BOARD OF LIQUIDATION.

DISCUSSION OVER A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING $2000.

The State Board of Liquidation met on Thursday at noon. Present: Gov. Nicholls, Lieut. Gov. Wiltz, Secretary of State Strong, Auditor Jumel, Treasurer Dubuclet, Speaker Bush and Fiscal Agent Kennedy.

The minutes were read, when Mr. Strong asked for the reading of Col. Bush's protest to the resolution authorizing the payment, out of the board's contingent fund of 1877, of $2000 to the ex-officio secretary, the State Auditor.

The protest was read by the secretary. In it Mr. Bush presents the following reasons for his remarks at a previous meeting:

"This board was organized under act No. 58, page 77, of 1877, regular session, and by act No. 77, page 113, of 1877, extra session. The first act, page 83, section 4, provides that the Auditor shall be *ex officio* secretary of the board. At page 80, top, an appropriation of $8000 is made to meet and cover the contingent expenses which may be incurred by said board, of which expenses the said board shall annually make and submit to the General Assembly on the first week of its session, a full and detailed statement, accompanied by proper vouchers, and on page 81 of said act the Board of Liquidation is authorized, whenever deemed necessary, to carry out the provisions of the original law, and this supplemental law to employ and pay such accountants and clerical force as may be required.

"Besides, January 17, 1878, (journal of regular session, page 49,) Mr. Walmoth introduced House bill No. 118, entitled an act to pay the Auditor of Public Accounts for services as secretary of the board of Liquidation, appropriating $2000, which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations, and by said committee reported back February 13, 1878, (journal page 177, unfavorably, whereupon February 20, 1878, journal, page 222,) this bill was indefinitely postponed, thus declining to make the allowance by a vote of 66 yeas to 18 nays, not a single Democrat voting in the negative."

[It is proper to state that at the meeting of the board held two weeks since the resolution making the appropriation alluded to was rejected by a majority of the members present and at the last meeting Mr. Dubuclet, who voted previously in the affirmative, moved a reconsideration of the vote had, his motion prevailing.]

After the protest had been read Mr. Strong stated that as the introducer of the resolution he had introduced it not without mature reflection and evidence as to right and justice. Having been before the House Committee on Appropriations, he stated that on one occasion the question was asked him if there was not an unexpended balance to the credit of the fund of the board, and at the time he (Mr. Strong) did not know that there was. He thought now that such a protest was not proper; he would, therefore, object to it.

Gov. Nicholls, addressing Col. Bush, said he thought that he had better amend that portion of the protest.

Col. Bush stated that he was willing to make it in that way. He thought, he said, that he had better state what action had been taken in the Legislature in the matter.

Mr. Strong stated that he could not, as the introducer of the resolution, vote for the protest going on the minutes when it referred to politics or party.

Gov. Nicholls thought it best to eliminate from it anything objectionable.

Mr. Jumel objected to the elimination of anything if it was to go upon the minutes or be made a part of the record of the board.

The Auditor remarked that the protest made a charge against him, and he claimed the privilege of replying that he wanted to do nothing except that which was right.

The Governor stated that as that portion had by consent been eliminated there was nothing to answer.

The Governor stated that as Mr. Kennedy was not present at the other meeting he would explain the matter to him and explain why he had voted no on the resolution, and that he should vote that way again. The board, he said, was made up of constitutional officers principally, and he did not think they could receive additional compensation unless the Legislature authorized it. In his opinion, the relation between the Auditor and the board was not as an employee, but as the State Auditor acting under the law. True, authority had been given the board to employ clerical force, and the law assigns a duty to the Auditor by legislation, but in the act so assigning him to duty no payment is fixed, consequently he did not think that the Auditor could receive the amount. The board had no right to appoint each other as clerks, and his opinion was that the services of the Auditor was to the board and to him up to the first of January, 1878, when the board's contingent fund was made up and reported to the Legislature. This matter, it seems, was reported to the Legislature and they rejected it; hence he did not think that, as a legal point, the board could pay the amount specified.

He thought it the best way to leave the matter open until the next Legislature meets. If there was any possibility of postponing it he thought it had better be done until the next session. The Auditor, he said, had undoubtedly performed the duties, but that was out of the question; the board could only decide as to its duties as a board, and he was satisfied that the board could not justify itself in acting in this matter.

Mr. Strong remarked that as the president of the board had made a statement, he desired also to make one. He did not know what action the Legislature had taken in the matter, but one night, when before the Committee on Appropriations, he was asked if there was not a balance to the contingent fund of the board, as he had stated before. He did not know when one of the members of the committee showed the report of the board showing a balance. One of the committee members then stated that this balance was enough for the payment of the Auditor as ex-officio secretary, and they ought not, therefore, to make any appropriation for that purpose. It was finally agreed to report back the bill, and I, said Mr. Strong, understood from some of the committee members that the item, or bill, would be reported back without action, even although the House journal shows that it was negatived; it was, however, the unanimous belief of the committee that this board was authorized to make the appropriation out of its unexpended contingent fund. That I know to be the fact.

