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WHOLE NUMBER 2769.

THE ST. CHARLES THEATRE.

The Judge and Major Talk Over the Old Drury.

For more than forty years New Orleans has known a St. Charles Theatre. Men who are old now went to the play there when boys. After to-night that old temple of the drama will be given over to variety performance, and its future is uncertain. Mr. DeBar's connection with the theatre ceases from this date. Yesterday the reporter sketched for items and reminiscences of the old place, with little success. The record is unwritten, and lives only in the minds of old settlers. The manager is in St. Louis, and his many papers followed him. But by chance two characters were found in the office of Major Bob Strong. They were the Judge and the Major, not Major Bob, but typical men found in places where thirty men do most things. Both knew something of the old playhouse, and both were willing to talk. The Judge was to the manor born; the Major had been a wanderer, so that the two were unlike in many respects; but hard times and a few drinks make strange men akin. Such men are to be found in places where the Bohemian to work. A story of the old time is always worth fifteen cents; and for more money the reporter can always get more story.

"Thank you," said the Major, "I don't care if I do take a drink."

He might have refused; but he was not there for that purpose. The Major was looking ahead for another round, and he said:

"Judge, tell the young man something about the old theatre, where the dramas die to-morrow."

"Yes, yes; let me see; I was here when the corner stone of the old theatre was laid, and I know all about it." And the Judge looked at some colored paper suspended from the ceiling, and made a few mental calculations. "Mr. James H. Caldwell was the real founder of the English drama in New Orleans; in fact in the South. He came here from Virginia with an English company in 1819, and played at the St. Philip Street Theatre, opening with the 'Honey-moon,' January 7, 1820. The next season the company played at the Orleans Street French Theatre, alternating off nights with the French company. The city above Canal street at that time was known as the Second Municipality. Camp street had stripes of plank for sidewalks, and was but little better than a mudhole in rainy weather. Caldwell was a man who looked ahead, and saw a great American city. In 1822 he commenced to build the Camp Street Theatre."

The Major, who had been spitting dryly, interposed here, and said:

"Judge, I think we should take a drink now, before you build the Camp Street Theatre. It is two or three years since you commenced down yonder."

"I don't mind if I do," said the Judge. "Set 'em up. Well, the Grand Lodge dis-appointed old man Caldwell by not turning out, and on the twenty-ninth of May, 1822, he laid the corner stone of his theatre all by himself, with Masonic ceremonies. He built a good theatre for the times, which cost \$120,000. The Camp Street Theatre was built where Montgomery's auction mart now stands, though Armory Hall is not the same building, for the first theatre was burned down and another one afterwards built in its place. The nearest building to the theatre then was at the corner of Common street. The Camp Street Theatre was opened May 14, 1824, with the comedy called the 'Dramatist.' All of the best actors in the country came there. In 1825 Edwin Forrest, who had been with a circus for some time and played 'Jaffier' in 'Venice Preserved.' He was a good looking young man of nineteen, but a bad actor then. Mr. Caldwell continued to manage the Camp Street Theatre for ten years, but he turned it over to Russell and Rowe. He went to England soon after to arrange for gas fixtures, he being the man who introduced gas into the city. While absent he secured some talent for his successors at the theatre, engaging William Masbury, Mr. Brace, Mr. Benedict and Henry Corri. Bless old Corri, he was here to-day the last of the old stock. In 1834 Mr. Caldwell made arrangements to build a new theatre, one that should—"

"Hold on a minute, Judge," said the Major, "if you are going to build another theatre, I will take another drink."

The Judge smiled, and continued:

"Mr. Caldwell commenced to build the finest theatre in the United States. He laid the corner stone of the old St. Charles Theatre May 9, 1835, and opened his building to the public November 30, 1835. It was a grand affair, from top to bottom, holding over 4000 people, and costing a quarter of a million of dollars. The building occupied a front of 129 feet, including the site of Murphy's Hotel and the present theatre. In size it was then only excelled by the theatres in St. Petersburg, Milan and Naples. It was a buster and magnificent. They used to speak of it as the temple of folly. The old theatre, the splendid, was destroyed by fire March 13, 1842."

The Major was getting interested, and said:

"Where does Ben DeBar come in, Judge? The papers say he came here as leader of the ballet, some time since the flood."

