

# The Weekly Comet

Thursday Morning, July 7, 1853.

It is difficult to refrain from giving all the information in the possession of one, when addressed in this manner. "Mr. Editor: As you are presumed to know every thing"—or "as you are the organ"—"As the Editor of the Comet, I presume you are generally acquainted with things generally." We say it is impossible for us to resist the temptation to crowd out other things and give place to our opinions, when appealed to in this manner; and it is for this reason we push aside more weighty articles to answer the epistle of "Crocodile." What 'C' says is so; no one has a right to put aside the birthday of American Independence, on account of the weather, or any other account. The information in reference to the "Benevolent association" we can furnish. Does 'C' know any thing about the "History of the Four Kings?" If he does perhaps he knows the power of them when combined. The "Porcupine Benevolent" is founded upon the book of kings, and the chapter relative to the "Good Samaritan." It is not partial in its charities, but acts upon the principal that the first place for charity to manifest itself is "at home," all are relieved who come recommended.—The Association has sent out several lecturers to take up "contributions," in order to found a female red-shirt manufactory, for the naked barbarians in the north. If Mr. Crocodile desires any further information he will have to get permission to be branded.

THESE EDITORS.—Since the 4th inst., our office has been in such excellent spirits, the world has been suffering "to turn" without its affairs having received the attention they demand at the hand of the daily chronicler. The editor's table, in consequence, groans with unopened exchanges full of fresh fashions, fun and folly. We have to break them yet, to see "what has turned up." The communications, and letters upon various subjects of public interest, that have accumulated, are still to be opened and disposed of. Our friends must bear with us, until we get up with the times. If an apology is necessary, we must plead as an "extenuation" the fact that for the past few days there has been with us, some of our cotemporaries—old and well tried friends, in the music of whose voices, their is something refreshing, and there is a witchery about their smiles perfectly irresistible.

"VIEWS IN THE UNITED STATES."—This beautiful work edited by Charles A. Dana, can be had at LaNoue's establishment in the basement story of the Harney House. The engravings are finished in the highest style of art, and the letter press descriptions, are in a bold and vigorous style.

FIRE.—The dwelling house of Col. R. A. Stewart of Iberville was entirely consumed by fire on Wednesday morning. Several adjacent buildings lately constructed, were also destroyed. The fire is attributed to carelessness on the part of a servant—no insurance.

We are under renewed obligations to Col. Richard Markham for additional favors.

VOTE OF THANKS.—Extracted from the minutes of a meeting held at the Orphan Asylum, July 5th 1853.

Resolved, That a vote of thanks be presented by the members of the Female Orphan Association, to Messrs. H. & Wm. Waller, for their kindness in raising a subscription for the Orphans; for the purpose of enabling them to celebrate the 4th.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Association be presented to Mr. Geo. V. Trudeau for the services he rendered at the Asylum in brick work. L. M. PHILLIPS, Sec'y.

Iron pavements have been adopted in Boston in place of wood and stone.

## Excitement at Memphis.

It affords us infinite pleasure to be able to place before our readers this morning, the following scene which took place in the Memphis Convention. It will be discovered that the rights of this section of the great and growing South, was ably defended by one of our delegates, at least.

So great a man as the learned "Judge" from New Orleans, could not be expected to take into his capacious mind, a small place, fenced in with a board fence and white-washed. But we can assure him that ample arrangements will be had in season for the next assembly of the wisdom of the State. If we could not accommodate the next Memphis Convention, it would be more the fault of the Convention itself than of the town. So much intelligence as the "late" convention embodied, could not reasonably be expected to "spread itself" in a place of smaller dimensions, than is allotted to the city of Memphis. New Orleans is a great place—not on account of the number of its houses, which may, and will in due time crumble, but on account of the gigantic proportions of its men of intelligence.