Mr. Jumel stated that when the vote was taken at the last meeting and the Speaker of the House voted in the negative, he was satisfied to let it go over, but under the present circumstances he could not permit this document to go on record without a protest.

The organic law, he claimed, defined his duties, and his authority for the position taken was the Attorney General's opinion. As the protest of Col. Bush was to go on the minutes, that opinion should go there also.

The Attorney General's opinion was then read, as follows:

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, State of Louisiana, New Orleans, April 8, 1878.

Hon. Allen Jumel, Auditor and Ex-Officio Secretary Board of Liquidation, etc.:

Dear Sir—Your letter of the fifth instant has been received. I do not think that the bonds held by Maxon are embraced among those upon the validity of which the Supreme Court is required to pass before funding.

In regard to the question of the legality of the resolution of the board ordering the payment of $2000 to the Auditor for services rendered during the year 1877, as secretary, I know of nothing in the law to forbid it. The State Auditor is a constitutional officer and the nature of his duties well understood. He cannot, in my opinion, be called upon to perform duties other than those belonging to his office without compensation.

As to the amount earned by him, the board is necessarily to judge. I see no reason why he should not be paid from the unexpended balances, if any, of the appropriation for 1877. The service having been rendered in that year constitutes a debt against its contingent fund.

Very respectfully,
H. N. OGDEN, Attorney General.

Mr. Bush remarked that at the time the vote was taken on the resolution, he asked and was granted leave to explain the motive which prompted him in voting as he did. He gave those reasons then, and they were those embodied in the paper. He said that he stated then that he did not assail the character of any one, and stated then that he did not intend to cast a reflection upon a single man. He stated his reasons then to the gentlemen of the board present, and would say again that he did not mean to cast the slightest reflection; that he obtained leave to file it and had only done that.

The Governor asked if there was any objection to the withdrawal of the entire paper.

Mr. Bush replied that there was not, whereupon the document was withdrawn by common consent.

Mr. Bush then remarked that the same reasons for his former vote would govern him in another vote.

Mr. Dubuclet thought the board had the opinion of the Attorney General to guide it.

Mr. Kennedy suggested that the whole matter better be dropped.

It was moved then that the resolution appropriating the $2000 to the Auditor and *ex officio* secretary be adopted.

Mr. Bush reiterated the legal objections made by him previously in explanation of his vote. He held that under the action of the Legislature were a warrant against that fund issued by the Auditor it would be invalid, and were such warrant paid by the Treasurer his action would be invalid; nor would the action of the board be valid should it vote to appropriate the amount under the resolution. The statutes of 1877, he said, covers the unexpended balance of that fund to the fund for the redemption of the public debt, and even though it did not, the act of 1878 repeals the act which supplied the fund.

Mr. Jumel thought that the act of 1878 repealed only that part of the act of 1877 which made an annual appropriation of $5000 for the contingent expenses of the board, and has no reference to the unexpended balance of the appropriation of 1877. "But," he said, "you gentlemen are all lawyers and have the advantage of me, while I have the opinion of the Attorney General, which is all the argument I have."

Mr. Kennedy thought that the selection of a secretary had been taken out of the hands of the board by the statute, but it provided that he should perform certain duties, which was not the work of the Auditor. The work he had done was as the secretary, and the board was fully authorized to recompense him. He was satisfied that the Legislature did not mean to take away from him the just payment due for his services. It did take away the annual appropriation of $5000, but did not touch that which was left of 1877. There was an immense amount of labor done and much more to be done yet. He believed the board had the power not only to make this appropriation, but to decide, independent of the courts, what were the valid obligations of the State. We can, he continued, take the amount out of that fund and pay the Auditor, and if there be any responsibility he was willing to stand it as a member of the board.

Lieut. Gov. Wiltz remarked that inasmuch as every member of the board had given their views he desired to give his. When the resolution was first introduced no one questioned but that the Auditor had done the very responsible work incumbent upon him as secretary; the only question then was the legal point whether the board had the right to make the appropriation out of its funds. His opinion then was that the board should consider that point, and his idea was to have the question referred to the only legal authority in the State from which an opinion could be obtained, that being the Attorney General. When he tells us that such action is legal, then I am satisfied. His opinion is the highest that can be obtained in the State, and he has undoubtedly given his time and attention to this matter. Even the Auditor can only confer with him on all points of law, and if he now gives such an opinion as the one presented, I think the board fully authorized to make the appropriation. He was satisfied that the Attorney General had carefully considered the matter, and, backed by his opinion, with the knowledge that the Auditor was a capable and honest gentleman, whose bondsmen were fully responsible, he would vote yes upon the motion to adopt the resolution.

Mr. Bush again referred to the act of 1878, which he construed as repealing that of 1877 making the appropriation.

