MUNICIPAL MATTERS.

A STEAM LAUNCH.

Mr. Diamond, the Administrator of Police, will shortly advertise for sealed proposals to furnish a steam launch for the use of the harbor police. A launch is very much needed along the river front to protect the owners of freight on shipboard or on the levee from the pilfering gentry who infest that locality.

A SUBSTITUTE.

Mr. T. D. Miller having declined the appointment of the Mayor as a delegate to the Immigration Society, his honor yesterday filled the vacancy by appointing Mr. John Dymond, one of our most intelligent and most enterprising fellow citizens.

THE COST OF THE ELECTION.

The senatorial election in the Tenth and Eleventh Wards is said to have cost about $1200. At the same rate it is computed that a general election will cost about $8'00.

THE DOCTRINE OF HELL.

Opinions of Some of Our Eminent Divines on the Subject.

The sensation produced by Beecher's sermon, in which he virtually denied the inspiration of the Scriptures, the doctrine of the Trinity, and the belief in a literal hell, has reached this city, as well as others throughout the country. Beecher's sermon itself has not made a very profound impression, because, as it appears, he enjoys but poor repute as a theologian, and his views are but little respected by doctrinarians. But the individual views held by the number of clergymen of various denominations, as reported in the New York *Herald*, have produced a decided sensation. It is a matter of surprise to many that from among so many divines there should be but one who referred the matter entirely to the accepted theology of his denomination. The interest manifested in the matter has induced us to call upon several of the more eminent of the clergy of the various denominations of this city for an expression of their views upon the disputed doctrine, the result of which we give below. It will be seen that our clergy, as a rule, stick to the orthodox teachings of their various denominations.

Our first visit was paid to

HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP PERCHE.

We found the reverend prelate in his rooms at the archbishopric, at the corner of Chartres and St. Ann streets, and were received by him with his usual courtly affability of manner, which combines the prince in the church, the christian before his fellow men and the gentlemen of the world.

Without many preliminaries we stated to his grace that the object of our visit was purely journalistic, and asked whether he had any objection to giving his ideas on the delicate question of eternal punishment by fire which is now agitating the intelligent and religious world. Finding no objection to this we inquired whether he had read the various articles that have been lately published in the Northern, Western and European papers, all of which, the expressions of thought of eminent divines and theologians, concurred in a denial of eternal punishment by material fire, some of them going even so far as

TO DO AWAY ENTIRELY WITH HELL.

"To tell you the truth," answered his grace, "though these publications have come to my notice, I have paid very little attention and attached small importance to them. You see, these are only expressions of opinions from men. The Protestant sects, with their liberty of conscience and of interpretation, have done away with faith, and their sayings have simply the weight of individual opinions. Opinions, as you well know, vary according to different natures, tendencies, characters and idiosyncracies. A man may honestly change his opinions, but faith is one, unchangeable and eternal. The Catholic Church is not governed by opinions, it is governed by faith. I can, therefore, only tell you about the subject on hand, that I believe all that the Catholic Church teaches, and that its teachings agree not only with Holy Scripture but with the doctrines of true philosophy. No sincere Catholic doubts that there is a material as well as an immaterial punishment in hell.

The human being is made up of material and immaterial parts, the body and the soul; both live and sin together. Death is but the separation of the two. It is, therefore, logical that both should be punished in the hereafter, and this inevitably brings us to the conclusion of the necessity of material punishment. God, it is true, may so ordain in His infinite wisdom that, until the end of the world and the day of resurrection the soul will be made to suffer alone, but it will experience material suffering. It may appear paradoxical to say that an immaterial body should suffer materially; but, after all, is it not during life the soul that receives impressions, that perceives them; does it not experience joy from a caress, or shame or anger from a blow?

Upon the question of the belief in a real fire in hell, his grace stated that there was not a doubt, unless we deny the words of our Lord Jesus Christ himself. The Saviour spoke of an "eternal fire," and it would be a wilful and unauthorized misconstruction of his words not to interpret them, as he evidently meant them, literally. What that fire is there is no basis upon which to fix a theory, but that it is a material fire

THERE IS NO DOUBT.

We would have liked to stay longer and enjoy the interesting conversation of the Archbishop, but many people were calling upon him and we had to withdraw.

REV. B. M. PALMER.

