New Orleans Republican.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE UNITED STATES

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF NEW ORLEANS

NEW ORLEANS, MAY 2, 1877.

Put none but Creoles on guard.

The man to be hung will fall in line.

A horse all ribs is not likely to feel his oats.

Sam Bard supports the policy of President Hayes.

Church affairs are very much helped by church fairs.

It is the fashion now to make a pilgrimage to Mecca.

Craig, the barber, prefers an office of profit to one of trust.

The new French minister is expected to make a Noyes abroad.

A man is apt to lose grip when he lets character go to hold office.

Making "Castles in Spain" is the latest brain work of Longfellow.

The influence now managing spring is not drawing it very mild.

A single strawberry can be bought for fifteen cents, swimming in punch.

Excelsior was the boy who had determined to hie up the mountain side.

The maps of the Eastern battlefields all to locate the cause of the conflict.

Harriet Martineau was entirely conscious of being a distinguished person.

Many country papers are urging the removal of the State Capitol to Baton Rouge.

The local papers make some very un-Filley-al remarks about the St. Louis postmaster.

The police arrested and had Yung Tung tied for doing something wrong in the cigar line.

Philadelphia now has what is called a Permanent Exhibition on the ruins of the Centennial.

Nature never makes a mistake, and cooling waters come to thirsty flowers in dew form.

A nation prepared for war generally gets Weakness inclines men and governments to peace.

It is not a good time for short haired men to order merchants to pay for torch-light processions.

"Jack and the beans talk," says Mother Goose; but no one knows what they say without knowing beans.

It is claimed that the apportionment of 1880 will increase the political power of the West, especially Ohio.

This appears to be the proper time for the Russian grand dukes to go home and baptize themselves with fire.

Kandikoff is the sweet name of a Russian General who is trying to tear Turkish pantaloons at the seat of war.

Queen Victoria enjoins strict neutrality among her subjects, forbidding the prime minister to even say "Turkey" once.

There was no policy in the murder of several white Republicans in Kemper county, Mississippi, on Sunday.

Hearing that the White House would be run on the cold water plan, the interviewers all tried to pump the President.

Colonel George H. Butler has the Deadwood over other office-seekers. He goes to the Black Hills to look after the postoffice.

Mr. Evarts is obliged to practice law to pay his way in Washington. A good paying cher case would be very acceptable just now.

If there is a demand for American staff officers, some of young West Pointers will be allowed to run with the Eastern dogs of war.

The Rayville *Beacon* has had to outwardly contradict a statement made in its patent inside. It was a case of untrue inwardness.

The Indiana editors have not yet decided where to go when they make another excursion. Sealed proposals can now be sent in.

To a stranger New Orleans appears to have a champion police. Every man on the force wears the blue ribbon, like a cook stove at the fair.

The Grand Vizier has notified Serria that a detachment of Turks will occupy Gladova. The Russians will not be Gladova change like that.

Mrs. General Sherman has collected $230,000 for the Pope. Two hundred and fifty girls have been turned out of the Treasury Department, homeless and needy.

By a simple attachment of air bags to saddles, Lieutenant Zubovitz has made it possible to swim horses easily across rivers, and will inaugurate a marine cavalry.

Wallack has accepted a comedy from Bartley Campbell called "My Foolish Wife." Mr. Campbell has been abroad, and can write an original play with as much assurance as Boucicault.

We are one people. When Alexander H. Stephens rides up to the White House the President comes out and puts his foot up on the wagon wheel and talks and whittles just like old times.

Chicago people think St. Louis had a very hay fire because only one building was destroyed. Come to think of it, they remember that the flames did take the elevator to much the singing room.

OUR CUSTOMHOUSE.

The election of Senator Spofford, and the nomination of Hon. John E. King as the collector of the port of New Orleans mark a very new era in the politics of Louisiana. Neither of these men had been known as politicians, and there does not seem to have been a single "brass tack" driven in the interest of either. It can not injure either party to say that they have made heretofore a great mistake in their mode of filling appointments. They have taught that the strength of a party depended upon the distribution of its offices, and that any man could fill any office that he could pay for. The Republicans have suffered by the adoption of this doctrine founded by Slidell & Co. For them it has unfortunately happened that when the day of battle came very few Southern Republicans in Federal or State position were competent to defend the positions confided to them, while some of those who had received the highest and most lucrative evidences of Republican confidence sold themselves openly for a price, and deserted to the enemy.

