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E. A. BURKE, Managing Editor.

NEW ORLEANS, FEBRUARY 26, 1880.

AMUSEMENTS.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC "LONDRA," by the Weatherly Goodwin Frohman.

WEATHER PROBABILITIES.

For the Gulf States, slight change in temperature and pressure, southerly winds, becoming variable, cloudy, followed by clear or fair weather.

Senator Sherman's attempt to capture the North Carolina delegation is likely to prove a failure. Two of the delegates elected for the State at large have broken away from him and are browsing for Grant, and the "old man" is in a fair way to get a majority of the district delegates.

A Dublin correspondent of the Herald declares that there has been a large increase lately in the number of destitute persons in Ireland, particularly in counties Donegal and Mayo, applying for assistance. In Donegal the number of distressed has increased to 66,000, while in Mayo the increase in the past two weeks in the number of applicants for aid is fully 21,000, making the total number in the county needing assistance 93,000.

Grant is "a blagger man" in Mexico than he was in Europe, and is receiving a perfect ovation in the land of Montezuma. We read of arches of welcome, torchlight processions and illuminations in his honor, while all the Mexican dignitaries, the generals and the governors of the various States, are collected to do him honor. The Grantites will probably utilize this to work up the third term again; it has been looking rather sickly of late and needs some encouragement.

Of the Pennsylvania delegation to the Chicago convention no less than twenty-two delegates are known to favor Blaine. Of these, five have already announced their determination not to be bound by the action of the Harbinger convention instructing them to cast the vote of Pennsylvania solid for Grant, but to cast their individual votes for the candidate of their choice—Blaine. The other seventeen Blaine men have not come out quite so boldly as this yet, and confine themselves to endeavors to persuade Cameron to surrender his predilections for Grant.

The Missourians and Kansans are striving energetically to open up the Indian Territory to settlement, and are determined to get possession of the lands of the Indians some way or other. Senator Vest, the other day, opened the warfare against the redskins, declaring that it was impossible for that Territory to remain any longer a blank on the map of civilization, and proposed that the lands should be divided among the Indians so that they could be opened up to settlement. In support of this proposition, he presented a petition from the chiefs of several of the smaller tribes of Indians in the Territory. Pecos and others, declaring that they were no longer in favor of holding their lands in common, and asking permission to divide them up.

The Herald's correspondent declares that all danger of actual starvation in Ireland is at an end, thanks to the admirable machinery of distribution organized by the various relief funds. The famine will increase during the next two weeks or months and will then begin to show a decrease in consequence of the employment of men in sowing the crops. As soon, however, as this is over, which will be in June or July, the greatest want and need will follow, and it is during this period that the world must care for Ireland or there will be terrible suffering there. The Herald's correspondent advises that the Herald fund be held back as long as possible, and, unless there is absolute need for its disbursement, until the period of destitution arrives. It is probable that the other relief funds, and those of the Mansion House and the Duchess of Marlborough, will be exhausted by that time, and the Herald fund can then step in and do a great deal more for the relief of the country than it can do at present.

The Cincinnati Southern Railroad is likely to gain access to the Atlantic seaboard and the South Atlantic States, notwithstanding the successful combinations made against it by the Georgia railroads by the Louisville and Nashville road. It is negotiating with the State of North Carolina for that Commonwealth's interest in the Western North Carolina Railroad, the control of which would place the Cincinnati line in direct connection with the railroad systems of the Carolinas, and give it several outlets to the sea at Morehead City and Wilmington, N. C., at Charlotte, S. C., and at Savannah, Ga., by way of Augusta. Atlanta would be completely flanked. The North Carolina authorities are disposed to sell the State's interest in the road upon the favorable terms proposed, and the Legislature has been called together in extra session on the fifteenth of March to consider the proposition. It is probable that the sale will be made, but even then the Cincinnati people will have to wait some time before they realize their cherished scheme of a trunk line to the South Atlantic seaboard. Two branch roads will have to be constructed from Asheville, N. C., one to Paint Rock, and the other to Ducktown, both in Tennessee. When these are completed the system will be perfected, and the Cincinnati Railroad will be in a position to compete with its great rival for the business of Western North Carolina, South Carolina and Eastern Georgia, and with the advantage of a shorter line to the sea.

THE PALMER CASE.