Dr. B. M. Palmer was at tea when called upon, and had but a few moments to spare, having other engagements for the evening. He had heard of the clamor produced by Beecher's sermon, and was very much astonished at the sensation that had been created by it, and, indeed, that any general importance should be attached to his utterances. As a theologian he was of very bad repute, and his opinions were of no weight whatever. Dr. Palmer's attention was then called to the interview with Dr. Arthur Crosby, of the New York Presbyterian Church, as reported in the *Herald*, in which he avowed a belief in a place and condition of punishment for incorrigible sinners in a future life, but could not conceive of eternal punishment, except on the basis of eternal sinning. Said Dr. Crosby, "If a soul does not sin eternally, it should not, and would not, be punished eternally. There are opportunities for sinning and repenting in the future life as there are in this. Otherwise he could not see the necessity for continuous or eternal punishment."

Commenting upon this, Dr. Palmer said that Dr. Crosby had always been known to entertain very singular views. There was much that was subject to criticism in his "Life of Christ." Indeed, this very laxity, a great deal of which prevailed in the Presbyterian Church North, was the sole cause of the failure to re-unite the Northern and Southern Churches. Such doctrine would not be tolerated among Southern Presbyterians.

But, continued he, this denial of future eternal punishment is no new heresy. With reference to the statement of Dr. Farrar, canon of Westminster, that the words "damnation," "hell," and "everlasting," were mistranslations, and with these words erased from the English Bible there would be no basis for the popular teachings about hell, Dr. Palmer said, producing his Greek Testament and turning to Matthew, xxv. chapter, 46th verse, that he could not agree with the Canon. If the Greek word there used did not signify everlasting, eternal, there was no word to express that idea in the language. Reading the above verse, which is as follows: "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal," the reverend doctor said this verse, following after the two parables of the ten virgins and the talents, and the splendid description of the last judgment, can have but one meaning. Those who deny everlasting punishment must also necessarily deny the life eternal, brought, as they are here, in juxtaposition. The conclusion is inevitable, and it is absolute annihilation. He, himself, was a pure Calvinist, and held to the creed of the fathers.

REV. LINUS PARKER,

of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, was next called upon. Mr. Parker, who is a man of fine figure and handsome, open face, was seated at his editorial desk in the rooms of the New Orleans *Christian Advocate*. He greeted the representative of the DEMOCRAT kindly and invited him to a seat.

Rep.—Mr. Parker, I've called upon you to talk about hell. You doubtless have read of the recent sermons on the subject by Canon Farrar, at Westminster, London, and Beecher, in New York, and the object of my visit is to learn your opinions on the subject.

Mr. Parker—Yes, I have seen something of the sermons you refer to, but I do not accredit to them the importance that seems to be given them by the press. In the Methodist Episcopal Church South there have been some differences of opinion relative to the continued duration and as to the physical character of the punishment for sin. According to the tenets of faith, on the resurrection day the body reunites with the soul, and both will suffer for deeds committed in the flesh. It is true that there has been much moderation in the views hitherto held. Mr. Wesley had the idea that at the resurrection the body and soul would be invested with flames and suffer bodily pangs. Now, there is a difference as to the duration of this punishment. The Methodist Church holds to eternal damnation still; I believe that emphasis is laid on the mental punishment, and not the physical.

Rep.—If this idea of the non-existence of a hell spreads, do you not think that it will be the cause of schism in the church?

Mr. P.—No, not that I know of. I have never heard of any differences of opinion in our church regarding this subject. It is true there were three candidates for the ministry refused admission by the British Conference last summer for not believing in the doctrine of eternal punishment, but beyond these I do not know of a case. They are the only examples I know of of any departure in belief.

The Universalists now believe in the restoration doctrine, I think. In my thought and study on this subject, and I have given much time to it, I have been forced to the conviction from the scriptural and philosophical coincidence that the punishment was eternal. I do not believe, however, that the heathen, as was formerly believed, are condemned to eternal punishment because of their not having become members of the faith. I think that if they acted up to their faith the divine mercy of God would not permit them to be condemned.

REV. HUGH MILLER THOMPSON

was then called upon at his residence, on Chestnut street. When ushered into the capacious dining-room of the rector of Trinity Church, that gentleman was absent at the Sunday school celebration of his flock. After a short delay he arrived, however, and somewhat flushed with his labors he came into the rooms extending a welcome hand to the reporter. When questioned about the subject of Canon Farrar's discourse and Beecher's *pronunciamento*, he said:

"I can only say this, that I had only heard of these by reading some excerpts from them. The English papers I read do not credit Canon Farrar with as strong enunciation of these views as I see credited to him. If I mistake not, the Canon came out in a card after the publication of the report of his sermon, in which he explained that he had not gone as far as the press alleged he had.

