

The Weekly Comet

Thursday Morning, June 9, 1853.
The Louisiana Penitentiary.

Yesterday morning we visited this establishment in order to be able to make an article on the subject of its condition and management. Through the politeness of Col. ISET, two gained admission, and on the inside were placed in charge of Captain W. J. HADEN, 1st Warden of the guard, who kindly conducted us over the premises, and courteously explained everything connected with the buildings, manufactories, and condition of the Prisoners.

In the first place we were conducted to the new building on the South-side, which is nearly ready for service. It is a substantial and commodious structure having many advantages over the West wing. It contains 200 cells 25 on each floor, and four stories high. The cells, as in the old building, are in the centre of the house with iron galleries three feet wide around each story; there is great improvement in the fastenings to the new cells over the old. The building will be ready for service very shortly, and much needed, for so crowded is the prison at this time that some of the cells are made to hold two. The number of prisoners now on hand is 268 in which number there is 76 negroes. The guard numbers 15—12 in active service. The first thing done to the prisoner when brought within the walls, is to cut his hair close, dress him in the uniform dress of the Prison; which dress contains a number whereby he is known; after this the rules of the prison are read to him. The following is a copy of the original which hang on the wall where their meals are served.

"The whole duty of Convicts may be comprised in a few words.—They are to labor diligently, obey all orders, and observe unbroken silence except when it becomes necessary in relation to their work or wants. They are not at any time or under any pretence to speak to any person that does not belong to the prison, or receive from them any thing whatever; they are not to leave the place where they are put to work without the special permission or orders of a proper officer. They are not to suffer their attention to be taken from their work to look at visitors, nor are they to gaze at them, when employed. They must not do anything which has a tendency in the least degree to disturb the harmony, or contravene the rules and regulations of the Prison. The whole demeanor must be in accordance with the most perfect order and in strict compliance with the discipline of the prison. No convict is willfully or carelessly to injure any thing belonging to, or being about the Prison, nor is he to execute his work badly when he has the ability to do well. For a willful violation of these rules chastisement is certain to follow."

Chains are not put on them unless they are refractory, and then iron manacles are placed on their legs. This is also done when an effort is made to escape. When found impossible to manage a prisoner in this way, he is placed on a ladder and receives the lash; the number of strokes is fixed by board of directors, who always decide whether a prisoner shall be whipped or not; unless it be in a case of emergency. The food, is plain and substantial. They are regularly counted once a day—have good medical attendance when sick, and the cleanliness and comfort of the establishment is carefully provided for.

The force is principally engaged in the cotton factory, which turns out daily about 3700 yards of coarse cloth, which finds a ready market. About 1000 yards of bagging and 2800 lbs. bale rope is also made from hemp obtained from Kentucky.

It affords us pleasure to be able to testify to the creditable, and humane manner in which the Penitentiary is at present governed. There is one thing however, that should be consid-

ered, as well for the sake of society as for the criminal. It is this; that each released prisoner is only allowed a common suit of clothes, and the sum of five dollars in money. This is wrong—four times that amount would not be too much, for their is an arbitrary town ordinance which requires them to leave the place in twenty four hours after they are released on pain of imprisonment; and how far will five Dollars go? We ask the consideration of this, for we can imagine that now and then a man gets in, who after all is known, is not worse than fifty thousand without.

The N. O. and B. Rouge Railroad.

