BY TELEGRAPH.

WELLS' DESPAIR.

His Sealed Letter to West to be Opened To-day.

The President Has Been Aware of Maddox's Testimony for Over a Week.

Wells Grown so Utterly Desperate that It is Feared he will Commit Suicide.

Eads Will Get His Money Soon.

[Special to N. O. Democrat.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—The prevailing impression here to-night is, that it will take the Electoral Tribunal at least until Monday, and perhap until Wednesday, to decide the case of Florida. Of course, the wildest speculations are rife as to probabilities of the Tribunal's decision. You can speculate just as wisely in the DEMOCRAT office as we can here and at much less expense for telegraphic tolls.

It is understood that Wells' counsel will tak steps to recover that letter and prevent the breaking of the seal under the rule of law that a sealed letter in transit is sacred. If this rule is applied, it may prevent the letter from ever becoming public; but the substance of its contents is already known.

Wells wrote to West, informing him the Democrats had agreed to give a million dollars for the electoral votes of Louisiana, and that unless the Republicans saw that pile and raised it, he (Wells) will count Louisiana for Tilden.

This is the only remaining link in the chain of documentary evidence necessary to convict Wells and smash the board.

Wells himself bears up under these exposures with astonishing fortitude, although his nearest friends admit he is in utter despair. One of them, who has been intimate w th him for twenty years, told me to-night that I needu't be surprised to learn any morning that Wells had opened a vein in his arm during the night.

The testimony of Maddox to-day completes the destruction of the Returning Board. The only thing remaining to be produced is Wells' sealed letter to Senator West, mentioned by Maddox to-day. That letter, as you will understand from the Associated Press report of Maddox's testimony, was intrusted by Wells to Maddox for delivery to West, but was never delivered. It is now in the custody of a third party, and Maddox will deliver it to the committee to-morrow.

Under the laws of Louisiana, I am informed, he could be imprisoned for ten years for the crime that has been proven against him in the last two days.

It is understood that Holman will withdraw his objections to Eads' bill the next time it comes up. This will insure its passage.

The President has known of the main features in Maddox's testimony, brought out to-day, for over a week. This knowledge was the secret of his angry behavior toward Kellogg, Pitkin and Don Cameron. BUELL.

THE COUNT.

How the Electoral Votes are Counted.

Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware Counted without Objection.

The Florida Votes and the Objections Thereto.

[Special to N. O. Democrat.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—After some little skirmishing in the Senate the two houses met in joint convention at one o'clock to-day to count the vote for President and Vice President of the United States.

Cook, of Georgia, and Stone, of Missouri, were appointed tellers on the part of the House, and Allison and Ingalls, both Republicans, on the part of the Senate. The Senators were seated on the right of the chair, while Ferry took a seat to the right of the Speaker and called the joint assembly to order, announcing the purpose for which it had met and stating that the votes would be called, commencing with the State of Alabama. Ferry then took a package out of the box and opening it at the end, to k out the certificate of the electors from the State of Alabama. The certificate and duplicates were handed to the tellers, one of whom read the original, while the others followed him with the duplicates.

After the certificate had been read, the Chair asked: "Are there any objections to the certificate of the State of Alabama?"

Then, after a pause, "The Chair hears none, and the vote of the State of Alabama will be counted. The tellers will announce the vote."

Mr. Cook, one of the tellers, then announced, "Ten votes for Tilden and ten for Hendricks." In this manner the votes of Arkansas, Colorado, California, Connecticut and Delaware were announced, there being no objections.

When the certificate from Florida was opened, the one signed by Stearns was read; the certificate of the Tilden electors was also presented and read; also the certified proceedings of the Board of State Canvassers by the act of the new Legislature of Florida, giving in detail the vote of each county in the State, and electing the Tilden electors by a majority of 96. The Chair then asked if there was any objection to the certificate of the State of Florida.

Field, of New York, filed objections to the Stearns certificate on the ground that the certificate had been procured by fraud and a conspiracy between Stearns and the electors and others.

Conover, of Florida, filed objections to the certificate of the Tilden electors on the ground that it was not authenticated as required by the constitution.

Jones, of Nevada, filed objections to F. C. Humphrey, one of the Tilden electors, on the ground that he held a federal office.

Sargent and others filed objections to the last paper filed, on the ground that it was not properly authenticated, and was, besides, an *ex post facto* action of the State Legislature.

The Senate then retired to its chamber, and after a long wrangle over the report of a subcommittee, both houses took a recess until 10 o'clock to-morrow. E. G. D.

THE SENATE COMMITTEE.

They Pretend to Have Discovered An Ineligible Tilden Elector.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—The Committee on Privileges and Elections of the Senate find Frost, Democratic elector of Missouri, ineligible, and by law Missouri had no right to fill the vacancy when the report was made. The Oregon investigation was still open. Other vacancies in other States were properly filled.

