

# The Weekly Comet

Thursday Morning, : : Oct. 27, 1853.

Spirit of the Morning Journals.

The Daily Gazette of yesterday morning, contains No. 1, of what we infer to be the beginning of a series of "walks about town," which promise to be of great local interest. The author starts from the Gazette office, after the hour for "bitters" and proceeds down the street. He would not have an against us if he had not started with this presumption: "That all the civilized world at least" know where the great town of Red Stick is—and that it is the Capital of the great State of Louisiana—washed on the left hand side by the great Mississippi river. This is a great mistake. Our semi-occasional correspondent, Mr. Guy Mannering went over into the intelligent State of Georgia, and found a great many great men "thar" who had never "herd tell of any sich place."

Well, to proceed. The Gazette's author begins to speculate, and comes at length to the "peculiarities" of Baton Rouge. First and foremost in the catalogue of "peculiarities" he makes mention of the State House, and says in one corner of it Gov. Hobert, reigns supreme. This is intelligence—the Governor has not "reigned in the corner office" three whole weeks since his election. From this the writer goes into other Executive offices, and compliments the heads thereof. This is all very correct, but if the compliments had been bestowed on the clerks thereof, it might have been a "reward of merit." We should like to know, when the writer for the Gazette ever found all the State functionaries at their post? That time is well worthy of record.

The writer of the Gazette passes out of the State House without saying a word in reference to our sable one eyed friend, the guardian genius of the establishment. If punctual attention to business—and the private virtues of temperance in all things is any value, certainly our one eyed friend should be first mentioned. But as this is not the idea of the writer for the Gazette, we pass on to the very truthful remarks below which are in his own language.

"There are some other notable personages and things about the State House, but for a short article, written *currente calamo*, we have devoted enough attention to one subject. We can't say anything about the assembled wisdom, because they are not now assembled.

We pass to another important branch of State Government—the Penitentiary—which contains a large representation from almost every portion of the State, but an overwhelming one from New Orleans. Of that it is sufficient to say, that though it contains a great many rogues, it does not by any means contain all of them."

The Plaquemine Sentinel of the 22nd inst., contains a long address to the People of Iberville on the subject of the vexed question about the "Sheriffly" of that Parish. It is from Mr. Erwin.

The papers at Plaquemine have been filled with nothing else for the past few weeks, and the matter is getting beautifully complicated. If the election were a month or so farther off, we presume that the combatants would willingly wipe out all that has been said, and commence the controversy again. It all resolves itself into the simple fact that Mr. Erwin without the authority of any party has seen fit, to exercise the right, of offering himself to the people as an Independent candidate for Sheriff. And the question simply is, what has the office of Sheriff to do with either of the great political parties in Iberville.

The Hotels are all opening in New Orleans. We notice that, that elegant establishment the Verandah opened for the season, yesterday.

From the Mirror, published at Jackson La., of date the 20th inst., it is to be inferred that there is more disease from "panic," than any thing else in that place.

## The Worst Persecuted Man Alive.

It seem from an account in the New Orleans Police reports, that our Dr. Hines—the veritable—true genuine "doctor," has again turned up in the Crescent City, and is to be again immolated on the altar of his own over-weening confidence in the virtue and integrity of man. He is now at the bar of justice to answer the slanderous charge of having borrowed four dollars of a lad at the lake end of the Pontchartrain railroad, under false pretenses. As it is his destiny to be "persecuted by man," of course he is held accountable for having borrowed the four dollars, and stands committed to appear before the First District Court in default of not getting a thousand dollars bail.

To hear the doctor talk, one could not help but believe that he really does think in truth and sincerity, that he is the worst persecuted man alive. In impressing the fact, his eye will moisten, and the tear roll down his cheek, without the aid of onions or other external applications. We never heard any divine in the pulpit more familiar with impressive passages of the Scripture; which he quotes in the most eloquent and pathetic manner. It is worth—the doctor's acquaintance—to hear him draw a long sigh at the close of his account of trials and tribulations and point with his hand to Heaven, and say he "hopes to be rewarded hereafter, when the dim evanescent speck of earth, has passed away."—This is a favorite expression of the doctor's—it gives a beautiful finish to his moral episode.

When the doctor was brought to the Penitentiary in this place, a number of years ago, he had an ingeniously contrived spring hat—made to assume various shapes. The skeleton of the fabric may still be seen at the prison. He never makes any allusion to that article of wearing apparel and its uses; if he does, it is to say that it was the invention of his enemies.

Shortly before Gov. Walker pardoned "our doctor," and set him at liberty—some "lines" were placed in our hands, said to have been copied from the wall of his cell—we published them—the doctor became apprised of the fact (we do not know how unless it is that the Comet goes everywhere.) When he could call the air he breathed "his own," again, he came to see us at our office. As he entered he bowed; we returned the salutation—bade him good morning and take a seat: this he did, remarking that *perhaps* we had forgotten him—that he was Hines, the "somewhat" notorious "Dr. Hines." At this intelligence of course we had to compliment him on his good looks "a much younger man than we had taken him to be, &c." The conversation that ensued, opened a smooth way for him to run through his eventful history—"his hair breadth escapes—of being taken by the insolent foe." We threw our pen down and listened to him. At length he came to the poetry part—thanked us for the notice we had taken of his "lines"—in very appropriate verses from Byron—said that he amused his idle hours in that way, and reading the bible; from whence—to use his own language "flows all consolation."