The following is an extract from a letter received by a commercial house in this city from Mr. B. Baker of Natchez, Miss. As it is a pretty fair expression of the feeling which exists at Bayou Sara, Grand Gulf, Natchez and Vicksburg with regard to the Coast Railroad, it has been kindly furnished us for publication:

"I notice by the New Orleans papers that the people of Baton Rouge are about taken preliminary steps to organize a company under the recent charter for a Railroad to connect with N. Orleans. It is to be regretted, I think, that the Directors of the Great Northern Road overlooked the advantages of your route, in the location of the line of that Road. The distance to Jackson, Mi., would be but little further, and the cost of constructing a separate line by your place would have been saved—and even a great deal more—for the cost of reaching the high land beyond Lake Pontchartrain. Although the immense amount—as I hear—of bottomless marsh that intervenes, will cost incalculably more than to reach a point in your direction equally near to the Northern terminus. Then again if the main line run through your place, every step of the 70 miles would pay, while an equal length out of New Orleans the other way will never pay. I don't know so much about these matters perhaps as the Directors, but it will do no harm for me to guess, that it would be better for the Stockholders of the Great Northern Road to abandon now the route across the marsh and build it through Bayou Sara and Natchez, and the means for building would be augmented and the period of completion to Jackson, be less remote and uncertain."

"The saying that 'Dogs have their day' is a mere saying invented by a less grateful animal, differing in many instances in no essential particular than the number of his legs. We say the saying is a mere device to lull the Cannines into a sense of security whilst sausages are being poisoned or guns loaded to kill them. The dogs have no day. We deny the proposition; they are brickbatted in the house, and kicked in the street and when what is called 'their day' comes they are most inhumanly and barbarously murdered without the benefit of appraisalment. Constable Cousinard informs us that he is rubbing up his arms to commence the havoc. We ask on the part of our friends the dogs, under what law he would proceed 'to kill' and on reference to our digest of the ordinances (presented us by special act of the Board,) we find that there is at present no law on the statutes.

A meeting of the Common Council must be convened to take the matter into consideration. We hope that some provision will be made for the good dogs, and then the sane will not be sent the way to dusty death with the insane.

Communicated.

Ed. COMET—There is an ordinance in existence, that makes it the "duty of the Town Constable annually, to shoot, or otherwise destroy all dogs found running at large within the limits of the Corporation, from the 1st of June, to the 30th of September." May I ask, if the said Ordinance has been suspended by his honor, else why is it not enforced? Your answer will much oblige one who

"Loves to sleep o' nights."

Telegraphed Expressly for the Comet.

MEMPHIS June 7.—Evening Session.—General Quitman offered a resolution divining the resolution of the committee relative to improvement of the mouth of the Mississippi and Upper Rapides, which caused an animated discussion; finally lost by five States for, and nine against. The committee resolutions almost unanimously adopted.

Merrill moved a general and liberal education system among the southern and Western States.

Kaiser moved the establishment of a Bureau of statistics among the southern and Western States. Convention then adjourned.

N. ORLEANS, June 6th.—The Daniel Webster connected with Sierra Nevada made her trip from San Francisco in twenty days and twelve hours. In port at San Juan, Sloop-of-war, Alabama and Brig Indus for New York. She reports that the Prometheus sailed for New York on 31st with four hundred and twenty passengers.

California news is meagre—mining accounts are favorable. The Sonora Herald records many lucky discoveries of large lumps; also new diggings discovered on the Umpqua river, where the miners have taken out lumps valued at three hundred to nine hundred dollars.

Dates from Sandwich Island 16th April. The King at the opening of Parliament nominated his adopted son Lelilio as his successor which was sanctioned by the nobles.

Cherries without stones have been produced in France, by the following method:

In the spring, before the circulation of sap, a young seedling cherry tree is split from the upper extremity down to the fork of its roots; then, by means of a piece of wood, in form of a spatula, the pith is carefully removed from the tree, in such a manner as to avoid any excoriation, or other injury, a knife is only used for commencing the split. Afterwards, the two sections are brought together, and tied with woolen; care being taken to close hermetically with clay, the whole cleft. The sap soon re-unites the separate portions of the tree, and, two years afterwards, cherries are produced of the usual appearance, but, instead of stones there will only be small soft pellicles.

