THE LESSIE TAYLOR.

SHE BLOWS UP AT THE WHARF, KILLING ONE FIREMAN AND INJURING SEVERAL PERSONS.

Full Particulars of the Explosion—Scenes, Incidents and List of the Killed and Wounded, Together With Statements of Eye Witnesses.

The monstrous mass of humanity which daily frequent the levee, and which is composed of all classes, both sexes and all ages, were yesterday, at twenty minutes past 1 o'clock, so shocked by some unseen power that each and every one of them stood for the moment as if they were statues. As they stood there, each fearing even to draw a breath, they saw pieces of timber, doors, window shutters and various other things whirling in the air, and upon realizing the situation and looking towards the river they saw that what was once the palatial steamer was now a mass of ruins.

They then understood that a terrible explosion had taken place, and the result was before them.

Not satisfied with scanning the destruction at a distance, but wishing to make a closer inspection, the crowd rushed forward, but upon a rumor getting afloat that in the hold of the boat there was

A LARGE AMOUNT OF POWDER,

it had the effect of causing the anxious and the curious to beat a hasty retreat.

This rumor, however, was without foundation, yet it had the effect of keeping the mob from forcing their way on board, which would probably have sunk what remained of the ill-fated steamboat had they all gone aboard.

After Sergeant Rourke and his men drove the crowd away from around and about the boat, the tug Charlie Wood and a steam engine arrived on the scene and pumped water upon the heated furnaces.

An investigation was then had, and it was discovered that the Lessie Taylor had been blown up by the explosion of her doctor or nigger engine, which had been been put in operation as the United States Inspector for this station, J. A. Moffitt, was inspecting the boat's boilers.

Fortunately there were but few persons aboard at the time, and the casualties comparatively are small, so far as known there being only one man killed outright, one mortally wounded and eight or ten severely, though not dangerously injured.

The damage to the boat is almost beyond description. To look at her one would be led to suppose that

A TORNADO

had swept through her cabin, causing destruction on every side.

Her smokestacks were disconnected from the boilers and left inclining on each other, the boiler and hurricane decks were completely destroyed, nothing remaining but a pile of broken timber, the office and social hall being completely carried away.

At the time of the occurrence, so far as could be ascertained, the following parties were on board:

J. A. Moffitt, United States Inspector; Robert Watson, first engineer; John Henderson, second engineer; D. J. McCann, a foundry man; Chas. Lyons, the Texas tender; Chas. Smith, greaser; Jack Doufour, fireman; W. H. Cook, porter; Jas. S. Jones, assistant porter; James Dungey, steward; James Willoz, assistant bar-tender; three or four roustabouts and two firemen, who are missing, and are supposed to have been killed instantly and buried under the wreck.

Inspector Moffitt, together with the first and second engineers, Messrs. Watson and Henderson, were standing in

FRONT OF THE BOILERS,

and escaped being injured by a miracle. When the explosion occurred they crouched down, which was natural, and were saved from a horrible death. Mr. Moffitt was struck on the head and on different portions of the body; his wounds are comparatively slight. How he was not killed is an unexplained mystery, as his coat and pants were literally torn into shreds.

The first engineer was struck on the head, arms and body; his wounds are painful, though not dangerous.

The second engineer escaped with very slight injuries, being only slightly bruised about the face.

D. J. McCann happened to be aboard attending to some business, and received a slight blow on the top of the head.

Chas. Smith, who had just been employed to grease portions of the engine, was standing near the engine, and was struck on the right side of the face and slightly wounded. He was taken to the hospital and attended by Drs. Pratt and Miles.

W. H. Cook was cut on the hand.

James Dungey had his clothes torn, but escaped uninjured.

James Willoz happened to be in the bar at the time of the explosion; he received a

LARGE GASH ON THE RIGHT SIDE

of the face, was scalded on the head, and received a slight wound on the left hip.

The three roustabouts jumped overboard, so it is said, and only one of them was seen to reach shore. He stated to the steward of the boat that he did not jump overboard, but that something knocked him overboard, and that he did not realize the situation until he found himself in the water.

On repairing to the hurricane roof was found the poor unfortunate texas tender, Chas. Lyons. He was wedged in among the lumber alive and fully conscious, and as the crowd gathered around him he begged them, for God's sake, either to kill him or do something, for his agony was beyond endurance.

Lyons' injuries appeared to be painful in the extreme, and as each piece of timber was removed from off of him, his moans proved the torture he was going through. The victim was finally gotten out and sent to the hospital, where Drs. Miles and Pratt attended him and found that his

SKULL WAS FRACTURED,

as was also his right fore arm and right thigh, besides being internally injured. The physicians say that death in his case is certain.

The most horrible and heart-rending sight of all was the body of Jack Doufour, the fireman, when it was pulled from beneath the ruins.

