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The Weekly Democrat.

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E. A. BURKE, Managing Editor.

NEW ORLEANS, JANUARY 17, 1880

AMUSEMENTS.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—*Matinee*, "LEAR;" *at night*, "AS YOU LIKE IT," *by Miss Fanny Davenport and her dramatic company.*

GRAND OPERA HOUSE—*Matinee*, "LA GRANDE DUCHESSE;" *at night*, "GRIOFLE-GIROFLA," *by the Maurice Grau French Opera Troupe.*

WEATHER PROBABILITIES.

For the South Atlantic and Gulf States, easterly to southerly winds, clear or partly cloudy weather, except near the Gulf; local rains, stationary or slowly falling barometer and slight changes in temperature.

CAUCUS.

A joint caucus will be held in the hall of the House of Representatives this evening at 7:30. Full attendance requested.

M. J. CUNNINGHAM, Chairman.

Grant and Chamberlain is the latest idea of the ticket-makers. There is a very decided military flavor about it.

An enthusiastic Marylander, determined to rear a monument to the object of his present admiration, has named his son "Garcelon." The boy should have grit.

The wave of prosperity has extended to real estate at last, and prices are rapidly advancing in many of the cities. This is especially noticeable in New York, where the increase in valuation aggregates $28,183,417 since the last assessment.

California, it seems, has the worst record of any State in the Union for unpunished murders. During the last two years sixty murders have occurred in Mendocino county, in that State, and yet only one man has been convicted. The San Francisco *Bulletin* confesses that not more than one murderer in fifteen in California is ever punished.

The tow with which the Great Republic left St. Louis, the other day, for New Orleans, consisting of five barges laden with 290,000 bushels of corn, was the largest that ever left "the Future Great City of America." Translated into car-loads, it would have filled 580 cars and required at least forty trains to convey it to its shipping port.

We are informed that Judge F. F. Perrodin, of St. Landry, will be a candidate for election as judge of the third circuit court of appeals. Judge Perrodin was elected district attorney in 1876, and again at the last election, by a large majority over the Tom Anderson combination. It is only justice to say that he combines rare qualities of firmness and ability coupled with a suavity of manner which has justly won him an enviable reputation.

The colored citizens of San Francisco have left the Republican party for good. They held a meeting in San Francisco the other day, and unanimously resolved that the negroes were but the tools to boost the white Republicans into power and never secured any of the offices themselves. They are now looking around for another party that will take care of them, and give them some of the fat places.

The Readjusters in the Virginia Legislature are evidently afraid to touch the subject of State finances. The Legislature has been in session an entire month, and no financial question has yet been brought forward by them. The Washington *Star* is of the opinion that they will quietly drop these financial questions altogether, and confine their efforts to keeping control of the State government, which they now have securely in their hands.

Talmage selected nightmares as the subject for his sermon last Sunday, and endeavored to discover whether they were caused by dyspepsia or a revelation from above. He was rather inclined to regard them as due to both. Dreams were repeatedly mentioned in the Bible as having been sent for the purpose of giving warning, and more than once are mentioned as having been sent from on high. On the other hand, it was equally true that too much supper would develop them, and therefore it would not do to attribute meaning and significance to every vision we see in our sleep. He failed, however to tell how the two species of dreams could be distinguished from each other, and his hearers are, therefore, no wiser than they were before they heard him, and are liable to mistake the result of too much cheese for a prophetic and warning vision.

The Philadelphia *Times* recently sent circular letters, with blank circulars for answers, to the entire press of Pennsylvania, outside of Philadelphia, for the purpose of obtaining an expression of opinion concerning the popularity of certain persons mentioned in connection with the presidential nomination. To these circulars more than half of the journals of the State have replied, from which the *Times* is enabled to make up the following summary: On the Republican side 26 are for Blaine, 22 for Grant, 3 for Sherman, 5 for the field, 7 for the nominee and 3 for the best man; on the Democratic side 15 are for Tilden, 13 for Bayard, 11 for Gen. Hancock, 9 for Seymour, 4 for the field, 5 for the nominee and 11 for anybody. From the foregoing it would appear that Republican preferences are rather evenly divided on Blaine and Grant, while the Democrats manifest a disposition to support Tilden, Bayard, Hancock and Seymour in the order named, or "anybody" with a respectable chance of winning. These returns, coming from nearly all sections of the State, would seem to indicate that the sentiment favorable to a particular candidate is not confined to any particular locality, but is scattered, and the papers, whether for one candidate or another, generally agree respecting the average of opinion in the locality in which they are published.

