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CENTENNIAL SKETCHES.

BY CHRISTOPHER CRAYON.

In the mining regions when a nugget is found the first thing done by the lucky finder is to take a look at the article. In this region the first thing and the right thing is to take a look at the centennial buildings. You may take a street car or hire a team, or better still, as I did, accept a friend's offer to drive through the park and see the sights. His horses are horses, and without a touch of the whip do their mile charmingly in 2:40. We cross the Schuylkill and are soon within sight of the exposition. About 250 acres have been inclosed by a fence three miles long and having some twelve entrances. There are five principal buildings and nearly 150 smaller structures devoted to every conceivable purpose. The buildings alone will cover nearly 100 acres. The main exhibition building is 1876 feet long, which in itself has a centennial look about it and may be intended as an aid to the memory of school boys. The art gallery or Memorial Hall is notably fine. It is well built and is intended to be permanent. So much remains to be done that the *tout ensemble* is somewhat marred by the heaps of rubbish and unfinished work everywhere apparent. But by borrowing a little from the future even those who like Iago are "nothing if not critical," may find very much to wonder at and to admire. Troops of workmen of every hue and nationality, arebusy as bees in clover time trying to reduce chaos to order. High hopes are entertained that everything will be taut and neat on the opening day. It is difficult to ascertain the exact cost of the buildings and probably this is a point in which some of your readers may feet an interest. As in all other transactions in which builders have a hand, extras swell the bill. In this case heating, draining, plumbing and painting are extras, and human reason totters under the question of "how much?" When Miss Anna Dickenson lately in one of her lectures asked, "What can not a woman do?" and paused for a reply, one of the gods cried out, "We give it up; ask something easier." So I pray to be excused counting up these extras. The contracts for the structures from the original designs were: Memorial Hall, $1,199,275; main building, $1,420,000; Machinery Hall, $542,300; Horticultural Hall, $253,937; Agricultural Hall, $250,000. This gives a total of $3,665,512. But as nearly all the buildings have been enlarged since these contracts were signed, the total must be considerably enlarged. It is gratifying to be able to report that the Centennial Board of Finance are hopeful as to results. They have just reported their probable deficiency at about $1,500,000. Toward this they have admission fees. The charge for admission is a fifty cent note of United States currency—not an equivalent in twenty-five cent or ten cent notes, or in silver, but in a simple fifty. This brings us easily to the question of how many visitors are expected. This also is difficult to answer. But the number required to make up the deficiency already mentioned is 8,000,000. A startling figure when first looked at, but by no means improbable or impossible to reach. Indeed, when we notice that there were 7,250,000 at the Vienna Exposition, and 10,000,000 at that in Paris, we need not fear for 8,000,000 in Philadelphia.

The most serious drawback is the attitude assumed by the directors of the grand trunk lines of railway. Their determination not to reduce the fares more than twenty-five per cent has made much moan all over the country. I am persuaded that a motto, "Small profits and many passengers" would have been a great gain to themselves, as it certainly would have aided the great national enterprise. "The pity on't" is that "rings" are kings, and have their day. I do not doubt but that the people in this matter must teach the railroad kings that the spirit and power of Oliver Cromwell live and rule. "Off with their heads." That this question of transit is gravely affecting the situation is becoming daily more apparent. The matter of accommodation in hotels and boarding houses for those who may come I must reserve for another letter.

Philadelphia, April 30, 1876.

Embalmment.

During our peregrinations about New Orleans we lately wandered into that "God's half-acre," the abode of the dead, called the Catholic Cemetery No. 2, whose entrance is on St. Louis street. While there we had the pleasure of meeting G. Casanave, Esq., the universally known undertaker, who was so good as to give us valuable information as to the preservation of human bodies after death. Near the corner of the cemetery, on the left hand side as we enter, stands an edifice on the door of which is inscribed: "G. Casanave, Receiving Tomb for Embalmed Bodies." By the kindness of our friend we were permitted to enter the gloomy sanctuary. We there found forty or fifty coffins inclosing the defunct remains of embalmed humanity, among which were those of Colonel Bingaman, a celebrated turfite in his time; of the father of John Roxborough, a noted Republican politician; of a French lady, whose relatives caused the body to be embalmed, but never called for it, and of others needless to mention. The tomb has a vault of five feet in depth in which are deposited the skulls and bones of those whose coffins have become decayed from age.