This unfortunate creature was killed instantly. The top of his head had been taken completely off; his abdomen was torn open, and his breast crushed so that the heart and lungs fell on the floor as he lay on his side. The bones of each arm were broken in three places, and as for his legs and feet, one would be unable to say that they were anything but a mass of flesh and bones ground up together.

After the Coroner viewed the body of the deceased, it was taken to his late residence on Bienville street.

A DEMOCRAT reporter visited all the parties who were aboard the boat at the time of the explosion, and the following are their statements:

INSPECTOR J. A. MOFFITT,

said that he had been called upon to inspect the boilers of the Lessie Taylor, as is usual. He had had the hydrostatic pressure upon the main boilers as desired, obtaining it from the doctor, or nigger boiler, as it is commonly called, which was run by steam.

Myself and the engineers, Messrs. Watson and Henderson, were looking in the flues through the fire doors, when the doctor boiler exploded with a tremendous crash. Myself, though badly bruised, escaped without serious injury; the engineers' injuries were more serious, but none of them were dangerously injured.

There was about eighty pounds of steam upon the doctor when it exploded.

CHARLES LYONS

(colored), one of the victims, said: "I was attending to my work in the texas when, all of a sudden, I heard a report, and the next moment I was wedged in by a lot of lumber; my pains were so great that I sort of fainted away; I don't know what happened after that until the crowd came up and pulled me out. I was conscious then."

CHARLES SMITH,

(white): "I had just been hired to grease portions of the boat's machinery, and was standing between the boiler and the guards. I saw the two engineers looking under the boilers, and heard one of them say to the other, 'She is all right; she does not leak a drop.' I don't know what portion of the machinery was running at the time of the explosion. All of a sudden something struck me side of the head and stunned me."

W. H. Cook (colored), the porter—I was sitting on the bannisters on the boiler deck. I heard a report like a cannon, and when I recovered from the shock I found myself lying on the floor with my hand cut and a whole pile of lumber on me.

JAMES DIUGEY (COL.):

I was standing on the boiler deck, near the ice box; I heard a report, then a crash, which sounded to me like a clap of thunder; then two pieces of iron whizzed by me, one piece knocking off my hat; I was not struck, but my clothes were torn; I then saw one man, a roustabout, fall into the river; he came ashore, as I saw him afterwards; I then became dizzy and fell; what transpired after that I don't know.

Mr. Chas. J. Bachino—He stated "there are two clerks besides myself on the boat, Messrs. Quatrevaux and Chas. Fioret, and singular to say, to-day is the first day since the Taylor has been running that the office was without a clerk, and I would have been in there myself but for some business that I had to transact on the levee.

Capt. M. Kenison, in a conversation with a DEMOCRAT reporter, stated that the inspectors had blown up his boat, that she was insured for $15,000, but the insurance does not protect the boat when she is destroyed by an explosion.

To-day the wreck will be searched for the two missing firemen.

INCIDENTS.

The wharf last evening was crowded with a large number of gentlemen, ladies and children, who were looking at the wreck.

All the window glass on the river side of the sugar sheds were smashed by the explosion.

The explosion was heard at the Metairie Ridge.

The hull of the Lessie Taylor was not damaged.

CUSTOM-HOUSE TOPICS.

ON THE ANXIOUS SEAT—PEARL RIVER LOGS RELEASED.

All of those who expect offices, as well as those in the Custom-House who desire to keep what they have, are on the lookout now for the arrival from Washington of those lights of the party who are believed to know what is going on in Administration circles and what the mill will grind out in the way of

APPOINTMENTS IN THIS STATE.

Lewis was one of the "expected" on Tuesday morning and had a delegation waiting for him at the depot, and others are expected, all, in fact, but Kellogg, during the next twenty-four hours.

Special Deputy U. S. Marshal McCormack arrived during the morning from Pearl river, where he released some 3000 logs cut from government lands under the government contract with the Eads Jetty Company, and reports the log question in that country practically settled, at least as far as seizures are concerned.

Packard's friends, that is those who have just returned from Washington, do not seem to be quite as confident as they were concerning his appointment to the Collectorship, and none of them anticipate any action by the President for a month at least.

Some of them claim that Anderson and Wells have a pledge from the

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

indorsed by the President, that Anderson shall manage the concern as Special Deputy Collector and Special Treasury Agent, and that official does not think, as he has said, that either Packard or Lawrence will be in possession of the office for a month yet.

It was rumored about the building yesterday that Kellogg intended to come here during the holidays, Kellogg himself having made such a statement on Friday night last at Washington.

FREDDY B. BAGGED.

At the Superior Criminal Court Tuesday morning a very demure looking gentleman was seated inside the bar, apparently just stepped in as a visitor. Not far from him, however, sat the lynx-eyed Johnson, of the Parish Prison, who was evidently keeping a close watch on the individual. At 12:30 o'clock, Judge Whitaker, Col. Gibson, the attorney for the aforesaid individual, and a number of interested parties entered the private office of the Judge.