Upon this theory the incumbents of the principal Federal appointments here seem to have considered them as a compliment to the superior personal consequence of the incumbents, and as a facility for personal engagement. They have in some cases resided abroad, deriving a splendid support from the office, and intrusting their duties to agents who had no other interest or ability than to perform the routine of their fiduciary functions—without loss to themselves. The subordinates held their little places of ease and perquisites by the pepper-corn tenure of a biennial vote, and did not redeem even this miserable servitude with great punctuality at the last election.

The foreign imports into this port have declined very greatly. Before the war they amounted to some twenty millions; they are now about fourteen millions. Those of the Eastern ports amount to nearly five hundred millions. Before the war New Orleans imported eighteen or twenty per cent of the whole foreign values; all indeed required for the valley of the Mississippi. At present the imports are but two and eight-tenths per cent of the whole values imported into the Union. This great decline has been produced by several causes. The modern law of trade directs all shipments upon the most rapid means of communication between production and consumption, and this line is not favorable to the port of New Orleans. We have no evidence that any large portion of these imports evade our Customhouse. The investigation of Mr. Gibson was confined almost exclusively to a futile endeavor to convict the Republican officers, and did not evince much anxiety as to any constituents who may have flanked the revenue cutter with silks or cigars. We by no means assume to the Republican party the sole responsibility for not having arrested the decline of our imports. On the other hand, the municipal authorities are equally interested in this important work. We have had a magnate called an Administrator of Commerce. What that officer has ever done to extend the commerce of New Orleans, we do not know. He has sometimes appeared as the advocate of turning over his duties in keeping the wharves in repair to a contractor; occasionally he has been conspicuous in the prosecution of those who sold poultry or cabbage to the people without paying license to the city, but nowhere have we ever seen that officer advocate the reduction of wharfage, or of towage, or of any other of those charges on sail vessels which make this the most expensive port in the world, except perhaps Calcutta. The city authorities should reduce these charges, and assess them, if necessary, in whole or in part upon other sources of taxation.

The collector of the port interested in the commercial welfare of New Orleans should direct his whole influence to the development of that commerce. It may be done by improved vigilance in the revenue service and coastguard. It will be aided greatly by a diplomatic service that will give New Orleans and the Mississippi valley a full complement of foreign ministers and consuls thoroughly imbued with the interests which they represent. We need reciprocal trade, not free trade, with other countries, and New Orleans should be the *entrepot* for the whole commerce between the Southern countries of this continent and the whole meridian of the Mississippi valley. There may be some modification of our own tariff necessary, but without specification we may say that a man whose head is not broad enough to take in the foreign diplomatic policy of the country, and to build up the direct trade with and through this port, would constitute no improvement upon his predecessors in office from the Democratic days of Hatch & Co. to the present. In the same connection, the subordinate appointments of the revenue service here should be filled with men who have sense enough to know that the commerce of a port depends somewhat on the honesty, civility and despatch of the employes.

The appointment of Hon. John E. King as collector of the port demonstrates that the President is awake to the importance of confiding this interest to an officer competent to its success. There can be no possible objection to this gentleman, even by the anti-Republican party. He is a native of Louisiana, interested in her welfare, and familiar with the wants and ways of her people. No possible imputation of incivism can possibly be applied to him. Honorable, able and courageous, he has employed no unworthy agency to obtain a position which he has been solicited to accept. A Whig leader in the past, he has found all the war issues which divided him from the Whigs of the Northwest settled by their universal acceptance, and he stands reunited with his old Whig compatriots upon and around the administration of President Hayes. He is now ready and prepared to take up the great Whig measures of commerce, domestic manufactures and internal improvement just where they were left in the furrow at the call to arms.

We anticipate from the administration of Collector King a revenue policy of which we may, as Republicans, be proud. We expect to see in the improved activity of our mercantile and shipping interests, and the enlarged invoices of our up river friends an evidence of the superior advantage of Republican principles operated by patriotic and intelligent men. We are confident that our merchants and municipal authorities will co-operate with the collector in all measures which will promote the common interests of our whole people.