Embalming is derived from the Latin word *balsamum*, balm, and is the art of preserving dead bodies from decay by means of aromatics, antiseptics, or dessication. It was practiced by the Egyptians from the earliest times. It was associated with their religious belief, for they held that the soul, after completing its cycle of separate existences of several thousand years, again returned to the body, and if that were found decayed or wasted, it transmigrated. The invention of the art was ascribed to Anubis, the son of Osiris, who was one of their chief divinities, and the greatest benefactor of Egypt, who first performed this office for his father. Hence all deceased persons were supposed to be embalmed after the model of Osiris. There are said to be many mummies two and three thousand years old, or so estimated, and in the catacombs of Egypt there are now hundreds of thousands of these embalmed remnants of mortality. The process of embalming is described by Hirodotus and Diodorus. The corpse of a male was at once delivered to the embalmers; if a female, it was retained at home until decomposition had set in. The process by which the operation was then performed would not interest our general readers, yet to the man of science and research it is of much value. After the embalmment the body was put in a wooden coffin and placed in an upright position, either in a sepulchre or in one of their own apartments; for many of the Egyptians kept their dead at home, as do the Chinese to this day, and sometimes produced them at festive entertainments. All classes of the ancient Egyptians were embalmed, also the animals which their religion held sacred. Of these, upward of fifty species have been found embalmed, among them the crocodile, ibis, cat, etc. The art was practiced also by the Jews, Greeks and Romans, though it never attained such perfection among them as among the people from whom it was borrowed. The Persians employed wax; the Assyrians honey; the Jews embalmed some of their Kings with spices, with which, also, the body of our Lord was anointed; and Alexander the Great was embalmed with wax and honey. It appears that the early Christians embalmed their dead, and, according to St. Augustine, mummies were made in his time, at the end of the fifth century. The art of embalming was probably never lost in Europe, but the mode of embalmment by injecting into the veins of the body a concentrated solution of sulphate of alumina, discovered by Gannal in 1834, has considerably diminished the cost of embalming. From that time many substances have been experimented on and employed as substitutes for sulphate of alumina for the preservation of dead bodies, one of the most successful, probably, being sulphate of zinc at different degrees of strength. We know reputed embalmers who make a mystery of their process, and do not use other substances.

With these remarks, we would further state that Mr. Casanave showed us a letter from Dr. Thomas Holmes, of Williamsburg, New York, in which the doctor desires Mr. Casanave to return the upper half of a subject left with him under the following circumstances: On March 23, 1856, Dr. Holmes was in the city of New Orleans, and being very eminent in his profession as embalmer, Mr. Casanave desired to profit by his instructions. The doctor then left with Mr. Casanave the upper portion of the body of a young emigrant girl, fourteen years of age, which he had embalmed four years previously, and having at his own office the lower portion; he now writes that he desires the upper part sent to him, that he may reunite them, after their twenty years separation. We examined the specimen and found it perfect. It was as hard and had the same appearance as wood, while not even a hair was loose, nor could it be plucked out. We afterward saw the embalmed body of a still-born child, which was operated upon by Mr. Casanave a score of years ago, and found it thoroughly preserved.

Mr. Casanave uses the process invented by Dr. Holmes, which consists of making a slight incision in one of the arms, laying bare the radial artery and injecting the embalming fluid by it through the various blood vessels. It is the work of a few minutes, is completed at once, and effectually preserves the subject from the decomposing influences of heat, air, and moisture. Decay is rendered utterly impossible, and there is every reason to believe that bodies thus prepared may be placed in an open case, and will remain unaltered for ages. Persons desirous of transporting to a distance the remains of their deceased friends, may now avail themselves of this admirable and expeditious process. It entirely supercedes the use of metallic or air-tight coffins, besides preserving every feature and every part of the body in the image of life.

The Beauties of Hard Money Illustrated.

The provisions of the act known as the silver bill provide that bonds bearing five per cent interest shall be sold, and the proceeds applied to the purchase of silver until forty millions of dollars have been so purchased and coined into silver quarters, half dollars, etc. All this for the privilege of taking up our very convenient fractional currency and substituting therefor an inconvenient silver coin so heavy that an amount equal to the paper currency which can be easily stowed away in a small pocket-book would weigh a pound.

The result may be briefly stated as follows: Each year we shall pay for the inestimable privilege of carrying around this metallic currency the sum of $2,000,000. At the end of twenty years we shall have paid $59,875,000 in interest on our fractional currency, and in that time the principal and interest will have amounted to nearly $100,000,000! All this for the privilege of coining 40,000,000 of inconvenient dollars, which will not circulate, instead of using a paper currency which costs nothing for interest, and which an experience of fifteen years has demonstrated to be universally acceptable.

Besides the loss for interest, the wear of silver coin is known to amount to one-half of one per cent per annum: so that in twenty years the actual loss to the taxpayer will amount to more than $63,000,000.