Deputy Clerk Arthur Waugh then, in a very clear voice, read an application for a writ of habeas corpus on the part of one Frederick Baxter, of Philadelphia, who had been incarcerated on the charge of being a fugitive from justice. Baxter was what some would call a lady killer. A soft and neatly turned brown moustache, a smooth and plump face and a well shaped head, and his person neatly attired, he looked as if the charge of embezzling something like $10,000 must be a mistake.

Judge Whitaker heard the case, and after a scrutiny of the mitimus discharged the Baxter. His eyes gleamed with bright rays of hope as he saw liberty within his grasp. He leisurely walked out of court, and just as he was snuffing the fragrance of free air Messrs. McDonogh and Pecora, aids to the chief, tapped him on the shoulder with a requisition from Pennsylvania, and Freddy was carried to the Third Precinct Station.

WEATHER AND RIVERS.

Frigorio reports the lowest temperature on Monday night at 53 degrees above zero, and the range yesterday from 56 to 68 degrees above zero.

The Signal Service telegrams, giving a record of the weather in the North and West yesterday, show still warmer weather, with light rains at some of the points. The state of the thermometer, as reported, was as follows:

Cairo 68, Cincinnati 66, Davenport 58, Dubuque 58, Galveston 62, Indianola 64, Keokuk 59, Lacrosse 48, Leavenworth 68, Louisville 66, Memphis 69, Nashville 68, Omaha 59, Pittsburg 54, Shreveport 61, St. Louis 68, St. Paul 41, Vicksburg 72, Yankton —, Augusta (Ga.) 70, Corsicana 69, Key West 69, Mobile 69, Montgomery 70, and Savannah 67 degrees above zero.

A rise of three inches at Dubuque, five at Keokuk, one at St. Louis, and four at Memphis, with a decline of nine inches at Cairo, and ten inches at Vicksburg, are the most important changes in the water level of the Mississippi, and in the Missouri and Ohio no change worthy of record was noted.

THE LEE MONUMENT.

We understand that the following sub-contracts upon this work have been let out by Capt. Roy, the contractor:

Foundation and laying off of grounds—Messrs. James Lindsay and R y.
Granite work—Mr. George Stroud.
Marble work—Mr. James Hagan.

THE OPERA-HOUSE.

The Fryer-Pappenheim Opera Troupe having terminated its engagement at the Varieties Theatre will begin this evening at the "Opera-House" a series of performances, commencing with Gounod's immortal opera of "Faust."

Daniel Druce.

New American Sewing Machine, 185 Canal street.

Dolly Druce.

OIL PAINTINGS, WATER COLORS, CHROMOS AND STEEL PLATE ENGRAVINGS.—Our citizens, and especially the trade, should not fail to be on hand this morning, at 11 o'clock, at the Old Auction Mart, 87 Camp street, when will commence the great sale of fine arts, consisting largely of originals from the easels of well known American artists, and reproductions in oil of celebrated English works of art on mahogany panels; also, original water colors of English and Irish scenery; also, a beautiful collection of fine steel plate engravings and chromos. These goods are to be sold without any limit or reserve whatever. Don't take our word for it, but go and see for yourselves. B. M. & B. J. Montgomery, auctioneers.

Daniel Druce.

Dolly Druce.

Eureka!

You must promise to come, for you'll find
The choicest of goods in their store,
And so cheap, too, that you'll feel inclined
To wish that you'd known this before.

The ladies! God bless them! they know
That Adams & Brothers can sell
Their dress goods at prices so low
As to charm every matron and belle.

Who have heard of Adams' fame
For dress goods, shawls, gloves and pique,
That with one accord they'll exclaim
Eureka! Eureka!! Eureka!!!

Daniel Druce.

MUNICIPAL MATTERS.

RAILROAD DEPOTS AND WORKSHOPS.

Formal Application of the President of the New Orleans Pacific Railway Company.

The following letter was to have been read at the Council meeting on Tuesday, but for want of a quorum the Council adjourned until to-day at 11 o'clock.

NEW ORLEANS PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY,
New Orleans, December 18, 1877.

Honorable Mayor and Administrators of the city of New Orleans:

Gentlemen—I have been directed by resolution of the board of directors of the New Orleans Pacific Railway Company to inform your honorable body that they gratefully appreciate its intention to reserve for them sufficient space for depot purposes as may be required, of any lands that may finally be ceded by the city for a union depot on Basin or Claiborne street, or other suitable location.

To make, however, this reservation really valuable to each and all of the different companies which may desire to avail of it, it is all important that the city should attach to it the condition that the tracks of each road within the parish of Orleans should be freely open for the use and convenience of all companies accepting privileges of the union depot, on the payment of equitable compensation for same, to be fixed by a committee composed of members of the board of directors of each company and the Mayor of the city of New Orleans, for the time being, who shall be ex officio chairman of the committee, with full power to vote in all divisions in relation to said compensation.

Most respectfully submitting these views to your honorable Council, I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,
E. B. WHEELOCK,
President New Orleans Pacific Railway Company.

