MUNICIPAL MATTERS.

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

The City Budget and the Budget of the Board of Health.

The City Council met yesterday, pursuant to adjournment. Considerable business was transacted, among which should be noted specially the presentation of the financial budget of the city for 1878, which will be found published at length in the official proceedings. The budget of receipts was adopted, whilst that of the expenditures was ordered to lie over until the next regular meeting, there being one administrator, Mr. McCaffrey, who had not yet concluded to vote upon it. The president of the Board of Health also submitted two budgets of the board, accompanied by a communication, which will be also found in the official proceedings. One of the budgets applies particularly to interests of the city in the board, from which we quote the following:

Receipts from May 1 to November 30, 1877, inclusive:	
Mississippi quarantine, for fees	$10,087 60
Rigolets quarantine, for fees	319 65
Atchafalaya quarantine, for fees	60 00
Recorder of births, deaths and marriages	4,082 05
Building permits	116 00
Body and interment permits	178 50
Privy permits	137 75
Coal oil inspections	1,140 34
	$16,121 89
Less error in receipts of Rigolet Station	18 00
Total	$16,103 89

The other document relates to the State and city affairs of the board, and makes the following showing:

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR 1878.

Mississippi quarantine salaries, etc	$10,000
Disinfectants and other materials	500
Repairs to buildings and grounds	10,000
Regolet station (5 months)	1,150
Purchase of grounds and buildings	2,500
Purchase of new boat	125
Purchase of disinfectants and materials	150
Atchafalaya station (5 months)	1,150
Rent and disinfectants	100
Purchase of grounds and buildings	2,500
Expense of office in New Orleans, salaries, wages, materials, etc	10,950

EXPENSES FOR PROTECTION OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS.

Salaries four sanitary inspectors, $100 per month each	$4,800	
Salaries three sanitary inspectors at $50 each	1,890	
Salaries fifteen sanitary policemen, $50	9,000	
Rent of offices, ($10)	840	
Stationery	75	
Vaccine virus	150	
Disinfectants	2,500	$19,165
Total expenses		$57,790

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS FOR 1878.

Mississippi quarantine station	$17,600
Rigolets quarantine station	800
Atchafalaya quarantine station	100
Recorder births, deaths and marriages	7,000
Building permits	200
Body and interment permits	300
Privy permits	500
Coil oil receipts for inspection	3,100
Total	$29,600

THE CONSOLIDATED BONDS.

The petition signed by Judge John A. Campbell and E. Bermudez, Esq., representing consolidated bondholders, asking for the levy of a tax to pay the back interest on these bonds, and the interest for 1878, was read, together with the opinion of the City Attorney, opposed to the levying of the tax. The City Attorney expresses himself of the opinion that the act creating the consolidated bonds is unconstitutional, and that, besides, under the terms of the premium bond act, the city cannot comply with the demand of the petitioners.

THE TCHOUPITOULAS STREET DUMMIES.

A petition signed by about two hundred residents and merchants and traders of Tchoupitoulas street, between Jackson street and Louisiana Avenue, opposing the running of the dummies in that section of the city, on the grounds already published in the DEMOCRAT, was received by the Council yesterday.

The reading of the petition gave Administrator McCaffrey the occasion to remark that he thought it unnecessary to refer the petition, since the Crescent City Railroad Company had, by limitation, on the 1st of October last, lost their right to the extension of their line to Carrollton, and that to be authorized to use dummies on the Tchoupitoulas street line it would require new legislation. He also said, incidentally, that the company had refused to recognize communications from his department.

The Mayor thought something would have to be done to prevent imposition upon the rights of citizens.

On motion of Mr. Cavanac it was finally agreed that the entire matter should be referred to the Committee or Railroads, the committee to visit the locality on Tchoupitoulas street, referred to in the petition, and ascertain personally the character of the complaints contained therein.

THE MARKET ORDINANCE

For 1878 is printed in the official proceedings this morning. The ordinance lies over for revision until the next meeting.

STEALING BULKHEADS.

A petition from Mr. Henry Ellermann, the wharf lessee, was read, claiming that several hundred feet of bulkheads along the river front and timbers under the wharves have been recently stolen, and ascribing the thefts to a want of vigilance on the part of the police, threatens to hold the city responsible for the articles stolen.

A FORMAL REQUEST.

President Clark, of the New Orleans and Jackson Railroad, yesterday addressed a formal application to the Council for the lease of the neutual ground on Claiborne street, between Common and Canal streets, for the location of a union railroad depot. The application was referred, and will occupy the attention of the Committee on Railroads, whose duty it will be to arrange the terms of the lease and report to the Council under what conditions it can be entered into.

SALE OF THE MARKET REVENUES.