This is the act of the Democratic House which has promised to retrench the expenses of the government, acting under the instructions of Belmont & Co. A foolish act, prompted partly by interested motives and partly by ignorance.

Will any advocate of hard money, can any advocate of hard money give any satisfactory reason why the government should be compelled to lose $66,000,000 in twenty years simply to carry out the whims of a Democratic Congress? If it can not be explained, then let the act be repealed immediately.—*Washington Chronicle.*

SENATOR MORTON EXPLAINS HIS WAR RECORD.

Some Facts Evolved by Mr. Springer's Investigation.

A Washington special to the Chicago *Tribune*, May 3, says:

It was a strange scene which the Senate witnessed to-day when the war Governor of Indiana rose to answer as to his manner of helping carry on the war for the Union, both in the field and against the Sons of Liberty at home, and stranger still that this answer was called out by Springer, a former member of this order. The spectacle of the Sons of Liberty investigating the conduct of the war is now on exhibition at the national Capitol. The grossness of this attack on Governor Morton has been the source of great disgust and annoyance among many Democrats, and all recognize in it a most serious blunder. The full sympathy of every Union man and every fair man has been extended to Governor Morton. This explanation was not needed except to complete the record against those who assailed him. There was a general and hearty indignation, however, over the fact that a man who had contributed so much to suppress the rebellion, and did it honestly, as everybody knows, should be thus arraigned by men who, though desperately disloyal, had not the courage to fight for their belief. Few men in Washington have ever been so cordially congratulated over the manner in which they met attacks of this sort as has Governor Morton to-day and to-night.

Senator Anthony followed with the first pronounced utterance on the floor of either house in denunciation of the methods pursued by the Democratic committees. The universal response to his words showed plainly how keenly the gross unfairness of these investigations has taken hold of all classes here, and how great the disgrace is deemed to be which they have brought upon the majority which controls them.

In the Senate this morning, after reports from various committees were received, Mr. Morton arose to a personal explanation. He had read an article recently published in the New York *World*, in regard to $250,000 received by him from the general government while he was Governor of Indiana, out of the appropriation of $2,000,000 to pay the expenses of transporting and delivery of arms, etc., to loyal citizens in the States in rebellion. He said:

Mr. President, the President of the United States in the spring of 1863 advanced to me $250,000,000 to enable me to carry forward military operations in the State of Indiana. Of this sum I expended $133,302 in the services of the State, and with which I charged the State in my settlement with it, and the remaining $116,678 were not expended. This amount I returned to the treasury of the United States, as is shown by the following voucher and receipt:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, April 11, 1865.

SIR—Yours of the sixth instant, inclosing a duplicate certificate of deposit, issued by the First National Bank of Indianapolis, Indiana, in your favor, No. 360, date of the sixth instant, for $116,698, on account of money due and refunded to the United States, has been received.

I am, very respectfully,
GEORGE HARRINGTON,
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

To the Hon. O. P. Morton, Indiana.

The $133,302 which I had expended on behalf of the State were paid back to the government by giving the government credit for that amount upon the advances which had been made by the State in the conduct of the war, which advances were duly audited by the Treasury Department, and allowed as just and valid claims against the government in favor of the State. This settlement and final adjustment of the whole sum of $250,000 are shown by the following voucher and quietus from the office of the second auditor of the treasury:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Second Auditor's Office, November 8, 1865.

SIR—The charge of $250,000 on the books of this office on account of supplying arms to loyal citizens in revolted States has this day been closed on the books of this office, to wit: by the deposit by you of $116,698, and a transfer of $133,302 of funds from the books of the third auditor's office to your credit on the books of this office.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JOHN M. SIMS, Second Auditor.

To His Excellency O. P. Morton, Governor of Indiana.

From these vouchers it will appear that the whole sum of $250,000 was accounted for and repaid to the government. It will be proper in this connection to state the circumstances under which the $250,000 was advanced to me by the President, and the use made of it, to show that it was not misapplied. At the October election in 1862, in Indiana, the Democrats carried the State by a majority of over 10,000, electing a large majority in each branch of the Legislature and their candidate for State officer. The Democrats had the Legislature, all the State officers and the Judges of the Supreme Court, and possessed the whole power in the State government except the executive. When the Legislature assembled in the first week in January, 1863, its conduct was characterized by the most intense hostility to the administration, and to the prosecution of the war. I sent my messages to the two houses on the second day of the session. The Senate received, read and printed it in the usual way. The House refused to receive it, and directed the clerk to return it to me, and on the next day adopted a resolution approving the message of Governor Seymour, of New York. The revolutionary policy thus inaugurated was pursued with increased violence and open disregard of constitutional obligations. The time was chiefly consumed by the introduction of disloyal resolutions, the utterance of factious and treasonable sentiments intended to excite the people against the government and destroy its power to suppress the rebellion.