"Mr. Benedict DeBar," said the Judge, reprovingly, "came to New Orleans on the ship Tallahassee, commanded by Captain Glover. He was accompanied by his sister, Miss Clementine DeBar. I remember it well. That was in 1835. Ben DeBar was then a handsome young man of twenty-one. He had learned to dance in London, and did lead the ballet in pantomimes; but he came here engaged to Mr. Caldwell for light comedy business, and on the opening night of the first St. Charles Theatre, Ben DeBar made his first appearance in America, playing *Sir Benjamin Backbite* in the 'School for Scandal,' November 30, 1835. As I have said the first theatre was burned in 1842. Mr. Caldwell then went to a theatre on Poydras street, called the American. New actors then came on the field. Sol Smith and N. M. Ludlow were experienced managers, and they induced the gas company and several citizens to build—"

"Eing down there," said the Major, "I haven't had a drink since you built the other theatre."

"Well, all up and shut up," said the

Judge, with that courteous air which ever marks his demeanor. "The gas company owned the lot and advanced money to pay the workmen. Gast, Pike, Jamison and Mackintosh assisted; but Sol Smith said the theatre never would have been rebuilt had it not been for the kindness of Mr. Patrick Irwin. Irwin has been a solid friend to the theatre from the first, though he never goes into it. The new St. Charles Theatre, the present building, was opened January 18, 1843, having been built in about two months' time. The company was a good one, and in that spring season Wallack, Vandenhoff and poor Joe Field played as the stars. The fall season commenced November 15, 1843, with the 'Hunchback.' Then came Brougham, Placide and others. Ole Bull performed one night that winter and fiddled \$1300 into the house. It was in that season at the St. Charles that W. C. Ma, cready made his first appearance in New Orleans, February 7, 1844. He played *Hamlet*."

"What sort of an actor was Macready, any way?" said the Major.

"He was the best *Hamlet* I ever saw, dignified and scholarly, but a little too stiff for the boys. Forrest played the star engagement following Macready. The next season was a bad one for the theatre. They had J. R. Anderson, the *Seguin Opera Troupe*, a good company and good stars, but lost money. Sol told me the receipts for the first week were only \$1400, and at the end of seven weeks he had to get money from St. Louis to pay the company."

"That is the way DeBar does now," broke in the Major.

"The season ending in 1846 was better. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Keen had played a long and successful engagement. The attractions for the season commencing in the fall of 1846 were good. I remember *Julius Cesar* played with J. W. Wallack, and the younger Wallack and wife as stock in the cast. E. L. Davenport and Mrs. Mowatt played that winter also, the *Ravel Troupe* and the *Keans* again. The sensation of 1847 was the appearance of the *Vivienne* children. They danced thirty nights, to a business averaging \$800 per night. Julia Dean and Mrs. Anna Bishop came that winter, and Mrs. Mowatt. The company was first class, having George Vandenhoff, Ryder and Melinda Jones in leading business. Hackett was then playing 'Rip Van Winkle' as an afterpiece."

"When did P. G. come in?" irreverently inquired the Major.

"Mr. Patrick Gleason," said the Judge, with crushing elegance, "came to the St. Charles Theatre, as assistant treasurer, in 1849, and he was made full treasurer in 1857. He is here to-day, God bless him, selling reserved seats for the last performance. He is one of the few treasurers who handles the money and counts the tickets against himself. He is as honest as the days are long, and never was a politician."

The Major showed signs of uneasiness, thinking how rare such men are, and he suddenly ejaculated:

"Let us drink to the health of P. G., the honest man and gentleman."

The Judge smiled again, and continued: "The next season commenced November 10, 1849, and Mr. Ben DeBar was stage manager for Smith and Ludlow, commencing a managerial career which he continued for a quarter of a century. Mark Smith, then a boy, made his first appearance, November 11, 1849, playing *Digory*, in a farce. He afterward became one of the best performers of English comedy old men on the American stage. Charlotte Cushman and C. W. Coultok played together that year. They acted one month to crowded houses. November 12, 1850, the next season commenced with a new comedy called the 'Millionaire.' Julia Dean and Charlotte Cushman came. Mark Smith, who had been acting at the Mobile Theatre, was brought over to play *Sir Peter Teazel* and *Harcourt Courtyard* with Miss Cushman. It was then he commenced the line of old men, in which he became so popular. That season, the famous Jenny Lind appeared at the theatre, with a grand orchestra, led by Benedict, of London. Never before or since has there been such a theatrical excitement. Seats sold at auction for \$40 and \$50 each. The receipts for the first night netted about \$20,000. Jenny Lind gave thirteen cents, and the receipts of each night never fell short of \$10,000."

