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Amicus Humani Generis.

A Wide-Awake Home Newspaper,

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Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, La.,

—BY—

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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AGENTS FOR THE CHIEF.

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Rowell & Cheaman, St. Louis, Missouri.
C. A. Cook & Co., Chicago, Illinois.
Bates & Locke, New York.

Measles prevails to the extent of an epidemic at Washington, St. Landry parish.

Concordia Eagle: The residence of Mr. Lanier, near Tensas river, in this parish, was totally destroyed by fire last week.

St. John Meschacebe: The steamer Blue Wing is badly aground in front of Mr. L. Landeche's store. The Assumption made several fruitless attempts to pull her off Friday morning.

Plaquemines Observer: The sugar-house on Linwood Place, belonging to Capt. S. W. Sawyer, and situated about twenty miles below the city, on the left bank, was burned to the ground Thursday night. The extent of the loss is \$40,000.

Lafayette Advertiser: The preliminary examination, in the case of Joseph Meaux, for the killing of Israel Thibodaux resulted in the discharge of accused. The evidence showed that the act was committed in self-defense. Telegraph poles are in sight.

Marksville Bulletin: Now and then a wagon loaded with cotton goes through town, the remnant of the last crop. The cotton crop of this parish the past season has reached fully 15,000 bales. The merchants decline to advance to our planters before there is a political settlement of some kind.

West Feliciana Sentinel: On Sunday morning last, a little colored boy, named Edward Wicker, aged about 12 years, was thrown from a horse and trodden to death, while riding on the Thoraen place. The corn crib and stables of Mr. E. S. Norwood were fired by an incendiary and totally destroyed.

New Iberia Sugar-Bowl: In a business quarrel between Messrs. Laurent Bazus and Ambrose Grousette, pistols were drawn and both fired several shots. Mr. Grousette received a severe wound in the hip and thigh, and Mr. Bazus was shot through the left arm, when bystanders interfered and prevented further trouble. There are several cases of small pox in the parish.

Franklin Sun: One day last week a widow named Davis, residing on the old Gillis place, met with a terrible death. While in the act of parching some coffee over the fire her clothing became ignited and the poor sufferer, before help could be procured, was burned so severely that, after lingering in excruciating pain for about twelve hours, death at last put an end to her suffering. The store house of Mr. Ed. Parker was consumed by fire on Thursday, 20th ult. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary. The stock was valued at about \$4000.

Pointe Coupee Pelican: The small pox has made its appearance in Wilkinson county, Miss., and considerable excitement prevails there in consequence. From all parts of the parish comes good news from the planters. Corn has been planted extensively, and a larger area of cane and cotton will be put in than there has been for years. We have a quiet, industrious, and law abiding community, and in no part of the State is there a better understanding, and more good feeling between the races. The fact has been productive of the immigration to our midst of many excellent laborers. There is room and work for more.

THE DEATH OF TILDEN.

Sam Tilden, he of Tammany, lay dying in New York. The last hard fight was over—the campaign had done its work, and Abe Hewitt stood beside him, as his life-blood ebbed away, and bent, with eager glances, to hear what he might say.

The dying statesman faltered, as he took Abe Hewitt's hand, and said, "This true I never shall rule this great and happy land, Take a telegram and tell to reformer friends of mine, For you are friendly to reform, that hobby-horse of mine."

"Tell Randall and Fernando Wood, and all the other crowd, Who fought so nobly for reform and talked so very loud, That they did their duty bravely, and surely would have won, Were it not for the Tribunal, the great fraud that was done."

"And in the South full many a 'dark' was shot down with a gun, That reform might be notorious and we might have our fun; But I am old, and suddenly have seen life's hope decline, And lie here sadly and alone, and for the White House pine."

Tell Hendricks that another year may comfort his old age; Tell Field and Cox to calm their fears and moderate their rage; And don't forget dear Watterson, that gentle Southern child, And give my love to Piatt, that writer fierce and wild.

"Defend my suit for income tax, and save my scanty hoard; I paid all that I ought to have—upon a patriot's word— And frame and hang dear Gobble's nose where bright the sunbeams shine, And never say that dying I went and left no sign."