BY FORCE OF ARMS.

Never before in the history of these States has a formal congratulation been addressed to a militia army for having put a party in possion of a State government. Never before has a party admitted that to "the courage, constancy and discipline" of men under arms has been due the result of an election. Major General Ogden says in his general orders of congratulation that this army has—

By the irresistible moral force of your organization placed the executive of the people's choice in possession of the public offices of the State without firing a shot.

When it is known abroad that this force has been on one occasion marched out for the purpose of storming the State House; that those who held that beleaguered fortress stood prepared to repel force by force, and that a Federal orderly with a paper in his belt arrested this advance, it will be known why no shot was fired by this army. The Federal sovereignty stood between these combatants, and said, "as much siege as you choose, but no shooting in these streets," and the march of this host was arrested as suddenly, though not so fatally, as that of Sennacherib. Nothing of this enforced respect for peace will appear in the biography of General Ogden. The Republicans will seem to have subsided before the courage and discipline of his army, and their lives will seem to be due to their magnanimity. We need not recur to the neutrality of the Federal executive, while he left the result of the election to be decided by the comparative ability of the contestants to endure poverty and temptation.

We shall continue to believe that the President has merely held in abeyance the performance of a constitutional obligation, and that he has not abdicated that obligation. We see nothing in the general order or elsewhere to controvert the sovereignty of the nation. Its indulgence must not be construed into impunity or independence of the paramount authority. We can, of course, have no objection to the compliment paid to the "uncompensated guardianship" which these soldiers have performed, notwithstanding we can not see what there was to be guarded with the United States troops and six hundred policemen devoting themselves to the same duty. Still, when two or three thousand of these home veterans come to demand two or three hundred places on the police, it may be well to console the disappointed by appealing to their pride for the uncompensated performance of a bloodless service. In view of the Federal sovereignty, of which we are a little jealous, it becomes our duty to remark that, in addition to the heartfelt thanks extended by Major General Ogden to the militia, there should have been some small acknowledgment to that Divine power which disposed the hearts of men to peace, and to General Augur, who represented the will of Providence with several strong battalions of United States troops. With this amendment, we see nothing worthy censure in this extraordinary congratulation to an army for having carried an election by force of arms.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

The Ouachita *Telegraph* favors the call of a convention for the purpose of revising the State constitution. We have always favored certain amendments of this instrument, but should by no means wish to see this whole subject, settled in 1864-'68 brought again under discussion. The amendments of the Federal constitution have been recognized and guaranteed. It would be a subject of great and unnecessary uneasiness to the colored people to review their rights, and no additional guarantee could be expected. It is in fact better to adopt the English idea, maintain settled principles, but amend the constitution in such particulars as the people may demand. The British constitution may be called unwritten, but it consists in statutory provisions which may be amended as the people desire, but which having been once placed on a basis satisfactory to the people become a fundamental doctrine that stand for centuries unchanged. There are defects in the constitution of Louisiana, and such should be submitted to popular consideration. The Whig party of Louisiana had, in 1852, succeeded in defeating the spoil-hunting Democracy, and inaugurated the doctrine of Fox and Sheridan, that the patronage of the crown had increased, was increasing, and ought to be diminished. They enforced the preamble to the first constitution of Louisiana, written by the hand of the great Republican, Thomas Jefferson, and separated, on the English model, the three departments of government. They made the officers of the State and parishes elective by the people, and took away from the executive that patronage which has always proved a curse to the people and to the party to which the executive belonged.

The Republicans who amended the constitution of 1852 committed the error of supposing that their principles could be better administered by the Governor than by the people. Experience has shown that the evils inherent in every monarchical institution will always demonstrate themselves. The enlargement of this patronage was effected by legislation, and now Mr. Nicholls, who has captured this patronage and wields it with even less responsibility for removals than his immediate predecessors, has possession of all the powers which the Republicans unwisely accumulated in a single hand. There were limitations in the constitution of 1852 upon the creation of debt and upon the power to grant public franchises in monopoly to individuals.

We are convinced the constitution should be amended by returning to these provisions of 1852, but this may be done without the necessity of a State convention. It may be done as the creation of State debt was limited by the Republican party in 1871-72.