THE SENATORSHIP.

The DEMOCRAT has not admitted the claims of Gen. Gibson's advocates when they assume that he has pre-eminently distinguished himself in his congressional career. At the same time we do not by any means seek to deny him that credit to which he is justly entitled. His long service, deportment, and acknowledged attention to the interests confided to his charge has enabled him to render efficient service in protecting the sugar interests, and he has labored earnestly in other directions. So have his colleagues, and it was their duty so to do.

The DEMOCRAT has simply checked overzealous supporters who have betrayed a disposition to dwarf other public men of Louisiana into insignificance and exalt Gen. Gibson by centering in him all the credit for results which unquestionably may be accredited to the concurrent efforts of his colleagues and political associates.

Suppose, however, it be admitted, for the sake of argument, that Gen. Gibson possesses all the ability and influence in Congress now claimed for him by his friends; that, by reason of many years of service and his influential associations at Washington, he has secured a high position upon the most important committee in the House, the Committee on Ways and Means. Now, if Gen. Gibson be elected United States Senator, to take his seat in 1883, it is scarcely probable that he would become a candidate for re-election to the House in 1880. No one who knows our distinguished friend would calculate upon his doing so. It would not comport with senatorial dignity, to say nothing of other manifest objections. As a matter of fact, all the great measures which affect the material interests of the South, and which have been pressed upon Congress for years, will in all probability be discussed and passed upon between now and 1883, and the great battlefield will be in the House of Representatives.

The revenue bill, which is framed by the very Committee on Ways and Means in which Gen. Gibson is said to wield such powerful influence, must originate there. It is in the framing of this legislation that the sugar interests are protected.

It is in the House that all appropriation bills for improvements must originate.

If Gen. Gibson shall be transferred from this field of usefulness and be relegated to two years of retirement, after which he will take his rank amongst the new Senators, and there commence at the bottom of the senatorial ladder, how will the people be compensated for the loss that may follow to all of the vital measures in which they are interested? If it has been Gibson's influence that has maintained the tariff upon sugar, who will stand between this interest and danger when he is absent? A Louisiana member may be assigned to that committee, but as it is one in which promotion is exceedingly slow, it is manifest that the very representatives of the sugar interest who now urge Gen. Gibson's claims would be the sufferers.

Again, in his absence, what would become of the appropriations for the Mississippi river, the Mint, harbors, railroads, and, in fact, for all those measures which we are told he has originated or caused to be considered heretofore?

It is quite clear to us that if it be true that Gen. Gibson has one-half the influence ascribed to him by his advocates, then the people will best serve themselves by keeping him upon the battle-field where their interests require the hardest fighting.

This view of the matter does not, of course, regard the General's preferences; but, inasmuch as the question at issue is one which the Legislature is likely to view from the standpoint of what will best promote the welfare of the people, we present it in this shape, and apprehend that our legislators will avail themselves of the opportunity offered to retain so excellent a public servant where he can do the most good, and by placing John McEnery in the United States Senate they will, we think, not only reflect the Democratic sentiment of the State, but secure the additional services of an able, pure and patriotic gentleman.

ORGANIZED CHARITY.