Mr. Kennedy thought that it referred only to the annual appropriation of $5000.

Mr. Bush replied that he had himself presented the bill in the House, and contended further that even were the amount left in the treasury it could not be touched by any officer of the State, as the moment the year 1877 expired the fund was beyond the reach of the board. He had the greatest respect for the Attorney General's opinion, but did not think the members of the board should shelter themselves behind it, as he did not believe the character of the objections had been given him. As he understood it, only the resolution was presented to the Attorney General as to the appropriation and amount. If a vote was taken it ought to be upon the understanding of each individual member, and not on the opinion of the Attorney General, although he had the highest respect for that officer. He did not believe that any bill for expenses incurred in 1877 could be paid now by the board.

Mr. Jumel remarked that even though the statute so specified, he was compelled by orders from the courts to issue warrants upon appropriations made in previous years.

The Governor was of the opinion that the balance of the fund was still in the treasury, but subject only to legislative control, as it remained credited to that specific fund.

A vote was then taken, and the motion to adopt was carried.

Yeas—The Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer and Fiscal Agent—4.

Nays—The Governor and Speaker of the House—2; and the Auditor voted blank.

An application for the funding of the Bank of Louisiana bonds was taken up, when Lieut. Gov. Wiltz moved that the bonds be not funded, and that the Attorney General be requested to ask for a devolutive appeal in the case already decided (that referred to in the letter above). Carried.

The application of LeSassier & Binder for the funding of $11,000 Consolidated Planters' Association bonds, which were presented with the certificate of that association.

After a long discussion as to the amount of interest due, and which should be paid by the State, the bonds and "annexes" were referred to the Auditor for computation of interest on coupons and annexes.

The board then, at 3 p. m., adjourned until Monday at 12 m.

THE TOWBOAT CONTROVERSY.

A Suit for Damages To Be Brought to Test the Whole Question.

The interest taken in the towboat controversy has extended beyond business circles, and now has become the subject of discussion even among the ladies. The immense interests involved, the bare suspicion that there might have been a conspiracy to close our communication with the sea, has aroused more indignation than can well be appreciated. Outside of maritime circles the talk is even stronger than it was when the question was between the St. Philip canal and the jetties, and from retail dealers up to bankers the expression is universal that the matter ought to be thoroughly inquired into. Yesterday afternoon, in a conversation with Mr. Coyle, the reporter was pleased to learn that the suggestions made in the DEMOCRAT would be carried out at once. A suit for libel is to be brought by the towboat companies against Mr. J. W. Black, in which case the truth of the whole matter will come out in the evidence adduced. Those who have any knowledge of facts going to substantiate the charges made, will then have an opportunity of coming forward, and the association, as well as Mr. Black, will be able, the one or the other, to secure a vindication. This is as it should be, for, if a committee of investigation should have been appointed by either the Chamber of Commerce or Cotton Exchange, there might have been some difficulty in securing a full committee who would be able to sacrifice their valuable time and willing to take up such an unpleasant task as such an inquiry would doubtless be.

Mr. Coyle assured the reporter that this suit would be filed at once, and as the question is of the most vital importance to this city, its progress will be watched with interest.

Both sides express confidence at the result of the case, and both appear to be willing to abide by this wager of battle.

Mr. Coyle expressed the opinion that he thought the matter had already been canvassed about enough, and he could not see why further publication should be made of it. He disliked to see his name in the papers, and hoped the subject would be dropped.

Physicians Disagreeing.

On Wednesday Dr. J. C. Beard, city physician, gave a certificate that Mr. Fred Meyers, who was shot, as it is alleged, by the Sweeney brothers, was out of danger. Last evening Drs. R. S. Chambers and A. C. Gaudet sent the following information to Chief Boylan through Sergeant Guibert:

"By request of friends and family of Mr. Fred Meyers, we do hereby certify that the above named gentleman is in a very critical condition, and far from out of danger, notwithstanding any former certificate from the city physician."

It will doubtless be remembered that it was on the certificate of City Physician Beard that the two Sweeney brothers and McLaughlin were released on $5000 each by Justice O'Rourke.

Chief Boylan, upon receiving a copy of Drs. Chambers and Gaudet's certificate, telegraphed to Sergeant Guibert to lay the matter before the judge, and if any responsible person made affidavit to the effect that the wounded man was in a critical condition, to rearrest the accused.

Dr. Beard declined to reverse his decision, and states that at present Meyers' condition is not critical, and should gangrene set in in the future that has nothing to do with the question now at issue.

Life Was a Burden.

At about 9 o'clock yesterday morning a man named Charles Meyers repaired to the river and attempted to commit suicide by jumping in. He was rescued by Officer Thomas and taken to the Harbor Station, where he was incarcerated. Meyers, upon being questioned as to the course of his attempt at self-destruction, stated that he was sick and unable to work, and that life was a burden to him. The unfortunate man, by orders of Chief Boylan, was removed to the Charity Hospital.