"Business has fallen off considerably since," put in the Major.

"O, yes, considerably," answered the Judge, without smiling. "The Bateman children came after Jenny Lind, and then the Celestine troupe of dancers. The Ravels closed the season, playing thirty nights to big houses. The next season was opened November 1, 1851, with a good stock company, including H. A. Perry, Mark Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Sloan and others. The stars were George Barrett, Eliza Logan, Celeste, Mrs. Barrow, Neafie and Jean M. Davenport. Professor Anderson, the wizard, had a \$1000 house. The Ravels again closed the season, playing an engagement of forty-six nights. November 6, 1852, another season commenced with 'Sho Stoops to Conquer.' The first star was the Elder Booth, who had returned from California, and he played at the St. Charles six nights. This great actor played in that theatre November 19, 1852, *Sir Edward Mortimer* in the 'Iron Chest,' and it was his last appearance on any stage. He took passage on the ship Tallahassee, commanded by Captain Glover. He was accompanied by his sister, Miss Clementine DeBar. I remember it well. That was in 1835. Ben DeBar was then a handsome young man of twenty-one. He had learned to dance in London, and did lead the ballet in pantomimes; but he came here engaged to Mr. Caldwell for light comedy business, and on the opening night of the first St. Charles Theatre, Ben DeBar made his first appearance in America, playing *Sir Benjamin Backbite* in the 'School for Scandal,' November 30, 1835. As I have said the first theatre was burned in 1842. Mr. Caldwell then went to a theatre on Poydras street, called the American. New actors then came on the field. Sol Smith and N. M. Ludlow were experienced managers, and they induced the gas company and several citizens to build—"

"Eing down there," said the Major, "I haven't had a drink since you built the other theatre."

"Well, all up and shut up," said the

Jenkins business of the circus, and would not go down now."

"I read in the *Times* the other day that Sol Smith is still living in St. Louis," said the Major.

"You mustn't mind that," said the Judge. "Sol Smith died February 14, 1869, and was buried at Bellefontaine Cemetery, St. Louis. If he is living he must have lately come to life."

"Well," said the Major, "as you are not going to build another theatre, I will now embrace the opportunity to drink the health of old Sol Smith, dead or alive."

The Judge smiled, and continued his history: "The St. Charles opened November 12, 1853, with Ben DeBar as proprietor and manager. The bill was 'School for Scandal.' The next season opened November 5, 1854, with 'Honey-moon' and 'Toodle,' a bill which Mr. DeBar has since repeated many times. He is probably the best *Mock Duke* on the stage. The season closed May 3, 1855, with 'Wild Oats,' played with a picked cast from the Varieties and St. Charles companies, for the benefit of the American Dramatic fund. The next season commenced November 12, 1855, with Mrs. Faren in the 'Stranger.' The company that year was a grand one, including Charles Pope, S. B. Duffield, Mark Smith, Ben DeBar, Vining Bowers, J. B. Studley and Mary Gladstone."

"There have been worse companies since," chimed in the Major.

"Certainly, sir," said the Judge, "but we do not drink here. Mrs. Faren also commenced the next season, November 11, 1856. La Grange came, the Ravels, and the Campbell minstrels closed the season. November 9, 1857, another season commenced, with Mr. and Mrs. John Wood. Kate Reynolds was the leading lady. During the season of 1858-59, Edwin Booth played. He was not considered a great actor then. The following season closed April 19, 1860, with a French opera company. The last season before the war commenced November 8, 1860, with 'Nine Points of Law.' The regular season ended March 30, 1860, with Mrs. Emma Waller as *Lady Macbeth*. A company from Mobile, supporting Miss Joey Gougenheim, then came and played two weeks. I shall never forget the last performance. It was April 12, 1861, the very day that fighting commenced in earnest. News came that General Anderson would not surrender, and that General Beauregard had opened fire on Fort Sumter. The town was wild with excitement, and there was no more theatre. The St. Charles remained closed, or without a company, for three long, terrible years. Ben Butler—"

"As you have closed the theatre," suggested the Major, "it's time for another drink. Here's to the health of the war."