"Tell Cronin not to weep for me, and blow his nose so red, When Hayes goes into Washington with glad and gallant tread; I send him with my dearest love a pocket dictionary, And give my regards to Grover, too, with thoughts not mercenary."

"But don't write epher telegrams; no, not a single line, For they have brought me to this fix, though to the fault of mine; There's another—not a Congressman—in the happy days gone by, You know him by the diamond that shone brighter than his eye."

"Too innocent for bribery, too rich for idle scorn; Ah, Abe, I fear the nicest cells make sometimes heaviest mourning; Tell him the last night of my life—for ere the moon be risen, My body will be out of pain, though his is still in prison—"

"I dreamed I sat with him, and saw the yellow dollar shine, As when we worked together in the happy golden mine; I saw the Hudson sweep along; I heard, or seemed to hear, The magic whispers of that voice in accents sweet and clear."

"And up the pleasant river and over all the State We used to walk with converse sweet, and hopes and hearts elate; And then, alas, we went apart—it almost makes me smile, For I was sent to Albany and he to Blackwell's Isle."

"But oh, that now he sat here, his little hand in mine, And told me that he loved me, as in the olden time! His trembling voice grew faint and hoarse, His grasp was childish weak; He asked for Pelton and for Tweed—he sighed and ceased to speak."

Abe Hewitt bent to lift him, but the spark of life had fled— The champion of reform was politically dead, And the full moon rose up slowly, and calmly she looked down, On Democrats demoralized and sadly hanging round— Yes, calmly on that sad, sad sight her pale light seemed to smile, As it shone upon Gratiery Park, Bill Tweed, and Blackwell's Isle. — Rochester Democrat.

DO YOUR BEST.

The heart and mind of every man Must differ, it is true, And the deed our neighbor does Perhaps we never could do; And thus in climbing fortune's height To reach the fame in store, If people only do their best, The world would ask no more.

Does then the little humming bird Its tender song forsake, Because the nightingale's sweet voice Can sweeter music make? Or does the tiny twinkling star, Which lends to earth its light, Refuse because some kindred orb May chance to burn more bright?

And so through life we find that some Are clad in praise and fame, While others usefully plod along, With naught to gild their name; But when each life is reckoned up, Its doings counted over, If we can say, "I did my best," Our God will ask no more.

BELVIDERA.

On the 8th of July, 1875, a party of robbers boarded a locomotive at Long Point, Ind., killed the engineer, set the engine in motion, and drew an Adams Express car away to a convenient place for rifting. A few days ago five men and a woman were arrested as the robbers. Three of the men are white and two colored. The woman is Jennie Osgood, and it is said that she not only planned the crime, but was a leader in its commission. She wore men's clothing and a false mustache, and was one of two who killed the engineer.

Hon. W. Jasper Blackburn recently telegraphed to his paper, the *Homeer*: "Nothing certain, except that Packard can not successfully run the State government; but I think Hayes will have to uphold him, though his inaugural breathes a manly and liberal spirit towards the South."

Our New York Letter.

The Vanderbilt Will—Political—Fire Proof Buildings—Fatal Panic—Joe Coburn—Business.
NEW YORK, March 9, 1877.

EDITOR CHIEF:

It is now a fixed fact that the Vanderbilt will is to be attacked. The mover in the matter, primarily, is one of the sisters, though Cornelius, the only other son, stands nominally at the head of the contestants. The facts in the case are as Cornelius states them, about thus: The old man never showed very much feeling for any of the children but William. Cornelius was stricken with epilepsy in his early youth, and has been the victim of that terrible disease until within a few years past. He had it for a long time in its worst form, and was actually unable to do business. Later in life he recovered from it to a very great degree and married, but in the meantime William had grown to manhood, and was being trained by his father into the care of the rapidly growing estate. Cornelius had no children, and the old man paid but little more attention to him than as if he had not been his son. Worth at the time half a hundred millions, he allowed his second son and his wife the magnificent sum of \$2500 for their support, about half what any respectable employee in his railroad enterprises was receiving. The representative of the Vanderbilt name could not live upon this, as a matter of course, and so he ran into debt. Finally old age warned the great railroad man that he had but a short time on earth, and he made his preparations for his departure. He seemed to have but one idea and that was to perpetuate the name of Vanderbilt and hold together in one mass the money that gilded it and made it all it was. His daughters could not carry the name, because their children took the names of their fathers; Cornelius, the second son, had no children, and William H., the eldest son, had not only children but they were boys. So he left Cornelius, not \$200,000, but the income from that amount. To the daughters he left similar incomes, and all the balance he left to William H. and his sons. That is to say, he left one hundred millions of dollars to the son fortunate enough to have sons to carry the Vanderbilt name, providing that the income from about three millions of it should be paid to his other children. The will is to be contested, on the ground that it is unnatural, and that the old man was under undue influence when he made it. Several of the most celebrated lawyers in the country have been employed by the contestants and there will be fat pickings for the legal fraternity. On the other side it is said that the old gentleman knew exactly what he was about. He left Cornelius about \$20,000 a year, which he claims is enough for him, and he left his daughters equally well fixed, which is enough for them. He left the estate in the hands of William because he was the only one capable of handling the vast interests, and that they might be continued successfully, it was necessary that the property should not be divided.