The DEMOCRAT was among the first to give voice to the popular demand that stern and impartial justice should be meted out to those officials of banking institutions, and especially of savings institutions, who had been derelict in their duties or criminal in their actions. We believed then, as we believe now, that all those officials who had betrayed the sacred trusts reposed in them and had misappropriated the funds entrusted to their keeping should be held to a rigid accountability. The many instances of criminal mismanagement of savings banks throughout the country, and the great suffering and hardship caused thereby to thousands of poor people, whose savings were ruthlessly and without warning swept away, very naturally raised a storm of popular indignation, and many of the culpable officials have met with sudden and, in most instances, we believe deserved punishment. There is however some danger, in times like these, when great and manifest wrongs have created a popular clamor and prejudice against a certain class that injustice is sometimes done the accused, and it is against this possibility that it behooves all just and right thinking men to guard with special and jealous care. It is better for society at large that even a criminal should escape than that he should be illegally and wrongfully punished. Even if a man be guilty of one crime he cannot legally be found guilty and punished for it, on the mere supposition, or upon the absolute certainty, that he has committed some other crime. The evidence of guilt as to the special and particular crime charged should be as conclusive as to leave no shadow of doubt on the mind of the jury. Was there such evidence adduced in the trial of the case against E. C. Palmer, late president of the Louisiana Savings Bank, on the charge of embezzlement, and in which the jury found a verdict of guilty? We find it to be the almost unanimous opinion of the bar that the verdict in that case was not sustained by the facts adduced on the trial, and whatever may be the popular bias against Mr. Palmer, however much public opinion may run against his conduct in the management of the bank (and the DEMOCRAT has been pronounced in its expressions in that regard), we are of the opinion that, in view of all the circumstances of the case and of the well settled conviction in the minds of many of the best and purest members of our bar, that the ends of justice would be best subserved by granting the accused a new trial. We trust that Judge Whitaker, in the exercise of that severe impartiality which has ever characterized his course as a magistrate, and upon a close examination of the testimony adduced at the trial, will see his way clear to granting the plea of the defendant's counsel for a new trial, for it would be most unfortunate if, with several indictments against the accused, he should be enabled to claim and possibly, subsequently, to establish that he had been wrongfully convicted of a crime of the commission of which he was innocent. If, on the contrary, he be guilty, that fact must the more fully appear upon the second trial, and the ends of justice be attained to the satisfaction of the community.

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

We publish this morning a statement showing the apportionment among the States in the matter of delegates to the national nominating convention of the Democratic party. It is interesting to look over this table and to make some of the calculations that are suggested. For instance, the sixteen Southern States, including Delaware and Missouri, have a representation of 276 out of the 738 composing the convention, or about 37 per cent of the whole; whereas the same States are required to furnish, and do furnish, 74 per cent of the electoral vote. In other words, although the South is relied upon to contribute three-fourths of the vote by which, if elected at all, the Democratic President must be elected, she has comparatively no voice whatever in the selection of the candidate for whom her vote is to secure the victory. Should the nomination be made by a majority in the convention, the South's wishes and the South's influence could be absolutely disregarded. Should it be made under the two-thirds rule, the South could barely prevent a nomination, and not even then if she should lose Missouri or Kentucky. The fact is that while the South gives the vote by which the national Democratic party obtains whatever power it possesses, the South is far from wielding a proportionate influence in the party councils. Doubtful States like New York and Indiana, and hopelessly Republican States like Pennsylvania, Ohio, Massachusetts and Illinois, manage matters to suit themselves and without reference to the solid Democratic South. And this is not only the case in the nominating convention, but it has been too much so in the policy of the party in Congress.