On the fifteenth of February a bill was introduced into the House, which was intended to strip me, as Governor, of all military power in the State. It provided that all arms should be placed in the custody of the Auditor, Treasurer, Secretary and Attorney General of the State, to be issued or disposed of only by them. It deprived the Governor of all power to call out the militia for any purpose whatever. It provided that all officers of militia should be appointed and commissioned by these four State officers, and not by the Governor, as required by the constitution of the State. It provided for the repeal of the existing militia law, the dissolution of all brigades, regiments and companies formed under that law, the surrender of their arms into the hands of agents to be appointed by the four State officers, and rendered null and void all outstanding commissions. In short, this bill transferred to the four State officers the military power which was vested in the Governor by the constitution, was revolutionary and unconstitutional in every feature, and intended for disloyal purposes. The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time by a strict party vote.

The legislative history of this bill could not be better given than in the language employed by Union members of the Legislature, in their address to the people of the State, as follows:

"The military bill had come from a midnight caucus to the House, had been printed and forced to its engrossment without the change of a word or letter. All amendments and substitutes had been voted down. All reference to the committees had been refused, although every other bill of a general character that had gone to a second reading had been referred to some committee. The previous question had been sustained, the gag applied, and all debate cut off, and the bill engrossed. Nothing was left for us but to sit by and see the infamous measure passed through, the revolution committed and civil war begun, or quietly retire and leave the House without a quorum. There was no other peaceful and constitutional remedy. If it had been left to the courts to annul it, before the question could have been determined the law would have done its work. The military power once in the hands of the conspirators, it would be a matter of no importance what the courts might decide, and if the question took the course of others before the Supreme Court it might be months or years before decision was made. The path of duty was the path of safety, and we had no doubt, no hesitation, as to the course we should pursue. We were willing and anxious, and repeatedly proposed to the majority to return and pass the appropriation bills with all other legitimate and lawful legislation, but they replied to us contemptuously that they intended to pass every one of the extra measures before they took up the appropriation bills."

The military bill violated absolutely no less than seven plain and vital provisions of the State constitution, and subverted entirely the scheme of government invented by the framers of that instrument. Its passage would have been an act of revolution, inevitably attended by civil war and a collision with the government of the United States. It had become manifest that the Democratic members of the Legislature were determined to pass the bill at all hazards, which would unquestionably have resulted in civil war. I could not and would not surrender my powers as Governor under the constitution, nor could the government of the United States afford to have me do so, for the purpose of the proceeding was to neutralize the position of Indiana in the war, and to take her out of the line of the loyal States northwest of the Ohio river. The very tendency of the bill, and this avowed purpose to pass it, caused the most intense comment, and at once threatened the peace and safety of the State. I could veto the bill, but a simple majority could pass it over the veto, so that would amount to nothing. The Republicans had barely enough members in the House of Representatives to break a quorum and break up the Legislature. Consultations were held with the Republican members of the Legislature and leading Republican citizens from different parts of the State, who were summoned for that purpose, and it was the deliberate judgement of all, in which mine fully concurred, that the passage of the bill would involve the State in civil war. The Repbulican members of the House, therefore, withdrew from the body to prevent the final passage of the bill. All the appropriation bills to carry on the State government, except one to pay the per diem and mileage of the members, had been kept behind this military bill, so that when the Legislature adjourned there were no appropriations made for any civil or military purposes. There was plenty of money in the State treasury, but it was locked against me. I made an appeal to the people of the State, setting forth the situation, and asking them to furnish me with money to carry on the State government, to support the militia, and to organize troops for the United States. The county commissioners in the county of Marion, in which the capital is located, came forward and advanced me $20,000 out of the county treasury. This example was followed by many other counties in the State, by several banks, railroad companies, and by individuals, until a large sum of money had been raised.

Under the constitution the Legislature met but once in two years, unless convened in extra session by the Governor, and the next session in course would not begin until January, 1865. After obtaining all the money I could from the counties and other sources, I made a calculation, and found that I would lack about $250,000 to carry me through to January, 1865, and, to make my position secure, I came to Washington to see if I could not obtain the amount from the government of the United States. After a careful review of the situation by the the President (Mr. Lincoln) and Secretary of War (Mr. Stanton), the President advanced me the sum of $250,000. They both agreed that Indiana was threatened with rebellion, and that the condition of the State came directly within the letter and spirit of the act of Congress, approved July 31, 1861. Mr. Stanton declared to the President with great emphasis that, if Indiana lost her position as a loyal State, the final success of the government in suppressing the rebellion would be endangered, and that the government must be sustained at whatever cost or hazard.