"The Canon in his card stated that he gave the true translations from the Greek of "everlasting, hell and damnation." In this I perfectly agree with him, as every scholar must. The "gnashing of teeth," etc., referred to in the Bible, of course could not refer to a physical gnashing of teeth, for there can be no teeth in a spiritual life."

Rep.—Then you do not differ with Canon Farrar's position?

Mr. Thompson—He, as is shown by his card, has not stepped beyond the boundaries of our creed. He has excepted to the translation of certain words, but nothing beyond this. I am of the opinion that future punishment, like that on earth, should not follow natural laws. It has come under my personal experience that men would forget friends, family and everything else and sink themselves. The consequence is that they suffer correspondingly. They suffer and the suffering in the other world, spiritual, will be co-ordinate with that in this. It may be that in the revolution of time there may be a restoration, and that those who have suffered will be relieved from their former position. A revolution that happens in all of nature's works may come about and after a term of punishment the sinner may be relieved. There is room for some discussion on this subject however.

REV. DR. KRAMER

was called upon next and requested to give his views regarding the subject of a material hell. The reverend gentleman said that the word hell was used in the Bible in a figurative sense, so far as he believed. That whether those who were deprived of the presence of God, for the sins committed by them in this life, were to be burned in a lake of fire he was not prepared to say; that was something he knew nothing about. That he always looked upon the word hell as a word to impress the living how terrible it was to be deprived of the presence of God.

IMPORTANT TO TAXPAYERS.

Major Burke, State tax collector First District, has, in conformity with instructions, filed with the Assistant Attorney General the tax suits against delinquents for the years 1873, 1874 and 1875 whose names commence with the letters L, M, N, O, amounting to $35,000, and the letters from P to Z, inclusive, amounting to $75,000. A force of clerks are engaged in preparing the balance of the lists, and the whole amount due in the First District alone will amount to over $300,000.

Major Burke has given repeated notice to delinquents for these years in order to afford them opportunity to avoid court costs and expenses, and the Auditor and Attorney General have exhibited a disposition to do all in their power for the relief of the people by deciding that these taxes can be paid now with only 8 per cent interest from November 1, instead of the 25 per cent penalty formerly collected. Under these circumstances we again call the attention of those interested to this important subject, in order that they may not, through ignorance, incur the expenses of litigation. All who can will do well to pay before these suits are filed in court.

WEATHER AND RIVERS.

The Polar Wave Prevails at the North—The Gulf Storm Subsiding.

Frigerio puts down the lowest point in the temperature on Sunday night at 38 degrees above zero, and during yesterday the variations were from 40 to 48 degrees above.

The Signal Service telegrams, dated at 6 o'clock yesterday morning, show up to that hour a decline in the temperature at all stations—North and South—and enough of a decline to indicate a small-sized polar wave,

AS A NEW YEAR'S PRESENT

for the North and West.

The same dispatches reported the velocity of the wind at Galveston at 28 miles per hour, but at the other Gulf ports, except Key West, the storm had subsided.

The 3 45 p. m, telegrams indicate da very slight rise in the temperature at some of the points south of the Ohio river, but north of that stream the New Year's present set in with a vim, as will be seen by the summary appended:

Cairo 40, Cincinnati 39, Davenport 38, Dubuque 38, Galveston 43, Indianola 46, Keokuk 39, Lacrosse 35, Leavenworth 40, Louisville 40, Memphis 47, Nashville 42, Omaha 37, Pittsburg 30, Shreveport 44, St. Louis 42, St. Paul 33, Vicksburg 50, Yankton 27, Augusta (Ga.) 53, Corsicana 37, Key West 68, Mobile 48, Montgomery 49 and Savannah 53 degrees above zero.

The river dispatches show a fur her rise of 14 inches at Cairo, 21 at Cincinnati, 3 at Davenport, 3 at Dubuque, 1 at Keokuk, 10 at Louisville, 17 at Memphis, 20 at Nashville, 4 at St. Louis, 1 at St. Paul and 14 at Vicksburg.

THE NEW ORLEANS NATIONAL BANK.—We take pleasure in directing the attention of our readers to the official statement of the above named bank. This exhibit is a most favorable one and reflects great credit upon the officers, on account of their able and conservative administration of the affairs of the institution.

New American Sewing Machine, 185 Canal street.

POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—We call attention to the advertisement published in our columns announcing the opening of the Polytechnic Institution in the Story Building.