The sale of the market revenues for January, which took place in the Council Chamber, resulted in an improvement in the sale of these revenues for the present month, as follows:

	Jan.	Dec.
Fruit and Vegetable, A. Dumestre	$3,500	$3,550
French Meat, G. Gast	2,510	2,375
Poydras and Pilie, J. Lartigue	2,900	2,800
Treme, J. P. Carrere	1,700	1,605
Dryades, P. Matharin	1,780	1,800
Washington and Port, Joe Hoth	210	295
St. Bernard, Jean Dayries	270	308
Bretonne, D. Dantagnan	23	20
St. Mary, John Dies	550	450
Magazine, John Dies	1,865	1,710
Jefferson, J. Machado	145	135
Borapurd, W. Mollemkemp	185	180
Ninth Street, J. Lindon	595	610
Claiborne, E. Dumestre	340	305
Algiers, J. Larrieux	75	60
Total	$16,648	$16,113

SCHOOL TEACHERS' EXAMINATION.

The competitive examination of the applicants for teacherships in the public schools begins to-day. The examinations will be similar to those that were held in September last. We were, however, unable to ascertain in what particular branches the teachers would be examined to-day, the order being kept secret by the committee on teachers.

THE RETAIL GROCERS.

A petition signed by about thirty retail grocers was received by the Council, complaining of the license tax imposed upon them and asking for redress. The petition makes no suggestions further than that the license ordinance should be made more equitable.

THE CITY PARKS.

In answer to a question of the Mayor at the meeting of the Council, Mr. Diamond, the Administrator of Police, said that he would by the next meeting present an ordinance to the Council concerning them.

THE RIVER GAUGE.

Surveyor d'Hemecourt yesterday established the river gauge required as an adjunct to the hydrographic survey, at a point opposite the United States Barracks.

A MOVE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

Yesterday afternoon, at the office of Messrs. Howard & Preston, on Poydras street, there was a meeting of the former members of the Merchants' Exchange called for the purpose of settling up its affairs and closing out the effects yet remaining on hand. After the meeting had been formally organized, on motion of Mr. Forester Deslonde, it was resolved to sell at once all the furniture remaining, the proceeds from which, together with the cash on hand, to be deposited by President Howard.

After a spirited speech on the part of Mr. Deslonde, in which he deplored the apathy and inertia of our merchants in these days of progression, he moved that a committee of twelve be appointed, each staple product to be represented, for the purpose of forming a Board of Trade here. The speaker referred to the necessity for such a movement, and cited several instances where our city was behind our Western rivals. The motion was carried unanimously.

President Howard, in the course of some remarks, stated that he had just returned from New York, and while there he had visited the Flour Exchange and conversed with many of the largest dealers. When the export trade in flour was spoken of they all admitted that it properly belonged to New Orleans, but said that as we had no standard here or nothing to be a guarantee as to grade, such as a Board of Trade would give, there was nothing to predicate sterling bills upon, and the banks would not negotiate on simple bills of lading.

After an interchange of opinion the meeting adjourned.

CUSTOM-HOUSE TALK.

A New Test for Applicants—More Packard Talk—Cockrem's Chances.

The most interesting feature about the Custom-house yesterday, and that which attracted the most attention, was the wire rope stretched from that building to a store on the opposite side of the street. Some of the uninitiated in the building were positive that either the acting Collector or Surveyor of the port was on the bills

FOR A PERFORMANCE,

while one was remarked that the rope was put up by order of the President, his intention being to make that a test as to the ability (and capacity) of all applicants for Federal offices in Louisiana, those not able to walk the rope the day after Christmas to be rejected, of course. It transpired that neither conjecture was right, although a one-legged man and an ex-soldier did make the attempt during the afternoon.

Nash and Kelso arrived from Washington a day or two since and were circulating about the building, Nash keeping his weather eye on the Naval office, which will yield a sufficient revenue during Riard's *ad interim* administration to pay his expenses to Paris and return.

There is little, if any, talk now as to the changes that may occur in the building after the

HOLIDAY RECESS OF CONGRESS,

though it seems to be the settled opinion that Packard will eventually drop into the position of Collector. Some of those who seem to know what is going on attach considerable importance, in connection with this matter, to the late visit here of Speaker Grosvenor, of Ohio, who is said to be an intimate friend of the President's, and who, it is thought, during his interview with Packard when here told him that he was pretty sure that the President would appoint him to the position.

Mr. Cockrem, of the Internal Revenue Department, is advised that he has a strong applicant for his position in the person of ex-Judge Heinrich von Heidenheim, whose sesquipedalian "influence," which, it is said, reaches from here to Washington, will make him even stronger in the eyes of the Administration than Sheridan or Johnson. It is difficult yet, however, to obtain an expression as to the favorite for Cockrem's position, though it seems to be the impression that he is to be shelved.

A SPLENDID TRUCK.