The history and character of the transaction is shown by the following extract from my annual message to the Legislature of Indiana in January, 1865: "Upon the adjournment of the Legislature I found myself unprovided, with the exception of a small balance of military contingent fund, with money or appropriation for military purposes. No regiments could be raised under the requisitions of the government, work could not be carried forward without the use of large sums of money. The Legion (militia) had received no pay for their services from the beginning of the war, and the organization could not be successfully continued unless payment was made, and the men reimbursed for their actual expenditures, for which the appropriation for the Legion fund, made in 1861, was inadequate. The southern border was still disturbed by threats and danger of invasion, and such steps were to be taken, if possible, as would guarantee peace and security to our people. In this dilemma I determined to apply to the President for an advance under an appropriation made by Congress on the thirty-first of July, 1861, which act is in these words:

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, that the sum of $2,000,000 be and the same is hereby appropriated, to be expended under the direction of the President of the United States, in supplying and defraying the expense of transporting and delivering such arms and munitions of war as in his judgment may be expedient and proper to place in the hands of any of the loyal citizens residing in any of the States of which the inhabitants are in rebellion against the government of the United States, or in which rebellion is or may be threatened, and likewise for defraying such expenses as may be properly incurred in organizing, and sustaining while so organized, any of said citizens in companies, battalions, regiments or otherwise, for their own protection against domestic violence, invasion or rebellion."

"After a full consideration of the condition of affairs in Indiana, the President advanced to me as disbursing officer, out of said appropriation, the sum of $250,000. It will be perceived that this money was not paid to me as a loan to the State, or an advance to the State upon debts due her from the general government, and creates no debt against the State whatever, but that in theory it is an expenditure made by the President through me as his disbursing agent. It has, however, been disbursed exclusively in the name of and for the benefit of the State in the payment of the necessary military expenses, for which the State should have made ample appropriations. I have advanced to the paymaster of the State forces at different times the sum of $171,661, for which the greater portion, however, has been reimbursed to me by the general government upon my filing in the proper department the receipted pay rolls of the Indiana Legion for services rendered in the war.

"For a detailed account of the exxpenditures of the military fund of the Legislature is referred to the financial report of the Hon. W. H. H. Terrell, financial secretary, which is herewith submitted, and to vouchers on file in this department.

"All of these expenditures were laid before the auditing committee appointed by the late Legislature for examination, and received their approval, as will be shown by the report. I had on hand on the first of May, 1865, of the military fund, the sum of $115,487, and the question is now presented as to the proper method of settlement with the government for the fund. One of two ways may be adopted: First, by returning to the government the balance of the fund unexpended, and by settling with it for the amount unexpended upon the vouchers of expenditures after the same shall been approved by the Legislature, and this would be in accordance with the theory upon which the money was orginally advanced by the President. Second, by paying into the State treasury the unexpended balance of the fund, and treating the whole as an advance to the State to be accounted for by her in her general settlement with the government for advances made. This latter plan is, in my judgment, more consonant with justice and the honor of the State, the money having been expended for purposes for which the State was honorably and patriotically bound to make provision. The total amount of cash received by me is $1,226,321. I have disbursed for civil purposes, on vouchers, $199,644; for military purposes, on vouchers, $702,420; total, $902,065—leaving a balance in my hands of $124,253. Of this balance $8768 belongs to funds received on account of civil expenses, and $115,487 on account of funds received for military expenses.

"In conclusion on this subject, I respectfully request that a joint committee of the two Houses be speedily appointed to investigate the civil and military expenditures I have made since the adjournment of the last Legislature, and to examine the vouchers for the same on file in the Treasury Department, and that the Legislature will make prompt provision for the repayment of the money I have borrowed for public purposes. It was advanced from patriotic motives, with full reliance upon the good faith of the State for its reimbursement, and without it the machinery of the State government could not have been kept in motion."

A joint committee of the two houses, embracing some of the ablest Democratic members, was appointed, as requested in my message, who patiently investigated all my accounts, including the expenditure of the $133,320 which I had obtained from the President, and unanimously reported them correct, taking no exception even to the amount of one cent. The unexpended portion of the $250,000 which I had received from the President, and which I described in my message as the military fund, but which was erroneously stated in the message as $115,000, instead of $116,000, I did not pay into the State treasury, as suggested in the message, but refunded directly to the general government, as before shown, and the $133,302 which I had expended for the State was settled with the government by giving credit to the government for that amount on the indebtedness of the government to the State, as before shown.