The reputation already acquired by the gentlemen forming the corps of instructors would assure the success of the institution, even if it did not fill a want long felt in New Orleans. Schools we have in plenty, but none giving such technical education as shall fit young men for the arts and trade. It is to be hoped our citizens will not fail to extend their support to the new institution.

New American Sewing Machine, 185 Canal street.

THE MINT.

BUT FEW REPAIRS NECESSARY TO PUT IT IN COMPLETE ORDER.

If the Silver Bill Is Passed Will Congress Re-establish the Coinage of Money Here.

The silver bill now before Congress having been referred to in the DEMOCRAT'S Associated Press report yesterday morning, and that report having stated that should the bill pass it would result in the

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MINT

in this city, a representative of the DEMOCRAT yesterday paid a visit to the Mint to learn, as far as possible, what repairs would be necessary to start the Mint and the amount of money it would require to defray its expenses for a year.

Mr. Bonzano, the superintendent of the institution, was found, and in response to various inquiries propounded, stated that the expense for repairs would amount

TO SCARCELY ANYTHING;

for, said he, our machinery is all in good order, the stamps and dies especially, and the only overhauling needed would be the large engine, that not having turned a wheel since work was stopped in 1861.

Inviting the DEMOCRAT representative to the stamp room, Mr. Bonzano, with some feeling of pride, called attention to four stamps or dies, massive, and yet handsome pieces of mechanism, each of which shone as brightly as though they had just been cleaned, and in the same room is located an engine of sufficient power to drive all of the stamps at the same time; that, too, shining like a dollar.

These dies, Mr. Bonzano said, were of sufficient capacity to turn out all the silver the country needed; and as for gold, they could work out a

MILLION DOLLARS A DAY

if it was needed. In connection with the Mint, he said the assay room formed an important portion of the institution, so important, indeed, for this section that it was found necessary to keep that going even while the Mint was closed, and this for the reasons that silver in large quantities came here from Mexico to be assayed before shipment to the North and East or to foreign countries, this being the only place accessible south of Philadelphia.

With the Mint re-established upon an appropriation of $50,000 for the year, Mr. Bonzano stated that it would give employment to sixty or seventy men, and that it would not only be a benefit commercially to the city, but that it would benefit the entire country. The importation of

SILVER FROM MEXICO,

he said, would be largely increased, and as the Philadelphia Mint did not coin the smaller pieces to any great extent, this Mint would or could do all of that work, and let the Philadelphia Mint stick to the gold coinage. The machinery, he said, in the Mint here was as good as that of any in the country, and with a very few improvements added it would be the best.

One month was all that he desired to make necessary repairs in, and should Congress make the appropriation he could begin work in short order.

PACKARD'S COLLECTORSHIP CHANCES

And the Prospects of His Being Sergeant-at-Arms of the United States Senate.

The DEMOCRAT'S dispatches having on yesterday morning mentioned that Packard would be either the Collector of the Port or the Sergeant-at-Arms of the United States Senate, a representative of this paper called upon Mr. Packard yesterday at his residence to learn what he had to say about his chances for either position. To the inquiry as to whether or not he was satisfied that the President

WOULD SEND HIS NAME IN

as Collector of the Port, Mr. Packard stated that he was "not so sure of that," although from the tenor of his replies to the questions put, it is almost certain that he has information from some source that such will be the President's course.

The Senate Sergeant-at-Arms matter, he said, he knew nothing of whatever; that it had been mentioned only since he left Washington. He would not state whether he would accept that position or not, but some of his friends, who claim to know, say that he will not. They say further that if nominated as Collector, Packard

WILL BE CONFIRMED

without the slightest difficulty. It is urged by some of his intimate friends and admirers that he is the only Republican in the State who could hold together the fragments of the Republican party in the State, and that with any but a straight-out Republican like Packard at the head of the only Federal patronage-giving institution in the State, the party at the next election would be in a worse plight than it is now, or has been since the 24th of April last.

That phase of the case, they say, has been presented to the President in a clear way by leading Republican members of Congress, and will doubtless secure his nomination.

CAPITOL NOTES.

Senator J. W. Sandiford is in the city.

All State offices will be closed to-day.

The Auditor has his report about completed.

The new desks were placed in the hall of the House yesterday.

The Senate chamber is beginning to wear a business like air again.

No quorum for the State Board of Education yesterday and no meeting.

Mr. Samuel Flowers has been appointed private secretary to Gov. Nicholls.

United States Senator Eustis called upon and paid his respects to the Governor yesterday.

Dr. Choppin, President of the Board of Health, has so far recovered that he is able to attend to his official duties once more, and yesterday called upon the Governor.

