississippi and Mexican Gulf Ship Canal Company vs. city of New Orleans.—Continued to Monday for argument.

Mrs. E. M. Hayes vs. Mr. and Mrs. Vidou.—Injunction on seizure of property on judgment of Third District Court, issued on bond of $250. Exception to jurisdiction.

Superior Criminal Court.

INFORMATION.

Stabbing with a dangerous weapon, etc.—Peter Brown and Peter Colfax.

ACQUITTED.

Assault and battery—Pat Devine.

NEW TRIAL REFUSED.

Robbery—Sam Barnes.

TRUE BILL.

Perjury—Edward Hansen.

MISTRIAL.

Arson—Harry Hill, indicted with setting fire, on the twenty-seventh of February, 1876, to No. 75 Burgundy street.

1. Assault and battery; 2. False imprisonment—Officer H. Siers.

CONVICTED.

Embezzlement—W. C. Ingram, embezzlement of a pair of scales, valued at $55, from Mr. Gauthreaux, No. 56 Camp street.

First District Court.

VERDICTS.

Petty larceny—Pat Kelly, Fanny Hicks, guilty; George Culvert, not guilty; Mike McDermott, mistrial.

STATE NEWS.

CADDO.

From the Shreveport *Telegram*, March 21:

The petition to Governor Kellogg to sign the North Louisiana railroad charter can be found at this office until to-morrow afternoon, when it will be forwarded to New Orleans. Every citizen who has not already signed it, is cordially invited to come forward and place his name on it, as the road in question is of vital importance to us. No citizen should neglect to aid in this matter.

Our respected colored citizen, James Butler, procured a copy of the petition to Governor Kellogg, asking him to sign the North Louisiana railroad bill, and is carrying it among his friends getting it signed. He says the colored people are as much interested in railroads as the white people, and they propose to do all they can to secure them.

ST. LANDRY.

From the Washington *Enterprise*, March 22:

We learn that a personal rencounter took place, a few days ago, in Ville Platte Prairie, between Henry Bogard and Lucien Chatman, both parties using knives, in which the latter died from the wounds received in the affray.

The mails due here from Cheneyville on the sixteenth and twenty-first instant, and the New Orleans mails due on the twentieth instant, did not come to time. These repeated failures are very annoying to the public, and should be investigated by those having authority in the premises.

On last Wednesday a terrific storm passed over our parish, doing great damage in various localities. On Bayou Waxia, the ginhouse on Hawkins' place, and a dwelling house, occupied at the time by a white family, on J. Massie Martin's place, were blown down and destroyed, the inmates of the latter house, however, escaping unhurt. Another building on the last named placed was likewise lifted from its foundation by the violence of the wind and carried some distance. On Bayou Bœuf we learn that the sugarhouse on the Galligar place was blown down, and the loss, in consequence, is estimated at not less than $2500.

In and around town evidences of the storm appear on all sides, in prostrated fences and uprooted trees, and carpenters and laborers have since been kept busy in putting things to rights again.

CARROLL.

From the *True Republican*, March 18:

Colonel Leonard left New Orleans the other day for New York, where he was summoned to see his father-in-law, Hon. J. C. Burbank, who is quite ill. He may not return to Carroll for a few weeks yet.

Whose Trunk?

The schooner Maud, of New York, Captain Robinson, at Providence from New Orleans, reports that on the ninth instant, in latitude 31°, longitude 79°, she picked up a a trunk, supposed to belong to Robert P. Hawthorn, of New York. The trunk had a bed quilt strapped on the top of it, but there was nothing of value inside. A photograph of the owner was in it, as was also his discharge papers from the ship Wild Hunter, of Boston, on the sixteenth of January, then in New Orleans, on board of which he was employed as steward. By another paper it appeared he had at one time been employed as a porter in the Aquidneck House, in Newport. It is thought the trunk may have come from some vessel that has been wrecked on the coast.