L. GEISLER PATRIOT.

Mr. Ludwig Geissler has sued E. A. Burke, of the DEMOCRAT for \$100 damages to his business and his feelings, on account of an editorial published in this paper on the eleventh instant, in which Geissler was spoken of as a patriot, a nuisance, a socialist, an agitator, and a lunatic. Geissler admits that he is a patriot, but denies being a nuisance, a socialist, an agitator, or a lunatic. Geissler may be right. We called him a patriot ironically and the other things in dead earnest; but at the same time he may be right. Supposing him to be so, however, why does he sue us for \$100 on account of a mere error? He has often said in public that he is a socialist, he has continually acted the part of an agitator, he looks like a nuisance, and he behaves like a lunatic. Is it our fault if Geissler impresses us in this way? If Geissler would wash his face and hands, and would fish up an inch or two of shirt collar, and would mind his own business and, in a reasonable way, be decent, we feel sure that

nobody would consider or call him a nuisance. But he does none of these things; on the contrary, he feels it to be his mission to meddle with the affairs of others, to make mischief wherever he sees an opportunity, to influence the minds of industrious men, and to foment disorder and agitation against established rules. So far as we know, this is the only occupation he has certainly it is the only one he seems to devote much of his time to, and, while we have no doubt that such articles as his complaints are calculated to injure his trade, we do doubt, that the courts will recognize the infliction of the injury as a legitimate ground for damages. According to our view of the matter we could not do a wiser or better thing than to obstruct and, if possible, destroy the sort of a business that Geissler's appears to be. He claims to be a patriot, and perhaps is pushing the cause of Socialism in his capacity as such; but Mr. Geissler will find that he is not considered a patriot from the American standpoint, and that the DEMOCRAT understands public opinion in this country better than he does when, speaking for that opinion, it calls him a nuisance and a pest. As for Geissler's feelings, we are sorry to have hurt them. It is very awkward for a great reformer to have feelings that embarrass him in his work, but if he persists in the luxury, he might leave his feelings at home when he starts out to engineer a labor disturbance. This thing of carrying \$100 worth of feelings about one's clothes is very, very rash. No wonder he got them hurt!

And now, all we have to say to Geissler is that he has assumed a very audacious task in undertaking to prove that he is not a nuisance. The files of the papers, and the reports of the various labor agitators of late years, show that Geissler is conspicuous for nothing, if not for being a public pest. If he can show that he has not consistently advocated the most incendiary Communist theories, and aided and abetted the most mischievous demonstrations, then there may be a question whether he is or is not a useful and desirable citizen. We advise Geissler's energy, but we doubt his judgment. It will be the thing, indeed, if a man can get damages because others tell the truth about him!

LICENSE AND MOVABLES TAX.

We must ask the indulgence of the Legislature again to consider the importance, if not the necessity, of ordaining the collection of the tax on capital, movable property and licenses during the first part of the year. This measure is imperative for many reasons, any one of which ought to be sufficient to ensure its adoption by the government. One would think it scarcely worth while to go beyond the first and most obvious argument, to wit, that unless a collection of some sort be ordered early in the year, the State will be left without a cent to meet the expenses of the administration. There will be nothing to pay the public officers, to run the courts or to defray any of the expenses of government throughout the State. This will operate a grievous injury and injustice to the individual, besides seriously impairing the efficiency of the public service and gravely embarrassing our public finances; and when we consider that it is wholly unnecessary to incur all this trouble, that there is no consideration of expediency, however sentimental, which demands it, the conclusion seems irresistible that it would be unmitigated folly to run the risk. Apart from this, however, it is well known that the State will almost certainly lose large sums by putting off the collection of the taxes we refer to. On an average there are always a number of values of this character which disappear during the middle or latter part of the year. Assets which are visible and taxable now might not be so in July or December. Death, removal, the closing up of a business for the season, a score of causes would operate to withdraw from the scope of taxation enormous values which are now easily accessible. Business of every kind is active at present. The credits and bank accounts of our merchants and commercial establishments are pléthoric, and numerous wealthy corporations of the city have more money than they know what to do with. Not one in ten of those who are liable for a tax on capital, movable property, or license, would object to paying promptly. Not one in ten would consider it any great objection to postpone the payment five or six months. Why not make the collection at once, then? What useful purpose can possibly be promoted by delay? The fact is that a collection of that sort is absolutely indispensable to the proper conduct and support of the government.

MAHONEY'S WRATH.