As a passing note, whilst talking of the "capacity of things," we would inform our friend the 'Judge,' and our brethren of the city Press, that the town will be amply provided with accommodations for the next legislature; and if this is the case, we see no reason why the press should abuse us; by asserting the fact that the "members cannot be kept from running away." We know of nothing that will compel them to do so, unless it be the "shell road" which cannot be moved, without a heavy expense, that the State is at present unable to incur, owing to the state of her finances. It is designed to have ready for the next session, two Elephant shows; nine menageries, complete in all the details; four Globe ball rooms, with private entrances; three Theatres, with cushioned chairs in the parquette, and a half priced fourth tier. With regard to the "market"—arrangements are being made on a very extensive scale: vegetables will be had of the best—and the meat market is to be unexceptionable. It is pretty well ascertained that good laws cannot be made unless the law-makers are well fed. Fresh meat is indispensable to the making of substantial laws that cannot be pulled to pieces; the lameness of the last legislature is attributed to the lack of "beef". The article of "beef" will be amply provided, for the next General Assembly. But the excitement—we had almost forgotten what this preface was to lead to.—Here is the eloquent extract.

On behalf of New Orleans, Judge Walker said:—With all respect to the gentleman who represents, and recommends Baton Rouge as the next place of meeting of this convention, I must say it is an exceedingly insignificant place.—(Laughter.) There are no means of conveyance to it, and you find nothing after you get there. We in pity, make it the Capital of the State, and find that on account of the poor accommodations of the place, we cannot keep our members of the Legislature from running away from it; and I would ask if it is reasonable or wise to expect to find accommodations for a large and respectable body like this there, when the place cannot keep such a body, and such men as we send to our Legislature. (Laughter.) It has no places of amusement; it has no interesting exhibitions; in short, it is a little town, closed in by a little fence and white-washed. (Laughter and applause.) New Orleans is the great centre of the empire of the West and South; railroads lead to it from every portion of the Union, and there is enough to amuse, and enough to feed and accommodate the members of this convention as long as they remain there. I therefore move to lay Baton Rouge on the table. (Laughter.) This speech called out Mr. McGimpsey, the champion of Baton Rouge, who arose with much excitement, amid cheering and laughter, to defend his much slandered town. Mr.

President.—I never made a speech in public in my life, but I conceive it my duty to do so now, to refute the slanders which have been heaped upon my native town. I am opposed to placing Baton Rouge on the table, and amend the motion by placing New Orleans there. From what the gentleman from New Orleans says of Baton Rouge, I can safely say that he has never been in the place—he is ignorant of it, or he has been greatly misinformed or willfully misrepresents it. (Laughter, and cries of "Give it to him.") What is New Orleans? It sits in a mud puddle—it is half the time overflowed with water; and if this convention met there, they would be compelled to assemble in the garret, to keep from being drowned. (Great laughter.)—Baton Rouge is situated on the high land—it requires no artificial means to keep it above water—it is the centre of the State, and destined to rival New Orleans, and become in her stead, the commercial depot of the South. Talk of railroads centering in N. Orleans!—why, if you build them there, they will sink. No, Mr. President: Baton Rouge is to be the centre of all the Southern Railroads, and take the wealth which now pours into the Southern Sodom, New Orleans. (Applause.) The gentleman says we have no places of amusement in Baton Rouge. In answer, I am proud to admit that we have no theatres, cock fighting and bull baiting, which New Orleans has; but we have schools and churches, and intelligent men, which New Orleans has not. (Great laughter, and cries of "Hit him again.") And now, I would put it to the convention, whether they would prefer to take the theatres and the risk of life at New Orleans, or enjoy the comforts and the unbounded hospitality of the intelligent and honest citizens of Baton Rouge.

LIBERATION OF SLAVES IN CUBA.—The Havana correspondent of the Charleston Courier, writes that the Captain General has received instructions from Madrid, to consult with the principal slaveholders as to the propriety of a plan which is to liberate the negroes, binding them to serve an apprenticeship, and, by way of compensation, to allow the introduction of emigrants from the coast of Africa. This plan, it is said has been proposed by the British government, and it is to be forced upon the people of Cuba without any regard to their wishes or interest.