The doctor came and went, and came again—said he had to go and see his friend the Governor, and some of the gentlemen of the Senate, (the legislature was then setting here.) The doctor taking quite a fancy to us, he came several times with his pockets full of poetry, which he informed us, we might publish in the Comet, for the edification of its readers. For all of which we thanked him in his own most courteous manner. At length he came to tell us "farewell," assuring us we should hear from him; and going without asking a loan, (he had effected one, with a member of the lower house on his own security.) We did hear from the doctor on his way up the riv-

er. After passing himself off in N. O. as a wealthy citizen of Virginia and selling titles to "unlocated" estates in that country, he took a fast boat and went up the river—got in jail at Charleston, and is now back to the Crescent City, where his enemies remember, and his friends have forgotten him. Alas, alas say we, is there nothing but wickedness in the world—no sympathy for the much wronged man!

As November draws nigh, we do not wonder at seeing any plan resorted to, by which those who live by office, may retain the "balance of power." We take the following from the Bulletin; it needs no comment.

**Subornation of Perjury.**—There is an honest old man walking about the streets selling canes, who was approached by a gentleman, who wanted him to act as a witness in one of the District Courts, at a compensation of two dollars a day, and to identify persons who should apply for naturalization papers. He was told that he would only have to stand in court and identify each individual that should come up, swearing that he had known the person for the requisite number of years! It is scarcely necessary to say that the old man, valuing his oath at a higher fee than the sum offered, and indignant at the insult, promptly refused. The conduct of the gentleman who made the offer, requires no comment.

The Vis-a-Vis says on Sunday last the people at New River were thrown into consternation by the appearance of a negro man in the neighborhood, with a gun. It seems the day previous, two citizens of New River, were roughly accosted by the man, and finding that it would be hazardous to attempt to take him, they went into the settlement and obtained a reinforcement. The party went and found the man at night—he was ordered to halt—refused, and snapped his gun at the party; whereupon they fired—the shot taking effect and producing almost instant death. The negro belonged to Edward Moore, of Iberville.

The Town of Franklin seems to be receding from the boundaries of creation. Some week or so ago the editor of the Banner complained that our paper circumnavigated the Globe before it reached the sanctum of that editor. Now he says that, that valuable paper called the SPECTATOR and published at Lafayette on the 3rd, 10th and 17th of September last, has actually come to hand by mail. As it is unusual speed, for the mail in that part of the State, we are glad that he notices the fact. It is worthy of comment.

**NEW YORK EXTRAVAGANCE.**—In the days of the decline of the Romans, horses were made consuls and were fed with gilded oats. One would think we were fast traveling the same road. The horses of some of our upper-ten, fare much better than half the poor people of the city. We saw a stable the other day, built like a small temple; the walls inside were stuccoed and decorated with engravings, busts, and a large clock. In an adjoining room, equally well finished stood a pair of elegant horses. The whole was brilliantly lighted with gas. The wood work was grained in imitation of oak, and highly varnished.—Sun.

The wife of the late Prof. Webster (the same that was executed for the murder of Dr. Parkman), died at Boston on the evening of the 11th. The N. Y. Express says she was a lady much esteemed and respected among a large circle of acquaintances there. The terrible crime and fate of her husband had cast a gloom over her life ever since that event, which, beyond the power of the kindest sympathies to dispel, has at length followed her to the grave.

**PRIZE PAPER UPON THE VINE DISEASE.**—The Society of Encouragement, of France, offers a prize of 3,000 francs to the author of the best paper upon the disease of the vine; a prize of 3,000 francs for the discovery of the most efficacious preventive against it, and nine prizes of 500 francs each to the authors of memoirs upon nine different subjects, which it gives, connected with the disease.

## Public Education.

Some gentleman in a public speech some years ago, started out with the assertion "that Education is a very good thing."—recognizing in his auditory, a look of approbation, he sat down and said no more. Whether this took place before the Poet discovered "that ignorance is bliss," we cannot stop now to enquire.

The system of Public Education in this State, imperatively demands the attention of its intelligent citizens. If it cannot have their aid, it should be immediately abolished, as worse than useless expenditure of public treasure. The Constitution of 1845 contains an elaborate system, constructed by men entirely void of any knowledge, either of education or common business transactions. The Convention of '52, from which the present Constitution emanates, obliterated the whole plan, and adopted a clause, saying briefly in its stead "there shall be a system of Free Public Education by the State." This is entirely sufficient. The 1st Legislature under the New Constitution, formed a system "beautifully absurd." This system has no practicable feature in it, and the people are taxed under it, to support in most of the parishes—ignorant and inefficient "teachers," better adapted intellectually and physically to "split cord wood."