If it isn't too late, we should like to express our sympathy with our genial and whole-souled friend Mahoney, of the Tenth Ward. He is reported as having risen up on Tuesday morning and called attention to the printed journal, on the face of which a resolution offered by him on the previous day was represented by a broad, black "rule." Instead of giving the text of the resolution, the journal simply showed a line indicating blankness. And upon this, the indignant Mahoney took the floor and, in a voice husky with emotion, proclaimed that he would wreak an awful vengeance on the person responsible for the affront. Now we can sympathize in Mahoney's wrath under the circumstances. When a statesman passes through the experience of being hit by an idea and having a resolution as long as a clothes line knocked out of him, he is justified in expecting to be mentioned in the papers. We do not, therefore, wish to be understood as objecting to our honorable friend's chagrin. He had a right to look for his name and his resolution in the official journal, and he was more than mortal if he felt no anger at finding neither. But let us explain; let us take Mahoney's hair—that noble mane which now in fine frenzy rolls and plait it tenderly to sounds of sweetest music. The broad black line which stood in place of Mahoney's resolution was put there by the guileless printer-man to show that something was missing. In setting up the official proceedings as they were received from the House, the printer-man discovered that there was an aching void just at that special place, and he inserted the rule to call attention to the fact. Inquiry and search failed to supply the loss, and so the journal appeared in the unfinished, not to say blemished condition which, it seems, has caused the gorge of our honorable friend to rise. We apologize for that black mark. Broad as it is, it feebly represents our gloom at having missed Mahoney's resolution. Yet we do protest that the omission was no fault of ours. Let us hope that this will be enough to

solve Mahoney's wounded dignity. He should not offer up the untalented printer-man for a sin he is not guilty of. We have good printer-men, who do their duty according to the flickering lights they have to go by, and we cannot afford to lose one of them, even to appease Mahoney. Let our genial friend, on the contrary, accept this humble and penitent amendment. Let him smooth the pucker from that tall Corinthian brow, and lend his powerful mind to an anxious and admiring people.

THE IRISH FUND.

There never was a more striking exemplification of the whole-souled generosity of the people of this country than is afforded by the response to the cry of the New York Herald for aid for the suffering and starving people of Ireland. The superb munificence of the proprietor of the Herald in heading the subscription with the sum of \$100,000 very naturally evoked admiration and aroused enthusiasm for the cause which mere words of sympathy never would have called into life. From every section of the Union there has poured a steady stream of charity, until this fund has reached nearly a quarter of a million of dollars and will, we suspect, be swelled to a round half million before the Herald puts up the bars and calls a halt. This, when we consider all the circumstances of the case, and the large sums that have been sent either directly to the Irish poor or to some of the various committees in England and Ireland, is a showing of which we as a people, and the Herald as a representative journal, may justly feel proud. The munificence of the people has not been confined to any race, nationality or creed. People of every race and of all religions have given, and given freely, to relieve the terrible suffering and want of fellow-creatures in Ireland, and it is pleasant for the citizens of this east and growing and prosperous country of ours to reflect that they have very materially assisted in mitigating the ravages of famine in a land around which the poetry of its bards has flung a glamour of romance and beauty, and to which the whole civilized world is deeply indebted. It is cause for regret that Mr. Parnell should not have seen his way clear to accepting a position on the committee selected for the distribution of the fund. The tender of the appointment on the part of the Herald was certainly a graceful act, especially after the severe and denunciatory language indulged in by the Irish reformer, and his refusal, or rather his acceptance, hedged about as it was with impossible conditions, will not elevate him in the estimation of those who had heretofore thought him to be an unselfish and patriotic champion of the Irish people. Mr. Parnell suddenly discovered that in making his political mission paramount to the necessities of his starving countrymen he has made a most egregious error and his power for good in this country has been greatly lessened.

THE SUPPORT OF PAUPERS.