The Judge looked musingly into space, and scarcely noticed the trifling Major. He finally said:

"Mr. A. L. Griffin came down from St. Louis in the fall of '63 to fix up the theatre. He opened it temporarily January 4, 1864, with a picked up company which played a week for the benefit of the United States sanitary commission, or something of that sort. Lieutenant Lewis Morrison, who has since become a star, acted *Claude Melnotte*, and I reckon he made the gardener's son sick. February 6, 1864, the theatre was opened with a regular company under the management of T. W. Davey. He brought Mary Gladstone and George D. Chapin as stars. In March of that year John Wilkes Booth played an engagement. His last appearance in New Orleans was March 25, 1864, when he played *Richard III*. Another April, and that man enacted a tragedy that shocked the civilized world, linking infamy to his family name, and disgracing manhood. After Booth, the Martinetti family, Matilda Herron and little Emma Maddern played engagements. Miss Maddern is in the company here now. She played the Maggie Mitchell style of pieces, and was one of the brightest little actresses in the profession, and there are but few better courtesans to-day. A notable event of the next season was the first appearance in New Orleans of Miss Lottis, who afterward became a great favorite, and never will forget Ben DeBar's kindness in putting her forward. The old man is playing with her now at St. Louis. On Lottis's first night here, which was March 26, 1865, she played in 'Andy Blake,' Jenny Lind, and 'Nan, the Good-for-Nothing.' She was a great kicker then, and worked the banjo well. The next season was under the management of Mr. E. Eddy, who recently died in the West Indies. November 3, 1867, Ben DeBar was again at the helm, and opened the theatre with a Japanese troupe. The leading man of the dramatic company was Mr. W. H. Riley. He was a fine actor, but he died of the yellow fever soon after he arrived. From that time on the companies have been cheap and bad, as you know. The Old Drury has had in its day the best and worst companies, and the manager has made and lost a great deal of money. Mr. DeBar's record in the profession has been an honorable one, and we part from him regretfully, as from an old friend, hoping he may live long and prosper, and occasionally bring his *Falstaff* back, as something to lean upon in his old age, and amuse us as a star at another house. So runs the world away, Major," said the Judge, "during my little story of the old theatre you have made all the motions toward drinking. I have now something to say in that direction. Allow me to propose the success of the new proprietor in a different line of business."

"Excuse me, excuse me," said the Major; "let us see how he pans out first."

The two compromised, and drank for something else, and arm-in-arm they went into the great world, or to the next place of good cheer.

Opera House, April 29,
Opera House, April 29,
Opera House, April 29,
Second golden drawing.
Second golden drawing.
Second golden drawing.
Capital prize \$100,000, gold.
Capital prize \$100,000, gold.
Capital prize \$100,000, gold.

Grand opening of spring dry goods at M. L. Byrne & Co.'s, No. 163 Canal street, to-morrow, Monday.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

A SHORT HISTORY OF NATURAL SCIENCE. By Arabella B. Buckley. Published by D. Appleton & Co., New York. For sale by George Ellis & Brother, No. 82 Camp street, New Orleans.

This valuable work simplifies science and its history that it may become attractive to general readers, and is particularly designed for the use of schools and young persons. It is not only instructive and illustrative of the subject matter of each branch of science, it shows the progress of discovery in astronomy, physics and mechanics, chemistry, physical geography, geology and biology, from the Greeks to the present time, and its special illustrations of particular discoveries makes it a handy book for reference.

ANIMAL PARASITES AND MESOZOA. By P. J. Van Beneden. Published by D. Appleton & Co., New York. For sale by George Ellis & Brother, No. 82 Camp street, New Orleans.

This is one of the international scientific series of books issued by the Appletons. It contains eighty-three illustrations, and discusses the subjects embraced within the meaning of the title in the most scientific manner.

From Harper & Brothers, publishers, New York, we have received the following books, which are also for sale by George Ellis & Brother, in this city:

"Barnes' Notes, Explanatory and Practical, on the General Epistles of James, Peter, John and Jude." By Albert Barnes. "A First French Reading Book." By Rev. Ernest Brette.

"A First German Course." By a German Student.

These books are all instructive and useful for the purposes designed, as aids in the study of the Scriptures and languages.