The following letter was also addressed to the Mayor:

NEW ORLEANS, December 18, 1877.

Hon. E. Pilsbury, Mayor, etc.:

Sir—By resolution of the board of directors of the New Orleans Pacific Railroad Company, I am instructed and directed to make an offer to your honor, for submission to and approval of the honorable Board of Administrators of the city, for a lease of batture property lying and being in front of the New Orleans Park, on the Mississippi river, in the Sixth District of this parish.

This company tender for a lease of said property, for ninety-nine years from date, $10,000 in first mortgage bonds on their entire property, said bonds having forty years to run from date of issue and bearing interest at the rate of six per cent per annum, payable semi-annually.

Hoping for early and favorable action on this application, I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. B. WHEELOCK,
President N. O. Pacific Railroad Company.

LICENSE MATTERS.

A committee from the New Orleans Stock Exchange visited the Mayor and Administrator Denis on Tuesday morning, to obtain a reduction of the license on brokers. They were informed, however, that no discrimination could be made in their favor, but that an ordinance would be presented to the Council, providing for a discount of 20 per cent to all license taxpayers who should pay their licenses within ten days after they become due, 10 per cent within twenty days, and so on, thus affording every license payer an equal opportunity of helping himself and the city at the same time.

A DOG QUESTION.

The Mayor, who is in the habit of walking through our back streets from his residence on Esplanade street, near Broad, on his way to the City Hall, on Monday morning came up with a burly son of Erin, who was engaged in doing some work on a street. Not satisfied with the workmanship of the job, Mr. Pilsbury, addressing himself to the laborer, said to him: "Look here, my man, this ain't good work."

The Irishman, with that independence characteristic of his race, without raising his head or lifting his eyes, retorted: "And whose dog are yez?" "Well," said the Mayor, demurely, "I am the Mayor's dog; whose dog are you?" The independence of the laborer wilted and the conversation ended.

THE SENATORIAL ELECTION.

The ordinance locating the various election precincts in the Tenth and Eleventh Wards, for the coming Senatorial election, has to be passed ten days before the election takes place. Under the new system, in some cases it is found that three blocks constitute a precinct, and difficulties are encountered in finding suitable places for election booths. It may be necessary, Administrator Cavanac says, to establish some of these booths in the street in covered wagons. It has been suggested that the "Black Marias," small-pox wagon and other city vehicles be utilized in this manner on election day.

RECORDER SMITH.

The several charges against Recorder Smith, which have been reported to a special committee of the City Council, are considered unfounded by a majority, at least, of said committee, and a report will probably be made on the subject to-day. Concerning several of the charges the committee give it as their opinion that they cannot inquire into the conduct of Judge Smith in the exercise of his judicial functions. As to the temporary retention of the fines collected in his office by Judge Smith, the committee say that he acted under a misapprehension of his rights, and besides, that he has long since transferred the money into the city treasury.

A NEW FLOODGATE.

The proposed floodgate in People's Avenue canal, which is intended to protect the lands of the Ninth Ward from overflow by the backing of the waters of the lake, has been begun and will soon be finished. Its construction will save a great many kitchen gardens in the Third District from destruction by the saline waters of the lake.

GUATEMALA.

The Experiences of Major George Wilson in this Land of Earthquakes and Revolutions.

We were scarcely less surprised than delighted at meeting in this city yesterday our old and dear friend, Major George Wilson, of Shreveport, who has just returned to this country after an absence of two years in the various countries of Central and South America. From the Major's account the time he has spent abroad has been full enough of sight-seeing and thrilling adventure, his accounts of which remind us of the narratives with which the returned Californian of 1849 used to entrance his wondering listeners.

Major Wilson comes direct from the city of Gautemala, in and about which he has spent most of his time in engineering enterprises, though he has also been in several of the South American States and nearly all of those of Central America during his prolonged absence. According to his accounts all of these countries, but notably Colombia and Gautemala, are by nature, in climate and soil, and beauty of aspect, the very

PARADISES OF THE WORLD,

though some of them, Spanish Honduras and Nicaragua, for instance, are utterly uninhabitable for a civilized human being, because of the abominable debasement of the mongrel races that inhabit them. Gautemala he describes as one of the lovliest regions on the globe, a land of

PERPETUAL SPRING,

of enduring sunshine and perennial bloom. But, with all these wondrous attractions, between earthquakes and revolutions, it appears to be rather an unstable and dangerous place of residence. The revolutions have some sort of respect for foreigners who keep their mouths shut and don't mix up with them, but the earthquakes are no respectors of the rights of dignity of aliens, and are operated by an agency that does not entertain that mortal terror of more powerful governments which seems to control the revolutionary presidents of this exceedingly tumultuous country.