It is obvious from the great number of idle, discontented people who have thronged the doors of both parties in this State that the hope of office has had the effect to withdraw a great deal of enterprise from the industries of the country, and to make an election a great lottery drawing. It is beyond question that Mr. Nicholls can no more satisfy his followers than Mr. Packard could have done, and we should expect him to throw this burden from his brain, as Mr. Packard no doubt would have done, and resort to the Whig doctrine that the people are the source of all power, and the Democratic motto "To the victors belong the spoils" has been the sole cause of political strife in Louisiana.

CHINA.

Though claiming to have a civilization which runs back much further than that of any other country—beyond even the records of history and the apocryphas of tradition—China continued, until a comparatively recent date, a fable land to all other portions of the world. Greece and Rome rose and declined without any knowledge of the Flowery Kingdom. The traditional cradle of the human race was not far distant from them. They knew of Persia and of Palestine; of the rivers of Babylon and the Pillars of Hercules, but nothing of a people who had grown into greatness and power on the same continent and separated from them by a distance even less than that which separates New Orleans from St. Louis. Though the conquering arms of Alexander had been carried to the Indus, and that celebrated warrior is said to have wept because the world afforded no new fields of conquest, China, conscious of her own security, if not superiority, and surrounded by the ramparts of her own exclusiveness, maintained unchallenged the integrity of her empire and developed a religion, a civilization and a philosophy of which "outside barbarians" were wholly ignorant.

The exclusiveness of the Chinese was encouraged by the geographical position of their country. Between the seats of civilization which clustered along the shores of the Mediterranean and their temperate region, which sloped towards the shores of the Pacific, wild Scythian, Parthian and Tartar tribes intervened, and an impassable wall was raised to keep these warlike tribes without and themselves within. Thus it happened that the people of Greece knew as little concerning the great wall of China as the Son of the Sun did of the Athenian Acropolis, the Pyramids of Egypt or the Tower of Babel.

The ancient Chinese maps, like those of Europe in the middle ages, represented all unknown lands—all, indeed, beyond their own shores and walls—as inhabited by monsters, giants, gnomes and dragons. Not until the days of Marco Polo did the Western world become possessed of any trustworthy knowledge concerning the extent and grandeur of the flowery kingdom of the East. Even the stories told were, however, considered by the general inhabitants of Europe as but a new edition of the Arabian Nights' Entertainments, though in the breasts of the few a spirit of adventure was aroused which ultimately culminated in those voyages of discovery so rich in results, undertaken with a view of securing a shorter route to India.

That the polarity of the needle was known to the Chinese centuries before it was to Europeans is now a generally admitted fact. In this, as in many other respects, the people of China were in advance of other nations, and though their navigation may not have been of a very extended or adventurous character, it is considered by no means improbable that stray Chinese junks, wafted across the Pacific, carried into the land of Fu-sang, now known as Mexico and Guatemala, the faith, customs, skill and civilization, which even yet, present on both sides of earth's broadest sea, the most striking of similarities. The Aztecs, whom Cortes conquered, were Mongolians in color, features, and in all their distinguishing characteristics, and the architectural remains found in Mexico, Guatemala and Peru are wholly distinct from anything discovered in the more Northern portions of the American continent.

Almost within our own generation the isolation of China has been interrupted by forces from without. England, France, Holland and the United States have each done something toward breaking down the wall of Chinese exclusiveness, and of opening up the interior of the celestial kingdom to the commerce of the world. In the encounters which ensued, the warriors of China readily discovered the inferiority of their weapons and tactics, as compared with those of their opponents, and the authorities of the country accepted the inevitable with all the philosophic patience possible under the circumstances. To Great Britian has fallen the lion's share of the advantages secured, but even this country has not been without benefits in the premises, and the probabilities are that with the lapse of each commercial year their measure will increase.

Recent explorations by Baron Richthoffen show the high commercial importance of the interior portions of Southern China. According to the baron's report Se-Tchouan is equal in area to the whole of Germany, and numbers at least thirty-five millions of inhabitants. It staples embrace honey, sugar, tobacco, opium and a peculiar white wax which is exceedingly valuable. The exceptional industry of Se-Tchouan, however, is silk, that being the material employed in making the common dresses of both sexes. Of this valuable textile large quantities are exported to Thibet and elsewhere. The chief city is described as remarkably beautiful. Tching-Tou-Fou, though scarcely known even by name in America or Europe, is more populous than New York or Paris. It has well paved streets, substantially constructed houses, the fronts being decorated with statues and elaborate friezes carved in wood.