FAIRMOUNT PARK.—This is the place where the centennial is to be held, at Philadelphia, and where the tracks of the Pennsylvania railroad, known as the Centennial route, runs directly to the grounds of the park. Colonel Sidney B. Jones, the general Southwestern agent of this route, came here yesterday to arrange with the Southern roads for the transportation of visitors to this park, where all the magnificent and new hotels have been erected for the accommodation of guests.

The Silver Question.

When Comstock discovered an argentiferous ledge among the hills of Nevada in 1859, he had little idea of what trouble he was causing for rulers of the world, and what worry and mystification for able writers and students. But the ledge which bears his name has yielded more than $275,000,000 of silver, has disturbed the markets of Europe and Asia, driven San Francisco dealers to refuse silver in payment for goods, placed the United States treasury in so singular a predicament that the Secretary frankly calls upon Congress for formal direction before proceeding to enforce a law, and so confused the heads of sound bullionists that, though they stoutly maintain that gold will always flow where it is wanted, they fear that the substitution of exportable silver for a non-exportable fractional currency may lead to dire disaster.

That the silver problem puzzles many men of sound opinions on the money question is not strange. For centuries the relative value of silver and gold has constantly varied, but never before has it changed so greatly within so short a time. Four years ago in February silver was worth 61⅛ pence per ounce in London; in February, 1876, it was worth only 54⅛, and during the current month it has fallen as low as 52¾ pence per ounce. The decline, 8½ pence, is 13 3-10 per cent. Though the decline has been quite steady since February, 1872, the price only sank to 53¾ in December of that year, and to 58 1-16 in December, 1873, and to 57¾ in December, 1874, so that during three years the decline was only 3¾ pence, but during the fifteen months since December, 1874, it has been 5⅛ pence. This extraordinary decline in the value of silver has impressed economists and statisticians the more strongly because it was not at all unaccountable. Germany, Holland, Sweden, Norway and Japan are demonetizing silver; the demand from Asia, hitherto practically insatiable, has been checked by the condition of British trade with India; and meanwhile the most productive mines the world has ever known have begun to pour forth the treasures of bonanzas which seem inexhaustible. It is not strange if, under such circumstances, students who had supposed that their theories respecting the utility of the precious metals as the measure of values were founded on a rock, and could never be shaken, begin to doubt whether it may not be necessary to except silver, and henceforth to recognize gold alone as the most steady measure attainable. Perhaps they do not perceive that the same reasonings would have driven them to reject gold as a measure of values, if, after the discovery of the mines of California, several commercial nations had united in an effort to demonetize gold.

Neither of the precious metals ever has been, and probably neither ever will be, the sole measure of value. The reason is that the retail price of very many articles of general use in all civilized countries is smaller than the smallest gold coin that can be conveniently handled. Any form of small currency other than coin rapidly wears out, gets torn, or destroyed, and thus involves a considerable loss to those who use it. Hence, in spite of all efforts to demonetize silver, it remains the favorite coin for change in retail dealings, and for the wages and hoardings of the poor, and where civilization has not yet supplied acceptable banks for deposits, vast quantities of silver are hoarded, and the drain of silver to such countries has never yet been interrupted for long. As the London *Economist* recently remarked: "There is, therefore, in the end a certain market for the silver displaced from Europe; it will ultimately go, as the rest has gone, to the East, where it is the ancient and the best attainable paying medium."

As long as the wages of labor in those lands and the prices of necessaries of life are relatively low, so long the use of silver as the favorite medium will continue, and the demand for it can be only for a time interrupted by the condition of exchanges with Western countries. Nor is there any reason for believing that, among the civilized peoples of the West, any substitute will supplant silver as the favorite medium of the poorer laboring class, or for change in retail dealings. In spite of the vast production of the precious metals, which if not counteracted would naturally cause a rise of prices, the general tendency of prices of all manufactured articles has for centuries been downward, owing to the vast increase in the productiveness of labor through inventions and the use of machinery. As long as prices tend downward, so long gold will become relatively less available for retail dealings and the uses of the poor.

