

The Weekly Comet

Thursday Morning, Nov. 24, 1853.

The spirited sketches of New Orleans life, from our regular correspondent "Cyrus," will be found very interesting. His view of "things," is as they are, not as they should be; and his sketches are possessed of all the freedom and boldness of a master.

Circus.—Glad are we that the world has not yet become so exquisitely refined as to interdict the 'Circus,' in its "bull of holy censure." But there is an effort everywhere to do so, and nowhere is it more visible in the country, than in this most exemplary place for pure morality and virtue.—The taxes imposed upon all kinds of exhibitions, in this great city, are such as to amount almost to prohibition.—And clamorous as we always have been—we are disposed to be still more clamorous in future, on this subject.—The argument against all exhibitions is, that money is taken away. Grant that money is taken away, is not something more substantial left behind, in the shape of joy and gladness to the juveniles, and pleasure, to the adults? Is not the new life, that soul stirring music infuses into the heart, worth as much in a utilitarian point of view, as the dimes that it costs? Indeed it is. We have no patience to argue with that class of citizens, who deny the necessity of rational enjoyment and substantial pleasure—the poetry of existence. What is life, divested of the mental food of poetry, music and fine arts, the legitimate drama, and the Elephant show? Why it is not worth the labor of the lungs that makes it.

We want in this city, a large hall—there could be no more profitable investment. For the morality and virtue of the community, (which ever springs from social intercourse) nothing could be done to conserve its interest, more. Away with the miserable rant and kant about the demoralizing influences of all pleasure. It is the mad raving of *persuado moralists*, and bigoted fanaticism. Rational exercise for the mind, is as necessary for its healthful existence, as food is for the body. If life is to be divested of every pleasure, because some people have lived long enough to see "vanity in all things," and others, with effeminate minds, can see no utility in anything that does not turn a half penny's worth of the "staff of life" into the stomach; why it would be will to bring human existence to an end.

Nine hundred good honest reporters who will tell the truth as often as practicable, can find employment at this office. There are many things transpiring in the "suburbs" of this great city, that go unchronicled for want of reporters. The Comet is determined not to be "out-did" and its twenty-five hundred subscribers begin now to complain of a lack of local incident. "There-fore" we offer—Independent of the regular salary of a hundred per month, we offer segars and cognac—season tickets to the shows, and other inducements, not to be mentioned in a "newspaper article."

Blackburn, of the Minden Herald, is engaged in making a book, which is to bear the title of "Miscellaneous Random Scribbings, containing articles in Chrome's, Prose and Verse, by W. Jasper Blackburn, Editor of the Minden Herald." The Editor says the work will be printed in New York, and done up in the very neatest style. It is designed to "immortalize" Minden and Claiborne parish in particular, and North Louisiana generally: with an occasional "flight" peculiarly the authors own.

W. B. Egan Esqr., is spoken of as a candidate to fill the bench in the 7th Judicial district, made vacant by the death of Judge Lawson.

THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND.

This ancient "figure of speech" which is supposed by antiquarians to have been invented to give expression to mental darkness, as well as physical: is not more beautifully illustrated in the whole range of nature than by one drunkard leading another. "The blind man in the dark seller, looking for a blind black cat," does not so forcibly illustrate the figure. It is most eloquently portrayed when two *chams* reel together, under the influence of groggery fumes and insist on seeing each other at home and to bed. To portrey this in forceable language gave rise to the ancient saying of "the blind leading the blind."

The board of Directors of the New Orleans Jackson and Great (?) Northern railroad, have ordered suits to be commenced for the recovery of unpaid installments. Is there any republicanism, in the popular law that gives to a majority of citizens the right to tax the minority, for works of improvement for the State?

In view of the difficulty of settling the question "Who killed Tammsh?" a society has been formed in Mississippi, to put an end to all further wrangling for the "honor," by fairly investigating the claims of all parties, not forgetting those of Col. Johnson. A man in our office last winter satisfied us on this subject. He fully convinced us that he (his name was Jones) was entitled to all the "credit" for that act. We hope the society will send for copies of the testimony of Jones, in his own behalf, relative to this matter, before they come to a final judgement.