The inauguration is over, and Hayes is, as he should be, President. All the talk of resistance has stopped, for it was never meant to be anything. It was intended to prevent the inauguration, if possible, but not to go any farther. The business Democracy are as well pleased as the Republicans that the question is settled, and they will give the new administration a cordial support. The Wall street men held a meeting and resolved, and the Union League Club did likewise. Both bodies recognized Hayes as the legitimate President of the United States, and fully endorsed the policy shadowed forth in his inaugural. The Cabinet is entirely satisfactory to New York, and altogether there is a sort of political love-feast prevailing that is not only pleasant but encouraging. I don't know which party is better satisfied. It looks now as though Hayes would so amalgamate the warring factions as to make but one party before his term is out. And let me put a word in here. Go very slow in the matter of the Senators versus the President. Gov. Hayes is going to be President himself. He

went into office with the promise that he would reform the civil service, and that he would be the President of the whole country. He will surround himself with the right men. He will urge the right measures, and if the politicians refuse to support him, he will throw himself upon the people. Those who suppose Hayes to be a mere man of putty, who can be manipulated by traders and office mongers, and made a mere machine for others to grind, will find themselves mistaken. He is a strong, self-reliant, self-willed man, who knows all about the government, and who will run it.

The fire in Bond Street, in which two millions of dollars went up, shows how little sense there is in builders. The building was built by the Waltham Watch Co., and was intended to be fire-proof. The walls were massive, the front was iron, the beams and girders were iron, and every thing was done to make the receptacle of millions of property absolutely safe. But the floors were laid with Georgia pine, which is about all rosin, and the casings and all the interior work was made of wood. A fire got into it—how, no one knows—and this fire-proof barn went up as quickly as a common frame barn. The inflammable inside made a heat that curled the iron supports like pipe stems and actually melted the walls. The brick and iron afforded no resistance to the fire—it licked it up about as readily as it did the wood. And now the architects are figuring on buildings which won't burn. They never will do it, if they make the outside of brick and iron, and then put enough Georgia pine inside to melt it.

Another terrible accident took place Thursday night. A series of meetings are being held in St. Xavier Catholic church, for women and children, under the direction of a Jesuit missionary, who is a wonderfully moving preacher. He was dwelling on the horrors of purgatory and had the congregation of women—there was twenty-five hundred of them—terribly excited. One woman lost control of herself, and shrieking, fainted. Some equally frightened woman shrieked fire, and the mass made a rush for the door. The strong trampled remorselessly over the weak, and when the building was finally emptied, it was found that six women and four or five children had been trampled to death.

There is some hope for New York. Joe Coburn, the pugilist and Democratic politician, discharged his pistol at a policeman a few weeks ago and wounded him. The law, which men of the Coburn kidney have heretofore laughed at, took hold of him, and Joseph was not only convicted, but sentenced to ten years in Sing Sing. This ruffian has been the terror of New York for years. He has been a prize-fighter, a keeper of all sorts of criminal resorts, and has been arrested hundreds of times, but he was so useful to the Democracy in handling repeaters and organizing shoulder-hitters for election days, that he has always been let off without much punishment. But the day of these fellows is over. Public opinion has got at last some influence with judges, and they dare not compromise with scoundrels who are so well known as this Coburn. Joe Goss, another one of the fraternity, who was concerned in the Allen prize-fight in Kentucky, and was employed by the Democracy in stuffing the ballot-boxes in Cincinnati, was taken out of the city on a requisition from the Governor of Kentucky, and he will languish in the prison of that State for a while.