There are, also, two other provinces, equally populous, to wit, Kouei-Tchou and Yun-Nan, which are important centres of industrial activity, their staples being silk, tea, musk, gums, medicinal roots, and a fabric known as "satin of the Eastern sea," said to be woven of a remarkably strong thread furnished by a peculiar species of spider, as successful a spinner as the worm that webs itself in its own silken cone. The Empress of Brazil recently presented a dress woven of spider spun threads to Queen Victoria, and the fact was heralded to the world as unparalleled in the history of gifts, while the material was regarded as a triumph of art and skill entirely exceptional. Such dresses are by no means rare in Yun-Nan.

Through concessions recently made to the British government, a highway is to be constructed from Yun-Nan to the headwaters of the Urywaddy; thus British commerce will be enabled to penetrate a rich and populous portion of China hitherto inaccessible. The French have also secured an entrance into Yun-Nan, and now five additional seaports have been opened and a vast interior commerce brought within easy reach of American and European merchants. With a hundred millions of new customers at command, our manufacturing and commercial enterprise should find the vitalizing stimulants it has so long needed for a new departure. We should share with our European cousins all the advantages of an enlarged Chinese trade.

THE DOUBTFUL STATE DEBT.

The decision of the Supreme Court rendered on Monday virtually closes the treasury to the holders of about fourteen millions of dollars of suspected claims against the State. The claims consist of warrants issued for doubtful purposes, or those which were only authorized to be issued after the due performance of services by the receivers which were never performed; warrants issued contrary to law, as the Weed warrants, and vouchers of certain officers who never had any authority to bind the State. They are catalogued and described in act No. 11 of 1875, wherein, also, the Funding Board is peremptorily forbidden to fund them until after the validity of each and every one of them presented for funding shall have been affirmatively established by a final decree of the Supreme Court.

It is decided that the peremptory writ of mandamus is not the proper remedy at first, but claimants must begin with a direct action which will go through ordinary forms of trial in one of the district courts and go up slowly on appeal. There is, probably, not validity enough in the whole batch of suspected bonds to pay the fee of one lawyer to bring a case; though the custom which prevails at our bar of taking cases on speculation might be depended upon to lessen the expenses in case of failure. There is too little money in these old fraudulent claims to tempt even a New Orleans lawyer to take them up, and the prospects are, therefore, favorable that they will quietly take their place among old Continental and Confederate obligations, which some people still pretend to believe will finally be paid.

But if it is right to reject these fraudulent claims for which the State received no consideration, it is both lawful and just to devise some plan to absorb and retire the valid outstanding warrants of 1874 and 1875. It is asserted by some persons that after making all due allowance for the valid bonds and warrants antedating the funding act, there will be a balance of bonds, say $1,500,000 of the $15,000,000 which the act authorizes to be issued. The Supreme Court in another decision distinctly asserts that any good claim against the State, when there is no money to pay it with, is fundable up to the limit of the law. The late administration took a long stride in the reduction of the floating debt of the State. The new one can not begin business better than by retiring all valid warrants in the hands of the people.

GRUMBLING.

As the various appointments, both State and municipal, are announced from time to time they evoke expressions of dissatisfaction and anger from disappointed applicants. This is always to be expected where immense patronage is given to any central authority, whether that authority be vested in one man alone or in a council of a few. But General Nicholls and the city Administrators may very safely employ the familiar but forcible question of Tweed: "What are you going to do about it?"

Upon the occasion of every appointment to office there is always a certain quantity of faint, ephemeral and short-lived gratitude on one hand, deeper and rather more lasting enmity on the other. It can, therefore, make little or no difference to the appointing power whence the signs of approval or disapproval emanate. One element is terribly exercised because State offices are given to colored men, because colored officials are sent to preside over the public exercises of the Girls' High School; because, in fact, the Governor has accepted in good faith the resolutions adopted by the Democrats in caucus at the dictation of the commission sent here by the President. The less sincere members of his party take issue with him and call him hard names. Some even declare he is a Republican.