After a full examination of my accounts the Legislature made an appropriation to pay my borrowed money and the debts I had contracted; also the sum of about $600,000—the exact amount, however, I am not able to state from memory—which I had procured from Winslow, Lanier & Co., of New York, to advance in the payment of interest upon the bonds of the State during the years 1863 and 1864, the payment of which interest had been withheld by the auditor and treasurer of the State. During these two years all payment for civil and military expenses of the State, including benevolent institutions and penitentiaries, excepting only salaries of public officers, were paid upon my check through a financial bureau established in my office, the State auditor and State treasurer declining all co-operation. My course was approved by the people of Indiana by my re-election as Governor in October, 1874, by a majority of more than 20,000, and by the election of a Republican Legislature and Republican State officers.

The intermediate history between the events I have described in the spring of 1863, and the meeting of the Legislature in January, 1865, I will refer to but briefly, although it was extraordinary in its character, and unlike that of any other State. The State was honey-combed with secret societies, formerly known as Knights of the Golden Circle, but at that time as Sons of Liberty. They claimed in 1864 to have 40,000 members in the State; were lawless, defiant, plotting treason against the United States and the overthrow of the State government. In some counties their operations were so formidable as to require militia to be kept on a war footing, and throughout 1863, and until the final explosion of the organization in August, 1874, kept the whole State in an uproar and alarm.

So bold were these demonstrations through the summer of 1863 that General John Morgan, of Kentucky, was induced to invade the State with his forces, in the belief that there would be a general uprising in his support. In 1864, so numurous were these treasonable organizations, and so confident were they of their strength, that they matured a plan for a general uprising in the city of Indianapolis on the sixteenth of August, to be under cover of a mass meeting of the Democratic party, to be attended by members of these organizations from all parts of the State. The plan, as shown by subsequent confessions of some of the leading conspirators, was on that day to release about 7000 rebel prisoners confined in Camp Morton, seize the arsenal and arm these prisoners, overthrow the State government, and take possession of the State.

This plan could not be kept secret. It was developed some three weeks before the time fixed, and was abandoned by the leading conspirators, and orders issued countermanding the march of their forces upon Indianapolis. Subsequently, the discovery and seizure of a large amount of arms and ammunition collected at Indianapolis for treasonable purposes, and the seizure of records and rituals of the Order of the Sons of Liberty, giving the names of the principal conspirators, and arrest of some eight of the ring leaders, had the effect to break up and destroy the power of the organization, and I regret to have to state that in the list of the principal members of this organization were found the names of three of the State officers into whose hands the Legislature of 1862 had attempted to place the whole military power of the State. Upon the trial of these ringleaders before a military tribunal appointed by the President under an act of Congress, some of them turned State's evidence, and disclosed the full character and extent of the conspiracy. Four of them were convicted and sentenced to death, one of whom made his escape, another was pardoned outright by President Johnson, and two others—Bowles and Milligan—had their punishment commuted by President Johnson to imprisonment for life, but were afterwards released by a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States to the effect that a military commission had no jurisdiction to try them for the offense.

There is a large volume of unpublished history showing in detail the operations of these organizations, who were their aiders and abettors, and the connection they had with the politics of the day. It may be proper to state here that the Democratic Legislature of 1863, before its sudden adjournment, had appointed an auditing committee of its own members to audit and supervise all my accounts and expenditures for military purposes, which sat almost continuously until January, 1865, and that this committee did audit and approve every one of my expenditures, including that of the $133,302 of the fund obtained from the President. The same Legislature also appointed a committee to investigate all my expenditures and accounts from the beginning of the war up to January, 1865. This investigation was prosecuted with great vigilance until late in the spring of 1865, and after the breaking up of the Legislature. Failing to find anything wrong in my accounts to the amount of even a cent, the Democratic majority of the committee refused to make any report at all, but the Republican minority made a report indorsing my official conduct in every particular.

STATE NEWS.

NATCHITOCHES.

From the *Republican*, March 29:

Notwithstanding all the heavy rains we have had, and thereby setting the farmers backward, the growing crops look as flourishing as the utmost admirer could wish. To see fall stands of cotton and corn in every field is quite common, and they are growing as if they did not depend on any particular kind of weather for the purpose. As we write the clouds threaten rain, and as we have had so much of it this spring, the fear is we may want rain now before we will get it, and there is every indication that we may have long droughts this summer. However, we hope for the best, and that the weather may prove satisfactory to our agricultural interests.

LAFOURCHE.