We had the pleasure yesterday afternoon of inspecting the magnificent new hook and ladder truck just completed by Joseph Schwartz, of our city, for Hope No. 3. It is provided with all the latest improvements, and is as beautiful a specimen of the builder's art as has long been seen. The new extension ladder will reach the upper stories of our highest buildings, and is provided with a new safety invention by which the two ladders will be held firmly together, even should the elevating chain break. We congratulate the Hope boys on their new pet.

LAFAYETTE HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY NO. 1.

At the annual meeting of this company, held last night, the following named gentlemen were duly elected to serve as officers for the ensuing year:

C. J. Berry, president; Wm. Dawson, secretary; A. H. Swift, treasurer; Robert Bell, foreman; Gabe Porteous, first assistant; James Cunningham, second assistant; Peter Callery, marshal; delegates to the Firemen's Charitable Association, C. J. Berry, O. M. Redon, Robert Bell; subdelegates to the Firemen's Charitable Association, A. H. Swift, Wm. Dawson, Gabe Porteous.

We are indebted to the boys of this gallant company for a serenade.

A BALL.

The Fifth Company, Regiment Orleans Artillery, give their first grand francy dress, mask and military ball at Grunewald Hall, on Tuesday evening, the first of January next. The Orleans Artillery are known for their gallantry and devotion to the ladies, and we have no doubt their entertainment will be a complete success.

HYMENEAL.

On Christmas Eve, on the Magnolia plantation, Miss Bessie A., daughter of Effingham Lawrence, Esq., was united in matrimony to Mr. Arthur C. Gilman, of New York city.

The plantation mansion was most artistically decorated and the host's well known hospitality was lavishly dispensed. Some two thousand negroes partook of a grand spread beneath the trees. The whole affair was one to be remembered.

New American Sewing Machine, 185 Canal street.

Staub is not only a first class newsdealer, but he is a gentleman of the first water. He sent us for a Christmas gift a bundle of literature which in point of elegance and quality can scarcely be equaled. Everything that is late and new in the way of magazines and weeklies was there contained—Appleton's, Harpe s', the Scientific Monthly, the St. Nicholas, Frank Leslie's Ladies' Book, etc., for which we return thanks to Staub and hope his shadow will never be less at Goldthwaite's bookstore, on Exchange Alley, near Canal street.

We are happy to see that Professor A. T. Selover, the Empire card writer and teacher in the art, is still in our midst. He now keeps his stand at the corner of Canal and Dauphine streets, and all those who want a neat card for New Year or any other occasion must call upon him. He is an elegant and neat writer, and his cards are worth an engraving.

CHRISTMAS.

How it was Celebrated Throughout the City.

How the day was passed by those who spent it best and most happily will never be known by the world at large. Its history is made up of home joys and family reunions that will be known only to those who participated in them, but by these they shall not be forgotten. It is a happy reflection, though, that the genial and kindly influences of the day were felt in every home in all the broad land, and that the yule burned as brightly in the cottage of the poor as in the palace of the lord. It is a comforting thought that there were so many happy hearts in the land that day—so many homes in which idyls were being realized far sweeter and tenderer and more beneficent than any that poet ever sang. We could not draw one ideal nor tell one "o'er true tale" that would not find many far happier counterparts in the memories of our readers. What lover could we tell of a lovelier maid than his own fair she he kissed beneath the mistletoe? What stalwart "John Perrybingle" would believe there was a "Dot" in all "*Newman's Lane*" more buxom, or a truer and tenderer wife than she who looked across her Christmas pudding at him at his own table? If there be any such, we are not writing for him, so we shall not squander our sentiment and fancy on trying to arouse a sensation beneath the ribs of such a monster.

And we are quite sure we shall not venture to tell any good wife of a finer turkey or a more gorgeous pudding than those she cooked and dressed herself, nor any small boy of a redder monkey than the one he licked the paint off of, or a more horrible horn than that he outraged his own neighborhood with. Such vain tastes and vaulting aspirations we shall not essay, but will confine ourselves to such themes as we have a right to speak of, and the accounts of which may find prosperity in the ears of our hearers.

It is hard to say exactly when Christmas began, in point of fact. All the day and night before the regularly accepted day the streets were thronged with processions of happy faces, and the bustle was, if possible, greater and more eager than on Christmas Day itself. Mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, lovers and sweethearts, brothers and sisters, were ransacking the city for pleasant surprises for the morrow. It would have puzzled Hermann himself to have hidden the bundles and packages that were surreptitiously smuggled into homes on that blessed eve. Oh! the mysteries of that night before Christmas!

Just before midnight the church bells began, all over the city, to ring in the blessed Nativity, and the throngs that had lingered about the stores turned their footsteps toward the various churches where the midnight masses were to be celebrated.

ST. THERESA'S CHURCH.