"But, after all," said our friend, "these

EARTHQUAKES DON'T AMOUNT TO MUCH,

though the sensation of helplessness and terror produced by them is horrible. We only have two or three shocks a day, and they last but a few minutes—and," he added, "what man can't stand ten minutes of earthquake in twenty-four hours?" It is but seldom that anything serious happens. In the city of Guatemala, which lies on the interior edge of the volcanic region, no calamity of any kind has ever happened, though the walls of nearly all the houses are cracked from the shock in 1874.

The houses are very strongly built, of brick in the city and adobe in the country, are never of more than a single story in height, the roofing being of palmetto leaves. The churches are

MAGNIFICENT STRUCTURES,

and of great size, but their walls are of unusual strength and thickness. The city of Guatemala lies in the interior, on the Pacific slope, about 75 miles from the coast. It is a place of some 50,000 inhabitants, and is a very attractive city. It is situated at a great elevation above the sea, and has a climate of almost eternal spring. There is the seat of government, which is nothing else than an autocracy, knowing no changes or successions other than those that are wrought by

CONSPIRACY AND REVOLUTION.

The present President, Barrios, is a full blood Indian, but a man of dauntless courage, fine ability and broad culture. He is an exception among his race, which constitutes the laboring class, and is in the main, docile, gentle and subservient. Barrios succeeded to authority as his predecessors all have done, according to

"The good old rule, the simple plan,
That they should take who have the power,
That they should keep who can."

Recently an attempt was made to murder him and seize the government, in the violence attending which Major Wilson was himself injured, which occurence Minister Williamson has reported to the authorities at Washington, refusing the amende offered by President Barrios.

The occurrence happened in this wise: It seems that a "strike" had been organized by certain ambitious conspirators on the *fincas*, or coffee plantations of Barrios, and during his absence to suppress this "strike," for which he used the army, a plot to

ASSASSINATE HIM

on his return was matured. Barrios getting an inkling into the matter had the ringleaders arrested and ordered them shot. Just as the plaza was being cleared for this purpose Major Wilson started to cross it on his way to the hotel, not knowing anything of the rumpus, so sudden are such things. Hearing the cry of "revolution," he undertook to get out of the way, but two officers riding up and mistaking him for a native, one struck him across the face with his sabre, blinding him. He was immediately attacked by several soldiers, but managed to defend himself until protection came.

Barrios offered every *amende*, but Major Wilson being unable to identify the offenders, the President's apologies were declined and the matter made a subject of representation to the United States government by Minister Williamson. Barrios stopped the revolution, and shot seventeen of the conspirators. Major Wilson's description of these executions is graphic indeed. The condemned men all died game, and met their fates with a nonchalance that came of daily experience. Six chairs were placed in the public square, and they marched out six at a time and took their seats, some smoking, and all chatting pleasantly, but none manifesting the slightest fear or concern.

GOVERNMENT.

Major Wilson naturally concluded that Guatemala, while it was the most lovely region in the world, was about the worst governed. He says that an alien, and especially a British subject or a citizen of the United States, need not be affected by these affairs, and if he has nothing to do with them, he is as secure in person and property in Guatemala as if he were in New Orleans. There are but few American settlers, though, the foreign element being mainly German and English. The trade is carried on almost exclusively by English vessels, the American flag being seldom seen in any of the seaports. The products are principally indigo, coffee, cochineal, mahogany and other woods, sugar and medicinal barks. The sugar is principally consumed at home, but of the exports the best goes to England and the refuse only to the United States.

TAXATION.

The taxation is all in the way of impost duties. There is no direct taxation whatever, the government being supported entirely on duties, the greater part of the revenue going to support the army, which consists of about 5000 men.

INDUCEMENTS TO ADVENTURERS.

The Major advises no one to go there in quest of fortune with less than $20,000. A poor and moneyless man has no showing, but with the above capital a man can in a few years amass an immense fortune. Lands are easy to obtain from the government, and there is any abundance of the finest lands as yet unoccupied, the mountains being arable to their very tops, and these being the best lands for coffee, the most remunerative crop. The titles of foreigners are as perfect and sacred as possible, though an Indian may have to purchase a half-dozen times. The changes of the government do not affect the grant of previous ones to foreign settlers. Among those who are doing well is Dr. D. A. Fenner, an old and well-known resident of New Orleans and Shreveport. The doctor has secured a large and valuable grant of land, and is a great favorite of Barrios.

THE COFFEE PLANT.

The coffee plant grows to a tree and bears for an indefinite period of years. On the mountains of Guatemala so equable is the temperature it needs no shading and bears three crops a year. It begins to bear well about the fourth year, and all that is needed is the capital to plant a *finca* and wait for it to bear, and a fortune is the immediate reward.

PERSONAL.

The occasion of Major Wilson's return was purely accidental. He had written his family that he was going to Venezuela, but on arriving at the seaport he saw a vessel announced for Panama and could not resist the inclination that led him back to spend the Christmas holidays with his wife and daughter. They are not expecting him, thinking him in Venezuela, and he has prepared for them a Christmas joy and surprise that it would delight the heart of Dickens to picture in a Christmas story.