Congressional Business.

In the House of Representatives, on the twenty-third of March, Mr. Darrall presented the petition of the following named parties, asking to be allowed to file their claims for property taken by the United States during the late war before the Court of Claims: C. A. Pace, Raymond Deshautes, Francois Simen, Pierre J. Francis, Geville Guilbeau, Mrs. Raymond Reir, Edmond A. Guilbeau and Andre Broussard. The petitions were referred to the Committee on War Claims.

March 27, Mr. Morey presented a joint resolution of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana, recommending that Congress grant appropriate pensions to the veterans of the Mexican war; which was referred to the Committee on Invalid Pensions, and ordered to be printed. Mr. Morey also presented a joint resolution of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana, recommending that the rivers of Louisiana be stocked with fish by the general government; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations, and ordered to be printed.

In the Senate, March 28, Mr. West presented, in the nature of a memorial to Congress, joint resolutions of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, in favor of pensions to the widows and minor orphans, and moved its reference to the Committee on Pensions.

Pardoned.

W. L. Thompson, fifth justice of the peace of Algiers, convicted of extorting a fee of \$1 for a bond, the law allowing no such fee, was pardoned yesterday. He was convicted in the Superior Criminal Court, and at his own request, Judge Steele made the fine \$310, that he might balance the opinion of the Supreme Court against Judge Steele's. But the Supreme Court coincided with the jury, and affirmed the judgment from the verdict. Then Mr. Thompson applied to Governor Kellogg for a pardon and was refused. He went to the Parish Prison. After this Governor Kellogg appointed Mr. Koppel to perform the duties of the office "during the pendency of proceedings."

Court Items.

As it seems to be considered a matter of importance, although the REPUBLICAN merely gave the result, it is proper to state the vote of the jury in the case of the State vs. James Woods. On the best authority it is stated that the jury stood ten for acquittal, one in doubt, and one for conviction.

Use of force in place of ergot in all female diseases.

Our energetic and lively neighbors, Messrs. R. M. & B. J. Montgomery, have again come to the front with the largest spring stock of furniture ever brought to the city. Their great emporium is overflowing with a fresh and varied stock of parlor, bedroom, dining-room, hall, library and office furniture of the latest style and design. Chairs and tables in boxes and set-up; low-post and six, seven and eight feet post cottage bedsteads in large quantities; spring beds, spring mattresses, hair and moss mattresses, mirrors, etc. Just received per steamboats U. P. Schenck, Cherokee, Golden Rule, James Howard, Charles Morgan, Thomas Sherlock, Future City, and by the New York, New Orleans, Mobile and Texas railroad, New Orleans, St. Louis and Chicago railroad and others. Don't take our word for it, but go and examine for yourselves. It will repay you for your trouble.

Mathews, No. 598 Magazine street, has a choice selection of standard works, school books, Bibles, hymn and prayer-books, stationery and fancy articles.

All hall to that great benefactor of his race, George Goulet, who gives to the thirty his most famous champagne. It is sparkling and delicious, a beverage fit for the gods, and a choice boon to mankind. Drink of it, all ye weary, and in the draught find succor of care! Paul Gelpi & Brother, No. 41 Decatur street, will supply all demands for this inspiring wine.

Use of sedine in chills and fever in place of quinine. It is more effective. M. B. Morrison & Co., agents. For sale by L. L. Lyons.

Railroad Commissioners.

The afternoon papers yesterday availed themselves of the license allowed on 'all fool's day' to assert that commissions awaited several gentlemen, that they might supersede certain prominent State officials. Merely as an example, the following is clipped from the *Bulletin*:

It was rumored at the State House this morning that Mr. Jeff Thompson, chief engineer of the State, had been removed; that E. F. Herwig had been appointed in his place; that F. J. Heron, recorder of mortgages, had been removed, and Dr. M. A. Southworth given the position; that John R. Clay had been appointed police commissioner, vice J. B. Gaudet, removed; that C. F. Leid had been appointed clerk of the First District Court, and that T. S. Kelly had been appointed harbor-master, vice Felix Antoine, removed.

Our reporter endeavored to see Governor Kellogg to confirm these rumors, but the Governor was engaged. Inquiring of the attaches of the office, however, our reporter ascertained that the rumor was correct, and that the commissions of the newly appointed were subject to demand.

