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Communications may be addressed simply to Chief, Donaldsonville, La., or to the editor and proprietor personally.

A Mississippi journal says: "Snow came down Tuesday—came down from the North on the top of a freight train."

The North Mississippi, one of the ablest Republican journals of Mississippi, hoists the name of Hon. James L. Alcorn for next Vice President.

It is right amusing to see a comparatively insignificant sheet like the Brookhaven Citizen, of Mississippi, taxing the Louisville Courier-Journal with lack of ability.

The latest "funnigraph" from the Louisville Courier-Journal is that "Grant pinched Warmoth and the Louisiana anti-Grant's Warmoth and the anti-Grant's now Pinchback."

Governor Campbell, of Wyoming, has vetoed a bill to abolish woman's suffrage in that territory, and telegraphs to Washington that the requisite number of votes to pass the bill over his veto cannot be procured in the Legislature.

General Emory the recently appointed commander of the Department of the Gulf, has established his headquarters at the corner of Camp and St. Joseph streets, New Orleans, and entered upon the discharge of the duties of his new position.

A recent article in the Newark (N. J.) Daily Advertiser records the wonderful flight of a carrier pigeon from a vessel in the middle of the Gulf of Mexico to Montclair, New Jersey, a distance of 1596 miles, at an average speed of 202 miles per hour.

Stephen Pearl Andrews suggests that "absolutoid and abstracto d'clementism of being echoes reappears" by analogy within the relation and concretoid alaborisms.

We are sure many of our readers were heretofore ignorant of this important fact.

General L. A. Sheldon, member of Congress from the Second Congressional District of this State, on Tuesday of last week introduced into the national House of Representatives a bill to incorporate a company to build levees and a telegraph line on the Mississippi river, from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, to the mouth, and to grant them a subsidy of sixteen thousand dollars a mile in five per cent. gold bonds.

The Louisiana State Register is after the New Iberia Statesman with a sharp stick. It says: "Leet has moved down to Iberia where he has started a newspaper called the Statesman. A casual glance at the suggestions of this new organ, added to some knowledge of their author induces us to say that a large number of people have been sent to the penitentiary for practicing just such statesmanship as Leet preaches."

The newspapers opposed to the State Administration that are arguing the illegality of the recent extra session of the State Senate, will do well to note that Senator John Ray, the shining legal light of the Custom-house faction, introduced a motion to go into an election for a President of the Senate who should be Lieutenant Governor of the State. We warrant there would have been none of this howling about "illegality" if the opponent of Senator Pinchback had been successful.

The President's Message.

The following is a telegraphic synopsis of the Message submitted by the President to Congress, at the beginning of its present session:

The President refers to the generally successful execution of the laws, his policy not being to inquire into their wisdom, but to leave time to develop their intent and wisdom. The disasters by storm and fire in this country have developed a friendship on the part of foreign nations, and donors will receive the thanks of men, women and children whose sufferings they have relieved. Two countries, speaking the same language, have made a treaty—an example to be followed by other civilized nations, and which may be the means of returning to productive industry millions of men now maintained to settle disputes of nations by the sword and bayonet.

Provision is recommended for the Commission to meet in Geneva, and legislation is recommended to bring into practical effect the questions in the treaty affecting the fisheries and maritime disputes.

The Governors of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois are requested to take part in measures in the treaty which determines the use of the canals by the United States and Great Britain.

A true boundary line between the United States and British North American possessions is urged. He recommends the modification of the tariff and internal revenue laws, the taxes from internal sources to be abolished, except as to liquors and tobacco, and these to be the subject of a stamp duty. Our relations with foreign countries are being discussed with the new relations in Italy.

A commission has been appointed to adjudicate claims of Americans against Spain, and hope is expressed that the commission will be successful.

The visit of Alexis is referred to as evidence of the continued friendly relations with Russia. The inexcusable conduct of the Russian Minister rendered his dismissal a matter of self-respect after his personal abuse of the Government officials, and his persistent interference in affairs between this and other countries. His place has been filled by a gentleman who is not objectionable to this Government.

Our relations with Japan are amicable, as also with all the Eastern countries. The difficulty with China is referred to Congress. The Republic of Mexico has not yet repealed the free zone law, and the hope is expressed that Mexico will adopt measures soon to stop the lawlessness on the border.

Congress is urged to press the claim for overdue awards of the Venezuela government for 1866. The relations with Brazil will be more cordial since the decree of emancipation by that country, and regret is expressed that Spain has not followed in the same direction in her possessions.