The Major does not think he will return to Guatemala. If he returns at all, it will be to Bogota, in the United States of Colombia. This city and its surroundings the Major regards as the Eden of earth. The city from its high altitude looks down upon a valley in comparison with which our coast even is not comparable. From the everlasting spring of Bogota down to the depths of this wonderful valley, by a gradual descent, every climate from the temperate to the equatorial, with its corresponding fruits, vegetables, flowers and other growths may be realized, from the strawberry, peach and apple to the cane, orange, banana and cocoanut.

TURKEY EXTRAORDINARY.

The Crescent City Rifle Club have decided to present to the New Orleans press the finest Christmas turkey that can be found in the purlieus of the city. It is to be contested for at the Frogmoor grounds by all the members of the press who feel that way inclined, for the best score at 200 yards. The club will furnish rifles and ammunition to all the members of the press who will deign for the nonce to relinquish the pencil for the rifle, and who will desire to enter the lists. The last time a score of 28 was made by a certain journalist out of a possible 25, and we would be ashamed of our confreres if that could not be beat. If the pen is mightier than the sword, certainly the pencil, which is infinitely superior, cannot but lay over by several points the rifle. The match will come off on next Sunday at Frogmoor, and quite a sensation will be produced when the result will be announced. Christmas is coming and we want to see who is the newspaper man who will "say turkey."

The contest for the Lilienthal cup has been postponed until further notice, but the military commands are invited by the club to shoot again at the park for turkey, beginning at 11 a. m., to end at sunset. A crowd is expected.

Messrs. Danziger's Sons' beautiful dry goods establishment is attracting a great deal of attention at present. This store is stocked with new, superb, fancy domestic and imported fabrics, and it is being replenished by every steamer and express with all the newest and most fashionable articles in their line. Go to Danziger's is written on every post in the country, so it is not necessary to tell you where it is. See advertisement in another column.

Dolly Druce.

CAPITOL GOSSIP.

THE GOVERNOR GONE TO THE COUNTRY—REGISTRATION OFFICES OPEN.

The Supreme Court Decision Reduces the State Debt Over $100,000.

Gov. Nicholls having left the city for a day or two there was little doing about the Executive office on Tuesday morning.

The force in the auditorial department are quite busily engaged upon the yearly report and with

THE COUNTRY TAX COLLECTORS,

who are making settlements for the last quarter. As has been anticipated by the DEMOCRAT, these settlements are quite heavy and surprise even the Auditor, the delinquent lists falling, in amount, fully fifty per cent below his estimates, that being for the current year, of course.

Registrar Landry announces all of

THE REGISTRATION OFFICES OPEN

in the Tenth and Eleventh Wards, and states that in his opinion the registration will be full and complete. He refers again to the new law which prohibits any one from voting unless he be registered, and urges the voters of the two wards who desire to vote at the coming election to apply at their precinct offices at once.

There was some comment in State-House circles during the afternoon over the action of the Supreme Court in the case wherein the purchase of the State-House was, by that court, declared null. The property was purchased in 1874, from what was known as the New Orleans Building Association, Geo. O. Benham, President, at $250,000, and when the bill making the appropriation to pay for it went to Kellogg

HE VETOED IT,

whereupon both House and Senate passed it over his veto, some votes costing the parties interested as high as $100 or $150.

Warrants were issued to pay for the building, and up to the present date there has been paid of those warrants at the treasury $141,117 57, leaving still outstanding warrants to the amount of $108,882 43, which, by the decision rendered yesterday, are worth only the paper they are written upon, and which, according to the opinion of some of the State officials,

REDUCES THE STATE DEBT

just that much.

THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

Judge Hiestand essayed his demolition of Prof. Fontaine's "Jules Verne Romances," as he called the Professor's lectures, last night. The only point he made was that the Professor's idea of confining the Mississippi within a half mile of width was proven fallacious by the fact that the levee system had somewhat confined the river, and the result had been, instead of cutting out a channel, that the bed of the river had been raised. The jetties, he said, were already a pronounced failure, as was proven by the fact that Capt. Eads was sucking out a channel with an immense suction pump.

Judge Hiestand impressed us as an "old residenter," and his talk was of that order as opposed to that of the scientist. We do not mean to say that Prof. Fontaine's theories cannot be demolished, but we must be pardoned if we give offense in saying that Judge Hiestand is not the man to tumble his air-castles about his ears.

PERSONAL.

We notice that the name of Mr. J. A. Cassard is mentioned in the telegrams from Washington in connection with a Mexican Consulate. Mr. Cassard, who is the brother of Mr. Jules Cassard, president of the Germania Bank, is a native of New Orleans, and has had several years experience in the diplomatic service. He is a gentleman of refinement and culture, and widely known here and in Mexico.

AMUSEMENTS.

THE OPERA.