The treasury was fairly besieged yesterday. That $60,000 surplus general fund for 1877 rather took the outsiders by surprise, and those that had "77" warrants marched up and got their cash.

The Governor is anxiously awaiting the annual reports to be made by the boards of directors of the Insane, Deaf and Dumb and Blind Asylums, and several other State institutions, which should go to the Legislature with the Governor's message.

Appointments of Parish School Directors—Avoyelles, Julian Goudean, vice J. L. Generes, resigned; Felician Goudean, (c.) vice Julian Smith, resigned. Caldwell, Dr. John E. Wright, vice Rev. J. S. Davis, resigned. Grant, Dr. Wm. G. Beal, vice A. L. Grow, resigned. West Carroll, Thos. H. Foote, vice E. F. Newman, resigned. St. Tammany, Wm. Brenan, vice A. J. Moreau, resigned. Claiborne, T. J. Ledbetter, vice J. W. Nicholson, resigned.

Lafourche, Wm. Hunter, Sr., justice of the peace. Iberia, Henry Gason, parish surveyor.

The president of the Board of Health will, in his forthcoming report, recommend an increase of the sanitary police force from eight to fifteen. The necessity of this will be clearly shown, and will give to the board a complete census, year by year, of the entire city. The benefits of the system may be better known when it is stated that had it not been for the system a registration for the Fourth Senatorial District election, held last week, would have been delayed, and perhaps prevented.

THE EXPLOSION INVESTIGATION.

That Boiler Was Defective—How Boilers Can Be Exploded.

The investigation of the causes which led to the explosion of the Lessie Taylor's "donkey" was resumed yesterday before the Board of Local Inspectors.

Mr. N. Tilton was called, and made the following statement:

I am superintending engineer of the Morgan Line. Have examined that portion of the iron of the donkey boiler of the Lessie Taylor here presented, and I am of the opinion that the iron was not burned, but its strength may have been impaired by being overheated, and consider it badly worn. From the appearance of the iron, think it might have stood a pressure of 100 pounds of steam. When possible, I am always present on board of the Morgan steamers when any of them are under inspection. I consider Mr. Moffett to be as careful an inspector as I ever knew. When inspecting any of the Morgan steamers he was always careful and particular. The donkey boiler is at all times under the charge of the chief engineer, whether the main boilers are under inspection or not. The custom in the Morgan Line is to inspect the main boiler first, and the donkey boiler after, the pressure on which is obtained by the hand-pump.

The next witness examined was Mr. W. J. Perkins, who made the following statement:

I am chief engineer of the steamboat R. E. Lee. Have been an engineer for the last thirty-four years. Upon an examination of a piece of iron from the exploded donkey boiler of the Lessie Taylor, should judge that it had been overheated since it was new. I should not, by any means, consider it a good piece of iron, or a good boiler. Do not think that eighty pounds of steam pressure would explode it. It looks to be impossible for an accident of the kind to occur without scalding any one, while there was plenty of water in the boiler.

In my experience, when getting ready for inspection, the valve leading from the main boilers to the donkey boiler would sometimes be found in a leaking condition, and injecting cold water into the donkey boiler, which would oblige me to close that valve permanently—by plug or otherwise. This valve is one of the nest of valves on the steam drum of the main boilers. Should consider it possible for this valve to leak sufficient cold water from the main boilers while under a greater pressure than the donkey boiler to do serious damage to the donkey boiler if overheated. I have known Mr. Moffett for the last thirty-five years, and have always found him to be an upright and careful man. Mr. Moffett has always been more particular when inspecting boilers under my charge than any inspector I ever knew. I consider the donkey boiler at all times under my charge, and at no time would consider the inspector responsible if any accident should happen; and in my thirty-five years' experience never heard or thought of an inspector taking charge of the donkey boiler.

MORE COUNTERFEITS AFLOAT.

Their Appearance as Given by the Secret Service Bureau.

UNITED STATES TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Secret Service Division,
Washington, December 27, 1877.

Mr. ——, United States Secret Service Agent, New Orleans:

Sir—A new counterfeit $5 note on the First National Bank of Hanover, Pa., has made its appearance. The paper is very thin and color dark. Date February 20, 1864, and bearing signatures of F. E. Spinner and L. E. Chittenden.