It is to be regretted that the disturbed condition of Cuba is a source of annoyance and anxiety. Our naval commanders in Cuban waters have been instructed to spare no effort to protect the lives and property of American citizens and maintain the dignity of our flag.

The national debt has been reduced eighty-six millions fifty-seven thousand one hundred and twenty-six dollars during the year, and now the interest accrued is nearly seventeen million dollars less than on the first of March, 1869; but it is not desirable that the present resources of the country should continue to be taxed in order to continue this rapid payment. I recommend all taxes for interest from internal sources be abolished, except those for spirituous, vinous or malt liquors; tobacco, in its various forms, for stamp duty in readjusting the tariff; articles not produced at home are recommended for the free list, and in case of a further reduction it should be upon articles which can best bear it without disturbing home productions.

The present laws for the collection of taxes, with small salaries for collectors, induce fraud, and should be remedied. Under the act of March 3d, 1869, each grade in the staff corps should be fixed in order to enable vacancies to be filled from the same grade.

The navy is in an efficient condition without increase or cost of maintaining it.

The union of the postal and telegraph system is recommended. Education is urged as the groundwork of republican constitutions.

The Kn-Klux laws have been enforced in a portion of South Carolina, and the necessity is shown by the committee to investigate Southern outrages, that the power was exercised reluctantly; but a careful examination proved the existence of powerful combinations to deprive the emancipated class of the substantial benefit of freedom, and of preventing the free political action of those who did not sympathize with their views.

In Utah, a remnant of barbarism, repugnant to civilization, decency and the laws, still exists. It is not with the religion or the saint that we deal, but with their practices. They will not be permitted to violate the laws under the cloak of religion. In future legislation the subject of the plurality of wives and children must be considered, and a bill might be passed to legitimize all children born prior to the time fixed in the act. The Indian policy has resulted favorably, and many tribes have been induced to settle upon reservations. The peace policy is recommended because it is right.

The retention of lands for actual settlers is again recommended.

As six years have elapsed since the close of the war, it may be considered whether it is not now time the disabilities imposed by the Fourteenth Amendment should be removed. When the parity of the ballot is secured, majorities are sure to elect officers reflecting the views of the majority.

I do not see the advantage propriety of excluding men from office merely because they were before the rebellion of standing and character sufficient to be elected to positions requiring them to take an oath to support the Constitution and admitting to eligibility those entertaining precisely the same views, but of less standing in their communities. It may be said the former violated an oath while the latter did not have it in their power to do so. If they had taken this oath it cannot be doubted they would have broken it, as did the former class. If there are any great criminals distinguished above all others for the part they took in opposition to the Government, they might in the judgment of Congress be excluded from such an amnesty.

The condition of the South, is not such as all patriotic citizens can desire. It will be a happy condition of the country when the old citizens of these States will take an interest in public affairs and tolerate this same freedom of expression and ballot as those entertaining different convictions.

A liberal appropriation is recommended to the District of Columbia, to aid local improvements. The erection of public buildings in Chicago is urged. Laws to protect emigrants are suggested.

The Administration has sought to secure honest officials, and if any dishonest ones have appeared, it is the fault of the system of making appointments.

The civil service reform is endorsed as calculated to secure the best men. The work of the present commission is expected to produce good results. U. S. GRANT.

Punctuation.

There is great carelessness, if not ignorance, in the matter of punctuation, whereby much misunderstanding arises. Many persons even emulate the ancient writers in leaving out all marks or divisions of any kind, like the barber who wrote over his door: "What do you think I shave you for nothing and give you a drink," which was interpreted by some to imply an easy shave and a morning tittle to be got for the asking. Such, however, was not the meaning of our worthy tinsmith, who, on being arraigned before the magistrate for what seemed a clear case of deception, exclaimed: "What! do you think I shave you for nothing and give you a drink?"