LITERARY LABOR.—The last number of Dickens' Household Words says: In the last year we have read nine hundred manuscripts of which eleven were available for this journal after being entirely re-written. In the same period we received and answered two thousand letters, and made appointments with an odd two or three hundred more of our fellow creatures than there were pounds to pay for the celebrated nails in the horses shoes, which will go down to posterity rusty with the tears of school boys. On the other hand it is delightful to state that five of our best regular fellow laborers first became known to us as volunteers, at various periods within the three years and upwards of our existence; and that some remarkable descriptions in this journal have come to us from wholly unaccustomed writers, who have faithfully and in thorough earnest put down what they have undergone or seen.

GREAT SNOW STORM IN ENGLAND IN MAY.—The English papers give accounts of a severe snow storm at Holmfirth, in England on the 9th of May. It commenced snowing violently at six o'clock in the morning, and continued without intermission through out the day. The railway trains were delayed in their trips several hours, the snow being four feet deep on the hills, and eighteen inches on the plains and valleys. The trees on the verge of bursting into full leaf, were covered with snow. Three men got stuck fast in the snow, and but for timely assistance would have perished. Accounts from various parts of the north and south of France, refer to the unseasonableness of the weather, and state that the fields as well as the mountains were covered with snow.

The 'barber pole' pattern of pantalons will be out this week; the stripes ascend spirally round the leg, giving the wearer the appearance of a double-barreled cork screw

CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME.—This appears to be well understood in many quarters. We notice that the New York East Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, lately in session in New York city, passed a resolution requesting that in apportioning the work of the ministers for the ensuing year, no preacher should be sent to any appointment where there was not a probability of his receiving a comfortable support for himself and family.

Ships trading between New York and China now employ Chinese sailors, to a considerable extent, on account of the scarcity of seamen of another race. It is said they work cheap, are docile, obedient, expert and industrious, and, in every other respect make good sailors.

The curé of Torry, in the canton of Fribourg, (Switzerland) has been condemned by court martial for twenty-five years, hard labor in irons, for the part taken by him in the late insurrection. The curé it will be remembered, was taken in canonicals at the head of his parishioners.

The Steamer St. Nicholas, which arrived at St. Louis on 26th ult., from this port, had as passengers—two hundred English Moravians. They were a fine healthy looking party; had not a case of death or sickness on the trip; and were all bound for Salt Lake City.—Delta.

It is officially announced that by a late decision of the petition office, widows are not entitled, who have married since the death of the husband for whose services she claims land bounty, except those widows whose husbands were killed in battle.

Prince Albert is to send over to the Crystal Palace Exhibition, the celebrated painting of the "First of May," by Winterhalter, the property of the Queen, and embracing correct likenesses of the Duke of Wellington and the royal family.

The New York Crystal Palace framework is nearly finished; the printers and decorators are now at work in the southern and western naves. The dome, which was the most difficult part of the work, is now complete.

It is a singular fact in the history of Lowell, Mass., that in 1818, an Engineer from Boston, employed to make a survey of that town with a reference to manufacturing purposes, reported that there was no water power in Lowell.

The Union publishes in official notice from the navy department, that a bounty of \$30 to able, and \$10 to ordinary seamen, will be paid to all enlisting in the navy after the 1st inst.

The Legislature of Massachusetts at its late session, largely increased the bank capital of the Commonwealth by special charter, but not to the extent petitioned for.

Omnibusses in New York.—In 1849 there were 370 omnibusses in New York. In the present year there are 673. The number has continued to increase notwithstanding the city railroad.

French Penal Code.—The French Government has presented to the Legislature a bill, the object of which is to restore two articles of the penal code, which were abolished by the provisional government on the 26th of February.

The Directors of the Mobile and Ohio railroad have resolved that the stock of the company be hereafter received at par for all amounts due the company.

After the 1st of July next, no burial will be allowed in grave yards within the precincts of the city of Boston.

General Pigustelle, an officers under Murat, died at Naples, and was buried without military honors, on account of his liberal principles.