There are a great many thousand voters in this State who have done little else for the past few months than hurrah for Nicholls or Hayes, that are likely to learn soon that the objects of their admiration know nothing about them; have nothing for them, and do not care particularly how they live so that they put in an appearance at the next election. It is possible they may exchange disaffected partisans, and the disgusted Democrat vote the Republican ticket next time, and vice versa. But the successful men of the hour care nothing for that. There are too many votes in this country since enfranchisement and universal amnesty to make it worth while to dally with a few hundred grumblers who have failed to get any share of the spoils of the great victory.

A BAD CUSTOM.

The custom of requiring bondsmen to pledge themselves in large sums of money that an individual shall well and faithfully perform the duties of a responsible public office is wrong in principle and and worthless in practice. In case of dishonesty or misfortune on the part of the principal, this system, rigidly carried out, makes the innocent suffer for the guilty, a kind of vicarious suffering which is directly opposed to all human ideas of justice, though theologians teach that it is consistent with that of deity. Now, any law which violates the moral sense of the community can never be rigidly enforced. This one is, therefore, practically nullified nine times out of ten, its effect being simply to foster deceit by causing bondsmen in danger of loss from its workings to put their property in the name of somebody else—a subterfuge popularly regarded as perfectly justifiable under the circumstances.

How much better it would be to select for responsible positions none but men of high moral character, known by their fellow citizens for their principles and probity; to hold such personally responsible for the just discharge of their duties, and to inflict criminal punishment for dereliction of duty. The pecuniary loss consequent upon such wrong doing would, then, be distributed among the whole community instead of bearing upon a few generous individuals. By this means the ends of justice would be quite as well fulfilled as by the present system, and even better, for more pains would be taken in the selection of officials than now when wealthy men are supposed to be standing ready to make good any losses which the dishonesty of bond secured officials may occasion.

This custom of requiring bondsmen is, we know, a venerable one, but still, like many another equally venerable in point of age, it is "more honored in the breach than in the observance;" and, sooner or later, will have to go the way of the numerous other venerable customs which have become obsolete. The sooner the better say we. The appointing power will then be more wary in appointing and the elective power in electing.

A MILITARY PEOPLE.

There is no people more gallant than the Irish. There are none more ready to engage in the warfare of others. From a want of justice on the part of England, and of industrial occupation on their own, the Irish have been compelled to submit to superior rule and have never, since the execution of Emmett, got beyond disturbances which have resulted in transportation of the patriots to the English colonial dependencies in Africa. As the Irish people, except for the innocent diversions of Donnybrook, are not allowed to fight at home, they must go abroad for the amusement.

How many gallant Irish, exiled for their religion or love of country, have given glory to the French and Spanish annals. The O'Dillon and The McMahon have in ancient and modern times illustrated their native courage and aspiring nature. The O'Reilly occupied the colony of Louisiana with Spanish troops, and under his orders some of the brave Creoles were shot at the Place D'Armas.

America has profited by this universal gallantry, and Montgomery bequeathed his renown to a grateful people, and the impartial division of the Irish element which fought on both sides of our civil war demonstrates an untameable love of danger which can not stand neutral in any fight that takes place in their presence.

We are forcibly reminded of this rare impulse by the number of names apparently Irish which appear on the police rolls of the city. There are "the O'Grady, the O'Brien and the O'Rourke, the McCormick, and the Mr. Mike McGlaughlin" There are the Sullivans and Mr. O'Connell, "and there my countryman Higgins—said Goldsmith—oh! let him alone, for making a blunder or picking a bone." We see very few Teutonic names, because the German is not so demonstrative with the shillaleh or the bayonet. The patronage of the German may be seen rather in the more pacific Departments of Finance and Commerce and the water supply. As it is not our intention to make an assay on race affiliations, we confine ourselves to the simple comment that the Irish are a military people, and when there is a lull in public or civil wars, will take charge of the public peace and hold the policeman's club as readily as the sword or musket.

Governor Nicholls' attention is directed to the fact that the assassins of Weber have never been arrested. Weber was shot from the courthouse windows at St. Francisville, at a time when parties having Nicholls' commissions were alone in the building. The Governor, if he is determined, can have no difficulty in finding the murderers. If he is in earnest in his promises in behalf of the Republicans, he will do it without further delay. Meantime, Republicans will watch and wait.