Points were first used by Aristophanes, a grammarian of Alexandria, 200 years B. C., but were not generally used until the modern system was introduced at the beginning of the sixteenth century by a learned printer of Venice named Mantius. Punctuation not only serves to make an author's meaning plain, but often saves it from being entirely misconceived. And there are many cases where a change of points completely alters the sentiment. The following anecdote of an English statesman, who once took advantage of this fact to free himself from an embarrassing position, is an amusing illustration:

Having charged an officer of the government with dishonesty, he was required by Parliament, under a heavy penalty, publicly to retract the accusation in the House of Commons. At the appointed time, he appeared with a written recantation, which he read aloud as follows: "I said he was dishonest, it is true; and I am sorry for it." This was satisfactory; but what was the surprise of Parliament following day to see the retraction printed in the papers thus: "I said he was dishonest; it is true, and I am sorry for it." By a simple transposition of the comma and semicolon, the ingenious slanderer represented himself to the country, not only as having made no recantation, but even as having reiterated the charge in the very face of Parliament.

The Golden Age says:

We understand that old Mr. Bennett, the founder of the New York Herald, has so greatly failed in health and strength that he now takes almost no interest in anything, and is gliding gently into helplessness and second childhood. For months past, we have noticed an unusual reticence concerning him by the press at large. He has ceased to be sneered at and abused. His name still stands at the head of the great newspaper which he called into life and power, but his contemporaries, who for many years gave him a daily blow, now refrain from kicking the sick lion. Old age and weakness thus come not unattended with compensation after all.

The Indian who lassoed the locomotive and was thereby transported to the happy hunting grounds, has lately had a rival in a brother red man, who, after a too free indulgence in "fire-water," built his wigwam on the railroad near St. Paul, Minnesota, but had most disastrous luck in attempting to stop a freight train.

The Levees.

The importance of an organized levee system, for protection against floods in the Mississippi Valley, is gradually forcing itself upon the attention of the American people. Without security against overflow, it is clear that the rich bottom lands of the delta cannot be cultivated with anything like confidence. While slavery existed, the riparian proprietors were required to keep the levees in order, under the supervision of local parish juries; but the efficiency of the work depended largely on the energy and foresight of the proprietors themselves, and was never pursued under a comprehensive system and with an intelligent view to general results. The authorities in one parish might be provident and careful, and yet fail to ensure protection if those of an adjoining parish were not similarly constituted. But as the matter now stands, in the tier of States of which the Mississippi is either a boundary or an artery, neither the State nor the parochial authorities, and much less, the riparian proprietors, find themselves possessed of the means requisite for the accomplishment of so great a work. The power to devise and execute a comprehensive plan, by which State lines are crossed and State interests subordinated to the larger interests of the whole people of the Union, can only be found in the general government. But the work, to engage the direct attention of the general government, should be of national importance; and that it is, will scarcely be denied when the actual and prospective products of the low lands along the Father of Waters are taken into consideration. Cotton, sugar and rice play too important a part in our commercial tables and domestic and foreign exchanges to be dwarfed even by the most intense of sectional prejudices. In the grand possibilities suggested by their enlarged production, the issues are national in their widest sense, for on them our commercial supremacy as a people hinges. These views were recognized by the National Board of Trade, which recently held a session at St. Louis, and are likely at length to find expression in some practical form through our National Legislature at Washington. Already one of our Representatives in Congress, Gen. Sypher, to wit, has introduced a bill providing for a combined railway and levee system, embracing the States of Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana, in its general scope, and naming as incorporators some of our most prominent citizens. In the bill, as proposed, a grant of \$16,000 per mile is to be made, for the construction of this levee railway, which is to furnish, at once, security against overflow and an ever ready means of transportation to those who live behind it. This may not be the form in which national aid will be eventually secured, but it is evident that the people of the whole country are beginning to study the subject, and are casting about for some satisfactory method of securing a desideratum so devoutly to be wished.—N. O. Times.

A Threat.

[From the New Orleans Republican.] Messrs. Packard, Casey, Carter & Co., did not spend much idle time at the tomb of the late Lieutenant Governor, nor did they allow his political succession to remain unopened any longer than they could make application to be put in possession of its effects. They gave but little time to lamentation, and less to retirement, having even cast lots for his robes of State as the dead officer lay unburied. While the Republican party, which honored Mr. Dunn, and which laments his loss, was quietly preparing to fill his vacant place, these factious were soiling the erape which they wore by trading with the men who reconciled to the deceased for favors to themselves. If this is doubted, look at the coalition which occurred between the Democrats, who refused to attend the funeral, and the factious who pretended to be the chief mourners at the tomb. And as they lost no time, so they lost no argument in attempting to succeed with their effort to betray the Republican party. Every stone that lay in the way was turned over to discover the secret by which Senator Pinchback could be defeated; every corner was rounded close, and every lot crossed direct to bring the factious nearer to the object of their desires. Senators were bored with reasons, some of which were base, and some of which were false, why they should defeat the acknowledged choice of the Republican members. When the factious pretended that the Governor was not in earnest in his Republicanism, they committed a folly that they themselves did not believe; when they accused him of a design to sell out to the Democrats, they basely perpetrated a slander against another which properly belonged to themselves; and when they approached Senators with threats of interference from Washington, they committed themselves to falsehoods, as we believe, which the proper authorities will denounce and deny. It is now for the Republican party to pass judgement upon the case as it stands. Governor Warmoth stood fast by the party, while those who had accused him of a design to join the Democrats are themselves discovered voting with the Democrats. He has been accused of intending to desert the negroes, and yet, while he stands fast in support of a colored