Business is improving for certain. The hotels are full of merchants, and thank heaven they are buying. The big importers are rolling out bales and boxes in the most cheerful way, and the heart of the truckman is made glad. Now, good people in the interior, take a little heart. We are not going to have war. We have a President, and things are going on smoothly and well. Build, buy, marry, and give in marriage, and the times will be as good in a month as they ever were. PIETRO.

The Spanish press is displeased at the appointment of Messrs. Evarts and Schurz to positions in the new American Cabinet, on account of the sympathy those gentlemen have always displayed for the Cubans.

The Barataria "Gateway to the Sea."

[State Register.]

We should not forget that the survey and report of this great enterprise is in an advance state of progress. Our neighbor, Prof. Forshey, has been engaged for the past month upon the plan, map, profile, and estimates, based on the survey of the route, which we announced at the time. We have been informed from time to time, in a general way, that the work was very promising, and quite within the bounds of Capt. Cowdon's predictions and promises as to the cost and ease of construction. We shall be much surprised to find ourselves so near the tide-water, that within five or six miles of the Mississippi river, at New Orleans, there is another deep and navigable river, wide enough for any craft that floats the seas, and needing but a few canal-cuts, through the marshes to shorten and straighten the route, and to pass, by a broad outlet, to the sea. Our name for that outlet is Barataria Bayou. Why a bayou and not a river? We associate something small with the name bayou. This we learn is large enough to be called a river, and a river let it be.

Capt. Cowdon is expected back from a short visit to his family, by the time the report is completed. Col. Williams, who has charge of the plan of the locks, is also expected in a few days. A charter is anticipated from Congress, granting the right of way, and authority to collect tolls from those who use the improved channel. No subsidy is asked from the government, as the measure stands upon its merits.

A recent special dispatch to the New York Tribune from Washington says:

In conversation with a member of Congress on the Louisiana and South Carolina questions, the President said on Saturday, that in making up his mind as to the best course to pursue to secure harmony in these States, he should not allow himself to be embarrassed by the idea that he must do nothing that would seem to effect injuriously the validity of his own title to office. That matter, he thought, had been authoritatively and finally decided; he did not believe that there would be any disposition to higggle about his title if his administration commended itself by its acts to the judgment of the country; as soon as the members of the cabinet were fairly settled in the capital he should ask their careful consideration of the situation in the two States having conflicting governments, and he was confident that with their advice some method of solving the problems presented would be found, which would be fair and just and satisfactory to the people of these States.

Some of Governor Hayes's peculiarities—writes a Washington correspondent—are these: Perfect mental tranquility, perfect physical health, and clear conscience. He is modest, courteous, absolutely temperate, sympathetic as a child, but as firm as the rocks of Gibraltar when justice tells him the time has come to say yes or no. Religiously, Governor Hayes is a Methodist, but unlike his pious wife, he is not a communicant. He believes in, and attends regularly, the Methodist Church. He does not smoke, can't play cards, and never owned a fast horse; nor never lived in Brooklyn. I thought, as I left Governor Hayes, that this is the man who will surely finish the work begun by Lincoln—this is the man who will bring peace to a struggling republic.

The price of cotton last season should remind every tiller of the soil, that he can not possibly hope to make money and grow prosperous, unless he makes his corn and meat at home. The farmer who has these to buy out of the proceeds of his cotton, will always have his nose to the grindstone. The man who has plenty corn in his crib and hogs in the woods, is independent, and can always hold his cotton for a good price. Plant more grain, corn, wheat, rye and oats, and raise more stock, and you will work less, live better, and grow prosperous. Cotton has been a curse to the majority of farmers in the South.—Minden Democrat.