Gov. Wiltz in his message touched upon that article in the new constitution which makes it incumbent upon each parish to support all infirm, sick or disabled paupers residing within its limits, and very properly called the attention of the Legislature to the necessity of providing against mendicant and vagrant pauperism, and also of legislation "reprehensive and penal" to check the influx into the State of numbers of insolent, audacious and "healthy vagabond mendicants, who have recently invaded Louisiana." This is a very important matter, and one that deserves the serious consideration not only of the members of the General Assembly but of the public at large, and it is quite time that some system of organized charity was adopted in this community which would work in the interest of the really needy and distressed and against those professional paupers whose presence in any community is a nuisance. Honest poverty suffers in silence while vagabond and shameless beggars parade themselves upon the public highways, making an exhibition of their misfortunes and demanding alms from every passer. It is often very perplexing to those who are charitably inclined to know just what to do when appealed to by these pitiful-looking individuals, and nine times out of ten the impulse to give prevails over the disinclination to encourage this character of mendicancy, and about nine times out of ten the money given is squandered upon persons utterly unworthy and not in need. To avoid this wasteful expenditure and to insure the distribution of charitable funds among the really destitute, there are in a number of Northern cities, notably in New York, Philadelphia and Buffalo, societies organized for the purpose of investigating every case of alleged pauperism that is brought to their notice. These societies are under the management of the very best citizens, who have an office where complaints are filed and where blank forms are issued, which, when filled up, secure a thorough investigation into the case of alleged poverty. For all purposes of professional mendicants these forms answer admirably, as whenever a party is applied to for aid he can take the name and residence of the applicant and hand it in to the society, where it at once receives attention. In this way private charities may be bestowed with actual certainty of their giving relief to those who are genuinely in need. The province of these societies is not merely, however, to look up and assist these cases of pauperism, but to make a thorough canvass of the city and ascertain by actual personal investigation every case of distress, and to relieve it as promptly and fully as their means will permit.

This system has been found to work to the entire satisfaction of all parties concerned except the chronic and professional paupers, who are, very naturally, disgusted with this modern interference with their time-honored prerogatives, and are shaking the dust from the communities referred to and flocking to others whose people are not of so curious and investigating a turn of mind. These veterans, who are in most instances robust and well-fed fellows, and who have so long practiced the stand-and-deliver style as to think themselves entitled to a living without work, will ultimately be compelled to take to some honest and legitimate business or betake themselves to other and more congenial climes, where they can join the great and yearly increasing army of lazzaroni.

We should be glad to see the Legislature pass such laws as may be necessary to meet the growing evil pointed out by the Governor, and to chronicle the formation in New Orleans of a society for the relief of the poor and for the suppression of mendicancy.

Such a society under the management of our leading and most influential citizens, and systematically organized, would be able to do a vast deal of good and relieve a great number of meritorious poor whose wants are now unknown and who suffer in silence.

SANITATION.

The meeting held Thursday night at Odd Fellows' Hall under the auspices of the Auxiliary Sanitary Association, though not so largely attended as it should have been, considering the magnitude of the ends in view, was the inauguration of a movement the importance of which to this city cannot be overestimated. The remarks of the president of the association, C. A. Whitney, Esq., are worthy of the serious consideration of our people generally, especially of our mercantile community, and we reproduce the following extract in order to direct public attention more thoroughly to the matter:

In my opinion New Orleans has a great future, and I see no reason to doubt that she will again become the second commercial city of the Union. Thanks to Capt. Eads—to whom we ought to be grateful—we have now one of the best harbors of this continent, and have reason to hope that in less than three years—possibly two—this city will be the gulf terminus of the Southern Pacific Railroad.

In less than six months we will have railroad communication with Texas, and before many years three rail connections with the railroad net work of that great State—itself an empire. We have a constitution that assures low taxes and effectually protects us from the abuses that have strangled commerce. We have greatly increasing crops and remunerative prices. We have a growing commerce with Mexico, the West Indies and South America, and with a single exception, everything augurs favorably for the permanent prosperity of our great city. That exception constitutes the subject which we are assembled to discuss.

If epidemics continue, it is idle to deny that our progress will be greatly retarded. With public health, it is difficult to picture the possibilities of our future.

Action is necessary—immediate action. The question must be met at once, and in a thorough and liberal manner.

Apathy means death. The public treasury is exhausted, and from that direction the future furnishes no hope.

To our people, in their individual capacity, must we look for the means absolutely necessary to preserve the health of the city. The money will not be wasted—it will be returned ten-fold in the protection to life and in the enhanced value of property.