man, the presuming and ready promising friends of the negroes vote for a white man! He thus at one blow destroys two slanders directed at his honesty of purpose, and assists in convicting his assailants of being guilty of the very acts which they had charged him with the design to perpetrate. And, not satisfied with defaming a Republican Governor and spreading division and distrust in the Republican party, they still further demonstrate their wickedness by using the name of the President in a way that, we cannot suppose for an instant, they are justified in doing. Marshal Packard certainly never had the authorization of General Grant to threaten the State with martial law, in order to carry a point in the Legislature of the State. And yet Mr. Packard has abused the name of the President in this very fashion, threatening Louisiana with a military government in the event she does not observe the dictates of the Custom-house ring. This is what Mr. Packard has deliberately suggested in the name of President Grant. He used this threat, too, at a time when it was calculated to serve a political purpose. It was delivered deliberately, in order to affect a Senator's vote. The design was to shape the action of the State Senate in its highest capacity. Mr. Packard has put himself in the attitude of the man who attempts to intimidate the State. He says to Senator Butler, "Do so, or you will be put under martial law." He says to a Senator that his duty is to vote as President Grant desires, and not as he himself would elect to vote. It is the government of one man that Mr. Packard desires to establish. We are to have Senators and pay for them, but they are only to be the mouth-pieces of the President. Martial law will supersede if they act as Senators, and not as echoes.

The letter of Senator Butler, which we print below, tells this story and declares all this insignificant information. We do not believe that Mr. Packard spoke by authority of the President; but that he spoke as he is represented to have done we firmly believe, because the tenor of the Custom-house organ is to the same effect in its article announcing the appointment of General Emory to the command of this district. The threat is deliberately renewed therein that military law is contemplated by Carter, Casey, Packard & Co., since they are too weak to win their game in any other way.

LETTER OF SENATOR BUTLER.

NEW ORLEANS, December 8, 1871. I consider it a duty to make public the following facts, in order that President Grant may know how he is misrepresented, if he be so, and that the people of the United States, if he be not misrepresented, may learn to what desperate extremes the President has determined to go to extend and perpetuate his power.

Just before the election for Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana, vice Hon. O. J. Dunn, deceased, the United States Marshal for this State, Hon. S. B. Packard, sought me and stated that I was ruining my future prospects by not joining his side, to wit: the Republican minority and Democratic coalition; that it was of no great consequence whether Warmoth Republicans elected the Lieutenant Governor or not, or even if Warmoth succeeded in obtaining re-election in 1872, for in that event they had the guarantee of President Grant that he would at once declare martial law, and give his political friends all the offices. He urged me, for these reasons, to vote for his candidate, and added that General Reynolds would be in military command here, and that everything would be all right with him.

E. BUTLER,
Senator Fifth Senatorial District.

COURT ANECDOTES.—The tedious session of the Supreme Court at Pittsfield, was relieved by an incident, one day last week, that drew a little smile. A leading member of the bar, rather noted for his strategy of confusing witnesses by working them into a passion, had under cross-examination a woman who seemed an apt subject for his favorite tactics; having wound her up to the desired pitch, he inquired, "Madam, are you now living with your first or second husband?" "That's none of your business!" sharp and short. With an air of offended dignity the attorney turned to Chief Justice Brigham, who remarked, with a smile, "I think the witness is about right in that, is she not?" Which reminds the older members of the bar of a similar misadventure that a still more distinguished member of the Berkshire bar once met with at the hands of Justice Shaw. "Where did you get the money with which you made the purchase spoken of?" asked the "learned brother" of a witness under the tortures of cross-examination. "None of your (gentle expletive) business!" thundered the victim. "Now, may it please you, are counsel to be insulted in this manner?" appealed the lawyer. "Witness," said the Chief Justice, compassionately, "do you wish to change your last answer?" "No, sir, I don't." "Well, I wouldn't if I were in your place." And the chuckle that shook the bench was audibly echoed.