The last paragraph seems to indicate that the reporter wished readers to understand it was first of April, inasmuch as some genuine appointments were given under the same heading as this extract. But, even with this, it was not right. Of course, no such appointments were made. But many people might be deceived by such a publication, and be caused much trouble by it.

That the reporter of the *Bulletin* or of the *Picayune*, which contained almost identically the same list, wished to annoy others, is not presumed for an instant. It is more charitable to suppose that each of them, finding little on the appointment book, were hungry for news and fell easy victims to Mr. Kelly, of the executive office, or perhaps that rogue Henry, from that of the Secretary of State.

Amusements.

The Varieties Theatre during the past week has been well patronized, and "Ours" and "Hunted Down" have held the stage. These dramas, one by Robertson and the other by Boucault, were well put on the stage, and acted in an excellent manner. New pieces are ready for next week, and the management is endeavoring to meet the requirements of the public in supplying good entertainment. "Monte Christo," which has been for some time in preparation, is set at once a dramatic treat and a fine scenic display.

The St. Charles Theatre opens to-morrow evening under a new management, and as a variety place of amusement. If conducted on the plan of Tony Pastor's Theatre in New York, or the Howard Athenaeum in Boston, it will become an agreeable resort. The prices of admission are put at fifty and twenty-five cents, and the manager has engaged a large company of artists in the variety line for the purpose of giving his new enterprise a good send-off.

Religious.

Rev. J. D. Adams, the pastor, will preach this morning and evening, at the usual hours, at the Ames Methodist Episcopal Church, corner of St. Charles and Calloppe streets. Entrance for the present, while the church is undergoing repairs, will be from the Calloppe street side. Seats are free.

Rev. Willard Spalding will speak this morning and evening at the Church of the Messiah, Julia and St. Charles street. Subject for the morning discourse will be "True Morality;" in the evening, "Darwinism."

Services dedicating the new German Protestant Church, corner of Jackson and Chippewa streets, will be held at four o'clock this Sunday afternoon.

Louisiana Jockey Club Races.

On Saturday, April 15, the spring races of the Louisiana Jockey Club will commence. Several stables, comprising a large number of horses, are already on the grounds, and the animals are hard at work every morning under their trainers. This spring meeting promises to be the best held for many years, and a large attendance of visitors is assured. It is the season when the fair ones court the sunshine, when in our climate roebucks kiss and are kissed by the morning dew; when the songs of birds mingle with the laughter of girls; when all nature puts on a smiling face, and lovely woman puts on her best bonnet and goes to the Jockey Club races.

Appointments.

Governor Kellogg has made the following appointments:

S. W. Woods, councilman, of Monroe, vice Boffencher, deceased.
Joshua T. Van Tromp, police juror of West Feliciana.
Henry V. Babine, vice B. T. Beauregard, tax collector of East Baton Rouge.
L. A. Harving, vice A. K. Johnson, registered, tax collector of Jefferson, right bank.

Personal.

Captain W. D. Bateman, of the Shreveport Telegram, is in the city.
The many friends of Mr. Albert C. Mace, of the enterprising house of Rarehinde & Mace, will be pleased to learn of his return in excellent health and spirits, from a very successful Western business tour.
Mr. E. Levy, whose name is inseparably connected with the great Dollar Store of New Orleans, leaves the city this morning for a Northern trip, in quest of new attractions for his popular Canal street bazar.

The Levees.

There is much danger to be apprehended at the present time. General Thompson leaves to-day on a short trip, but will return to prepare for a longer one to-morrow. Paradoxical as it may seem, although the engineers are certain more water will come down the river this year than during any year for half a century, yet they assert the water will not be so high as heretofore known.

Sedine, the best anti-periodic and tonic known.

The most popular institution of the Fourth District is Matthew's Upper City circulating library. Why? Because his terms are so reasonable and selections so excellent.
From C. C. Langdon, president, and W. E. Mickle, secretary, the editor has received an invitation to attend the Third Annual Fair of the Agricultural, Mechanical and Horticultural Association of Mobile, which opens on the twenty-fifth instant.

BY TELEGRAPH.

CONGRESS.

House.