This is a clear and concise statement of the subject, and volumes of words would not more effectually convey its vital importance. We believe with Mr. Whitney that "with public health it is difficult to picture the possibilities of our future," and hence the absolute necessity for prosecuting intelligently and determinedly the great work of sanitary reform. Let our people retrench and practice the most rigid economy in every other respect, but let them not hesitate to subscribe liberally to maintain for our city the reputation for cleanliness and healthfulness which by hard and persistent work and a wise expenditure of money she achieved last year. The future is indeed full of bright promise for us if we can avert from our city the scourge which has in the past inflicted upon her so much sorrow and damaged so immeasurably her material interests, and that this is possible, nay almost certain, the experience of last year sufficiently proves. Cleansing a great city, however, is a great and continuous work, and one cleaning up will not suffice.

With the awful example of Memphis before us, who shall say that the people of New Orleans can overestimate the importance of sanitation, or that they should hesitate one moment about subscribing whatever amount may be deemed requisite to a thorough cleansing of the city and the prosecution of sanitary work throughout the next summer? We believe that our citizens are fully awake to the importance of the proposed work, and that they will not only contribute largely and cheerfully of their means, but will give in every possible way their assistance to the public-spirited and self-sacrificing gentlemen who have done such good work in the past, and who are now buckling on their armor for the grand struggle against dirt and disease which is inevitable this year. Let us all help the association and city and State authorities with words of cheer and with our means to win as conspicuous and brilliant a victory this year as crowned their labors in 1878.

THE SUICIDE MANIA.

Two young men have recently committed suicide in New York under such peculiar circumstances as to excite unusual newspaper comment. Both of them, it seems, went about the act of self-destruction in the most deliberate manner, leaving behind them carefully written documents concerning their worldly affairs, and providing for the disposition of their bodies after death. One of these self-immolated individuals was a young Englishman named H. A. Holland, a graduate of Oxford University, and the son of a well known and wealthy clergyman of the Established Church, living in one of the central counties of England; while the other was a young German civil engineer named Parthay, who, like Holland, was of excellent stock, highly educated and possessed of talents above the common order. Both of these young men in their valedictory messages to the public assert their sanity in the most positive terms, although neither displays a willingness to advise the public concerning the motives leading to the shuffling off of "the mortal coil" in such an unceremonious manner. Parthay said he went "calm and without any passion or fear," while Holland said, "I do hope that no one will think me mad." Relative to the disposition of their bodies after death there was also a singular unanimity, each expressing a desire to be cremated. The German did not care for ceremonies, but "would prefer burning," and the Englishman did not wish to put his family and friends to more expense than he could help, but "should like to be cremated." Following swiftly the one after the other, these suicides would seem to suggest something more in the way of a motive than the usual "life weariness" engendered by disappointment or trouble. Those who are about to enter that "undiscovered country" about which there has ever been so much of speculation and so little of real knowledge, are not usually so methodical in their anti-funeral movements. In fact it is very seldom that a person meditating suicide ever expresses any particular wish concerning the disposition of his or her remains. The first and most natural impulse under the circumstances would seem to be to secure the most deadly of poisons and leave the rest to chance, for as young Holland, above mentioned, says in his letter, "it really does not seem much matter what becomes of the body after the soul has left it." What, then, could have been the motive actuating these young, intelligent and well-educated men to rush heedlessly to death, when according to the written statement of each there were no earthly ills that might not have been easily borne? Are their disclaimers of insanity to be received as evidences of madness, or are we to believe that they were actuated solely by a desire to penetrate the veiled mysteries of the great hereafter? Or did they fancy that the cremation of the body would be the end of all? Granting that each of these suicides might have believed himself justifiable in ending his life with what is regarded by society as the highest of crimes, shall we not say that they "died as the fool dieth?"

A GOOD RIDDANCE.

We regret that in the rush of other matters and in the engrossing procession of events we neglected to thank Judge Billings, for the sake of justice and propriety as well as on behalf of the entire steamboat fraternity, for his action in removing the late Morris—or perhaps we should say T. Morris—Chester from his position as United States Commissioner. How Chester ever came to be appointed to that place has always been a mystery to good citizens; how he managed to escape decapitation so long has proved even more of a conundrum. There is no doubt, however, as to the fitness and timeliness of his removal. Judge Billings could not have done a more just or commendable thing or one that would more certainly concentrate upon himself the gratitude of a large and influential class. This fellow Chester has done more than any other commissioner to bring into odium and disrepute the administration of Federal justice here in New Orleans. Beside being an ass of the densest and most opaque description, he is at once conceited and obstinate, pompous and malignant, cunning and unscrupulous. His court has been the medium through which the most outrageous annoyances, oppressions and injuries were inflicted on steamboat men and steamboat interests. There was no complaint so frivolous that he would not make it the pretext for some persecution; there was no allegation so false and untenable that he would not maintain it as against the steamboats. Half a dozen such commissioners as Chester would have driven the river commerce away in less than twelve months. Half a dozen such courts as his would have made it impossible to transact business that could by any device be brought within his clutches. With the instincts of a bird of prey, his ruilings were always against those who offered temptation to plunder; with the instincts of an embittered and malevolent nature, his blows were always leveled at the worthy.