Wants, for rent, for sale advertisements inserted in this paper at TEN CENTS per line.

MADDOX'S TESTIMONY.

The Bargain Between Him and Wells.

Two Hundred Thousand Dollars for Himself and Anderson and Something for the "Niggers."

[Special to N. O. Democrat.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—The following are the most important parts of Maddox's testimony today:

J. Madison Wells was present while Maddox testified and, though he seemed to wince once or twice, stood it, in the main, pretty well.

Maddox said:

There were three letters written by Wells concerning the action of the Returning Board; they are not now in my possession, but are under my control. I will produce them to-morrow. Two of these three letters were written by Wells to myself and one to Senator West. The night before the letters were written by Wells, it was agreed upon that they should be written. Wells and I had a conversation on the 19th of November about the political situation. Wells proposed that I should go to Washington and explain the situation. The next morning, when I arrived at the office, Wells was writing letters. One was to Senator West, which he sealed up; this one has never been delivered; the other was to me, as a letter of credentials. Wells said his life was in danger; he had a big job on hand and would not take the risk of making the return for the Republican party unless he was compensated; he said he might be killed, and he wanted to be paid for his risk.

Query—What did Wells say he proposed to charge?

Answer—He stated that he would like to serve his party and make the return for Hayes; but he would not do it unless he was paid for it. He said the majority was so heavy for Tilden that the job was a hard one, and he did not know where he should commence throwing out. On the ground of necessity, he might have to throw out the vote of New Orleans. He asked me to come to Washington and see influential men there to protect him, and get the amount of money necessary to satisfy him. Wells wanted a million.

Q.—Did he say the amount he wanted?

A.—He said he ought to have one million dollars.

Q.—Did you take the letters Wells gave you to Washington?

A.—I did; I made use of two of them, the ones addressed to me. I showed the long letter addressed to me to the President, to Secretary Cameron, and to Secretary Chandler. I saw the Secretary of War, and stated to him the case as Wells presented it; I told him the large amount of money that Wells wanted, and the Secretary declined. I then endeavored to carry out a second proposition that was understood between Wells and myself.

(Witness then gave the memorands of agreement about the million of dollars.) I arranged the details. My intention was to have had a fifth man elected, Dr. Kennedy, and Wells was then to resign on pretense of anger and indignation over the appointment. I was to submit a plan, which Wells said would be acceptable to him. Wells said he wanted for himself and Anderson at least two hundred thousand dollars apiece, and wanted smaller sums for the niggers; he did not say exactly how much for the latter, but he wanted something for them.

Q.—Did Wells say what he would do with his party if they declined his offer?

A.—He said if they did not treat him right, he would beat them. After the negotiation failed, I returned to New Orleans and told Wells of the failure. He then suggested that I try and make terms with the Democrats there. I did try and failed. When I went to New Orleans as a revenue agent, I was requested to note the political situation and report. I understood it was at the request of Mr. Chandler. Col. Casey told me that Secretary Chandler desired me to go to New Orleans and watch the situation. My expenses were paid by the Internal Revenue Department. Just before the election I was traveling on revenue service in Maryland and Virginia; I was engaged in purely revenue business, and not in political matters before the election. On the 6th of December, Wells told me that the board would bring in a majority of between 1200 and 1800 for the Hayes electors.

Q.—Did Wells tell you where he would throw out? A.—He said that he would throw out votes where he could do so to the best advantage.

BUELL.

A DESPERATE SCHEME.

Wells' Last Hope.

An Attempt to be Made to Impeach Littlefield, Maddox and Pickett.

[Special to N. O. Democrat.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—Wells and Anderson will be examined to-morrow.

The remainder of Maddox's testimony is relative to Wells' sealed letter to West, the substance of which is given in my previous dispatch.

It is stated at this hour—11:30 p. m.—that a desperate scheme has been concocted to impeach Maddox, Littlefield and Pickett to-morrow. It is not altogether certain that Woodward will not stick by the board and try to impeach Littlefield, but public feeling here is so completely settled against Wells that I don't see how he can possibly stem the tide.

A. C. BUELL.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Resolutions Adopted by the Colored Democrats in Favor of Wade Hampton.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—In the Senate Mr. Robertson, of South Carolina, presented resolutions which he said were adopted at a mass meeting of white and colored citizens, at Barnwell Courthouse, S. C., on the 15th of January. He asked that they be read and referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. The Chief Clerk read the resolutions as follows:

Resolved, That the 700 colored voters, who enrolled their names in Democratic Clubs, and the 976 who cast their ballots for General Wade Hampton, and candidates on his ticket, did so to secure their native State honest government, and home rule, and free her from the thieving government under which she has so long suffered, from corrupt carpet-baggers and infamous scalawags.