At this church a solemn high mass was celebrated at midnight, the Rev. Father Massardier officiating, assisted by the Rev. T. Golden, deacon, and the Rev. Father Moynihan, sub-deacon. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Father McImry, S. J. of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, the subject being "Lessons given in the stable of Bethlehem."

Mozart's Twelfth Mass was sung, under the direction of Prof. J. W. H. Eckert, Jr., by the following ladies and gentlemen: Misses A. Mercier, M. Gruneberg, A. Seawell, and Messrs. T. Cahubley, A. Mallard, J. Ross, Raymond G. Theard, G. Rareshide and T. A. Flanagan. The mass was splendidly sung, reflecting great credit upon the director and the choir. Of course, the church was crowded.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH.

The great old Gothic pile of Camp street was also filled to its utmost capacity at the midnight mass, which was magnificently sung under the direction of our friend, Mr. Dubos, of the *Propagateur Catholique*. We take special pleasure in mentioning the "Jesus de Nazareth" of Gounod, which was sung by Mme. Dubos with great effect and an artistic feeling that deserve for her the highest compliments. The "O Salutaris" of Hargett was sung by Mr. G. G. Roux, a young gentleman of this city, whose full, rich voice never manifested itself more powerfully than on this occasion. Mr. Roux is, besides, a correct singer, and possesses other musical qualities of a high order. We understand that both these selections will be sung again on Sunday next at St. Patrick's Church, together with other solos by Messrs. Jones and White of the choir, which is being handsomely recruited by Mr. Dubos.

NO MIDNIGHT MASS WAS CELEBRATED AT THE CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

As usual on every grand occasion the Jesuits' Church, on Baronne street, was inferior to none other in the city in point of decoration and in the reverent and brilliant way in which divine service was celebrated on the day of Christ's nativity. Prof. Collignon, so well known here as an accomplished musician, a first-class organist and musical director "par excellence," was the soul of the choir. Mozart's gaand mass was executed under his supervision, with the talent and correctness that distinguishes the choir of that church. We recognized among the singers the voices, that have so often charmed us, of Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Comes, Mr. Krebs and others, whose sweet tones gave additional grandeur to the imposing ceremonies of the day. It is a pity that Christmas comes only once a year so that we might hear oftener the music of the great masters so beautifully interpreted.

AT THE ST. LOUIS CATHEDRAL

there was no midnight mass sung, but the solemn high mass was celebrated in a manner worthy of the old cathedral. The choir, under the direction of Prof. Jules Cartier, sang Gounod's Grand Mass with talent, science and taste. Mr. Meteve's well known tenor voice and Mr. Van Huffien's fine base were well set off by the clear soprano of Miss Martin, and it would have made an atheist religious to hear the melodious strains sung so fervently by the talented chorists.

We do not like to even appear to make a comparison between operatic and sacred music, but we must say that when the grand and majestic voice of the organ speaks to the soul in the sacred ceremonies, and melodious voices add to the prayerful harmony, there are so many holy sentiments blended with the music, such a high standard of thought running all through the rhythm that inspires the compositor, that the soul, however worldly, cannot help giving way and following in the footsteps of the angels into the ethereal realms wherein the glories of the Almighty are sung by spirits clad in light and with voices replete with heavenly harmony.

IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCHES

services were held on Christmas morning, and in some the music was not less beautiful and impressive than the solemn masses at the Catholic churches the night before.

AT CHRIST CHURCH

the day was observed, as it always is, as one of rejoicing, and with grand and impressive ceremonies. The church was elaborately and tastefully decorated with festoons and appropriate mottoes. One beautiful design that was placed just opposite the choir was a golden harp, bearing the motto, "Shout the Glad Tidings." The beautiful and impressive service of the Church was held by the dearly beloved old pastor, Dr. Leacock, who also preached the sermon. The music was exquisite.

The recitation from Handel's oratorio, "The Messiah," was exquisitely rendered, as was the beautiful chorus, "Oh, Thou that tellest good tidings." The "Venite" and "Te Deum," compositions of Prof. Schaffter, were admirably sung, and were really grand compositions. Not less delightful were the renditions of the "Jubilate," an adaptation from Haydn, and the "Offertory," which was the glorious hallelujah chorus from "The Messiah."

AT TRINITY CHURCH.

This church was also artistically decorated. In the chancel hung the star of Bethlehem, and everywhere were garlands and festoons of evergreen. Dr. Thompson held the usual service and delivered a most eloquent sermon. The music was exceptionally grand, under the direction of Prof. Campiglio, who himself contributed a most admirable arrangement of Weber's Te Deum. The selections were Handel's oratorio of "Saul;" the "Venite," a quartette in C, by Mozart; a "Gloria" from Weber and one from Haydn; the "Benedictus," a quartette in B flat, by Bellini, and the "Offertory" from the "Mount of Olives," by Beethoven. Both in selection and execution the music at Trinity was truly magnificent.

ST. PAUL'S.