Being thus used in preference by the vast majority of consumers, in those very transactions by which the prices of articles to consumers are finally fixed, silver shares with gold the power of measuring values. It is not merely because, as the London *Economist* observes, "there certainly is not gold enough for all the world;" the power of silver as a measure depends far more largely, we believe, upon the fact that prices are finally fixed in a large degree by retail transactions, for which silver is the more convenient medium. Neither metal by itself suffices. Silver is too bulky for the payment of the mere balances in the enormous wholesale transactions of modern commerce. But gold is also too costly for convenient use in the small purchases of the large majority of consumers. Thus prices are regulated in the long run by both metals jointly; a relative deficiency of gold will tend to push gold downward, since there is less of the metal in proportion to quantities of other commodities to be exchanged; but at the same time the relative superabundance of silver will tend to push them upward, because that metal is chiefly used in retail dealings, by which prices are largely influenced. Thus any excess of either tends to correct itself.

We are even now witnessing events which may help to restore the shaken faith of believers in bullion. The price of silver, of gold or of anything else, is governed in the last resort by the cost of production. For some years silver has been produced in such quantities that, the demand also being checked, the price fell rapidly. The natural consequence already appears; the production of silver, at the present cost of labor, machinery and chemicals, has become unremunerative at many mines, and has therefore been arrested. Already the sensitive markets of the world feel that the bottom has been reached, and the price of silver in London, which was only fifty-two and five-eighths pence a few days ago, is now a little above fifty-four. Those who fancy that silver can be perfectly demonetized by mere human laws will soon be taught their error. But the United States has now an opportunity, which is not likely soon to return, to retire its wasteful fractional currency without paying any premium for silver. If the change could be made at once the gradul appreciation in the value of silver, which seems already to have begun, will tend strongly to bring retail prices in this country more nearly to a level with those in other lands. We export gold because it will buy less here than in other countries. But when retail prices are fixed in a silver currency of gradually increasing value American gold ought soon to find some use at home.—*New York Tribune.*

Governor Hendricks succeeded in dodging the reporters almost entirely during his visit to New Orleans. A correspondent of the Vicksburg *Herald* worried a few remarks of out of him, however, just before the Governor started for home. He confessed himself dissatisfied with the tardy and quibbling work of Congress, and thought the resumption act ought to have been repealed, and that the Democrats had injured themselves by not doing so. The Governor said he must decline the invitation sent him to address the Mississippi Legislature, because he must return home at once, and because he did not believe it "altogether judicious to commence speech-making now, anyway." As the Indianapolis *Sentinel* would say, "The type of Mr. Hendricks' mind requires deliberation. Small men have misconceived his discretion and called him timid."—*New York Tribune.*

Political Customs in New Hampshire.

A special correspondent of the Philadelphia *Times* writes from Concord, New Hampshire:

One good thing will come out of the mire of the political campaign just closed in this State. A favorable vote on the question of holding a constitutional convention secures, in all probability, a speedy amendment of the antiquated and absurd form of government which New Hampshire labors under. In Pennsylvania you have got your third constitution and begin already to talk of amending that, but up here among the granite hills laws and customs are almost as hard to fuse and transform as the rocks, and the people are still living under the organic law adopted in 1790.

It may interest your readers to learn some of the peculiarities and eccentricities of State and local government where matters have gone on without change for nearly a century. The first curiosity that strikes a Pennsylvanian here is the independent power of the town. Each town is a little democracy, and the State resembles a loose federative republic like the old league of the Swiss cantons. As the town enjoys a certain sovereignty, it must, of course, have a representative in the General Court, as the Legislature is called. The basis of representation is 150 voters; but, practically, every town that is inhabited sends a Representative. If there are a dozen families living in it there is usually no trouble in getting a special act passed, classing it with towns electing one member of the House. It then becomes a "classed town," and, by an odd quirk of law, can hold its election at any time within two weeks before the general election. Thus Hart's Location, a town with fourteen voters, chose a Representative last Monday, while the regular election day was Tuesday. There is a town composed of the Isle of Shoals, where nobody lives except the landlord of a watering place hotel and a few servants. Every March the landlord calls his three or four male assistants together in the deserted barroom and they go through the form of electing him to the Legislature.