Mr. Sargent, of California, interrupting, said he objected to further reading of the resolutions as they were not couched in respectful language. A sharp debate followed, after which Mr. Sargeant, at the request of Mr. Patterson, of South Carolina, withdrew his objection, and the reading of the resolutions was concluded. They deny that there was intimidation on the part of the whites towards the blacks, and support the Hampton government.

The resolutions were then referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

THE ICE.

Another Disaster on the River.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 1.—The moving ice cut down the Belle of St. Louis, at St. Genevieve. She had five hundred tons of freight on board. The ice is rolling rapidly. Steamboatmen expect the river open in a week.

SOUTHERN NEWS.

Louisiana.

The mail between Homer and Vienna is carried in an open cart, and when it rains they get a wet mail.

The Sheriff-elect of Richland has not yet qualified, although his commission was forwarded some time ago.

Lincoln parish has had no probate term of the Parish Court this week, in consequence of the illness of the Parish Judge.

Green people have stopped going to church and the children going to school in Franklin parish, the weather has been so bad.

Claiborne and Union parishes are over run by apple peddlers, who have come all the way from Northwest Arkansas, 350 miles distant, in open wagons, to sell a few dozen apples. There's enterprise for you.

The following are the Syndics elected by the Police Jury of Plaquemines: Alex. Agassi, Wesley Green, Samuel Reid, Darius Jordan, Onezime Johnson, Philip Garrison, Harvey Foukey, Lewis Redeck and Edward Sommers.

Sheriff Register, of Tensas, has now quite a number of boarders, we learn, in the parish prison, and room for more. At the next meeting of the Parish Court there will be a jail delivery, and some of the birds will take flight to a less congenial clime.

The flatboats have begun to arrive in the river parishes, bringing produce of every description. They are a god-send to those planters who are out of corn, pork, etc., and have been looking out for the downward bound steamboats detained for some weeks by the ice.

The telegraph between Alexandria and New Orleans has only been in working order six hours since Jan. 5. They get a dispatch that reads, "President Grant has ordered men. Augur to recognize ———," and it stops there, and they have to wait two weeks until some steamboat has forced its way up the river to know just what the President has ordered.

The last two prisoners confined in the Rapides parish jail made their escape last Sunday night. By some means they procured a file, cut one of the bars of the window grating to their cell and let themselves into the yard. They then dug under the wall, and made their exit. Thus the parish jail, for the first time in long months, was left silent and deserted. Both of the prisoners who escaped were colored.

Apropos of the arrest of the Texan, Horton, who threatened to kill every "putty face Radical in Natchitoches," the Natchitoches *Republican* remarks: "In this matter the citizens acted in accord and harmoniously. Democrats promptly reported the threats made to the Republicans, and both aided in stopping Horton's career. The citizens here have fully determined to put an effectual stop to the system of outrages and reckless hooting in the streets and at innocent citizens by these strangers, who come here for that kind of sport."

Texas.

Houston claims a population of 25,000.

There are now one hundred and forty papers published in Texas.

The District Court at Dallas has a case before it concerning 17,712 acres of land in that county.

The blockade of freight for the interior still continues. Bad roads and no pasturage is the cause.

Fayette county has $11,538 that it does not know what to do with, and proposes to invest it in State bonds.

The Corpus Cariati *Times* says that county has no funds in its treasury and has not paid the interest on its bonds.

The jealous Aunty Tisdal (colored) shot and killed Norah Hawthorne near Hempstead—jealousy and not jim-jams.

Comanche, having voted against prohibition, is building a "powerful jail." Folly in the one case is redeemed by proper foresight in the other.

The receipts of the Galveston Wharf Company last year were about $310,000. How much the company made from redeemed lots isn't stated.

The labor supply exceeds the demand in Austin, and the city proposes to take advantage of the situation in improving the city at cheap rates.

Texas held a short-horn convention in Dallas, last week, and adjourned to meet in Austin January 8th, 1878. The convention is in favor of introducing short-horns into Texas to improve the stock.

The new Galveston paper started as the *Galvestonian*. For a week the editor held out that it ought to be "on" instead of "an," but he has since been forced to yield to public sentiment. That "on" very nearly wrecked his paper.

Gov. Hubbard contemplates relieving the present lessees of the Penitentiary, Ward & Co. It is stated that Messrs. Burnett & Kilpatrick, of Galveston, will take the institution off the State's hands and pay $20,000 per annum therefor, and guarantee the State against all expenses of resumption.

Official information has been received at military headquarters at San Antonio that thirty more head of cattle had been turned over to the Americans by the Mexican authorities at Saragossa, which goes to show that the Mexican authorities can overtake Mexican cattle thieves if the proper pressure is brought to bear upon them.