As Mr. Chief of Police Boylan was not permitted to appoint the patrolmen, he professes to be dissatisfied with them. He thinks the city administration could have selected better men, though we hear no complaints from him about the chief.

The New York *Times* has a spe[cial] respondent in this city who has [spen]tired perhaps of misrepresenting [po]litical affairs of New Orleans, [has] given a diagnosis of our compl[ain]ments. The New Orleans *Ti[mes]*, however, flatly contradicts the [re]port and says things are not as he r[epresents] them, and the causes he assign[s for the] poverty of the people are no r[eal at] all. Unfortunately, our conte[mporary] contents itself with contradic[ting the] New York reporter, but throws [no light] on the subject. Perhaps it d[oes not] know what is the matter, or, pe[rhaps,] does not think it quite prudent t[o tell.]

Though the Varieties and St [Charles] Theatres and the Opera Hou[se have] failed in consequence of want of [patron]age, the churches continue to do [busi]ness in amusements. [They] pay no rents, no salaries, no lice[nses, no] advertising bills, it is all receipt[s and no] expenditures. If the average ne[gro min]strel expects an engagement [on these] terms he will soon have to jo[in a] church and then work without pa[y; for] the ungodly are taxed for the de[light] of the pious.

The Auditor's Office.

Under the decree of the Fou[rth Dis]trict Court granting a mandam[us to] Jumel took possession of the offi[ce of] State Auditor Tuesday morning [during] severe illness of Auditor Johnson [who pre]vented his taking an active part i[n] the proceedings, and he has retai[ned per]sonal custody of the keys. Unti[l further] proceedings in court matters will [proba]bly remain as they are.

Rev. J. H. McCarty, D. D., p[astor of] the Ames Methodist Episcopal [Church,] by request of his congregation, [will give] a series of lectures on scientific [subjects.] The lectures will be illustrated wi[th scien]tific apparatus, so as to make the [subject] clear to the eye and understanding. The first lecture is announced t[o be de]livered on next Friday night, th[e 4th] instant, and the subject treated [on that] occasion will be "The Air we B[reathe."] The course comprises four lectu[res and] the price of admittance for each [lecture] has been fixed at twenty-five cent[s.]

The Rev. J. Hazard Hartzell [will de]liver a lecture to-morrow evening [in the] Church of the Messiah, corner [of Carondelet] and St. Charles streets, on "Cu[rrents,"] the current of which will bear h[is hearers] delightfully along. Those wh[o know his] fine ideas, clothed in fine langu[age and] delivered in fine style, will not f[ail to at]tend.

DENTISTRY.

J. R. WALKER, D. D. S.

180.....Delord street.....

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OFFICIAL NOTICES

PROPOSALS FOR ARMY TRANSPORTATION.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS, Office Chief Quartermaster, San Antonio, Apr[il 28, 1877.]

SEALED PROPOSALS IN TRIPLICATE, [subject] to the terms herein stated, will be rec[eived at this] office until twelve o'clock noon, on the [...] of May, 1877, at which time and place the [bids will be] opened in the presence of bidders, for [the trans]portation of military supplies in the [following-de]scribed routes in the Department of Te[xas for] the fiscal year ending June 30, 1878:

ROUTE NO. 1—WAGON TRANSPORT[ATION.]

From Fort Worth, Texas, on any railway, or [on] the Texas and Pacific railway, or from [Fort Worth] any other point on the Missouri, Kansas [and Texas] railroad, to Fort Richardson, Gr[eenwood,] and Concho, Texas.

ROUTE NO. 2—WAGON TRANSPORT[ATION.]

From San Antonio, Austin, the term[inus of the] Gulf, Western Texas and Pacific railway, [or from] any other points on said railway, or [Austin,] Austin, Harrisburg and San Antonio rail[way. The] Quartermaster's Department shall as[sume ...] the parallel of parallel 28°, and so [south] as 27°.

ROUTE NO. 3—STEAMBOAT AND WAGON TRANSPORTATION.

From the ship's tackle on the wharf [at the] house at Brazos to Fort Brown, Ringg[old Barr]acks and Fort McIntosh.