General expectation relative to the cotton crop of the past season has been agreeably disappointed. Instead of falling behind the product of the previous year it will be somewhat in excess, and the total crop will be nearly, if not quite, 4,500,000 bales. The early frost and freeze which it was thought would destroy the stalks and cut off a large portion of the bolls, produced opposite effects, and the gathering continued unexpectedly large.

The experiment tried in Liverpool of opening cheap coffee-houses for the sale of cocoa, coffee, tea and bread, to counteract the influence of the grog-shops, is proving very successful. Eighteen have already been established, and though most of the sales are for only a half penny, they not only meet expenses, but will pay a good dividend on the outlay. They are considered a most effective weapon against intemperance.

Weekly News Summary.

Foreign.

The Baroness Nathaniel Wayne de Rothschild is dead.

Franciscan priests urge the canonization of Columbus.

Joaham Jacoby, a well known German politician is dead.

Joseph Anstran, poet and member of the French Academy, died.

M. de Lesseps is completing the ship canal between Cairo and Ismael. There has been excessively cold weather in Hungary and Russia recently.

A large fire occurred at St. Johns, N. B., and five persons were killed by falling walls.

M. Pierret, French consul at New Orleans, has been appointed consul at Yokohama.

It is rumored the Prince Imperial is about to issue a manifesto to the French people.

Pardons or commutations of sentence have been granted to 224 communist convicts.

The Herzegovinian insurgents have petitioned for amnesty and permission to return to their homes.

The German Postmaster General will recommend a universal postal card, to be used by all nations.

The Marquis de Compiegne was killed in a duel at Cairo with M. Meyer, who is connected with the Egyptian Geographical Society.

Domestic.

Hon. Oliver Ames, brother of Oakes Ames, is dead.

A heavy gale on the 9th inst., damaged buildings in Boston and vicinity.

Alfred B. Burr, a clerk, committed suicide at New Orleans by swallowing poison.

Freshets in the Mohawk and Susquehanna rivers are causing some damage.

Fred Seward, son of the ex-secretary, becomes first assistant secretary of State.

Ex-Gov. Scott of South Carolina favors the recognition of the Hampton government.

W. K. Upton has been assigned to duty as chief clerk of the treasury department.

Major C. Nash, paymaster of the Marine Corps, died of apoplexy at Washington.

Kate Butler, an insane servant, cut her throat with a butcher knife, at New Orleans.

The German papers are generally well pleased with President Hayes' inaugural address.

John Patrie attacked a New Orleans policeman with brickbats and got a bullet in the left side.

Massachusetts Masons celebrated the centennial of their Grand Lodge on the 8th, at Boston.

Two old ladies were burned to death at Hackensack, N. Y., by the explosion of a kerosene lamp.

Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse and Dull Knife, with 1000 to 2000 lodges of Indians, are again on the war path.

Taylor's salaratus works, Brooklyn, burned, and the falling walls crushed the adjoining buildings. Loss \$150,000.

The city authorities of New York are making war on the lottery dealers. A large number were arrested Saturday.

John T. Hoyt, a New York operator in railroad stocks, has gone into bankruptcy with liabilities exceeding \$1,500,000.

Matilda Herron, the noted actress, died in New York last week. She made a great deal of money on the stage but died poor.

At Flushing, L. I., Patrick Connelley drank the entire contents of a vial containing chill medicine, and died in ten minutes.

John Hartnett, keeper of a New Orleans crockery store, struck Rudolph Eichorn on the head with a shovel, injuring him fatally.

Major General John M. Schofield commands the new military department, comprising the Military Academy and the post of West Point.

Stephen J. Farrell, aged 9 years, was instantly killed at New Orleans by a gate blowing to and catching his neck between the latch and the post.

The railroads leading West from New York have compromised their freight war and agreed upon a tariff which advances former rates about fifty per cent.

Prisoners arrested for illicit distilling in Georgia were allowed to plead guilty and retire to their homes. About 200 took advantage of the government's clemency.

Henry A. Voorhees, a private in Co. B, 13th Infantry, was found dead in a stable at New Orleans, shot through the head. Wm. Porter of Co. K, 3rd Infantry, is suspected of the killing.

A heavy gale prevailed in Eastern New York and Western Connecticut on the 10th, blowing down several buildings, unroofing one church and destroying the steeple of another. The damage at New York city is estimated at \$100,000.