On Wednesday morning a wonderful sight was seen on the opposite side of Corpus Christi Bay. By a mirage Mustang Island, from fifteen to twenty miles distant, was made to loom up and appear close at hand. Its sand hills and hollows could be plainly seen, the whole apparently being seventy-five to a hundred feet in height.

There was another "smash-up" on the Texas and Pacific Railway the other day, seven miles from Marshall, caused by the colliding of a passenger and freight train. One locomotive and two freight trains were wrecked. About 200 persons were on the passenger train, but fortunately no one was hurt.

The Austin *Statesman* speaks as follows of emigration to Texas: "People sending letters to friends in distant States, answering questions about the prospects in Texas, should always remember that the cities and towns are now overstocked with business and professional men, clerks, book-keepers and mechanics. People who have a few hundred dollars and plenty of muscle can do well by coming to Texas, but outside of this class there is little to entice people to this country. Texas, like every other country, is overstocked with respectable young men looking for a 'soft thing.'"

Miss Eliza B. E. Bragg, widow of Gen. Braxton Bragg, has filed an inventory of his estate in the Probate Court of Galveston. The accumulation of a long and honorable life footed up only $1000. As the *Galvestonian* says, Gen. Bragg filed high and responsible positions in life. He commanded vast legions of men, and millions of money were disbursed under his direction and by his order. He might, like Lord Clive, have raised himself to opulence, and yet been astonished at his own moderation.

The news of the robbery of the upbound Concho stage, at Jackson's crossing, north of Meridville, raises the suspicion that the James brothers have returned to Texas. The expectation was to get the paymaster of the United States army, but he did not go up on the El Paso, but the Eagle Pass stage. About two months ago, it will be remembered, Mrs. James sold out her interests in Missouri and left for Texas. Her sons, who were in Kansas City recently, were, no doubt, squaring up their accounts to come to Texas also. So Mrs. James and her two "innocents" may now be living not more than two hundred miles from San Antonio. If they are about, paymasters, as well as other travelers, had better keep their eyes open.

The *Express* says, and justly, of German farmers everywhere in Texas, that Comal and Guadalupe counties, portions of which are adjoining to Bexar and of the same kind of soil, are now thickly settled by Germans, who have been eminently successful as agriculturists. In nearly every instance they began as day laborers, and have now comfortable homes, full grain-houses, and (as is often the way with Germans) barns finer than their residences. The eastern part of Bexar county, so far, has been more developed, and along the Cibolo there are a number of splendid farms under successful cultivation. The large tracts in which land is held should be divided up and made available to men of small means. Two and three hundred acres in a tract is as large as the average farmer will need. It will be both better for him and the country if he will purchase only what he absolutely requires, and place that under thorough cultivation instead of holding a large area of land not utilized.

POWDER AND SHOT.—Messrs. D. L. Ranlett & Co., No. 21 and 23 New Levee street, have in store an extensive assortment of powder, shot, caps, bagging and ties, cotton and sisal plow lines, Manilla and tarred rope, cotton duck, bale twine, etc. A glance at the advertisement of Messrs. D. L. Ranlett & Co., will interest purchasers in their line.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GRAND JURY.

They Will Investigate the Wells Frauds.

The Demand for the Returns Refused by Honore.

Yesterday, the Grand Jury being called upon for a special meeting, Judge Whitaker delivered the following charge:

"*Gentlemen of the Grand Jury*—Recent disclosures connect the name of the occupant of one of the most responsible official positions of the state with transactions amounting to very grave criminal offenses.

The utmost publicity has been given to statement, made on oath, that the President of the Board of Returning Officers for elections in the State has been guilty of alterations and forgeries, or of procuring alterations and forgeries, of the public records of the State relative to the late general election. The matter demands your speedy and serious attention.

Section 833 of the Revised Statutes provides that this crime shall be severely punished. My general charge points out your duty in the premises.

The above section of the Revised Statutes provides against forging, altering and publishing as true any public document to defraud any person and also for a punishment of from two to fourteen years' imprisonment at hard labor in case of conviction."

Immediately after the charge, the District Attorney moved for a *subpœna duces tecum* to be served upon Chas. S. Abell, Chief Clerk of the Returning Board, and Emile Honore, Packard's Secretary of State, ordering them to produce, at 1 o'clock p. m., before the Grand Jury, all records, original returns, etc., relative to the late election necessary to the investigation by the Grand Jury.

The subpœnas were issued forthwith. Abell was not found; he having left the city some eight days ago for Cincinnati.

Honore received the subpœna, and, as it was stated at the St. Louis Hotel, had refused to obey the order, replying that he did not recognize either the Judge or the District Attorney. He also failed to answer the subpœna as a witness before the Grand Jury.