WATER TRANSPORTATION ROUTES.

From New Orleans, Louisiana, to Tex[as.]

Proposals for transportation on any [of the] routes above named will be received. The [Depart]ment reserves the right to reject any [and all] proposals.

Blank proposals, form of contract and [full] circulars, stating the estimated quantities [of sup]plies to be transported and giving full [in]formation as to the manner of bidding, conditions [to be] served by bidders and terms of contract [and pay]ment will be furnished on application [at this] office or to the officers at the quarters [of the] Fort Brown and Fort Worth, Texas, New [Orleans,] Louisiana, and St. Louis, Missouri.

Envelopes containing proposals [should be] marked: "Proposals for transportation [on route] No. —," and addressed to the undersi[gned.]

ALEX. J. P[...]

ap14 6t Deputy Quartermaster G[eneral.]

PROPOSALS FOR RATIONS.

OFFICE OF LIGHTHOUSES IN THE SEVENTH DISTRICT, Key West, Florida, March [...]

SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RE[CEIVED at] this office until twelve o'clock N[OON ON TUES]DAY, the first day of May, 1877, for [receiving] and delivering 12,675 rations, more or [less,] in proportion of the seventh Lighthouse [District,] the light stations and lighthouse vess[els in] that district, in such quantities and at [such pe]riods during the twelve months ensuing [July 1,] 1877, to June 30, 1878, as the keepers [may re]quire.

The rations are to be of good and [sound] quality; the deliveries alongside the [...] tender or other vessel provided for that [purpose in] Key West, Florida, in good and suffi[cient] sacks, barrels, boxes and cases, and in [proportions] for that number of persons which sh[all be cer]tified by the Inspector, free of all expe[nse to the] United States, agreeable to specifica[tions and] tables, which will form part of the cont[ract.]

All bids must be sealed and indorsed [proposals] for rations for the Seventh Lighthouse [District,] and then placed in another env[elope and] directed to this office, opened if sent [by mail.]

SMITH W. SI[...]

ap14 cod 6t Lighthouse [Inspector.]

GOVERNMENT SALE.

DEPOT QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE, New Orleans, La., March [...]

A LARGE LOT OF CONDEMNED [Army stores—Horses,] Three-Year Horses, one Mule [...] Wagon, Cooking and Heating Stoves, [Camp Kettles,] ing, Tents, etc.—Will be sold at pu[blic auction] TUESDAY, May 8, 1877, at 10 A. M., at [the Quar]termaster Storehouse, Nos. 101 to 105 Magazine [street,] in this city.

Printed catalogues of all articles to [be sold will] be ready at this office, No. 210 Cam[ondelet street.]

Terms—Cash on the spot.

A. J. McCOMB, [...]

ap2 4t Captain and Assistant Quarter[master.]

NOTICE—CITY TAXES OF 1877.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, New Orleans, March [...]

TAX BILLS FOR 1877 ARE NOW [...] for delivery. The following rates of [...] cent per annum will be allowed:

Three per cent on all bills paid up to [the first] of March, 1877, inclusive.

Two per cent on all bills paid up to [the first] April, 1877, inclusive.

One per cent on all bills paid up to [the first] April, 1877.

After the thirtieth of April, 1877, [...] per cent per annum, from the thirty-fi[rst of] 1877, and costs will accrue.

mh23 J. C. DENIS, Ad[...]

IMPROVEMENT OF HARBOR [AT] DAR KEYS.

UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE, No. 42 Chur[ch street,] Mobile, Alabama, A[pril ...]

SEALED PROPOSALS IN DUPLI[CATE will be] received at this office until [...] o'clock M., TUESDAY, May 15, [1877,] for dredging 30,000 cubic yards, [more or less,] through the bar at the mouth of [the channel between] Cedar Keys, or in the channel betw[een the] and Cedar Keys, Florida, will be rece[ived at this] office until twelve o'clock M., TUES[DAY, May 15,] 1877, and opened immediately thereaf[ter.]

A guaranty will be required that [within ...] days after notification of the award [of the con]tract, contract shall be entered [into, and the] forms of proposals and general [and special] instructions to bidders, and any de[sired infor]mation, can be had on application to this [office.]

A. M. T[...]

ap21 6t Captain of [Engineers.]