Three per cent discount on States taxes paid in April.

Moet & Chandon is neither too sweet nor too dry.

MUNICIPAL MATTERS.

THE FIRE CONTROVERSY.

An Interview With the Mayor, and the Correspondence on the Subject.

A reporter of the DEMOCRAT interviewed the Mayor yesterday on the subject of the communication of "Vindex," published in the DEMOCRAT yesterday morning, and asked him what he had to say in the matter.

After some desultory conversation the Mayor said:

In reply to the scurrilous and vindictive article in the morning paper under the name of "Vindex," I have only to submit the following plain statement of facts, which I believe will fully disabuse the public mind of any false impression which the article alluded to may have originated:

About three days since I received a confidential communication asking my attention to an order, issued by the chief of police, in relation to the action of police officers on reports of fires. I immediately addressed a communication to the chief of police, who sent me the following as a copy of the order:

(Copy of order issued to all stations this date at 11:10 a. m.)

Commanding officers are hereby ordered to instruct their force that from and after this date reports of fires must be made strictly according to the actual facts, such as the origin, location, extent and amount of damage, but under no circumstances will the police force be allowed to make any comments on reports of fires which can give color to prejudice in favor of the Babcock against the regular fire department, or *vice versa*. No mention must be made as to which one of the departments arrived first, or which did the best service. Such facts belong to other departments than the police. THOS. N. BOYLAN, Chief of Police.

A true copy:
CÆSAR HUGHES, Secretary.

A few moments after receiving this copy, I was waited upon by a delegation representing the Babcocks, say Messrs. Paul Fourchy, W. A. Bell, John Henderson and P. A. Barker, who presented me with what purported to be a copy of the order, but in which the words "or *vice versa*" had been omitted. I immediately summoned the chief of police, his secretary, the telegraph operator, and the book containing the telegram, to explain the omission. This examination was in the presence of the committee and some reporters of the press, and after requesting that I should have the order modified so as to instruct the officers to report as to the merits of each of their departments, the committee retired, without any disgust, alluded to by "Vindex," being at all apparent. And I leave it to those gentlemen to say whether their abhorrence is not greater in the perusal of the article alluded to than in the result of the interview between us.

I was giving the matter some thought, and had not decided fully whether it was proper that the police should interfere in such a case, when, on the following morning, I was waited upon by Mr. Marks, President of the Firemen's Charitable Association, and Chief O'Connor, who simply protested against making police officers the judges of the efficiency of either department.

I did then, and do still, approve, and in this the Administrator of Police concurred, that the officers of police should not be made a party to the disputes or rivalries of either of those branches of the public service, satisfied as I am that any other course would involve them in difficulties sufficient to impair their efficiency as officers.

With the comments of "Vindex" as to other matters I have no concern. Having no affinity with either the fire department or the Babcock, I can afford to leave his insinuations to the digestion of a discriminating public.

The Mayor then informed our reporter that he had addressed notes to the members of the committee of the Board of Underwriters. During the day he received the following replies:

NEW ORLEANS, April 18, 1878.

Hon. E. Pilsbury, Mayor of the city of New Orleans:

Dear Sir—In reply to yours of this date, calling my attention to an article in the morning's paper, and asking if I concur in the statement therein, and whether the circumstances are correctly set forth, I must say that, if you refer to the article in the morning *Times* signed "Vindex," I do not concur therein, and that the circumstances set forth are not in accordance with my impression of the interview held between you and the five members of the Board of Underwriters; and I must state further that I think the article was entirely uncalled for, and, as a member of said committee, I disclaim any concurrence in the statements set forth therein.

I am, sir, yours, very respectfully,
WM. A. BELL.

NEW ORLEANS, April 18, 1878.

Hon. Edward Pilsbury, Mayor city of New Orleans:

Dear Sir—I am in receipt of your note of this date. In answer to which permit me to say that I read the article you speak of with surprise and regret; had no knowledge of its publication, and at this time do not know by whom it was written. Neither does it meet with my approval. Respectfully, yours,
F. A. BARKER.

NEW ORLEANS, April 18, 1878.

Hon. E. Pilsbury, Mayor:

Dear Sir—I knew nothing of the article referred to in your note of to-day until I read it in the New Orleans *Times* this morning, and do not now know who was the author of it. When you remarked that the copy of the order which Mr. Fourchy had was not correct, I told you it was an exact copy of the order which I saw on the Saturday previous, and that the words *vice versa* were not in it.

Chief Boylan proposed to change the wording of the order, and you told him to wait until you could investigate and satisfy yourself in relation to the dispatches sent by the operators.

In conclusion I will state that the impression on my mind when we parted was that you leaned towards the fire department.

Very respectfully,
JOHN HENDERSON.

Mr. Henderson's letter was the last received at the City Hall, about 3 o'clock. It suggested the following question to the Mayor:

Reporter—Mr. Pilsbury, in his letter Mr. Henderson seems desirous of giving a peculiar construction to your opposition to the changing of the wording of the chief's order. How did your objection come about?