The decorations at this church struck us as among the most tasteful of any in the city. The chancel railing with its graceful festoons of ivy and holly, and the font imbedded in ferns and mosses, were exquisite indeed. The services were conducted by the rector, Rev. H. H. Waters, and the choir was under the direction of Mrs. E. A. Palfrey.

ST. JOHN'S.

The decorations at this little church were very tasteful and beautiful. Services were conducted by the rector, Rev. A. J. Tardy. The music was admirable, the choir gave evidence of culture, and we noticed one or two very excellent voices.

AT THE CITY HOTEL.

The popular gentlemen, Messrs. Mumford & Watson, the well known and hospitable proprietors of the City Hotel, outdid themselves on Christmas, in the shape of a rich and bounteous dinner given their guests, the *menu* of which is appetizing even to read. From spotted garoupa to wild turkey, antelope, and Kentucky opossum with sweet potatoes, in the old Virginia style, led the tempted *gourmet* on until the satisfied appetite could no longer be allured.

The good cheer was in keeping with the day, and those who were fortunate enough to have their legs under Messrs. Mumford & Watson's mahogany were fortunate, indeed.

THE ST. CHARLES.

The groaning tables of Messrs. Rivers & Lonsdale, at that celebrated hostelry, the San Carlos, attested on Christmas the hosts' forethought for their numerous guests.

Weeks ago notices were sent to Chicago to hold every variety of game that might come in at a time to be shipped to this city Christmas, and right royally were the orders carried out. Juicy saddles of buffalo and antelope, choice cuts from the Rocky Mountain goat, canvas back duck, pheasant, and a long category of other *bonnes bouches* bewildered the average gastronome. In an exquisitely gotton up carte of some fifteen pages there is given enough to serve a royal banquet, and to the connoisseur the recital of the entrees is enough to pronounce the caterer of the San Carlos a prince in his role.

THE ST. CHARLES SALOON.

Charley Lacoume, the presiding spirit of this well known place of resort, during the morning of Tuesday entertained his friends with an array of turkeys as plump as ever strutted. Foaming Krug and Roederer washed down the toothsome morsels and the proprietor's health was quaffed in many a beaker.

STATE-HOUSE BREVITIES.

A few more tax collectors have made their appearance at the Auditor's office during the past three days with their final settlements, each turning in a larger amount of taxes for the current year than was anticipated.

Clerk Trezevant, of the House, arrived in the city a day or two since, and yesterday began arranging his office for the coming session.

The State Board of Liquidation will hold a session to-day.

Quite a number of the Republican members of the General Assembly are arriving in the city.

The treasury investigating committee and the executive office investigating committee will meet to-day at noon.

The Treasurer's office is the centre of attraction now for the holders of 1877 warrants, from the fact that all are cashed on presentation.

The brand new decorations now being placed in the hall of the House of Representatives shows considerable taste on the part of Capt. Ed. Flood and "Corporal" Kelly.

The Superintendent of Public Education will, in his annual report, recommend that the law be so amended as to authorize the appointment of a Superintendent of Education in each parish, he believing that by such a course only can the system of public education be thoroughly carried out.

THE LATE EXPLOSION.

Testimony of the Texas Tender, Who Was Blown Through the Roof of the Lessie Taylor.

On Monday the board of local inspectors visited the Charity Hospital to ascertain if there were any of the injured crew of the Lessie Taylor there, and if so, to obtain their statements. One was found in the person of Chas. Lyons (colored), who was a texas tender, and who had a

LEG AND ARM BROKEN

at the time of the explosion. He testified that he was up in the captain's room, in the texas, when the explosion occurred, and that the explosion forced him through the roof of the texas, and when he fell it was down to the boilers in the debris. He knew nothing of the cause of the explosion whatever, and was so injured that he could not sign his name to the deposition.

The board met again yesterday, examining one witness, Mr. John Holmes, who testified in substance that he was the second engineer on the Onachita Belle at present. Last season he was the first engineer on the Lessie Taylor, at the time when she was inspected; the donkey boiler, he thought, was 34 inches in diameter and 8 feet long, and was made of iron 3-16 of an inch thick; had at the last inspection a pressure of 150 pounds to the square inch; the specimen shown, he thought, was pretty good; could not say that

IT HAD BEEN BURNED,

though it looked a little that way; his opinion was that the water was low in the donkey, and that was the cause of the explosion; the donkey boiler was as well equipped as regarded guages, valves, etc., as any of the kind made; did not remember whether it had, when made, a fusible plug or not; witness gave all the necessary orders relative to the donkey boiler and considered himself responsible for it.

WEATHER AND RIVERS.

More Rain in the North and West, and Rising Rivers.

Frigerio's reports of the temperature, made especially for the DEMOCRAT, places the lowest point of the temperature, on Tuesday night, at 49 degrees, and during yesterday the range was from 49 to 65.