W. P. Green, clerk of the Returning Board, answered the subpœna, appeared before the Grand Jury yesterday afternoon as a witness and was examined. Attorney General Ogden and District Attorney Finney were also in attendance in the Grand Jury room.

HE WOULD TAKE HIM, DEAD OR ALIVE.

A Negro Thief Refuses to be Arrested, and is Shot Twice and Mortally Wounded.

At quarter-past 10 o'clock yesterday morning, on the levee, head of St. Louis street, Edward Williams, a negro, was called upon to settle his accounts with the world, and, probably before this report reaches the reader, shall have passed into another, having been the recipient of two pistol shot wounds—one in the left shoulder and one in the lower portion of the back, on the left side, the pistol being in the hands of a police officer named James Lilienkron.

The facts connected with the shooting, as gleaned by a DEMOCRAT reporter, are as follows: That Williams was stealing molasses on the levee, and when Officer Lilienkron approached him for the purpose of making him a prisoner the negro refused to submit

AND SHOWED FIGHT.

The prisoner and officer clinched, and a rough and tumble fight ensued. The negro unloosed himself from the arms of his antagonist and, stepping back a few steps, drew his cotton hook and again started for the officer, and this time succeeded in getting in a telling blow on the officer's left hip.

William then "paded the hoof," and Lilienkron, not willing to allow his prisoner to get the best of him, drew his pistol and fired two shots at the fugitive with the above effect.

A large crowd of negroes gathered around the wounded man, and when the officer again approached him for the purpose of conveying him to the station-house, he was assailed by the mob, and had it not been for timely assistance would have been considerably worsted.

The wounded man and the officer succeeded in reaching the Harbor station, and the former was found to be so seriously wounded that it necessitated his immediate removal to the

CHARITY HOSPITAL.

Officer Lilienkron surrendered himself a prisoner at the station.

Williams was visited at the hospital by a reporter, and he stated that some of his friends handed him a can containing molasses; that the officer approached him and asked him what he was doing with that can; he said that he was doing nothing. The officer then remarked: "I believe I will take you in; so come along." I said I won't go with you. He said, "I will either take you alive or your G—d—m body." He then tried to take me; I resisted him; I did not draw my cotton hook, nor did I run; the officer then pulled out his pistol and shot me twice.

The wounded man was attended by Dr. Smythe, who considers his condition very critical.

CAPTURED BY DETECTIVES.

A Gang of Counterfeiters Who Have Been Carrying on an Extensive Business.

In several of the large cities, such as New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, St. Louis and New Orleans, since the resumption of specie, there has arisen, like the ghost of Banquo, a gang of counterfeiters who have alarmed the government by the manufacture of counterfeit coin of all denominations, and owing to the large amount that has already been distributed through the country, has caused the government to employ a corps of skilled detectives and assign them to duty in the above named cities.

The detectives who were to ferret out the counterfeiters in the Crescent City reached here about the 14th of July, 1876, and have been busily searching out the violators of the laws of the national government. But with such secrecy and shrewdness did the

"SHOVERS OF THE QUEER"

carry on their nefarious game, that the "cops" were unable to get on their track until one of the gang, by money and other inducements, was persuaded to give away his "pals."

On Wednesday evening everything was ready, and United States Detective C. R. Steele repaired to the place where he had been informed the crooked money was being manufactured, which was at the house No. 14 Kelerec street, and arrested Francisco Panullo, alias Francisco, the proprietor of the place, as he was returning to his house after carrying a lot of counterfeit nickles. Marteni Scott, the proprietor of the coffeehouse at the corner of Burgundy and St. Peter streets, was the next man pulled, the two other accomplices, Virgel Gargine and Salvador Abneri, were arrested on St. Ann street.

The four Diego prisoners were taken to the Custom-House and locked up.

The cops having secured their prisoners, the house, No. 14 Kelerec street, next claimed their attention, and in Panullo's room a cheering sight met their gaze, for there in a corner was a furnace and a ladle full of molten composition, and on the floor was strewn nickles and dies in a rough state, but in size and weight perfect.

There were no other persons in the room but Pontilla's wife, who appeared to be running the whole machine, and when discovered was rendered dumb with astonishment.

She was also arrested, and together with the silent witnesses, the ladle, the rough nickels and furnace, was brought to the Custom-House.

All the prisoners were arraigned before Judge Billings and remanded to the Parish Prison, in default of bonds, until Monday, when they will be called up for trial.

ARRIVALS AT THE CITY HOTEL.