The Mayor—In this way: When it became apparent that the words, "or vice versa," had been omitted, the members of the committee expressed a desire that an order should be issued instructing the police to state in their fire reports which apparatuses first reached the spot, and other matters regarding the relative efficiency of the two branches—the Babcocks and the fire department. Chief Boylan thereupon said that in that case he would issue the order immediately. I checked the chief, saying that I was not satisfied as to the propriety of issuing such an order, as I did not think the police should in any wise be made the judges of the relative efficiency of our fire extinguishing departments.

Discount of 3 per cent on State taxes paid in April.

THE FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Fruit Growers' Association of the Gulf States met last night at No. 80 Camp street.

Mr. J. J. Mellon, chairman of the board of directors, was called upon to preside.

Secretary S. M. Wiggins, on behalf of the special committee appointed to present a memorial to the Legislature, reported that the sum of $500 had been appropriated by the State to aid the association in carrying out its object and defraying the expense of a public exhibition of fruits, vegetables, plants, flowers, etc.

The committee on circulars reported that pursuant to the resolution adopted at the last meeting, circulars were prepared and addressed to all members of this association, as well as to Fruit Growers and friends throughout the State, requesting them to furnish, previous to the first of July next, reports of the agricultural resources of their respective locality, of the condition of the fruit crop, soil, climate, and such information as might be useful to promote agriculture and the growth of fruits as well as to invite immigration.

The committee is composed of the following gentlemen: Dr. R. H. Day, A. Sambola, H. W. L. Lewis, W. A. Brainard, S. M. Wiggins, Dr. R. H. Eyland, Jas. H. Hummell, Dr. R. T. Gibbs.

It was resolved to publish in pamphlet form, for distribution and public information, all reports in answer to the circulars.

On motion, it was resolved to hold the next exhibition in this city on the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth of July next.

No charge to be made for exhibiting any article.

Judge W. B. Spencer was elected to deliver the opening address at the fair, and the secretary instructed to communicate with him.

The Southern Express Company, through T. M. Wescoat, Esq., has kindly offered, as heretofore, to carry for the exhibition all packages of thirty pounds and under free of charge.

A special committee of ladies was appointed to take charge of the floral department.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the association: Louis Schwartz, Ed. J. Gay, Geo. S. Kausler, Judge W. B. Spencer, Wm. Hartwell, Dr. R. A. Kearney of Iberville, E. B. Olivier of Bayou Teche, La., Chas. Lochbrunner, E. Baker, H. Tebbs of Carrollton, Rev. J. A. Ivey, Geo. W. Race, Chas. H. Schenck, Jules Tardos, Geo. Meyers, Judge E. T. Merrick, S. G. Spor, E. J. Hart, L. S. Hereford of West Baton Rouge, J. M. Methack, Geo. W. Cary, Simon Hornsheim, W. J. Behan, August Guesnard of West Baton Rouge, J. W. Winder of Terrebonne, W. B. Schmidt, S. H. Kennedy, C. A. Whitney, Col. A. Meyer, Geo. Soule, Dr. A. A. Yates, John Phelps, Leon Godchaux and others. Several ladies were also elected.

The secretary reported that he had received assurances that the "Bee-Keepers' Association" would participate in the exhibition, and make a better display than they did at the last fair. The secretary was instructed to notify them officially that their contributions would be thankfully received, and that due attention would be paid to them.

In order to make the exhibition a success it was resolved to solicit the co-operation and active assistance of our citizens generally, and the secretary was authorized to issue 10,000 circulars inviting contributions in the way of fruits, flowers, plants, vegetables, native wines, cordials, honey, preserves, canned fruits, fruits in glass, wax fruits, etc., and such other things or articles of home manufacture.

After transacting other business of minor importance the meeting adjourned until the first Thursday in May next.

HOLY THURSDAY.

Services at the St. Louis Cathedral Yesterday.

Yesterday, Holy Thursday, was celebrated in the different Catholic churches of this city by solemn services.

During the day a large number of the faithful visited the places of worship to adore the Holy Eucharist, exposed on the altars, it being the day on which our Lord, at his last supper, changed the bread and wine into his own body and blood.

YESTERDAY EVENING

the doors of the St. Louis Cathedral were thrown open to admit a large concourse of devotees, who had flocked thither to listen to a sermon preached by Monseigneur Parche, and to hear the able rendition of Verdi's celebrated "Domine Jesu," by Misses Henriette Martin and Henriette Delhonde and Messrs. Metoya and Bremer.

At 7 o'clock his Grace the Archbishop

ASCENDED THE PULPIT,

and choosing for his text the words of St. John, "Jesus having loved His children upon earth, will continue to love them until the consummation of the world," preached a very able sermon on the Holy Eucharist.