The Signal Service telegrams on Tuesday reported rain at several points on the

OHIO AND MISSISSIPPI RIVERS,

but not enough to make any great change in the stage of water. Yesterday's dispatches, however, report more rain at Cairo, Cincinnati, Keokuk, Nashville, Pittsburg and St. Louis, and enough, with that which had fallen previously, to raise the water-level, even though the temperature was lower than on the day previous.

The river dispatches furnished by the Signal Service Bureau show a rise of 12 inches at Cairo, 7 at Cincinnati, 1 at Davenport, 2 at Keokuk, 1 at Lacrosse, 12 at Louisville, 9 at Memphis, 7 at Nashville, 2 at Omaha, and 11 at St. Louis.

The weather

BULLETIN FOR THE WEEK

ending the 22d inst., and issued by the Signal Bureau, shows the average rain fall for the seven days ending on the date named to have been about as follows: St. Lawrence valley 0.38 inch, New England 0.10, Middle Atlantic States 0.01, South Atlantic States 0.14, Eastern Gulf States 0.45, Western Gulf States 1.21, Lower Lake region 0.32, Upper Lake region 0.67, Ohio valley and Tennessee 0.30, Upper Mississippi Valley 0.46, Missouri Valley 0.53, Minnesota 0.25.

The reports dated at 10 o'clock last night show a light rain fall at Nashville and Augusta and a further decline in the temperature of from one to seven degrees at the principal points.

EFFECT OF THE LOG SEIZURES.

The recent log seizures in Mississippi have created much want in the several neighborhoods where they were made. From a reliable authority it is learned that most of the country stores from whence the lumbermen obtained their supplies have been compelled to close up, and there are now some 2500 men out of employment and lacking the means of subsistence. Dealers in this city also state that purchases for these districts have fallen off remarkably and few shipments are made.

A BLONDIN FALLS FROM HIS WIRE.

Yesterday afternoon during the wire-walking exhibition of Prof. De Houne, on Canal street, that artist met with a serious accident. Whilst on the wire a newsboy tripped up a negro holding one of the guy ropes, and by this the wire was suddenly jerked from beneath the performer, and he was precipitated some thirty feet to the ground. By some remarkable good fortune he was not seriously hurt, and announces that he will walk again to-day.

New American Sewing Machine, 185 Canal street.

AMUSEMENTS.

DANIEL DRUCE.

The toy business being over we may give our attention to the new play produced for the first time at the matinee on Christmas at the Varieties. "Daniel Druce," as we have already said, is a man of the people, whose wife forsakes him for another man of high station. Druce changes his name to save the reputation of his wife.

The shock has affected his mind, not sufficiently however, to prevent him from earning and hoarding money, which becomes his idol. In his methodical madness he wishes for a miracle, that his gold shall turn into flesh and blood, and his wish is realized in the development of a badly carpentered first act or prologue. In the second act we find him returned to reason, doting upon his adopted child Dorothy, now a maiden of eighteen, who loves a young sailor, the playmate of her childhood. This act introduces a love scene between Dorothy and the sailor, which is the gem of the drama, and is worthy of the reputation of the author of Pygmalion and Galatea, and partakes of the style of the last named play.

The thief of Daniel Druce's gold is Sir Jasper Combe, a fugitive from the Parliament soldiery, and who is also the seducer of Druce's wife, and has left the child under Druce's roof. They have both grown old and meet face to face; Druce recognizes Sir Jasper as the intruder into his humble home sixteen years ago, but he still ignores that he is the man who has injured him so terribly.

The plot becomes interesting and even intense, when Sir Jasper, who has grown virtuous, claims his child. The play ends very much like our modern dramas. In this instance, however, there is no woman to forgive, for she is dead. Dorothy obtains the pardon of the repentant Sir Jasper, and remains with the husband of her mother.

This drama, like Pygmalion, will not draw the masses, but its literary qualities will please the polite and cultivated. It has introduced to our public Miss Mary Davenport as Dorothy, Manager Hall as Daniel Druce, Mr. M. B. Snyder as Sir Jasper, Mr. G. D. Chalfin as George Wynyard, the young sailor, and Mr. R. J. Browne as Sergeant Reuben Haines. Miss Davenport, with her sweet and flexible voice and her *natural*, will please. "Daniel Druce" is the central figure of the play and a powerful character part.

In it Mr. Hall has confirmed the reputation with which he came here, that of being a correct and conservative actor. Only a little too moderate, in our opinion, in so far as the part of Daniel Druce is concerned, for there are situations in the play that require the manifestation of more violent passion than is evidenced by Mr. Hall. This gentleman, however, since the first performance of "Daniel Druce," has been suffering from a severe cold, which materially affects his vocal powers; but this deficiency, the result of extraneous causes, must eventually disappear, and we anticipate a successful run for "Daniel Druce," which is full of romance, pathos and feeling.