It is not to be wondered at, that the people will not send their children to such public schools as we have—and that Public Education is consequently falling into the hands of the Jesuits.

They know very well how to wield the power thus given them, and are sowing seeds, the harvest of which is to cost the State of Louisiana, if not the United States more trouble than is at present dreamt of.

We like the society of the Jesuits for its perfect government.—We like it because it has been the pioneer in the field of intelligence—we like it because in its sacred archives are deposited all the literary treasures of the past: but as an auxiliary to the Roman Catholic Church, it is to be feared in the Republic more than anything else. Such being the case (and we presume that there is not a man in the community who has ever bestowed a serious thought on the subject who will deny it) the duty of every good citizen is to disregard "party" in the November contest for the Legislature, and select such men as we may hope to receive from, a practicable system of Public Education based upon business principles if not common sense.

In the New Orleans papers we notice a card to A. H. Lamont, the Whig nominee, for the office of State Superintendent of Education, and his answer in an address to the "friends of Education throughout the State. The following extract attracts, Mr. Lamont is speaking (we presume) of the present system of Public Education when he says:

"This system fully carried out, will prove of incalculable advantage to the present and coming generations; and in the selection of officers for its faithful and efficient management, it is the duty of every citizen to act with reference to the best interest of his children."

We materially differ with Mr. Lamont on this point. The system to be "fully carried out" to our satisfaction, would be carried out of existence. This would meet with the approbation of nine-tenths of the people of the State. A more lame, inefficient and contradictory system, could not be fabricated.

We have only to express a hope in this connection, that whoever is elected, will set down a day or two before the Legislature assembles and embody in the report on "Public Education," a sober practicable plan—not quite as long as the moral code, but as concise and explicit. A report of about a half side of fools-cap in length—the skeleton of a new system, that can be understood by the draftsman—at least.

**FIRE.**—Now that there is an imperative demand for Stone Coal and wood, and the chimney places are being swept out, and the old friendly stoves of last winter have returned to their stands, to fill the back-rooms with the light and heat of good cheer; our efficient town constable should be allowed to visit the interior of the squares and see that the winter arrangements of private families do not conflict with public security against the devouring element. It is to be hoped that we will escape, this season all the dangers of fire, but it certainly cannot be done, without altering the stove pipe arrangements, we observe in many places. Persons having little to loose by such a calamity, should not be permitted to endanger the property of others. It is the business of each landlord to provide his tenant with the secure comfort of fire, if not for his tenants sake, for his own security.

In this connection, we would say also that now, is the time to put the engines in order, both of them are efficient machines with good companies, and it is much better to have a little cleaning, drilling, and over-hauling before, than after a fire.

We observe No. 2, exercising in Third street the other day, and the hoos gave way in several places, this is an accident that the companies generally meet with, in time of danger, and is, we think, owing to the fact that the leather is suffered to get dry and rotten for want of oil. Let us have a trial of the skill of the two companies for a silver pitcher. What say the "b'hoys."

## Great Fire at Louisville!

By telegraphic despatch, dated Louisville 22d inst., we learn that a great fire was raging in that city. When the despatch came through the Journal office was consumed. The Louisville rolling mill warehouses containing a large quantity of iron, Holbrooks drug store, Wilson, Starbord & Smith's two-story warehouses, three dry goods stores, and trunk factory, all with entire contents; and the block from Bullitt street half way to Water street on Fifth. Fire still raging.

In the list of Army promotions for the 11th inst., we notice the promotion of Brevet 2nd Lieut., Jerome N. Bonaparte Jr., to be 2nd Lieut., vice Gordon, promoted to company A. In the Quartermasters department, 1st Lieut., William R. Van Bokkelen of 7th Infantry, is appointed Assistant Quartermaster, vice Searle deceased.

Pat or Bill Morrissey (we forget which) the beastly bull dog fighter, is not dead as reported. The more the pity. It would be a noble act on the part of the New York police to get him and Sullivan, and the balance of the curs together—go through with a hasty trial of them, and condemn them to ignominious death, without the privilege of a Priest to "confess them, and forgive their sins."

It is stated that the Democrats have carried the Legislature of Georgia. The papers do not say where to.

**CURIOUS ACCIDENT.**—A singular accident occurred on the occasion of the recent collision between the Paris and Bordeaux Railway. The conductor, whose place was in the luggage van, on hearing the noise of the approaching train opened the sliding door and put his head out to see what was the matter. At that moment the trains came in collision, the sliding door was violently slammed too, and decapitated him as neatly as a guillotine. His head rolled down the embankment, while his body remained in the van.

**PECULIAR.**—The New York Papers attribute the failure of their Stock brokers to the tightness of the Money Market. Can this be so? have they no Southern Organ among them?—Balloon.

**ANOTHER COMET.**—A large faint and nebulous comet, resembling a star cluster, was detected near the forward paw of the great bear, on the night of the 11th of September, by Mr. C. Brunn, in Berlin.