The mystery of the Eucharist, said the venerable orator, is one of the most sublime and touching of the Catholic Church; it is a mystery of love, and in the words of the Prophet-King a monument of God's inexhaustible love towards men.

WHAT IS MORE PURE,

more holy than this sentiment of our Lord, when about to be given up to His enemies by the traitor Judas, He takes the bread, blesses it, and gives it to His disciples, and says: "This is my body, eat ye in remembrance of Me." And taking the chalice, He passes it to His disciples, saying: "This is My blood, drink ye in token of My love." The Eucharist is a sacrifice and a sacrament—a sacrifice when the holy victim is immolated on the altars; a sacrament when the same victim is given to the faithful for the sustenance of their spiritual life.

All nations have had their sacrifices, and man, not being able to give himself up as an atonement to the Deity, offered up what was of more immediate value to him. But it remained for a God to do away with the old law and establish a daily sacrifice most precious in the eyes of a Divinity, the only perfect holocaust, that of the Son of God.

The eloquent orator next showed that those men who cannot and will not believe in this mystery are blind even to the understanding of the unfathomable mystery of ingratitude which is in their souls.

He then compared the mystery of the Incarnation to that of the Eucharist,

THE SON OF GOD

chose the purest and most perfect of creatures to be His mother, and teaches us the holy ministry of a consecrated priest, to be born again, as it were, in this mystic sacrament.

Our Reverend Archbishop closed with a touching apostrophe to those who neglect their duties as Christians for the vain delusions of the world.

Monseigneur has lost neither his fervid utterance nor his old prestige, and for fully one hour he kept the whole congregation in a most profound state of religious attention.

IMMEDIATELY

after the sermon Verdi's quartette was sung by the ladies and gentlemen above named.

Never were the artistes (we cannot say amateurs) in better voice than on this occasion, and the only regret felt by the large congregation was, that the majesty of the place prevented them from manifesting their appreciation of the singing by repeated applause.

Next Sunday Gounod's Mass will be sung at the Cathedral, and it is hoped that our people will not fail to attend the services on that occasion.

THE COMING RACE MEETING.

To-morrow afternoon the opening of the spring meeting of the Louisiana Jockey Club will take place, and a right royal opening it will be, according to the prognostications of our turfmen. Racing in the spring has ever been a favorite pastime with our lovers of horseflesh, and the meeting at that time invariably brings out not only a fine field of horses but a very large attendance. Coming as it does this year just as the ladies have put on their delightful spring toilettes, we can count on seeing "beauty's corner" resplendent. To-night the entries for the first day's events will close. They consist of a hurdle race of two miles, the Pickwick stakes of mile heats for three-year olds, and a two mile dash. At 7:30 o'clock the veteran Cathcart will sell pools over Hawkins' saloon, and the prospects are bright for heavy betting.

PIN POOL.

Yesterday and last night's games were well attended.

The fourteenth game was between Coste and Zachringer, who tried their skill, and Zachringer proved himself a good one, winning by a score of 5 to 2.

Boui and Abadie played the fifteenth game. Score: Abadie 5, Boui 2.

After a very close and exciting game, Valloft won the sixteenth game. Score: Valloft 5, Hubbard 4.

F. Maggioli, "French Jack," after a splendidly played game, defeated Mr. Goodman, by a score of 5 to 3—seventeenth game.

Blanco and Zachringer played the eighteenth game. Blanco won by a score of 5 to 3, after a well played and hard fought game.

To-day's programme for 1:30 p. m. is Redon vs. Antoine, and Boui vs. F. Maggioli. At 7:30 p. m., Coste vs. Valloft, Hilburn vs. Hubbard, and Blanco vs. Boui.

Pay your State taxes this month and save 3 per cent discount.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Good Friday will be celebrated at this church by morning prayers and sermon by Dr. Thompson, and at 7:30 in the evening Dr. Thompson will deliver a lecture on "The Resurrection of the Body and the Life Everlasting." On Saturday night (Easter Eve) Dr. Thompson will deliver a lecture on "The Intermediate State." On Easter Sunday offerings of flowers, as memorials of the dead, will be received and placed upon the altar; after the services are over these flowers will be sent to the sick in the hospitals. The music on Sunday will, as usual, prove a great attraction to Old Trinity.

THAT CONVERSATION.

In the report of an interview had with Capt. J. M. Flynn, of the Anchor Towboat Line, in response to a question from the reporter, the Captain was made to say that the first intimation he had about grounding vessels on the bar was from Messrs. Coyle and McLellan. The Captain meant it to be understood that it was from conversations had between Mr. J. W. Black and Mr. Coyle, and Capt. McLellan and Mr. Black. The letter referring to this matter, by a typographical error, was made to date the ninth of February, instead of the nineteenth.

BUTCHERING A WOMAN

Is the Crime for Which Williams Will Be Called on to Answer.

The monotony that usually pervades the neighborhood of Franklin and Girod streets in the evening was varied at 3:30 p. m. yesterday by a bloody affray, in which a negro woman named Mary Scott was almost literally carved to pieces by a negro man named William Williams.