About September 20, 1877, a well executed counterfeit $5 note on the First National Bank of Tamaqua, Pa., made its appearance. Upon the face of this note the letter S in the word "dollars" has a blurred look, as though done in printing. On the back the word "owing" is spelled "ownig," and the word "thousand" is spelled "thousud." The counterfeit $5 note on the First National Bank of Hanover, Pa., is printed from the same plate as the Tamaqua, and bears the same characteristics, with the exception that the word "owing" has been corrected, but two dots can be discovered over the word.

It would be well to advise newspapers in your vicinity to give publicity to these facts, and to suggest to the public that all notes on these banks of the denomination of $5 be refused.

Respectfully,
JAS. J. BROOKS, Chief.

JOHN MAHONEY TO THE FRONT.

Col. W. H. Dennis, of the United States Coast Survey, together with several other officers of the army, have inspected the twenty-six-foot gig built by our friend John Mahoney, in Algiers, for the use of the service. We understand that the officers praised very highly the model and workmanship of the boat; Col. Dennis saying, by the way, that the work could not have been done better, and that the price asked for the boat was less than the estimates that had been made by several boat builders at the North.

This is not the first time that John Mahoney has proven that work of his trade can be done here as well and cheaper than elsewhere. Who will order the next boat?

PERSONAL.

We had the pleasure last evening of greeting in our sanctum Hon. J. W. Sandiford, Senator from Red River. The Senator looks hale and hearty and full of vigor for the coming session. No Senator did more during our troublous times towards the successful outcome of the Nicholls administration than this gentleman. We wish him a pleasant sojourn with us.

Capt. Moffett, the local inspector, injured by the explosion of the Lessie Taylor, is, we are glad to see, able to attend to his official duties again, having recovered from his injuries.

BREVITIES.

The customs offices and the Federal offices will be closed to-day.

Kellogg is in the city, and was gallivanting about the Custom-House yesterday.

George Itman, of the fashionable Jewel Saloon, appeared to us in spirit form last evening, and we drank his health with the hope that his shadow might never grow less.

That prince of caterers and genial gentleman, mine host Turner, of the Grand Pacific Hotel of Chicago, arrived here for a holiday trip. We trust he will have an enjoyable stay with us.

The fireworks last night were "toora-looral," in the opinion of the "boys" what sat up to "zethoiearout uno," and they enjoyed it hugely from the way some of them invested in "pops."

During the arduous labors of the night our toil was made lighter by a bountiful bowl of egg-nogg from the courteous V. C. Porch, of the Friendship Exchange, accompanied by a neat card.

What may be properly styled a "congenial occupation" is that of the little colored boys who carry advertising placards, and whose business it is to "catch behind" street cars and display their signs.

A splendid sample of the toothsome fish so liberally dispensed by our friends Bartholomew, Fallon & Co., of the French Market, was received by us last evening. This well known firm, established in 1847, has always retained its prestige, and for turtle and the savory products of our gulf none cater more delicately to the palate than the above firm.

OFFICE OF SOULE'S COMMERCIAL COLLEGE and Literary Institute,
New Orleans, December 28, 1877.

J. E. Pernet, Esq., Agent Excelsior School Furniture Manufacturing Company:

Dear Sir—You request my candid opinion touching the merits of your "Common Sense Bent Wood Desk," and also of the special desk, made to order for the literary department of my institution, and known as the Soule College Desk. Agreeably to this request, I most cheerfully say that in point of neatness, durability and convenience for the student, the "Common Sense Desk" is superior to any yet made for the price charged.

The Soule College Desk, with its curved back, curved folding seat, closed book and hat box, folding lid and locks with keys all unlike, is one of the *strongest, handsomest, most convenient* and *in all respects* the *most desirable* for *high schools and colleges* ever offered to the public.

Very truly, GEO. SOULE.

In connection with the Paris Exposition of 1878, there will be a range for rifle practice by such French or foreign competitors as may wish to contest.

New American Sewing Machine, 185 Canal street.

THE STATE NATIONAL BANK.—In this morning's paper will be found the semi-annual statement of this staunch institution. The capacity, strength and stability of the State National are well assured. The officers are prudent and capable men, and administer the affairs of the bank in the most successful and satisfactory manner.

The fresh ground flour from the New Orleans mills has been thoroughly tested and pronounced to be superior to any sold in this market.

The dollars of our fathers won't compare with the quarters of Gen. Grant in Paris.—[Boston Commercial Bulletin.

The President says that he likes Shakespeare, and the Senate is getting ready to reject William if Hayes nominates him for anything.

AMUSEMENTS.

THE GRAND TOY FESTIVAL.