WASHINGTON, April 1.—The House proceeded to the consideration, as a special order, of the bill reported by Mr. Reagan, of Texas, from the Committee on Commerce, to amend the laws concerning commerce and navigation and the regulation of steam vessels. After a three hours' discussion in regard to fog horns, steam cocks, valves, lights, larboard and starboard courses, and other matters, about which one of the members participating professed to have much information, and as there was an equal lack of interest in, as of knowledge of the subject, the further consideration of the bill was postponed till next Saturday.

Mr. Robinson, of Indiana, offered a resolution, reciting the allegation that Horace Boynton, clerk of the House Committee on Military Affairs, had been guilty of corrupt and base practices, while an officer of the internal revenue bureau in Texas, and directing the committee to investigate the facts.
The House adjourned.

WASHINGTON.

Illness of the President.
WASHINGTON, April 1.—The President has a sleepless night, and is unfit for business to-day.

Another Corrupter.
Heister Clymer has received the following from ex-Senator A. W. Tennant, of Fremont, Nebraska: "Senator Hilschcock testified falsely before the committee on the ship at Fort Steele for my vote. There is plenty of proof of money having been paid in his election."

What Dyer Says.
District Attorney Dyer, before the whisky frauds committee, says he doesn't think Avery will get a new trial; if he does it will go harder with him than before.

Army Headquarters.
The Secretary of War and General Sherman agree that the headquarters of the army should be here. An order to that effect will probably be issued next week.

Whitley's Fardes.
J. Proctor Knott had a long interview with Attorney General Pierson before the cabinet meeting yesterday. It is believed a pardon for ex-Chief Detective Whitley has been placed at Mr. Knott's discretion, and that all facts relating to the said burglary will be elicited, as well as other matters.

Disappointed.
It is understood that Senators Sherman and Jones, and the treasury officials, do not like the silver bill, as passed yesterday.

The debt statement shows \$4,250,000 decrease. Coin in the treasury, \$73,750,000; currency, \$6,000,000.

Representative Wilson's Case Hopeless.
There is a little hope for Representative Wilson's recovery.

Going Home to Vote.
The Postmaster General is going to the Connecticut election.

The Belknap Impeachment.
The impeachment articles come up Monday, immediately after the reading of the journal.

Emma Mine.
The Foreign Committee cross-examined James E. Lyons. He said that since 1868 he had never been inside the Emma mine, which he had often been charged with Schenck to a proof that he and Johnson were of bad character, and unworthy of belief, and when Schenck swore that he lived by borrowing, and that only fifty cents of the mine must have been loaned one-third of the Emma mine. He was doubtful until 1870 whether it was worth anything.

War Department Investigation.
Examination of District Attorney Dyer: Question—You have received the testimony of Mr. Bell as printed in last night's *Star*. Is it correct?

Answer—Substantially as far as I am concerned it is. Bell says when he came to St. Louis, he met me at my house, and was at Eaton's house, he was our assistant counsel, Bell was not used as a witness in St. Louis because Luckey was not put on the stand, and the defense summoned both Luckey and Bradley, but did not put them on the stand and it was for this reason that Bell was not used in rebuttal. Mr. Bradley contradicts the witness.

Excused.
By special request on the part of the Confederate members of Congress were excused from serving on the board of managers against Belknap.

Why?
Chandler is summoned by the Civil Service Committee to explain why he discharged certain parties.

The Naval Committee.
The Naval Committee was engaged two days in examining Brooks Matthews, a heavy clothing contractor. Matthews' bookkeeper is before the committee, explaining obscure entries.

A Contradiction.
Miss Cook, whom Indian Commissioner Smith had settling his affairs with the Indians, contradicts the evidence of the Indian bureau.

A Witness Assailed.
Mr. Mollare, of New Orleans, assaulted the witness Bell this evening with a cane. No cause known.

A Witness who Failed.
In the Spencer investigation George Robinson, of Mobile, one of the witnesses examined who failed to make the points expected. General Morgan apologized to the committee for presenting him, and he was bought off, or, more probably, wished to come to Washington at government expense. Adjourned to Monday.

More Merchantable Trade-ships.
General Rice Sawyer, of Washington, gave the history of four trade-ships which he obtained for various ports in Texas and New Mexico. His compensation varied. From one party he got \$2000, from another \$5000, and a share in the profits from others. He and Belknap had been residents of Louisiana, and were intimate in the army. He never gave Belknap money or presents, except, perhaps, some wine and cigars, and a small wedding present