It is said that a large crowd, composed of white and negro men and negro women, were congregated on the opposite corner, but not a single one of them had courage enough to interfere, but quietly stood by and saw the woman cut to pieces. Williams, it is said, walked up to his victim and said to her, "I thought I told you to go home. Well, by G—d, I'm going to cut your d—d heart out."

He then drew a large hunting knife and made a wipe at her. The keen-edged blade buried itself in her cheek to the bone and inflicted a wound fully five inches in length. He then cut her twice in the left arm, inflicting two wounds fully three inches in length.

Then rushing on her he seized her in his arms and drew the cold steel across her throat. This wound, had the knife penetrated a quarter of an inch further, would have certainly caused her death.

The hardened wretch then brought his weapon to her breast and laid it open.

Then he threw his victim on the pavement and left her to die, while he himself ran off and made good his escape.

The wounded woman was conveyed to the Charity Hospital, where she now lies in a critical condition. She stated to a DEMOCRAT reporter that her husband cut her because she would not go home.

The police are looking for Williams.

Save 3 per cent discount by paying your State taxes before May 1.

LETTER FROM ADMINISTRATOR McCAFFREY.

DEPARTMENT OF IMPROVEMENTS, City Hall, New Orleans, April 18, 1878.

Editor Democrat—Referring to your article this morning entitled "The City Railroads," I beg leave to state that the committee of which I am the chairman is a *special* one, appointed by resolution of the Council at a meeting held December 15, 1877, for the consideration of the petitions of the New Orleans Pacific Railroad Company, the Belt Railroad Company, and such other matters as may be referred to them.

Since the creation of said committee they have had many subjects "referred to them by the Council," upon all of which action has already been had, and reports have been submitted from time to time.

The subject of the relations of the various city railroads with the city has never been submitted to the committee, and is therefore not pertinent to their duties; but if parties interested in the subject will address themselves to the Council, I am sure they will obtain the information they desire.

Respectfully,
JNO. McCAFFREY,
Chairman Committee on Railroads.

PERSONAL.

Wm. B. French, of the coast survey, arrived here last night and took apartments at the San Carlos.

BREVITIES.

United States sub-treasury receipts yesterday $91,476 02.

To-day, Good Friday, all courts are closed, it being a legal holiday.

The Catholic churches were thronged with worshipers yesterday, who visited the churches to adore the Holy Sacrament.

The signatures to the petition against the use of the mail to forward Howard's lottery schemes are rapidly increasing.

Guiarovich, the Austrian who was shot in the mouth by Buja, is in a fair way of recovery. He testified before Judge Miltenberger yesterday.

The Arlington Glee Club will give a promenade concert and soiree dansante at the Magnolia Garden on Sunday, the fifth of May next. Every lady will be presented with a bouquet.

Is there any way of cultivating the voice of the average cream cheese vendor? The latin nap is much disturbed with the nasal scream of "Cre-e-em che-e-ser!"

The Benevolent Association of the Sons of Louisiana will give their second grand festival, pyrotechnic exhibition and ball at the Fair Grounds on Easter Sunday, the twenty-first instant.

We thank Mr. T. H. Clark, representing in this city the "Government Counterfeit Detector," for a copy of that valuable periodical, which gives a clue to all the counterfeit money which is constantly being palmed off upon the community.

We observe that the people are taking advantage of the discount allowed on State taxes paid this month. Passing the office of the First District Collector this afternoon we found the whole force of the office busily engaged, and that the collections to-day exceeded $10,000.

A benevolent driver dumped a load of sawdust on Robertson street yesterday and immediately the boys in the neighborhood made a circus ring, then sommersaults were turned, much to the delight of the boys and the dismay of fond mothers.

The German Harmonie Clubs of New Orleans and Carrollton will celebrate their anniversary on Sunday next. The various clubs will assemble at Tivoli Circle, and after parading will proceed to Carrollton, where they will entertain their friends at the Carrollton Garden.

The long rangers did not complete the contest for the Lilienthal cup on Wednesday, owing to the fact that the 1000-yard target was blown down by the wind. Renaud made the best score, however, at the other targets, making seventy-two in a possible seventy-five at the 800-yard, and seventy in a possible seventy-five at the 900-yard target. The match will be completed on Sunday.

The Order of Seven Wise Men (Heptasophs) will hold its next annual session in Galveston, Texas, on the thirtieth instant. Various delegations will pass through this city on their way to Texas, and will, of course, be entertained by the brethren here. A large delegation from New Orleans will represent Louisiana, and will be accompanied by the German band. Great preparations have been made for the reception in Galveston.