Space would fail me to tell half the oddities of election customs. They call an election a "town meeting," and that's what it really is, for the whole town turns out in the morning and gathers in the town hall. At nine o'clock the three selectmen take the platform and announce that the election of a moderator is in order. Each party makes a nomination, and if the town is close there is a division—the Democrats going on one side of the hall and the Republicans on the other to be counted. Either side, if dissatisfied, can demand a ballot, and sometimes the whole forenoon is consumed in getting organized. When they get a moderator they put it to vote how long the polls shall be kept open. Sometimes they close the poll for Representative at one or two o'clock, and keep on voting for the general ticket until six. Usually all voting in the county towns ceases at three, but there is nothing to prevent keeping the boxes open until midnight, and this is occasionally done in the cities. If there are three candidates for Representative, and neither gets an absolute majority, there is a second ballot had and often a third; or if night comes on, and the farmers want to go home to milk, they postpone the business until next day. The town, being a petty sovereignty in such matters, can do as it pleases.

As I said before, 150 voters is the basis of representation, but for every 300 "ratable polls" a town sends an extra member to the Legislature. Now a "ratable poll" is a man over twenty-one found living in the town a week after election, whether a voter or not. The selectmen go around and make a list, and of course put on everybody who by any stretch of construction can be deemed a resident. Two years ago a gang of woodchoppers worked at cutting ties for a railroad in a town having only fifteen voters. They were all "rated," and at the next election, although not a man of them stayed more than three or four weeks, that town sent three Representatives to Concord.

The New Hampshire General Court is very heavy at the bottom and exceedingly light at the top. In the House there are nearly four hundred members; in the Senate only twelve. The pay of the members is three dollars per day, and if the session lasts over six weeks the whole State gets mad about the expense. In the great hall where the House meets there is no carpet, and the furniture reminds one of a country schoolhouse. The desks are of unpainted wood, are only eighteen inches wide, and at each sit six members in narrow wooden chairs fastened to the floor by iron standards. The seats of the officers are common painted chairs, costing about fifty cents apiece. On the back of each is pasted a printed label with the title of the official to whom the chair belongs. For economy's sake the Senate meets in the room occupied at other times by the Supreme Court.

A New Hampshire Governor gets the princely salary of $1000 a year. There is a queer appendage to his office—a council of five members, whose business it is to hold on to his coat tails whenever he tries to do anything of his own motion. Nearly all executive acts must be approved by a majority of the council. Here is a relic of the old dread of arbitrary power. It is not unique in New England. In the Swiss republic the executive power is lodged with a council, which chooses one of its members president. Perhaps it would be a good thing if we could limit the one-man power at Washington in some such way. All judicial officers here are appointed by the Governor and council—even justices of the peace, who are as numerous as frogs in Egypt. Sheriffs are made in the same way, because they are considered as parts of the executive machine. With the exception of Governor and railroad commissioner, all State officers are chosen by the Legislature. Nobody can be removed from office except on resolution of both houses, approved by the Governor and council. Official tenure, in most cases, lasts five years, but judges are in for life. The only way to get rid of them is to abolish their court and create a new one with a new name. Every year the term of all elective officers comes to an end.

I must not forget in this brief mention of the curiosities of government here the religious test for office holders, which is still retained. The constitution prescribes among the qualifications for holding office belief in the Protestant religion. Practically, this is a dead letter, for almost every year there are Catholics in the House, but so wedded are the people to old notions that if the question of striking out this musty relic of bigotry were to be voted upon to-day it would probably be voted down.