The main feature of the Congressional programme for the Winter is the admission of Colorado, Utah and New Mexico as States.

The Famine in Persia.

The following account of the famine in Persia is taken from a statement made at a public meeting recently held in London, to raise money for the relief of the sufferers:

"The lamentable famine now raging in Persia, and threatening to carry off hundreds of thousands of the scanty population of that extensive kingdom, has been caused by the unparalleled drought which has prevailed throughout the country during the last three years.

"In an area far exceeding that of Great Britain and France together, no river of any importance exists, and the quantity of rain in the spring and summer is insignificant. In ordinary years, however, the fall of snow between November and March is considerable. It thickly covers the huge mountain ranges which intersect Persia, and as it melts in the spring and summer it fills the water-courses and small canals from which the peasants irrigate their crops. The soil in the valley is naturally fertile, and a little labor insures a large harvest if only the winter snowfall has been abundant. This, unhappily, has for the last two or three years been singularly wanting; the springs, water-courses and rivulets have been completely dried up, the corn sown over and over again, has been blasted, the supplies in the country have been exhausted, and famine, without disease in its train, is rapidly doing its deadly work.

"The whole population of Persia has recently been estimated at 4,000,000, a large proportion of whom are Felyants, wandering tribes who correspond to the Bedaween of Arabia Mesopotamian. Felyants principally inhabit the southern and eastern part of the empire, where the drought has been most severe. Their means of subsistence depend mainly on their flocks and herds, which have now, in some places, altogether perished, owing to the total want of grass on the mountain slopes and in the valleys. The most pitiful destitution and the most appalling mortality are the results. The towns have suffered scarcely less. At Bushire, where relief is most easily afforded, and where much has been done under the auspices of the British Minister, deaths by starvation are of daily occurrence. It is reported that the population of Kazeroun, lately estimated at ten thousand, has fallen during these days of visitation to one-fifth that number; that in round numbers some four thousand have died of famine since this time last year, and a like number have fled the place. A similar condition of affairs exists at Shiraz, Kooneshler and more or less all over the large provinces of Kirman and Khorassan, while even in the less afflicted northern districts most lamentable distress prevails. It is reported that in the city of Ispahan alone, no less than twelve thousand people have died of want, and more than double that number in the province. No material improvement can be looked for until next spring."

A REMINISCENCE OF BEECHER.

The Indianapolis Evening Journal furnishes the following:

Speaking of ministerial knowledge of forbidden things, reminds us of Henry Ward Beecher. The unregenerate hearers of Henry Ward have often been surprised at his knowledge of certain things about which a preacher is supposed to be blissfully ignorant. Mr. Beecher always makes it a point to familiarize himself with subjects which he is called upon to preach at. An old citizen informs us that during his residence in this city Mr. Beecher was impelled to preach a sermon against gambling, and in order that he might speak "by the card," he wanted to learn something of short cards, banking games, etc. Now, Henry Ward's early education had been neglected in this particular, but he procured an introduction to Col. Alvord, the present Chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee. In his young days Col. Alvord had done a little in the way of straight poker (draw is a later invention of the enemy), seven-up, euchre, brag, forty-five, and other games of chance. No amateur sportsman had a better conception of the value of three jacks than Col. Alvord, or played a closer game of seven-up. He could also hold the tiger as near level as any other man living. Col. Alvord readily consented to enlighten Mr. Beecher, and the two had frequent meetings in the back room of the Branch Bank, where the preacher became theoretically proficient in all the arts and tricks of cards. Having fully informed himself, he preached a powerful sermon, which created considerable excitement at the time, and gave rise to an unjust suspicion that Brother Beecher had, at some period of his life, known how it was himself.

Judge Cushman once had a dog case, in which the ownership of the canine was in dispute. The evidence was conflicting, and the Judge became confused. "Stop!" said he, "stop right there! We'll settle the matter very shortly. You, Mr. Plaintiff, go over into the far corner out there. You, Mr. Defendant, come into this corner up here. Now both of you whistle, and, Mr. Clerk, let the dog loose." So said, so done; but the dog sprang between the legs of the bystanders and "scoted" out of the door.