Elias Lutrep, Lower Coast; Edw Solomon, N Y; Wallace W Potter, Mrs S Shaw, R I; J R Coleman, Texas; J N Todd, Pa; H Weston, Miss; W A Long, Jackson; R Mangelaron, Ohio; James C Brogies, Miss; R Hutchamet, Tenn; J Karnaugh, La; J J Neilson and wife, Mrs Hodge, W T Ivy, La; Mrs Cramitage, city; A Duffe; Scott, Baltimore; J Applewhite, J F Tige, Thos E Helm, H J Harrison, Mrs G A Pinckard and maid, Miss; E A Leger, Mexico; J C French and wife, Miss French, C DuRoy and family, city; J H B Melson, Ga; G W B Reed, Pa; E G Fiske, Mass; M B Hart, N Y; miss A McKinney, city; J J Robinson, Ky; Geo A Ellsworth, G C Van Buren, Memphis; Jno A Williams, River.

Today! Today! Special sale of remnants at less than half-price. M. L. Byrne & Co.

STRAY STRAWS.

Showing How the Wind Shifts.

J. Henri Burch, Senator, etcetera, paid a visit to the Legislature Wednesday morning, and was within the bar of the House during a portion of the session. What did he want? Nobody asked Burch, and since Burch did not volunteer to communicate his business there, conjectures are left to draw their own inferences. It is not true, however, as report had it that he inquired whether members were being paid in cash for their warrants on the treasury.

BUSINESS REVIVING.

During a stroll among the produce merchants we ascertained yesterday that more business had been transacted in that line within the past six days than during four months previously.

One merchant said that the commercial prospects, which looked so gloomy a few weeks ago, have brightened up wonderfully, and that the satisfaction of the mercantile element that the Nicholls government was an established fact had surprisingly improved the great desideratum—confidence; in fact, that there was now such a thing as confidence existing between the large commercial houses of the city and country merchants, for where a few days ago the cash or collect on delivery system was insisted upon, now our merchants are taking the notes of country merchants and city traders at thirty and sixty days, and in some cases at longer time.

CONFIDENCE WITH A VENGEANCE.

This is from one quarter only. Meeting another merchant, engaged in the financial line, our reporter learned that what he had heard was not only the truth but one-half the truth. He said in support of his confirmation, that commission merchants were soliciting customers by offering advances in cases where they would have refused even to consider applications a few weeks ago. He related several transactions to our reporter which had taken place recently, not the least remarkable of which was the proposition of a commission merchant (whose realizable capital is worth $500,000) to another merchant, to take off his hands an advance of $20,000 made to a planter on his next sugar crop.

This last assertion may appear exaggerated, but we give it on the authority of a gentleman well known in the financial world, who pictures the readiness of our capitalists to invest under the new order of things as akin to anxiety.

It looks as though a brighter future is now at hand than the most sanguine dared to anticipate.

REX'S MARCH.

The King Orders the Streets to be Repaired for the Royal Pageant.

DEPARTMENT LORD HIGH CHAMBERLAIN,
By order of the King of the Carnival.
New Orleans, January 30, 1877.

To our loyal subject, John McCaffrey, Administrator of Improvements of our Capital of New Orleans, greeting:

Knowing that some of the thoroughfares through which our royal pageant is to pass on the coming *fete* day, are in bad condition, and reposing full confidence in the patriotism and devotion to duty of our loyal subject and servant, John McCaffrey, we hereby direct him to at once repair and place in good condition all the streets that may be to him designated by the faithful subjects of our household police, and herein he will fail not! By order of the King.

ESPY, 7th Secretary. BATHURST.

DEPARTMENT OF IMPROVEMENTS
Ot the ital of King Rex,
New Orleans, Feb. 1, 1877.

To His Royal Highness Rex, King of the Carnival, greeting:

Your liege and faithful subject, John McCaffrey, Administrator of all the improvements required in your Majesty's realm, directs me to acknowledge the receipt of the royal edict requiring the principal thoroughfares of the capital to be placed in immediate repair.

The Administrator bows submission to your Majesty's decrees, and desires to inform you that due care will be bestowed upon such avenues as may be pointed out to him, to the end that your sojourn in the capital may be as pleasant and agreeable as good and loyal subjects can render it.

Your Highness' most loyal servant,
GEO. W. FLYNN,
Secretary to Administrator.

PACKARD'S CROWD.

The crowd in the St Louis Hotel is still buoyed by the hope of the long promised and much looked for, but never seen, recognition dispatch, and are still soothed by small installments of Packard's money.

There are undoubtedly a number of members of the crowd who may be expected to withdraw from it at any time, and they can be looked for with certainty the very moment the money gives out. These men are mostly speculators. They will remain at the St. Louis Hotel as long as they are furnished with free board and lodging and their installments of Packard's money, but the day the funds give out these patriots will leave the ranks of the crowd to take their seats in the State Legislature and step up like little men and draw their mileage and their per diem for the whole session.