The opening night of the Italian opera season at the Opera House, last evening, by the Fryer-Pappenheim Troupe, was marked by an affluence of the elite of our population, filling the house to overflowing, and presenting one of those arrays of youth, beauty and refinement which was wont to make us so justly proud of our temple of music, whose fame was as widespread as civilization. It is true that the *grand costume* or full opera dress did not prevail in the amphitheatre boxes, but while their fair occupants were nearly all *en chapeau*, the toilets were of the richest and most elegant description, and it would seem that in the item of bonnets and hats there had been a previous understanding among the ladies to make in this respect a striking display. The success was at all events so perfect, and charming that we have little cause to regret the decolete dresses and artistic coiffures which were the great feature of the palmy days of the opera.

Although "Faust" was subjected to a process of castration which gave rise to complaint among a portion of the audience, the opera was rendered with an eclat that surpassed our most sanguine expectations. Miss Pappenheim, who had undertaken the part of Marguerite, with some apprehension as to her abilities to sing the lighter parts of the role, surprised her most ardent admirers, and her powers of execution in the garden scene left nothing to be said except in approval of her performance. As to the dramatic situations of the opera, they were rendered by this lady in a masterly manner, both as an actress and as a singer. We have only compliments to pay to Mr. Adams (Faust), Mr. Van Hoffien (Mephisto), and Mr. Tagliapietra (Valentin), all of whom sang with taste, and frequently with great effect. The grand trio between Valentin, Faust and Mephisto, and that of the last act between Mephisto, Faust and Marguerite, deserve special mention. Each was greeted with most enthusiastic applause.

To-night

"RIGOLETTO"

will be presented (in Italian), when doubtless there will be another fashionable and crowded house at the Opera. On this occasion, as we have previously announced, Mr. Harry Stanfield, the tenor, will make his debut before a New Orleans audience as the Duke, the other characters being sung by Miss Human, Miss Phillipps, Mr. Tagliapietra and Mr. Wiegand. The box office of the opera is located at Werlein's piano and music store on Canal street.

JNO. T. RAYMOND

drew another fair house last evening at the Varieties with his new play of "Risks." Our old acquaintance appears quite at home as Pembroke, the insurance agent, and will continue to entertain his friends during a greater portion of the week with the blarneyisms of that character. "Col. Sellers" is billed for Friday night.

AT THE ST. CHARLES.

The Heywood company opened last night in a minstrel entertainment. The company contains some good song and dance men, clog dancers and the usual variety performers, which please the galleries particularly. There will be a grand matinee to-day, and the closing performance of the company occurs to-night.

"LE PETIT CORSAIRE"

will be given at the matinee and at night again at the Academy by the Evangeline Combination.

The Grimaldi Humpty Dumpty company open at this theatre on Sunday.

BREVITIES.

Pass Christian Grand Lodge No. 240 give a ball at Pass Christian on New Year's day for the benefit of the new Masonic Hall.

In the report of the meeting of the Property Holders' Union, published in the DEMOCRAT of yesterday, Dr. Tebault was made to say that Judge Woods rendered the decision in the matter of the railroad bonds. We should have written Judge Billings, for he it was who rendered the decision in question.

Dolly Druce.

New American Sewing Machine, 185 Canal street.

Daniel Druce.

The easy Utah divorces are obtained under a carelessly written clause of the Territorial law, which refers to "those that are residents, or wish to become such." The Mormons are said to be strongly averse to the advantage taken of it, and it is expected that the law will be changed at the next session of the Legislature.

CITY ECHOES.

Jules G. Sell was lodged in the Fifth Station, charged by F. Jonville with robbery.

A dead dog is annoying the neighbors living in the vicinity of Broad and Bienville streets.

Henry Diamond, for pilfering wood on the New Basin, was lodged in the Central Station.

Geo. Louis was locked up in the Third charged with assault and battery on Chas. Toussaint.

John Charles was arrested by Officer Comfort, charged by John Emma with stealing a horse, saddle and bridle.

The residents on Elysian Fields street are complaining bitterly of the filthy condition of the gutters.

John Keefner is in the Central Station, charged with fighting and disturbing the peace and assault and battery on his wife.

Henry Thompson, for having two spittoons in his possession, supposed to have been stolen, was locked up in the Central Station.

Louis Henchel, a clerk, was immured in the Central Station, charged by Jno. Aaron Mendelsohn with stealing jewelry valued at $50.

Sam Taylor, charged with petty larceny, was yesterday sent before the First District Court under bonds of $250 by Recorder Smith.

Steve Leffron, a barkeeper, by virtue of a warrant, was run into the Fifth calaboose, charged with assaulting and battering L. Kessingson.

Dr. Bertrand had a negro boy named Nelson Shepherd arrested, charging him with assault and battery on his little daughter aged 5 years.

Martin Montgomery, by virtue of a warrant, occupied a cell in the Second Precinct Station, charged with assault and battery on Ann Anderson.

Dennis Henry was given a place to rest his weary bones, which was a cell in the Second Station-house, for an alleged assault and battery on W. Feeney.