From the *Sugar-Bowl*, May 4:

On Gold Dust plantation, two miles below Thibodaux, on the eighteenth ultimo, Mr. Francois Martin, aged seventy years, and his venerable wife, aged sixty, both died, within a few hours of each other, from pleurisy, and were buried the following day in St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Thibodaux, in the presence of a large number of the citizens of the parish. Peace to their ashes.

Near Raceland, parish of Lafourche, on the thirteenth of April, the community was startled by the discovery that Joseph Folse had left his wife and four children and eloped with the wife of Andre Matherne. Folse's desertion of his wife was most heartless, for during their six or seven years' married life she had borne him seven or eight children, having twins twice, and four of the children are still living. The false woman who accompanied him had been married only about a year, and had no children. To effect their escape, he walked back to the depot, a distance of about three miles, and she, after going to communion at the Catholic Church in the morning, went home, gathered up her clothing and taking the horse car, met Folse at the depot, when they went to New Orleans.

Captain Thomas R. Muggish lately returned from Georgia with about ninety negroes, all selected for St. Mary planters. Garden City plantation, Messrs. Lyons & Sanders, took eight families, among whom were seventeen field hands, and Messrs. Walker & Thompson some.

We regret the necessity which caused this importation of more blacks instead of whites. We hope as an offset to this, that all who can will throw their land into market for the benefit of whites who wish to come here to locate.

HEART VENTURES.

I stood and watched my ships go out
Each one by one, unmoring free,
What time the quiet harbor filled
With flood tide from the sea.

The first that sailed, her name was Joy,
She spread a smooth, white, ample sail;
And eastward drove with bending spars
Before the singing gale.

Another sailed, her name was Hope,
No cargo in her hold she bore;
Thinking to find in western lands
Of merchandise a store.

The next that sailed, her name was Love,
She showed a red flag at the mast—
A flag as red as blood she showed,
And she sped south right fast.

The last that sailed, her name was Faith,
Slowly she took her passage forth;
Tacked and lay-to; at last she steered
A straight course for the north.

My gallant ships they sailed away,
Over the shimmering summer sea,
I stood at watch for many a day—
But one came back to me.

For Joy was caught by Pirate Pain—
Hope ran upon a hidden reef—
And Love took fire and foundered fast
In whelming seas of Grief.

Faith came at last, storm-beat and torn,
She recompensed me all my loss;
For as a cargo safe she brought
A crown linked to a cross.

Adjudication of Conflicting Land Claims.

An important decision was on Monday rendered by our State Supreme Court, in a case from East Baton Rouge, in regard to conflicting claims under land grants, through the State and United States, and the law regulating pay for improvements made by the United States possessor of the land.

Justice Howell delivered the opinion of the court, which is as follows:

Cullen McCastle vs. J. J. B. Chancy et al.—Appeal from the District Court for the parish of East Baton Rouge.

This is a petitory action in which plaintiff claims title to a certain tract of land from the State of Louisiana under act of Congress of May 20, 1826, by virtue of which act the State selected the said land in May, 1856, and issued to him a patent in 1873. He asks that the patent issued by the United States to J. J. B. Chancy in June, 1860, be declared null as having been issued in error and that he be put in possession.

The defendants in possession claim by donation from J. J. B. Chancy, to whom a patent was issued by the United States, and in case of eviction they claim the value of improvements and call in their warranters.

Judgment was rendered in favor of plaintiff, declaring him the owner of the land, annulling defendant's title allowing plaintiff rent from October, 1873, directing him to be put in possession, reserving to defendants the right to remove their improvements and giving them judgment against their warranters.

The defendant and warranters appealed.

It is clearly shown that the land in controversy was among the land selected by the State in 1856, as school lands, under the provisions of the above cited act of Congress, and that the patent issued to J. J. B. Chancy by the United States in 1860, for several different tracts erroneously included this one, and that when the mistake was discovered the officers in New Orleans were instructed to procure the patent from Chancy to have it corrected.

The United States parted with their title when the selection was made by the State of Louisiana in 1856, and the title remained in the State until it was vested in the plaintiff, consequently no title vested in Chancy, the patentee.

But we think while he could not prescribe against the State or United States he was such a possessor as to require the plaintiff either to reimburse the value of the materials and the price of workmanship in making the improvements or to reimburse a sum equal to the enhanced value of the soil under the last clause of article 508 R. C. C.

The record does not enable us to fix either the value of such materials and workmanship or the enhanced value of the soil resulting from the improvements. The case must be remanded for such purpose.

The rent should be allowed only from judicial demand. The warranters have urged no complaint before us.