CURIOS.—We can scarcely credit the rumor, yet it comes in no questionable shape that a young amateur, playing Hamlet at one of the minor theatres, during one of the hottest nights they have had in New York, added immensely to the effect of that celebrated passage, "Oh, that this too solid flesh would melt!" by suddenly disappearing from the sight of the audience in a state of evaporation. It was thought a capital illustration; but when he did not return, and the progress of the play was impeded, the audience expressed their disapprobation. The manager came forward, looked at the spot where Hamlet had stood, and tearfully informed the assembly they would have to substitute another piece as Hamlet had certainly gone into Greece.—Delta.

The Cincinnati Railroad record says "There are 2400 workmen engaged on the Central Road between Zanesville and Wheeling, and 1000 more are wanted. There is plenty of work, prompt pay, high prices, and a healthy country."

This division of the road is to be finished and in operation of twelve months from this time. It will be in fact, a prolongation of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad into the heart of central Ohio, forming connections with the extensive railroad systems of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, and presenting a short, direct and speedy route between Baltimore and Cincinnati.

According to the Madison papers, seventeen hundred and eighty-two speeches long and short, were made in the Convention which formed the Constitution of the United States. James Madison, made one hundred and sixty-four; George Mason, one hundred and thirty-six; Edmund Randolph seventy-eight making a total of three hundred and seventy-eight speeches from the three talking Virginia delegates. James McClung spoke three times and George Washington twice only. Mr. John Blair and George Wythe were two of the nine silent members. The two speeches of Washington were on taking the chair, and at the close of the convention.

## Communicated.

Mr. Editor.—Having been disappointed in the celebration of the fourth of July by the postponement of the Plank Road Barbecue, in company with a friend we resolved to pay a visit to our worthy fellowcitizen Col. H. M. Peirce, at his pleasant residence about 1½ miles from town. After a pleasant ride we approached the gate of the lawn of the "castle," and saw the star-spangled banner waving in triumph on the "outer wall." The gate was opened by one of the servants, and as we rode to the house, the voice of our worthy host the Col. was heard ordering his faithful waiting boy Prince "to take charge of the gentleman's horse and buggy," while he himself asked us to take something to moisten our throats until a bowl of punch which his faithful friend, in peace or in war, 'Joe,' was preparing. Sometime was spent in agreeable conversation with a select company assembled on the occasion to do justice to the liberality of the Col. The bowl of punch being brought forward, due justice was done to it, and some very eloquent and patriotic toasts were given. I am sorry, I cannot remember some of them, one of them in behalf of our friend Joe, was very pathetic and appropriate. The next order of business was dancing, not the refined mazouka or Polka quadrilles, but a real break-down reel, by four of the Company, headed by the worthy host. After a while another bowl of punch was announced which was also duly honored, amidst patriotic burst of enthusiasm. Dinner was then ordered to be set, and the order was soon obeyed, and one of the town authorities was desired to "carve the pig," which was promptly done. Previous to sitting to the table, our friend Joe announced another bowl of punch, which was declared by *connoisseurs* (who had already imbibed half a dozen glasses) to be equal to the famed nectar drank some short time since, on Mount Olympus by Mr. Jupiter & Co.

During the Dinner our friend the Hon. arrived with a jovial band, who amused themselves on the gallery, and ante-room, until the cloth could be removed and the table re-set for them. They gambolled and danced in the most approved Indian style, until, from the absence of linen on the upper part of their bodies they might have been mistaken for Roman gladiators prepared for the arena. After the company had finished their repast, "Prince" having been sent for more supplies, another goblet of "nectar" was passed, and the company gradually dispersed, satisfied with the celebration of the anniversary of glorious independence.

The thanks of the guests are due to the worthy and gallant Colonel, and may he live long to cater to the amusement of his friends, and to render his country—already greatly his debtor, more valuable services.

SEN STROKE.—In the New York Sun, of the 24th ult., were enumerated twenty-eight or thirty deaths from *coup de soleil*, or sun stroke, in one day! The deceased appear to have been, nearly all of them, Irish and Germans—probably persons new to the land, and who, when suffering from heat, and to appease the thirst incited thereby, doubtless partook too freely of water and other liquids. Our city is almost wholly free from such visitations; for rare, very rare, are the cases of *coup de soleil*, although we have almost daily, new arrivals among us.—Piquette.