THE FRENCH DRAMA.

Mr. Durand's company of French dramatic artists arrived in this city yesterday, and, as previously announced, will appear to-night at the Opera House in the three-act comedy of "Nos Alliees," by Pol. Moreau, and "Lefin au Couvent," one of Th. Barriere's one-act comedies. The personnel of the company is as follows:

MM. Veniat, jeune 1er role.
Chamonin, grand 1er comique.
Martal, jeune 1er comique.
Henriot, jeune 1er amoureux.
Bonteloup, pere noble, 1er role.
Zehr, 3me role, 2me 1er role.
Deligne, deuxieme comique.
Nerville, grimes comique marques.
Karl, roles de convenance.
Armand, utilities.

Mmes. Heyman, 1er role.
Mathilde Leblanc, jeune premiere.
Charlotte Leblanc, soubrette.
Briot, utilites.
Suzanne Thal, mere noble 1er roles.
Borsay, duegne mere noble.
Ysaye, coquette.
Leona Maze, amoureuse.
Chamonin, 2me soubrette.

With the exception of Mr. Veniat, Mr. Chamonin, Mr. Deligne and Mmme. Chamonin, the company is entirely new to our public. Mlle. Heyman, the leading lady of the company, is, we understand, a native of New Orleans, who has lived in France since her youth, and where she learned her profession.

HAPPY CAL WAGNER

comes to the St. Charles on Sunday, bringing with him a company of nineteen minstrel performers, including Cal Wagner, Sam Price, Waters and Kelley, song and dance artists, Sarony, the burlesque prima donna, and the Queen City Quartette. All of our exchanges speak very favorably of Cal's new company. We have but one word to add, that is that Cal Wagner, with a commendable appreciation of the financial situation of the country, has come down to

POPULAR PRICES.

During his stay among us the admission to the dress circle and parquette will be 75 cents, to the family circle 50 cents, and to the gallery 25 cents. No extra charge for reserved seats.

At the Academy of Music "Humpty Dumpty" will be continued during the week.

CITY ECHOES.

For the larceny of a watch James Gallagher was lodged in the Third Station.

Ambrose Thornton, charged with picking pockets, was lodged in the Harbor Station.

During the twenty-four hours ending 5 p. m. Wednesday, 108 unfortunates were pulled by the peelers.

Jake Williams, charged by P. F. Schneider with the larceny of a furnace, was immured in the Fourth Station.

Reuben Davis, charged by Julius Foulon with the larceny of a pair of shoes, was lodged in the Central Station.

For the alleged larceny of a gold ring and a pair of sleeve buttons, John McGuire was run into the Harbor Station.

Capt. Cain, of the ship W. D. Wallet, fell overboard from his ship, Wednesday morning, but was rescued from drowning by his mate.

Arthur Bortlaux, charged with the murder of Alfred Reynaud, in Iberville parish on the 22d instant, was brought to this city and incarcerated in the Parish Prison.

By virtue of a warrant Police Officers P. Lester and J. W. Steele were locked up in the Central Station, charged with assaulting and striking and beating one Louisa Daley.

Corporal of Police Chas. Delmore was arrested by virtue of a warrant and locked up in the Central Station, charged with assaulting, striking and beating one Peter Connelly.

Thos. M. Grant, a salesman by occupation, was arrested by Corporal Delmore and lodged in the Central Station, charged by Junius Hart with obtaining money under false pretenses.

At about half-past 1 o'clock yesterday Mr. Mather, while standing on the wharf, head of Lafayette street, had one of his legs slightly injured by a hogshead of sugar rolling on him.

Officer Tom Curley, of the First Precinct, tells a terrible and thrilling story of how he discovered burglars trying to force an entrance into the grocery at the corner of Carondelet and Julia streets, and of his encounter with them in a blind alley. Of course the officer did not forget to say that he drew his trusty revolver and fired one shot at them. Of course that pistol had to be drawn and fired off, or folks would not believe the story.

POLICE BOARD.

The Police Board met last night at their rooms at the Central Station.

Supernumerary J. Foley, for not reporting for duty for twelve consecutive days, was dismissed the force.

Patrolman Wm. Fried allowed egg nogg to get the better of him, and entered one of the Claiborne street cars, disturbed the peace and insulted the driver, for all of which he was dismissed the force.

Patrolman J. J. Fitzgerald, for not being on his beat, was admonished.

Patrolman Wm. Myhan gave up three days of his pay for sitting down and sleeping on his beat.

Supernumerary J. Mason, for sitting down on his beat, was admonished.

Patrolman R. Bridges came up before the board on his seventh offense, and the board fixed it so that he won't come up again. He is now looking for employment.

Saved by Cashen.