The bill now before the State Legislature requiring police garrles to make provision for the support of infirm, sick and disabled paupers residing in their respective parishes, is one of more than ordinary importance. In every large community there is, of necessity, a dependent class, which must, in some way be provided for. Their poverty and helplessness may proceed from the loss of their professions, the husband or parents, at a time when they were unable to provide for themselves; from sickness; from mental or physical incapacity for self-support; from lack of employment, or from intemperance and vicious indulgence. Whichever of those causes may have induced this state of dependence, it is a recognized duty in all civilized communities to diminish and, so far as possible, prevent extreme suffering on the part of those thus helpless. The methods of accomplishing this result are, of necessity, various. All who need at times pecuniary aid are not paupers, and to treat them as such would not only wound and distress them needlessly, but would in the end produce a demoralization and indolence to exertion which would throw an intolerable burden on the tax-paying class, who would be compelled to support them. It was the recognition of this truth which led to the distinction between the outdoor poor and the pauper, which is commonly established in our large towns. The methods of providing for the poor vary in different sections of the country. In New England, where the town was an older political organization than the county, province or State, the legal care of the poor has always devolved upon the first town officer, or selectman, as he is usually called. Those needing only temporary aid receive small sums, and are encouraged to struggle on at their homes; those wholly dependent are provided for in the smaller towns by contract with some citizen, who for a stipulated sum agrees to provide them with food, clothing and shelter, employing such of them as are able to perform some labor in such work as their health or want of skill will permit. In the larger towns, this class are received into almshouses, to which often a farm is attached, much of the lighter work of which is performed by the paupers. In the middle and Western States the assistance to the poor and the support of paupers is a county charge, and is under the control of supervisors elected by the voters of the county. Those entirely dependent are usually quarantined in a county almshouse, and where practicable, employed in light labor. In the Southern States, with a milder climate and sparser population, there has been less occasion for definite preparation for the wants of a pauper class, especially as a very considerable portion of those who would elsewhere have been dependent upon the public were cared for, when infirm, sick or disabled, by their masters. The war, however, which resulted in the emancipation of the colored people, has changed all this, and hence it is found necessary, in what were formerly large slave-holding districts or parishes, to provide some adequate method of dealing with the question of pauperism. By the provisions of the bill now pending before the Legislature the police juries of parishes are authorized to purchase or lease a farm or other home, and to make such regulations for the government thereof as will render the same wholly or in part self-sustaining. It is further provided that no debt shall be created against the parish beyond the amount appropriated and collected for the purpose with other current parish taxes, and that no greater rate of taxation than that allowed by the constitution shall be levied by any police jury to carry out the object of the act, except for the purposes and in the manner set forth in article 208 of the constitution. In many of the counties of the Western States and in some of the Southern States these poor-house

or pauper farms have not only been made self-sustaining, but have been so managed as to yield a revenue to the county. By the provisions of the bill to which we have especially referred, police juries are empowered to establish such agricultural or manufacturing enterprises as they may deem proper for the employment of pauper labor, and it is to be provided that such enterprises shall be regarded as public works, within the meaning of the law. With such a law as this properly carried out, the people would be relieved of all future taxation to support their indigent neighbors, or the burden would be rendered so light as to scarcely justify complaint on the part of taxpayers.

FISH HATCHING AND FISH CATCHING.

In the title of a little book lately issued by Seth Green, Superintendent of State Fisheries of New York, and R. B. Roosevelt, Fish Commissioner of the same State; both high authorities on the subject. We learn from it the great amount of interest taken in this subject at the North and the success that has attended their efforts, and the almost entire ignorance that prevails at the South. Out of twenty-four States that has appointed fish commissioners to attend to their interests in this matter we only find two Southern States—Arkansas and Alabama. And this most in great measure be attributed to the injustice and indifference to our interests of the general government, who have established hatching-houses through the Northern States, and cultivated Northern varieties of fish exclusively. We learn from this little book that it is estimated that one acre of water will produce as much food as five acres of land, if cultivated with the same skill; that our lakes and rivers are full of food on which fish can live that now is wasted; that from the fact that fish are cold-blooded, that the food which is required to produce one pound of fish or poultry will make many pounds of fish.

The first step towards the successful cultivation of fish in the South is to induce the general government to establish a hatching-house in the South, where, with their scientific experiments, they can ascertain the best food fish adapted to our climate and water, and produce the eggs and young. We see a resolution has already passed our House of Representatives, asking that this be done. So far all that the general government has done for us in this respect has been to send out a few young chad and salmon, and place them in our rivers. The chad may be a success, but there has been no instance yet of stocking a river with salmon which was not naturally a salmon producing river, although the re-stocking of depleted salmon river, has been attended with a wonderful success. We want, first, to know what is the best fish or fishes for our waters, and second, that the general government should do as much for us as for the Northern States. Let the movement be inaugurated by establishing a hatching-house for the waters flowing into the gulf. We hope our Legislature will provide for the establishment of a fish commission. There are plenty of gentlemen through the country who would take interest enough to give their time and attention to the subject without pay, so as to be prepared to suggest the necessary legislation by the time the next Legislature meets.

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