The newspapers attach great credit to the Hon. R. J. Walker, for having returned to the Treasury Department, the money received by him to make an out-fit as minister to China. Mr. Walker does deserve credit for this act. Nine out of every ten, of the great men of this nation, would have put the money into a "Savings bank," for "charitable" purposes.

During the prevalence of the Cholera at Matagorda and Espiritu Senita, the fish in the bags died in great numbers.

This brief extract—which is but one out of a thousand; goes to prove our theory in reference to epidemics. All epidemics are occasioned by a disturbance of the earth's electricity. The oceans, lakes and rivers, are centres, in which the struggling essence first manifests itself, hence it is, that fish invariably show a change when a great epidemic sweeps over the country.

Is not this thought worthy of scientific notice? If not, we call on the united intelligence of the age, to answer the question. Why is it, that the greatest mortality prevails in seacoast towns, and on the water courses, and why is it that the fish die?

In Chicago, Illinois, a man can buy a house in all its parts, ready to put together, doors, windows sash, shutters, flooring numbered &c., that can be put together in a few days. The emigrant can go to Chicago, buy a house, ship it on the railroad, and have a home in the prairies in a weeks time.

Company F. of 2nd Artillery, Lieut. Barry, arrived at this post on Wednesday morning, and took up their quarters in the Barracks.

Col. Vanwinkle, says the Point Coupee Echo, is charged with the general supervision of the work on Grand Levee. That important work the Echo says, will be ready to meet the Mississippi, when like a monarch he rises to his throne, at his high-water mark.

It is said that a German opera is about to be started in New York, which will no doubt be well supported, the German population in that city being so large.

It is astonishing with what rapidity the Mormon Religion is becoming popular in various quarters of the Globe. Statistical information before us show the following facts:

The British Islands for the last year ending June 30, 1853, gives the following total: 54 Conferences, 737 Branches, 40 Seventies, 19 High Priests, 2578 Elders, 1854 Priests, 1416 Teachers, 884 Deacons, 1776 excommunicated, 274 dead, 1722 emigrated, 2601 baptized, 30,690 total.

In the Society Islands, in the spring of 1852, the Saints numbered between 1500 and 2000. These were scattered over some twenty islands, and were greatly persecuted by the Roman Catholics and the French authorities.

At a conference held on the 9th of last March, on one of the Sandwich Islands, there were represented, eighteen Missionaries from Utah, and about 1200 Saints, who dwell on different islands of the group. From a letter, dated April 26, 1853, the work is rapidly progressing at Honolulu, as many as 80 having been baptized in one day.

In a letter from Elder Charles W. Wandell, dated Sydney, March 29, 1853, we learn that there were upwards of one hundred Saints in Australia. A small company of about 29 persons were about to sail for California, on their way to the Salt Lake.

On the 23 of July last, the French Mission consisted of 4 conferences, 9 branches, and a total number of 337 members, including officers.

A few are being baptized into the church in several of the States, and in the British Provinces.

A large colony of the Saints is founded in Southern California, under the presidency of Amasa Lyman and Charles C. Rich, two of the twelve.

ANNEXATION OF THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.—The Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Journal of Commerce says:

The news concerning the annexation of the Sandwich Islands is somewhat startling, though it is a matter long talked of. There can scarcely be a doubt that the Hawaiian government has taken some preliminary steps towards this object, and England and France may protest against it in vain. The Californians are exceedingly desirous for the consummation of this project. Dr. Gwin, one of the Senators from California, has taken great interest in this matter, and during the latter part of the last administration, he urged upon this government some immediate action upon it; and he asserted that the Hawaiian government was not only then prepared for the measure, but that a project of a treaty for the purpose had been forwarded to this government, and was then in the State Department.