That Packard is afraid of his crowd, that he has not that implicit faith in the members that one would suppose he should have, is evidenced by the fact that only the truly faithful are admitted into the hotel building, and where an exception is made the favored individual gains admission only on the promise that he will not converse with the very interesting specimens of the *genus homo* whom he may meet within its hallowed precincts.

THE RUMP

met as usual yesterday, and as usual there was no quorum in "the Senate." In "the House," however, a sufficient number of names were responded to to satisfy the Clerk, and he declared that there was a quorum present.

There was no thing done, however, of interest to anybody, and after a short session an adjournment was ordered.

Superior Criminal Court.

The District Attorney caused the bonds in the following old cases to be forfeited, the accused failing to appear for trial:

Samuel Palmer and Simeon Nash, charged in 1876 with carrying concealed weapons.

Chas. Sparks, assault and battery upon Officer A. Stevens, June 3, 1875.

Andrew Randall, shooting at Officer D. P. Hale in 1874.

All cases transferred to the dead docket.

PLEAD GUILTY.

Wm. Taylor, colored, plead guilty to an assault upon officer W. C. Hawkins, December 25, 1875.

CONVICTED.

Pierre Baptiste, charged with grand larceny—stealing a gold watch and chain, valued at $175, on the 14th August, 1876, from Mrs. Poliot.

MISTRIAL.

The jury, in the case of Wm. Williams, colored, charged with burglary and larceny of $107 on the 28th May, 1876, at the house of Auguste Larneux, corner Carrollton avenue and New Canal, was discharged, after having been locked up for twenty-one hours and failing to agree.

SENTENCED.

John Fitzgerald, who plead guilty on Wednesday to carrying concealed weapons, was sentenced to $5 fine or five days' Parish Prison.

AMUSEMENTS.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—Last night the Soldene Troupe produced "Trial by Jury" and Herve's opera bouffe of "Chilperic." The house was crowded in its every part, and the enthusiasm was most unbounded throughout the performance of the operetta. Encores upon encores occurred, and whilst Soldene and Stella were applauded for their efforts in a musical way, leg talent came in for a great share of the success of the evening. The same bill is offered for to-night, and will doubtless draw another full house. Grand matinee on Saturday at noon, when "La Fille de Madame Angot" will be presented.

VARIETIES THEATRE.—Raymond's benefit last night was not so well attended as he deserved. The programme was attractive, comprising "Serious Family" and "Toodles," and was fairly interpreted. To-night Gilbert's charming play of "Pygmalion and Galatea." On Monday next Chas. Pope will produce "Samson," Pope himself appearing in the title role.

ST. CHARLES THEATRE.—The Black Crook will be produced every night this week at this theatre and at the matinee on Saturday. The performance is a good one and contains many interesting features.

THE TEXAS PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Synopsis of the Report of the House Committee in Favor of the Bill.

The following is a synopsis of the majority report on the Texas Pacific Railroad prepared by Col. Lamar, the chairman:

The bill relieves the company from the consequences of their failure to complete the stipulated portion of the road, and furnishes them with certain aid in the shape of a guarantee of the interest on their bonds. The report states that the failure to complete the required portion of the road was due entirely to the universal financial panic of 1873, and not at all to any mismanagement on the part of the company, and ought not to deprive them of any aid which, under other circumstances, the government might properly give. The questions properly before the committee were:

First—Whether Congress has the constitutional power to grant such aid.

Second—Whether it is the interest of the whole country that this aid should be granted.

The committee are of the opinion that the constitutional question may be considered as settled, both by the action of the government in affording aid to other Pacific roads, thus establishing a system of Pacific connections, of which the Texas Pacific is a necessary and component part, and by the full declaration of the public sentiment of both the great political parties as declared in their respective platforms as far back as the Presidential election of 1860.

The committee are also of opinion that as the Northern Pacific connection has been completed and supported by government aid, justice, both to the south and the whole country, requires that the system shall be completed on the same principle until its benefits are really extended to all sections of the country.

The committee do not entertain any doubt of the right and power of Congress to afford its aid to a road which is an absolute military and postal necessity, and which simply enables it, by the loan of its credit, to accomplish a work which it would otherwise have to finish at its own expense and by the direct exercise of its powers.