At the Varieties to-day, at noon, it should be remembered, Manager Hall will present, for the first time in this city, the grand spectacular play of "The Wild Rose of Mexico," for the production of which the manager has gone to considerable expense in order to make it worthy of his patrons.

Apart from the attraction which a new play must carry with it, there will be cart loads of handsome toys distributed among the visitors to this theatre, every one of whom will receive one present at least. But the great sensation will be the drawing for the miniature goat team, "Dunder" and "Blitzen," and the handsome hunting carriage.

Every visitor will receive a ticket, one-half of which goes into the ticket box at the entrance door; and the first ticket drawn out of the box, after the performance is over, wins the team, which constitutes one of the prettiest and costliest New Year presents that could be wished for.

AT THE ST. CHARLES

last evening there was another large audience. Happy Cal Wagner's polite show attracted a large number of our most refined people, and will continue to do so, owing to the absence of vulgarity in their performances. The members of the company, having had time to rest from the fatigues of a long journey, played, sang and danced with more spirit than on the first night. The quartette, particularly, evinced their excellent qualities, and were encored on several occasions. Cal Wagner's plantation airs and negro delineations are refreshing, and smack of the genuine article, which almost died away with Matt. Peel, Cotton and Mercourt. Cal told his railroad story last night, to the great delight of his auditors, and will repeat it at the matinee and at the evening performance to-day.

Manager Strong will, at the matinee, superintend the distribution of New Year presents to the thousands of young folks who will attend the performance. Any quantity of toys will also be given away at the matinee to-morrow.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

There will be a toy matinee at this theatre also. "Struck Oil" will be the play.

OPERA HOUSE.

Mr. Durand's company of French actors—we like to use the word, for they are actors, not mere readers of lines—will play at the matinee and at night to-day. Labiche and Martin's comedy of "La Poudre aux Yeux" and the one act comedy of "La Veuve au Camelia" will be the fare at the noon performance, whilst at night the great Parisian success, "Le Proces Veauradieux" and the one act comedy of "l'Homme n'est pas Parfait" will entertain, we sincerely hope, a crowded house, for the company of Mr. Durand deserves the patronage of our French speaking population.

CITY ECHOES.

C. Augustine was run into the Fifth Precinct for assault and battery on Victorine Jacobs.

S. Levy, for assault and battery, was sent before the First District Court under bonds of $250.

Frank Durfee, for the same offense, was sent before the same court, and his bonds were fixed at $250.

At quarter to 4 o'clock last evening, a man named Baker was thrown from his buggy on the levee, near Thalia street, and slightly injured.

Last night, about 9 o'clock, a bell-porter named George Amedeo, sneaked out of the store of S. J. Lion & Co., 112 Baronne street, and walked off with a pair of five-dollar boots. The alarm was given, when Sergeant Ryan and Special Officer Tracy chased the thief, and locked him up at the Central Station.

Roy is Going Back.

Detective Frey, of Baltimore, arrived here yesterday, and will leave this evening, taking with him William Roy, alias Curtis, who is wanted in that city for the crime of rape.

Boisdone Surrendered.

John Boisdore, whom, it is alleged, shot and killed Tom Roberts on May 27, 1876, at the wigwam on Greatmen street, between Elmira and Desire streets, and who has been a fugitive from justice since that time, surrendered himself yesterday a prisoner in the Second Municipal Police Court.

On being arraigned before Judge Miltenberger, he was remanded to the Parish Prison without bail.

Fire.

At about 2 o'clock Monday morning a fire, cause of which is unknown, broke out in the grocery store of the building situated at the corner of Thalia and Dryades streets. This property, which was owned by Thos. Markey and occupied by Thos. Owens, was damaged to the extent of $500. Insured in the Hibernia Insurance Company for $5000.

The flames then extended and damaged the building Nos. 283 and 285 Thalia street to the extent of $300. These two houses were also owned by Mr. Markey and occupied by Mr. Owens.

Mr. Owens, in attempting to escape from the burning building, was severely though not dangerously burned about the head, neck and hands.

The Colonnade Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa., is noted for its fine location and the unsurpassed elegance of its appointments.

SENATOR GORDON, OF GEORGIA.

[Washington Correspondence Boston Post.]