We are glad that Chester has gone. In the name of a numerous community and of a large and important interest, we thank Judge Billings for giving the impetus that launched him. He has been in authority just long enough, however, to illustrate the folly and the danger of applying to public position a set of attainments which nature intended for the cornfield by day, and perchance the neighbors' hen-roost by night. Chester is ruined now, and to that extent he is a victim. He can never bring himself down to his legitimate occupation of chasing a twelve-inch hoe down a ditch bank, and yet it is the most certain of all certain things that there will never be any popular yearning for him as an expounder of the law. It is difficult to imagine any field of labor in which Chester can figure to the profit and satisfaction of any one else, though possibly, if we had time, we might stumble upon a valuable suggestion. Chester, however, is one of those things that people shake with too much enthusiasm to admit of an afterthought. They say, as we do now, Good-bye! and then they want to air their minds.

SUGAR MARKETS.

We take the liberty of offering the suggestion to the Associated Press that a better knowledge of the condition of the sugar markets of the principal cities of the North and West would be of great interest to our sugar dealers and planters, and, in this connection, it would be well if the dispatches quoted the grades best known here, and also give the tone of Northern and Western markets.

Louisiana now produces a sugar supply of fourteen millions in value. The number of persons engaged in the production and handling of this vast crop, together with the large capital invested, justifies us in requesting that the fullest information shall be given, in order that our people may have the benefit of all the markets of the country, and we have no doubt that our friends of the Associated Press will cheerfully adopt so reasonable a suggestion, which is based upon the universal desire of our business community.

Notwithstanding repeated assurances to the contrary, and the excited comments of the German and Austrian press thereon, the statement is now made from Russian sources that instead of increasing her army it has been materially decreased during the present year, and that her purposes and wishes are all for peace. This is very well as far as it goes, but it does not go far enough. The charge made by the Austrian press was that Russia was massing her army on the Western frontier, and there accumulating a large quantity of war material. No explanation is given of this movement, and until it is fully accounted for Russia's protestations of peaceful purposes will be accepted with reserve.

Mr. MacTear, who recently agitated society and the jewelers with the statement that he had discovered a process by which carbon could be crystallized—in other words, an invention for making diamonds—now announces that the announcement was premature He admits that he occasioned very general alarm without good reason, but is of the opinion that he will yet succeed. Possibly he will, yet it would be well for him to be sure of success before he again startles those who have a large supply of the costly brilliants on hand.

When an American wants to feel how small he is and how little respected is his country, he goes down to Venezuela. There he has the starch taken out of him in the shortest possible time. It has long been the delight of the average Venezuelan to show his contempt for the "great republic," but we submit that the recent occurrences at Barcelona carry this feeling rather too far. An American consul is entitled to some consideration, if the unrepresentative citizen is not. The cuffing and kicking, so to speak, of our consular agent out of the city seems to call for some action on the part of Mr. Evarts's department, if it amounts to no more than a mild protest.

CITY LICENSES FOR 1880.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, CITY HALL, New Orleans, January 1, 1880.

This department will be prepared on FRIDAY, January 2, 1880, to deliver city licenses of 1880 for all vehicles, trades, professions and callings; and will receive in payment of the same until January 31, 1880—

90 per cent in cash, and

10 per cent in the unpaid ordinances of the city for the years 1876, 1877 and 1878.

The owners or keepers of dogs are respectfully notified that a license for each dog must be taken out in compliance with ordinance No. 6146, A. S.

A. H. ISAACSON,
ja1 1m Administrator of Finance.