A general overhauling of the constitution will not be attempted by the convention for fear that the conservatism of the people would render such a work abortive. The reforms that will probably be made are the holding of elections in November instead of March, changing the time of the meeting of the Legislature from June to January, and the increase of the Senate to thirty or fifty members. Sensible men want to cut down the House to 100, but they know it would be useless to attempt it.

Blessed the man who knows enough to keep his mouth shut. Some people live sixty years without learning this art. Indeed, the older they grow the wider their mouths open. A man or woman who is a gabbler at forty-five is a dreadful affliction to a house, or church, or community. There are two things this age needs to learn—when to say nothing, and when it says anything to say it well. "If any man among you seems to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, this man's religion is vain."—*Golden Rule.*

The Boston *Post* has been offered for sale to those employed in conducting it and in the mechanical and countingroom departments. The price asked is said to be $150,000. It is a bargain at that rate, provided the right men are engaged in its business and editorial management, and the present depression in the income from newspaper property is relieved. It is essential that the first condition be complied with or the purchase will be valueless.—"*Templeton's*" *Boston Letter.*

BY TELEGRAPH.

CONGRESS.

Senate.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—The bill preventing contributions for election purposes was referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

The post route bill passed.

A resolution to engrave the portraits of dead Senators passed.

The bill for counting the electoral vote, providing that when the two houses disagree regarding a State the vote shall not be counted, passed.

Mr. Thurman was the only Democrat who voted for it, and moved a reconsideration of it in the hope of a better result. Vote 34 to 26.

The Senate went into executive session, and adjourned to Monday.

Confirmed.

Doolittle, assistant commissioner o patents.

House.

The bill appropriating $60,000 for postal cards, passed.

The bill reported for a territorial government for the Indian Territory, was recommitted to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

The House went into committee of the whole on the appropriation bill. A long and somewhat personal debate ensued over the item reducing Senators' pay to $4500. No action.

The House Judiciary Committee reported a bill for the relief of L. Madison Day, of Louisiana, for loss of property sold to him by the United States. This involves the Benjamin estate.

House adjourned to Monday.

WASHINGTON.

The Currency Question.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—There is a growing disposition on the part of both parties to take the currency question out of politics.

General Sherman at the White House.

General Sherman visited President Gran to-day.

Cabinet Meeting.

There was a full Cabinet meeting to-day

Minister Seward Explains.

Mr. Seward, minister to China, has made explanations of his conduct satisfactory to the administration.

Nomination.

Hoffman Atkinson, of West Virginia, secretary of legation at St. Petersburg.

Supreme Court.

In the Supreme Court the question of the validity of the retrocession of Alexandria to Virginia was argued. The case arises from a citizen of Alexandria refusing to pay the tax levied by Virginia.

What the Marsh Family Say.

Marsh, before the committee to-day, stated he read the Fort Sill exposure in the *Tribune* to Belknap in 1872. They both wondered who wrote it. Belknap thought it was General Hazen. Marsh fled to Canada for fear of a criminal prosecution.

Mrs. Marsh knew Mrs. Bowers since 1861; resided at the Burnet house, Cincinnati, four years. She and Mrs. Bowers were in company three weeks in London; Mr. Pendleton went out with them; did not return with Mrs. Bowers; knows nothing about the Kentucky railroad claims; her husband's original understanding about Fort Sill was with Belknap. The evidence goes to show that nearly every trading post paid tribute to some friend of Belknap, from Senator Harlan's assessments for political purposes.

Schenck.

General Schenck writes Mr. Faulkner he left London on one day's notice, and is sick from the hasty journey. He has been given until Tuesday to appear.

General McCook on the Stand.

A special to the *Times* says General McCook testified that in 1872, while on an inspection tour in Texas, his attention was directed to practices of officers in that department which were disgraceful in themselves and scandalous to the military service. Charges were made against General Reynolds, which he investigated and made the subject of a report. He found that Reynolds had accepted, in the name of his wife, a house and lot from certain contractors who were furnishing supplies to his department. The property is mentioned in the