The managers of the Methodist Episcopal Tract Society held their second quarterly meeting at New York on the 15th ult. Although the society has only been organized six months, thirteen auxiliary societies have been formed, including all the Atlantic conferences, six agents for conferences appointed, ten colporteurs sent out, \$9500 subscribed at conference sessions, of which \$3800 have been already paid in, a catalogue of over four hundred tracts provided, and a tract volume catalogue commenced which amounted to over thirty volumes.

A WILL CASE.—A case was recently tried in Montgomery county, Pa., in which Judge Smyser ruled that an attempt to sign a will—death occurring to prevent the signing—is sufficient to sustain the will. In this case the descendant had commenced his name by writing the letter P., when he sunk back exhausted, and died in ten minutes.

Contentment is the true philosopher's stone. The poor are rich that have it, and the rich are poor without it.

Ed. Comet.—Will accept the warmest thanks of "Fillbuster," for the tender of its columns, to discuss and vindicate the conduct, and motives which actuated Americans in their endeavors to aid the oppressed Cubans to extricate themselves from the galling yoke of Spanish corruption and despotism. I am gratified to learn that you are willing to exonerate those gallant men who so promptly and cordially, rushed to the rescue of the Cubans, when they believed that the day had come when the people of that "Gem of the Sea," could sever the chains of the oppressor, and thereby disenthral themselves and establish Republican Institutions. By what evidence or reasoning do you condemn those who raised the necessary means; for what expedition? Why do you proclaim to the world, that their only desire was, that when the object should be accomplished, they would reap the rich harvest. Can you believe that Americans could be actuated and governed by such base and sordid desires towards an oppressed and enslaved people? Sorry would I be to find Americans whose every impulse would be plunder and robbery. All are in some way duped, governed by self interest, and had that expedition been attended with the success which all patriots desired, all who participated would have derived some benefit or some future advantage.—But allow me, in conclusion to say that I believe that all who aided and participated, in that unfortunate expedition were actuated by higher and nobler motives than plunder and self aggrandizement, that they were influenced by that spirit which is deeply implanted in every patriotic American citizen; that love of Republican institutions, which prompts them to ever offer a willing heart and a ready arm to those who are struggling to break the chains of the oppressor, and would by their aid, become a bright and shining star in this contest.

Respectfully,

FILLIBUSTER.

We see from *Le Meschacebe* published in the Parish of St Charles that the name of Judge Ed. Simon, of St Martinsville is mentioned as a candidate for Congress in the Second District.

The title to the tract of land purchased by the General Government for a Marine Hospital at Vicksburg, has at length been made perfect. The papers have been forwarded to the General Government.

A few days since, on the New York and Erie Railroad, a train left Corning for the city of New York consisting of seventy-six cars, drawn by a single engine, loaded with eight hundred thousand feet of lumber.

The Rhode Island Legislature adjourned on the 17th inst., after a session of four days. An act was passed prohibiting the issue of fractional bills after the first of September. The proposition to enlarge the suffrage for the election of delegates to the convention failed in caucus.

It is stated in the *La. State Paper* that Gen. MARK BOATNER is a candidate for State Auditor.

DANCING.—Our readers perhaps would like to know Horace Greely's opinion of Dancing. Well here it is:

"We believe dancing mainly by small neighborhood parties, without parade of dress or other expensive adjuncts, restricted to three hours at any one assemblage, closed long before midnight and rigidly guarded against all access of stimulating beverages, might be a most admirable recreation, securing the approbation and countenance of the religious and sedate; but conducted as it is, it probably exhausts more than it renovates, and corrupts more than it improves."

A monument to Sir Isaac Newton is about to be erected on St. Peter's Hill, Grantham, Lincolnshire, England. The town council of Grantham has granted a site for the purpose, and a donation of £100, and requested the Royal Society to take action on the subject. There are two other monuments to Sir Isaac, in England, one at Westminster and one at Cambridge.

The Memphis Appeal understands that Col. John J. Pryor, late of the Memphis Eagle, has been tendered the post of chief editor of the New Orleans Crescent. The Appeal has not learned whether he will accept.