The first company of the battalion of Orleans Artillery, commanded by Capt. Lesseps, which is said to be in conflict with the regiment of Orleans Artillery, commanded by Col. Vinet, will parade on Sunday next with their new uniforms. This company has heretofore been known as Battery A, Regiment Orleans Artillery, from which corps it has recently withdrawn, which seems to have created a good deal of dissatisfaction in the regiment, the question being raised whether a command once mustered into service under the militia law has a right to withdraw independently. We understand that action will be taken in the matter.

A MORNING BLAZE.

Three Houses Destroyed in the Fourth District—Loss $12,000.

At quarter past 1 o'clock this morning a lurid glare overspread the heavens in the Fourth District, and denoted that a fire was raging somewhere in the vicinity.

It was soon revealed that the fell destroyer was preying upon a row of frame cottage houses located on Livaudais street, between Washington and Sixth streets. The fire broke out in the double one-story cottage No. 21 Livaudais street, from some unknown cause, and totally destroyed the same. This property was owned and occupied by Dan Cain, and insured, including furniture, for $1100 in the Firemen's Insurance Company.

The flames then communicated to the double one-story frame cottage Nos. 17 and 19, same street, and left them in ashes. The house was owned by Ed. Flynn, one-half of which was occupied by C. Lawler, and the other side was unoccupied. Whether this property was insured could not be ascertained.

The flames, still keeping on their destructive course, destroyed the adjoining double one-story frame cottage, Nos. 13 and 15. Cottage No. 13 was owned and occupied by Mrs. Bullow, and No. 15 was owned by the same party, but occupied by Henry Drexell. The double cottage is insured for $1500 in the Merchants' Insurance Company.

The fire department, salvage corps and Babcocks were all so promptly on hand that it is impossible to say which arrived first, and each did their respective parts so well that they deserve equal praise.

A man, whose name could not be ascertained, was injured about the head.

One of the parties burned out had $300 burned up in an armoir.

Fire in a Church.

At ten minutes to 2 o'clock yesterday an alarm of fire was turned in from box 235 by the American District Telegraph Company for a fire in St. Michael's Church. The Salvage Corps First street Babcock and Irad Ferry No. 12 were promptly on hand to perform duty. Fortunately, however, the fire was extinguished by Father Hestiling and Professor Blake, who were slightly burned about the hands. The fire was caused by the curtains around the altar coming in contact with a lighted candle.

Fire.

Between the hours of 12 and 1 o'clock Thursday morning a coal oil lamp exploded at the house No. 411½ Gravier street, occupied by Mr. John Finnerty, and damaged some of the furniture to the extent of $200. The flames were extinguished by the neighbors without the necessity of an alarm.

The sale of books and paintings will be continued this evening, at 7 o'clock, at Montgomery's salesroom, to close out the balance of the library, etc.

A dinner is not complete without Moet & Chandon.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

SOMETHING ABOUT GRAND JURIES.

NEW ORLEANS, April 17, 1878.

Editor Democrat—The act of 1876 creating the Second Judicial District Court of the Sixth and Seventh Municipal Districts of this parish, provided that the juries of said court should be composed of voters residing within said districts—so that within the parish of Orleans there were two grand juries, the one having jurisdiction within five districts, the other exercising jurisdiction within the two upper districts of the city.

The act of 1878, approved April 2, creates a Grand Jury for the parish of Orleans, and fails to except the Sixth and Seventh Municipal Districts from the effects of its provisions.

It designates specifically that the Grand Jury drawn in accordance with its provisions shall be the Grand Jury for the parish of Orleans, and that the Board of Jury Commissioners shall choose the same from names selected from all portions of the parish, and repeals all laws or parts of laws in conflict with its provisions, and takes effect from and after its passage. The two acts are in direct conflict in this respect. Under the act of 1876 two grand juries were created for the parish, the one selected for the parish below Toledano street, the other for the parish above Toledano street; no citizen could be a member of either Grand Jury unless residing within the respective districts over which each Grand Jury exercised jurisdiction.

Under the requirements of the act of 1878, can any indictment by a grand jury of the Sixth and Seventh Municipal District Court of the parish of Orleans, composed of persons drawn and living only within the limits of said two districts, and not the Grand Jury for the parish of Orleans, as prescribed by the act of 1878, be legal?

Does not the act of 1878, in fixing the mode by which it shall be drawn, and creating a grand jury for the entire parish, abrogate the Grand Jury of the Sixth and Seventh Municipal Districts, deriving its existence under a provision of the act of 1876, and whose jurisdiction was confined within the limits of said districts.

Does not the act of 1878 creating one Grand Jury for the entire parish, by failing to except the Sixth and Seventh Municipal Districts from the effects of its provisions, and by repealing all acts or parts of acts conflicting therewith, abrogate that provision of a previous act creating an additional Grand Jury for that portion of the parish of Orleans in which the Second Judicial District Court for the Sixth and Seventh Municipal Districts is located? CITIZEN.

VINDEX AND CHIEF BOYLAN'S ORDER.

The order issued by Chief Boylan to the police force on the twelfth instant, forbidding "reports of fires which can give color to prej