The American missionaries who have from time to time visited the Sandwich Islands are friendly to the project of annexation, and have no doubt done much to promote it. Our missionaries, it must be remarked, laid the foundation for the recognition of the Sandwich Islands by the United States, France, England and Belgium and the establishment of diplomatic and commercial relations therewith.

The correspondent of the N. O. Courier writing from Charleston, on the 8th instant says, in reference to the late election in this State,

"All this excites no wonderment at home—the matter was pretty well understood before hand. The Democrats with John Slidell at their head, came into the market with pockets and hands filled with the sinews of war. They paid liberally for suffrages at first, but as the bidding was all on one side, not a Whig offering a dollar, the article soon became cheap, and I heard of two 'first' rate votes that were disposed of at 30c. each. In all my political experience, and it has been considerable, I have never before known so much bribery."

ART.—A reverend gentleman "down South" being invited by a young friend to take a private drink, agreed to dispose of a lemonade. By some mistake he drank his friend's whiskey punch, and the young man informed him that he had taken the wrong horn. The minister smiled affably and remarked: "Ah, my young friend, the horn of the ungodly shall be put down."—Psalms, 75: 19.

The splendid picture of Patrick Henry delivering his war speech in the House of Burgesses of Virginia is now the property of a citizen of Philadelphia, who drew it at the last distribution of prizes by the Philadelphia Art Union.

There is no man anywhere in the nation, to beat Beal. He is a generous whole-souled fellow—does business on a liberal scale—commands patronage—must prosper and get rich. Beal is a liberal fellow. He does not expect the editor to puff "dry goods" without samples, and when it comes to groceries his advertisement is a sample. Can any one talk of Longworth's Sparkling Catawba eloquently, without seeing the article poured out? The thing is impossible; and now let us say, that Beal has that delightful beverage of 1850 vintage, and it so far goes ahead of any counterfeit foreign importation, that the Temperance fraternity, should raise its interdiction to let Longworth's article in.

Besides this, Beal has a thousand articles in the line of sundries, which it is a pleasure to buy (and pay for) of so clever a fellow.

THE NEW FASHIONABLE DANCE.—The New York correspondent of the Charleston Evening News says:

The advent of the dancing season gladdens the hearts of many of our young Bloods. Several parties have already been given, and numerous are the invitations already out. The new dance, the *Emerald*, is becoming popular, owing, I suppose, to the fact that as few understand it, it is considered select; I cannot say I admire it. It aims at being extremely graceful, and is all jerk and twist, like a bad stage dance. I cannot describe it more concisely than by saying that it appears to be a cross between a Highland Fling, a Virginia Breakdown, and a fistieft-fight.

THE MORMONIES IN WALES.—The ranks of the adherents to Mormonism are at present being greatly strengthened, especially in Carmarthenshire, Glamorganshire, and other important districts in South Wales. Numbers of these people have lately joined the sect, including many persons of high respectability and middle class station. A well known Welsh lecturer named Robyn Dhu, whose influence with the people is very great has lately joined the ranks, and his eloquence seems irresistible. Immense numbers have lately left South Wales or the Salt Lake, and many others are now preparing for departure in the spring.

The officers of the U. S. brig of war Dolphin were lately handsomely entertained by the Mayor and other authorities of Southampton, England.

The man that has been engaged in building a castle in the air has come down, materials having given out.

A correspondent of the Saco Democrat states that a firm of machinists in East Boston have lately made a \$500,000 contract with a firm in South America, for iron machinery.

SIGNOR BOTTA, the Italian historian is in this country. His visit is with a view of gaining authentic information in regard to our school system, and the different religious sects and institutions of America.

It is said that Bennett, of the New York Herald is about to commence a libel against the publishers of the New York Times for imputations against his character made in the latter paper.

Advices from Havana, states that six more of the crew of the bark Jasper, have been arrested, and incarcerated in the Lacon Jail.

The bark Minnesota arrived at Philadelphia on the 8th inst., from Rio, was struck by lightning on the 14th of October, shivering her sky-sail and royal-masts, and damaging other masts, and setting fire to the cabin-locker, which was put out without damage. Two of the crew were slightly hurt.