I wish every reader of the *Post* and every honest man in the country might see and know Gordon. If such an impossibility could become a fact, the Northern Radical press might shout "fire-eater," "unrepentant rebel" and other kindred lies until the crack of doom without affecting Gen. Gordon's reputation a hair. The honest people would only say: "Would to God the country had more just such fire-eaters and rebels." Those who do know Gordon only laugh at the attempt to make him out a blustering braggart. If there is one man of all others in the Senate who does not bluster and who does not brag, that man is Senator Gordon. He is as modest as a woman and as tender as a child. I have seen him in the Senate, on the street and in his family, and I never heard a word or noted a look that was not both courteous and manly, and I have yet to meet the man who, knowing him, will speak an ill word of him. He is a typical Southerner, and if the word "chivalry" had not become such a misnomer when applied to the South, I would add that he is a perfect type of the chivalrous gentleman. Straight as an arrow, well formed and wiry, rather above the medium height, with straight black hair, worn longer than the New England custom is, but shorter than is the habit at the South, with a prominent, high forehead and small, keen, dark eyes, you would note him in any assembly and locate him somewhere near the Gulf coast at sight. Like Lamar, he is something of an idealist, and esteems the theoretically right above the practically expedient. Socially he is a combination in about equal parts of dignity, courtesy and affection. He is one of the sort whom men esteem and women worship, a sort of modern Richard Cœur de Lion, who, if he had lived in the days of the Dark Prince, would have led a crusade against the world in behalf of purity and truth, fought any odds for virtue, and never sullied his sword with one drop of blood shed wantonly or wrongfully. He was indeed a "rebel," but no scurvy master of malicious ink may look upon his scars and question either his courage or the sincerity of his convictions. A deep scar in his cheek, with the similitude of a sabre cut, adds to the martial atmosphere of the man without distorting or detracting from the rugged beauty of the face. It marks the entrance of a bullet which passed through the mouth and found exit below the brain at the back. If my memory serves me, it was the fifth wound received upon one day, and the first which, though stretching him out helpless, conquered the dauntless spirit of the man. I never beheld the man without noting that scar, which bears mute but constant testimony to the way he faced when the bullets flew and the air was thick with quick messengers of death. No, indeed! Not braggart! We may deplore and differ with the convictions which made him "rebel," but no man may question his proven bravery. But I set out to introduce the readers of the *Post* to the Senator Gordon of 1877, and not to the Gen. Gordon of 1860 to 1865. His every effort since the war has been to build up the stricken fortunes of his people, to bury the animosities of the past and to teach his people to accept and to make the best of the inevitable results of the war. As a soldier he was invaluable to the South. As a Senator he has been more valuable to the whole country.

The "Ruby," whereof Mr. Couret is the time-honored proprietor, remembered us last night, and we drank his health in a bumper of delightful egg-nog of his own fabrication.

The Russian losses to December 13 are 77,658 men.

There are four Miltons in the House—some inglorious, but none mute.—[Boston Post.

Fifty thousand acres of land in Egypt have been reclaimed in five years by irrigation.

—Birds killed on the Western prairies, packed closely with paper in barrels, and without any freezing or other artificial process of preservation, are sent to England by every steamer, where they arrive in excellent condition.

—California promises to add materially to the oil production of the country. New wells of superior oil have lately been struck in Kern county, petroleum companies abound, and a more extended development of oleaginous resources is probable.

—It is a curious fact that notwithstanding the sure destruction, sooner or later, of houses built near the base of Mount Vesuvius, the Italians do not cease to build there. The town of Terre del Greco, containing nearly 10,000 inhabitants, is constructed on the lava streams of 1631.

—The little island of St. Bartholomew, lately sold by Sweden to France, has 2400 inhabitants. It belonged to France until 1784, when it was ceded to Sweden in exchange for the right to establish at Gottenburg a market for French goods.

—In a communication to the London *Times*, Sir Samuel Baker suggests a plan for diverting a portion of the river Nile into Nubian deserts. Its rich sediment would be deposited on the sands, transforming them into lands suitable for cotton culture, which, he claims, would render England independent of America.

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REMOVAL

To the corner of Chartres and Conti sts., No. 85,

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GALVANIZER, JEWELER, CLOCK MAKER, OPTICIAN, respectfully informs the public that the opening of his new establishment will take place on MONDAY, December 24, and that he is ready to please his customers, in choice articles, at exceedingly reduced prices. Goods, recently received, per latest European and Northern steamers, cannot be excelled for elegance and style. These goods consist of jewelry of all kinds, watches, chains, clocks, eyeglasses, spectacles, church articles, etc. Mr. Rouyer offers his services as general repairer of watches, jewelry, clocks and silverware. Specialty—the sale of table furniture in French silver, Alfenide and plated. Also, spectacles and eyeglasses, in steel or tortoise shell, and the resetting and supplying of lenses for same. de22 1m 2p

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