At the instigation of Emma Philibert, Gus Fadden was made a prisoner at the corner of Love and Poland streets and immured in the Fifth, charged with breach of trust and embezzlement.

Peter Ward at 7 o'clock Monday night caused Joe Davis' arrest and incarceration in the Fifth Station charging him with threats, trespass and attempting to commit murder. Bernard H. Callius is charged with being an accessory before and after the fact.

Forced to Fly.

Some time during the night of the 16th inst. a thief, who is supposed to be a negro man who has had access to the building, entered Mr. John Miller's residence, corner of St. Andrew and Chestnut streets, and attempted to carry away a lot of wearing apparel. He was discovered when in the yard and was forced to drop his booty and flee.

The Poisoning Case.

The lady, Mrs. G. M. Y. Medere, was conscious Tuesday morning, and acknowledged that she attempted to commit suicide by swallowing 25 cents' worth of laudanum that she had purchased in Algiers. The cause which prompted her to commit the deed was her devotion to her daughter, who had been taken from her some time previous. Although Mrs. Medere is conscious, her condition is still very critical.

Burned by Coal Oil.

At 5 o'clock yesterday morning a negro woman named Pauline Smith, residing on Prieur street, between Poydras and Perdido, was dangerously burned about the body by the explosion of a coal oil lamp. It appears the woman was in the act of placing the lamp on the mantelpiece when it exploded. She was conveyed to the Charity Hospital, where her injuries were examined and pronounced dangerous.

Police Board.

At the meeting of the Police Board last evening guilty peelers got off very easy.

L. U. Gaiennie, for sitting down and sleeping on his beat was fined two days' pay.

Patrolman Jas. Cooney, could not be found on his beat, and for the offense was fined three days' pay.

Patrolman A. Bledsoe, for not answering his corporal, was reprimanded.

It cost M. F. Catt, for sitting down and sleeping on his beat, ten days' pay.

Fire.

At 1:15 o'clock Tuesday morning a fire broke out in an unoccupied one-story frame house, situated on Jersey street, between Napoleon Avenue and Jena street. This property, which was owned and occupied by Ferdinand Meyers, was totally destroyed, and was insured in the Teutonia Insurance Company, but for what amount could not be ascertained.

The flames then communicated to the one-story frame building adjoining, and damaged it to the extent of $40. This property was also owned by Meyers.

The fire then extended and damaged the residence of Fritz Hackenburg to the extent of $75. This house was not insured.

Theresa Ryan's Death.

A woman named Theresa Ryan died Monday morning at the Charity Hospital from hemorrhage of the womb, the hemorrhage having been caused by an abortion, which was produced on the deceased some weeks ago. Coroner Roache and City Physician Beard held an autopsy and continued the inquest until a future day.

A DEMOCRAT reporter, on hearing that a Dr. Viendohl had been the patient's physician during her illness, called on that gentleman, which resulted as follows:

Reporter—I understand you attended Theresa Ryan during her illness.

Doctor—Yes, sir; yes, sir. I just happened to drop in there and I prescribed for her.

Rep.—What was her malady?

Dr.—Profuse hemorrhage. [Becoming excited.] Well, sir, you are a reporter, I retract everything I have said; I retract everything; I don't wish to say anything; I don't want to be interviewed; if it is necessary I will go before a court inquiry and make a statement. If this goes in the papers the community will be unable to comprehend it.

Daniel Druce.

California.

Gov. Irwin's message to the California Legislature states that the taxable property of the State is $595,073,000, a decrease of $23,000,000 from 1876. The State tax rate is 73½ cents on the $100, an increase of 13 cents, caused by the decrease in valuation and the necessity for providing for augmented appropriations. The estimated expenditures for the two fiscal years ending June 30, 1880, are $5,600,000, or about $3,000,000 a year. The Governor discusses the Chinese question from the California standpoint. He says "the presence of the Chinese in the State in large numbers, with steady additions thereto through immigration from the exhaustless hive of China, not only threatens an irrepressible conflict, but has actually initiated such conflict," and if the Mongolians are to continue to enjoy the unrestricted right of coming to our shores, their civilization will triumph over ours. He therefore urges on Congress the necessity for imposing restrictions on this immigration, so as to repel it.

Oyster dealers report a curious and somewhat startling fact about oysters this season, which makes them very careful in buying lest they find themselves with a load on hand which is afterward found to be worthless. A great many of the oysters that reach the Light street wharf when opened look as if they had been engaged in a heated family quarrel, resulting in blows, out of which they had come second best. Their appearance is decidedly unfavorable, presenting, as they do, a reddish and altogether uninviting aspect. When cut behind the heart or between the gills with a knife blood spurts forth freely, covering the hand of the person holding them as if it had been cut instead of the oyster. The blood thus produced greatly resembles that of a human being in color and substance. Oysters sometimes have this peculiarity when spawning, but for them to have it at this time of the year is unusual and hardly accountable.—[Baltimore American.