The steamer New Latona—Capt. Gross, has our thanks for regular favors. We shall be obliged to gentlemen who take papers off of packets directed to us, to send them to the office before they get a week old.

The H. M. Wright, with a full ticket of the *cleverest kind* of officers, will make as usual regular weekly trips from New Orleans to Vicksburg. Will be at our landing every Tuesday morning going up, and every Saturday going down. See card. Capt. Clark has our unfeigned thanks for favors.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Crescent City.—By Placemal.

Within a very few years the Coffee House, or as it is more stylishly called *Restaurant* business, both in this city and in all our Northern cities, has greatly increased, and the number of drinking houses been rapidly multiplied. The fashionable Restaurant of the present day, is an infinite improvement upon the establishments of that character, which flourished when you and I were boys, and neither of us are yet proprietor of "grey hairs." The blending of several very popular features, such as the Ball Alley, Billiard and card tables, and the comfortable lunch, together with every variety of the "best brands" such as Sazerac, Cognac, Old Port and Maderia, have popularized, and greatly improved these establishments. The Crescent City is prolific in them, and when conducted by those who understand the business, they are well patronized, and vastly profitable. And why not profitable? Do they not afford that nourishment for the "inner man" that makes one feel like another being? Do they not supply those *spiritual* enjoyments to the young and inexperienced, that make them forget the teachings and precepts of parental care and solitude, and set their feet in the path that leads them at last to—"God knows where!" But *n'importe*—what are health, wealth, honors, fame, the blood and body, aye, what are human souls in the scale, when gold weighs in the opposite balance? Walk in and drink—take a bite and then let's have a roll at them *pus*. Tumblers clink and crash on the counter, decanters flash and gleam behind it, the balls roll and thunders down the alley, here is one singing a mandrin, song there is one telling "a d—d good joke," all is noise and excitement within these fashionable restaurants, and what wonder is it, that the young man who enters for the first time, is astonished, bewildered and finally yields himself up a willing victim at last to the temptations and blandishments that beset him in such a "brilliant hall."

How many a youthful head has bowed in death, how many maternal hearts have been broken, how many a brilliant mind, has been darkened, and lofty hopes and bright prospects been brought low in the dust, by influences that emanate from the fashionable restaurant, or were caught from those who frequent those "entrees to the infernal world!"

But so it is, and so long as society is based upon those principles that now sustain it, the coffee house, the low groggery, the fashionable rum-hole, will have a wider and more potent influence upon the characters and destiny of those who compose it, than the Bible and the teachings of the Gospel. To "get a brick at Sam's" or a "smile at the Shades," to "treat at the City" or "take a turn," at the St. Charles, will long form the sum and substance of many a young man's conversational powers, and bound his efforts at intellectual "expression." The effects of this rum-drinking is not confined to New Orleans alone, but as from a collateral cause, they reach beyond and are felt throughout the State. Who will undertake to determine the exact amount of rum, which it took during the recent canvass here, to elect this man and defeat that one; or reverse the proposition, and give us the correct answer. Two hundred illegal voters, who are fortified for the deed, by voting in five precincts, cast one thousand illegal votes, and by so doing, when do they not rob of sacred rights by thus pronouncing a false verdict against them? All parties will do well to seriously think of these matters which every year grow worse and worse. One thousand illegal votes cast in this city, may overrule the whole State, and instead of allowing a fair expression of the popular voice in favor of this man or party, it actually destroys the rights of the one, and confers a falsehood upon the other. I hope the day is far distant when another such scene shall be witnessed in this city, and God grant that no other than temporary evils may flow from such false and lying majorities.

CYRUS.

A rare opportunity is offered merchants and dealers, in the sale of dry goods belonging to the estate of the late A. Bazin. The sale will commence on Thursday night the 1st of December, and be continued from night to night until the entire stock is disposed of. Terms favorable—see notice.

Modesty is a handsome dish cover that makes us fancy there must be something very good underneath it.