The committee think that the great commerce between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts is scarcely to be considered as an inter-state commerce merely, but rather assimilates to that vast ocean commerce, in the care and protection of which Congress has never hesitated to aid ocean steamers, to make ocean surveys and to establish lighthouses, and they agree with the opinion expressed by Mr. Hunter, of Virginia, that it would weaken the great principles of State rights to attempt to stretch to cases which they do not cover in right reason, and where the obtrusion of such considerations can only seem to lack the common sense of mankind. But the committee fully agree that the conditions of this aid must guarantee the government against sacrifice and the people against the selfish exercise of the privileges which this aid confers. They think the provisions of the bill secure these ends. The guarantee given is only the guarantee of the interest of the bonds, which are issued only as the road is completed, and the committee estimate that from proper and reliable data they can assume that as a net earning of $1500 per mile will meet that interest, the profits of the road will be largely more than sufficient to meet the interest and prevent any actual necessity for the advance of a dollar from the Treasury. The mortgage of the whole property of the roads, the sale of lands and the reserve of $5000 per mile of bonds in the hands of the government are further and ample security.

The provisions giving equal rights of freight and passage to all the branch roads, and the power reserved carefully to the government to review and modify all charges, are, the committee think, full security against the conversion of the privileges of the road into a selfish and mischievous monopoly.

The report then proceeds in detail to state the line of route, the length of the road, trunk and branches, what has been built, what remains to be built, a calculation of probable cost, of probable gross and net earnings, and concludes by a forcible and eloquent statement of the general advantages and vast national importance of the enterprise and its beneficent influence in developing Southern resources; in the stimulus, by the exclusive use of American iron, to our manufactures; in the supply of work and wages to thousands of skilled and honest laborers who are now in destitution; in its general relief from the painful condition of industrial stagnation, and in the restoration of confidence and hope to the national spirit of our whole people.

AN UNNATURAL FATHER.

The Brutal Treatment of Six Motherless Children.

Yesterday, J. Hirsch, a retail clothing dealer, doing business on Rampart street, was brought to the Central Station on the arm of a peeler and locked up, at the request of an old colored woman, who said that he was the "wickedest man she ever seed" and wanted him immured, for he had been raising old nick about the house.

An investigation into Hirsch's past life fully verified the old woman's remark. It appears Hirsch has a stepdaughter, a girl about fifteen years old, and five of his own children. Some two weeks ago his wife, whom he is alleged to have beaten when alive, died of a broken heart. This left him without a victim to maltreat, and wishing to keep his hand in, turned his attention to his stepdaughter. The body of his wife had hardly been placed under the sod when he returned home the night following, and feeling in an angry mood, grabbed the unfortunate orphan and chastised her in the most brutal manner.

THE YOUNG GIRL,

knowing that her mother had stood this sort of treatment without a murmur, thought she must do the same, and she said nothing. Day after day this man, with a heart of stone, continued his brutal practices upon the helpless child, and day after day she stood his beatings.

Yesterday her father capped the climax. He had in the past hardly provided them with food; but he was now packing up everything in the house, even her clothes and the children's, to carry them she knew not where—perhaps to sell them—and then to leave the country and leave her and the children to eke out an existence the best way they could.

The girl had promised her mother on her death-bed that whatever misfortune happened she would stand by her step-brothers and sisters for her sake.

Having made this promise, she thought it her duty to find out what were her stepfather's motives in carrying everything out of the house, even to the children's clothes. When she approached him regarding the matter he flew into a violent rage, struck her in the face with his fist, and had it not been for the old colored woman calling for the police, he would probably have done her very serious injury. And even as it was, before Officer Dixon could reach the scene, he had kicked her several times.

The facts were immediately reported to the B'nai B'rith Association, of which Hirsch was a member, and they took immediate action. The children were sent to the Jewish Asylum, and the young girl who had suffered so much by her stepfather's brutality, went to live with her aunt.

THE SMALL-POX WAGON.

Drumming Up a Quorum for Packard.

On Wednesday evening, about 5 o'clock, the small-pox hospital wagon was put to a singular use. The vehicle, mounted by three policemen, was started for a load of St. Louis Hotel legislators, the Radical members from the Seventh Ward particularly. A cab containing ex-Judge Steele, Packard's brother-in-law, and three other individuals, were in the wake of the wagon. Several houses in the city were searched, and the search must have been successful to some extent, for eventually five colored individuals were dumped out of the wagon at the entrance of the St. Louis Hotel, on Royal street, and marched in, closely guarded by policemen.

CITY AND POLICE ITEMS.

A SERIOUS CHARGE.—Betsy Toby languishes in the Third Precinct Station, charged with highway robbery and garroting.

LARCENY.—Lizzie Williams was arrested at No. 65 Burgundy street and locked up in the Third Precinct Station, charged with robbing T. Cramer of $180 in currency. Anna Smith and Mary Clayton were locked up as accessories.

$1500 Blaze.

About a quarter to 12 o'clock yesterday morning broke out in a two story double frame house situated at the corner of Annette and Rampart streets, owned by Mr. Frazer. The house was occupied by Mr Burd.

The building, which was insured for $1500 in the People's Insurance, was almost a total loss. The fire is supposed to be the work of an incendiary.