It is therefore ordered that the judgment appealed from be amended in favor of Mrs. S. A. Hunt, so as to allow rent from the fifteenth January, 1874, and to annul the reservation of the right of defefendant to remove the improvements. It is further ordered that this case be remanded to ascertain the value of the materials and workmanship in making the improvements on the land and the enhanced value of the soil resulting therefrom, and that plaintiff be required to make his choice whether he will pay the value of such materials and workmanship or the enhanced value of the soil; costs of the appeal to be paid by the appellee.

The Wonderful Progress of the Eads Jetties.

The constant reader of the morning dailies would lose his relish for his favorite journal if for two successive days its telegraphic department failed to print a dispatch announcing the wonderful progress of the Eads jetties. The present session of Congress may adjourn in a month or two, and Eads wants the $500,000 to be paid on the accomplishment of certain results at the head of South Pass. The water is steadily deepening in the newspaper channels, but from the South Pass channel that ugly report continues to come that the mud removed from above is rapidly shoaling the water below. The mate of the Grand Republic recently made careful soundings along the jetties, which are recorded in the New Orleans papers. One hundred and seventy-four soundings were made between the outer edge of the bar and Land's end, beginning in forty-two feet of water and ending in thirty-four feet. At low tide the lowest depth found in the channel was fifteen feet. Of these 174 soundings only twelve showed fifteen feet; twenty one showed sixteen feet; twelve, seventeen feet; six, eighteen feet; two, nineteen feet, and all the others twenty feet or more. The soundings for one-fourth the whole distance, and that, of course, at the sea end, were all between fifteen and twenty feet, and for the remaining three-fourths between twenty and thirty-four feet. From this the *Times* says it seems plain that a vessel drawing sixteen feet can go to sea through the jetties at mean high tide any day. "All this," it adds, "was very gratifying and encouraging to the visitors" who went down on the Grand Republic. But—and we give the *Times'* own words—

"One ugly feature was to be observed, and that was a draft of soundings made by an assistant of Captain Howell on the morning of the same day, which draft is said to be now in Captain Howell's office. These soundings fully confirm those noted above, showing somewhere in every cross section between the jetty walls a depth of fifteen feet or more. But the draft also shows soundings about 400 feet out from the sea end of the jetties. Next to the bar the depth is from thirty to fifty feet, but several hundred feet out the water shoals up suddenly to sixteen feet, thus showing either an old bar, where deep water was said to be, or the formation of a new bar on the outer side of what we may call the littoral channel next to South Pass bar. Which is it? The question is immensely important. Assuming these soundings to be official and correct, the general impressions would be that a new bar is forming, not on the sea slope of the old one, but on the other side of a narrow sound across which the swift current of the river carries its sediment to be suddenly dropped at a certain distance out. This is a very disagreeable feature of the case, and we sincerely hope it may be satisfactorily explained away. If it can not, the sooner that fact is known the better. If the bar, new or old, is there, it must be removed, or the channel scoured out between the jetties will prove of little service. We await the solution of this new difficulty with some anxiety."

Speaking of this "ugly feature," the New Orleans REPUBLICAN says:

"A thousand feet further out, it is stated, a bar or mud lump has lately shown itself in the throat of the channel, on which there is less than fifteen feet of water—a condition of affairs the famous littoral current has failed to take notice of."

This is the trouble. No well informed person has doubted Captain Eads' ability to clear the channel down to the sea end of the pass; but if the mud and sand thus removed form a huge, impassable bar outside, practically the jetties accomplish nothing beyond changing the location of the obstruction. As the *Avalanche* has frequently remarked with reference to these jetties, everything depends on whether the deposits removed from the channel settle down just outside or are carried away into the Gulf. The side currents which were to remove the mud driven down to the head of the pass do not seem to have begun their work. Perhaps they have not learned that Congress may adjourn without voting an appropriation.—*Memphis Avalanche.*

The Mexican Situation.

The following summary of political and warlike events in the Mexican republic is from *Rakden's Semi Monthly Review*, a commercial publication of Mexico City, of April 13:

A new revolutionary plan accompanied by a proclamation, said to has been issued by General Porfirio Diaz, has recently appeared upon the disturbed waters of Mexican politics. The said plan differs in some respects from those that have been published thus far. Article six of the new plan stipulates that the presidency of the republic shall be occupied, until new elections are held, by the Vice President, that is to say, by Mr. Iglesias, president of the Supreme Court, provided this official accepts publicly through the press the above mentioned plan in all its parts. Whereupon Mr. Iglesias hastened to publish a letter in the official organ of the government, stating that he by no means could or would accept the plan issued by General Di