A bill has been reported to the General Assembly of Connecticut by the judiciary committee, allowing divorces to be granted after one year's desertion.

Ex president Tyler is said to be suffering from dispepsia and symptoms of consumption, and will not probably long survive.

The San Francisco critics pronounced the "Hamlet" of Edwin Booth, (son of the late Junius Brutus Booth,) a masterly performance.

HANGED FOR HAVING A HANDSOME HUSBAND.—The Rev. James Fontaine, a member of the Huguenot family, writing in the seventeenth century, tells of his grandfather.—"He married a second time, but happily had no addition to his family. It would have been much better for him to have remained a widower, for his last wife was a wicked woman, who became tired of him and tried to poison him; and though she did not succeed, for medical aid was promptly obtained, yet the offence became too notorious to be hushed up, and she was taken to prison, tried and condemned to death. It so happened that Henry IV. was then at Rochelle, and application was made to him for a pardon. He replied that before making an answer he should like to see the husband she was so anxious to get rid of, to judge for himself whether there was any excuse for her. When my grandfather appeared before him, he called out—'Let her be hanged! Let her be hanged! Ventre Saint Gris! she is the handsomest woman in my kingdom!'"

THE CZAR, AND THE EMPEROR OF CHINA.—A letter from St. Petersburg, of April 25, mentioned in the Patrie of Paris, says: "There is much taken in the best informed circles of a secret mission of Russian envoy, sent to China overland, and who it is said, has already arrived at Kiakta, a town belonging jointly to the two governments. It is confidently reported that the object of his mission is to offer to the sovereign of the Celestial Empire the aid of Russia for the purpose of quelling the insurrections in his dominions."

To the Editor of the Comet.

Dear Sir:—Your article of the 2d inst., about the tooth of St. Peter, presented by the Pope to the Emperor of Austria, created quite a sensation among us; you will not be astonished at this when you know that St. Peter, whom you so kindly styled the prince of the Apostles and whose character you term spotless, is the patron of our College. After reading your paper, a meeting of our society was instantly held in the course of which an ill-humored fellow-member proposed to put you the question on what ground you did deny that the aforesaid tooth had belonged either to the upper or lower jaw of St. Peter, and then how you dared to suppose that such a man as Pope Pius IX would play the part of a Yankee quack with the Emperor of Austria. To this I objected, giving as a reason for so doing, that in my opinion you deserved our warmest thanks for your spirited defence of our patron, and especially for your very natural unwillingness to part with any of his teeth, though placed in a costly setting, as you yourself said, flowered around with diamonds and rubies. According to your very appropriate remark, a complete sett of teeth seems to be so necessary to any great man, living or dead, that we all very readily entered a protest against such a breach of common honesty. What indeed would become of some of the great men of our country, dear sir, if such a thing as this would ever be allowed; and then teeth pulled out of their mouths by the order of the Pope, to be sent to Austria or to China. We were also quite of your opinion sir, that it is a very perplexing experiment invented of late by some talented physician, to way great men after their death; though I suppose it would be still more perplexing to number them, since, you know they are numberless, and besides some of them would doubtless be found so light in the scale that even you yourself sir, would not deign to accept one of their teeth, though set in rubies. My proposition was of course immediately carried, and I have been requested to express to you the deep gratitude which we do now and at all times shall feel for your manly defence of the rights of all; and modern great men in particular. We do not think that they ought to be weighed, or have their teeth pulled out after their death, but at their own request.

Yours most respectfully,
A MEMBER OF THE PHILOMATIC SOCIETY,

The reestablishment of the death penalty for political crimes has been agreed upon by the French council of state.

VERY APPROPRIATE.—HON. Mr. Fish, of the Connecticut Senate, is chairman of the Committee on the Preservation of Trout.

It is said that at some of the Northern Hotels where the male waiters, are on a strike, that it is thought to employ female stewarts.