A little girl, residing with her parents, in one of the Thirteen buildings, on Julia street, while playing around a Christmas tree, allowed her dress accidently to catch fire. The little thing, becoming frightened, ran down stairs into the street, where she was discovered by Mr. Max Cashen, a member of the Salvage Corps, who, with considerable presence of mind, extinguished the flames. In doing so he was severely burned about the hands and arms. The child, owing to Mr. Cashen's prompt action in the premises, escaped uninjured.

Stabbed in the Back.

At 9 o'clock Monday night Frank Guiardo, the proprietor of an oyster saloon situated on Tchoupitoulas street, between St. James and Celeste, was slightly stabbed by one of four ruffians who entered his saloon and partook of refreshments and declined to pay for same.

The Last of Mrs. Midere.

At an early hour Monday morning Mrs. G. M. Y. Midere, the lady from the Lafourche country, succomed to the poison she took at the Strangers' Hotel on the 15th inst. The coroner held an inquest and returned a verdict in accordance with the facts.

A Triple Tragedy.

[West Baton Rouge Sugar Planter.]

On Tuesday last the good people of Musson Station, Grosse Tete, were thrown into considerable consternation at the commission of a murder which has few parallels in history. It appears that there had long been a feud between two blacksmiths, residents of that place, which came to a conclusion on the day mentioned—Arthur Bolteu and one Renouard being the parties involved. The quarrel had been one of long standing, but it was supposed by their friends that the difficulty had been healed, since they appeared to meet on friendly terms.

After taking a drink at Babin's store, the ill feeling appeared, when Bolteu drew a revolver and fired at his adversary four times, wounding him. He then took an iron bar and beat Renouard until he crushed his skull to a jelly, and then took to flight. A posse was immediately summoned, but Bolteu retreated to his house and defied his pursuers. On being ordered to surrender, he rushed from the house, a pistol in each hand, and commenced indiscriminate firing, one of his shots taking effect in the groin of Mr. Walter Slack, wounding him so badly that he died next day, and another shot wounding Mr. Gale Sparks in about the same place, with the probabilities strong that he will not recover. Bolteu then again took to flight but was overtaken, captured and lodged in the jail in Plaquemine. Charges of *crim. con.* by Renouard with the wife of Bolteu appear to be at the bottom of it, and whether true or untrue, he now stands before the law charged with two of the highest crimes known to our laws, and probably three. Mr. Sparks was still living at the time of our going to press.

Whooping-Cough.

[Cincinnati Enquirer.]

Dr. Ischamer, of Graz, has made the discovery that the little black specks which are often found on the skins of oranges and apples are clusters of fungi, precisely similar to those to which whooping-cough is attributed. You know it is the opinion of many of the wisest physicians that every illness which afflicts mortality comes from the introduction, by an unfortunate accident, of some ravaging insect, which propagates and festers in the human frame upon which it has fastened its tiny but murderous fangs. To discover what this insect is and to destroy it, these theorists consider to be the whole science of medicine. Dr. Ischamer was not ashamed to make a personal test of his ideas with respect to the fungi on the rind of fruit. He scraped some of the black specks off an orange and introduced them into his lungs by a strong respiration. The next day he had a violent tickling in the throat, and before the end of the week his little experiment had developed into an acute attack of whooping-cough.

The Wife of Victor Emmanuel.

[Chicago Times.]

The reported death of the Countess Mirafiore, wife of King Victor Emmanuel, lacks confirmation. She has been called the morganatic wife of the King, but this relationship has been denied. What intercourse existed between the parties before marriage may be inferred from the fact that in 1869 the King found himself sick nigh unto death. Desirous of legitimizing the children begotten by the countess the King sent to the Pope, praying pardon, promising amendment if his life was spared, and requesting that a father of the church might be sent him to perform the ceremony of marriage between him and the countess. The request was complied with and the ceremony was duly performed. The government, however, refused to recognize the marriage, and the Princes Humbert and Amadeus, issue of the first marriage, declined to acknowledge it. The countess is nearly sixty years of age, and not now attractive, if she ever were.

The Fate of a Box of Money.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The United States Treasurer hast received from a person in Vicksburg, Miss., an old tin box which had been buried in the ground for a number of years by the owner, and lately exhumed by him, containing $20,000 in the first issue of government greenbacks and national bank notes. The money had become so rusted by contact with the box and affected by mildew as to be in great danger of dropping in pieces. It was consequently forwarded to the United States Treasurer for redemption. The exchange for good money has been made.

By postal card received on Thursday, we are informed that the committee, consisting of Gen. J. Floyd King and Messrs. F. S. Shields and H. C. Miller, of Concordia parish, appointed at a meeting of the cotton growers and planters of that parish on the 3d of October last, "to correspond with cotton growers in the parishes and counties of the Valley of the Mississippi, with a view to taking some steps toward protecting ourselves against the wrong inflicted upon us by all those concerned in the marketing of our