

THE WEEKLY COMET.

GEO. A. PIKE, EDITOR.

OFFICE—OPPOSITE THE BRANCH LA. STATE BANK.

TERMS—FOR THE WEEKLY 99 50

VOL. I

BATON ROUGE, LA., SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 16, 1854.

NO. 35.

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GEORGE A. PIKE,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

Official Journal of the Parish of East Baton Rouge. Also of the Grand Terre and Baton Rouge, and of the Baton Rouge and Clinton Plank Road Companies.

WHAT BECOMES OF MULES?—There is a vexed question in reference to vessels, that seems to have puzzled all the newspaper editors; and as it has become last, in "the press of other matters," we propose another. The question has been "what becomes of all the vessels? The question is, 'What becomes of all the mules?' Mules form the staple product, of Kentucky and Tennessee, and there is not a season that does not bring down droves. Now, what becomes of them? Do they actually wear out? Do they become weak and decrepid with old age, and lay down and die? If so, what becomes of the hide and tallow? Come, philosophers and political economists, take up the question and let us know "what becomes of mules".

THE NIGHT WATCH.—The Captain of the night watch should adopt some rules for the government of the squad, so as to obviate difficulties and prevent mistakes. It is important that the "watch" should have all its wits about it and be able to tell the time of night, if nothing more. This could be done by having some fixed places to "water" at given periods during the night. It cannot be expected that each man shall carry the time about him. Another important thing is, that the strength of the coffee shall be uniform, because a man whose nervous system is strung up by stimulants, is very apt to take others, not excited to be drunk. Hence ridiculous mistakes may occur. Will captain Guedry see to these things?

THE EIGHTH OF JANUARY.—This ought to be great in Louisiana, passed off very quietly in this city. There is no volunteer company now, to turn out—unfurl the banner, and fire the cannon. When Baton Rouge was less a place than it now is, it could boast of two well appointed companies. Now the great anniversary pass unnoticed. Had not that public spirited and patriotic commander of the Ferry—Capt. Beal, hoisted his colors, there would have been nothing visible to remind us of the Battle of Orleans.

In answer to our friend of the Harrisonburg paper, we have to say, that if the Comet is not received regularly by him, the broad shoulders of the mail should be held accountable for it.

RUSSIAN DETERMINATION.—We find the following dispatch dated New York, Dec. 29, in the Baltimore American, and give it for what it is worth.

Private advices received here from Russia, state that the Emperor will never submit to the dictation of England and France.

The wealthiest merchants at Moscow offer the government millions of rubles, if wanted, to prosecute the war. If affairs are not settled during the winter, Paskewitch, with an army of 300,000 men is to advance on Constantinople. Extensive preparations were making on the borders, and the first hostile act would probably be to blockade the Baltic.

Russia, or the Emperor, it was said expected that the American would be the only neutral flag before the affair is brought to a final settlement.

The steamship Asia left New York on the 28th ult., for Liverpool, with 81 passengers and \$362,789 in specie.

The Times have Changed.

Some fifteen years ago—and the memory thereof is treasured up—it was not uncommon for eight or ten steamboats to pass this place each day of the week; going to, and coming from the great commercial Emporium of the everlasting Mississippi. The scene has strangely changed since then. Now, it is not uncommon for the weary traveler who is by the odd chance "caught on the levee" of this emporium of daily newspapers and other light literature; to have to sit bestraddle his "dry goods box" and look a week for an "up-country boat." What is the cause of this; and where have all the boats gone to? The question involves the agricultural and commercial interest of the whole southern section of the Union. It is time people who have the interest of the State at heart; should be enquiring into the influences that have been brought to bear in other quarters, to drive steamboats out of the Mississippi, which, in importance as a channel for trade is fast dwindling into insignificance. What are they! In the first place, there some people who will have the temerity to doubt the fact, or the decrease of boats. To such, we can say, gentlemen you are new comers to Baton Rouge, you have no right to be classed with the "ancient inhabitants." We can recollect the time—within the last quarter century, when the town's ears were enlivened by night and by day, with the gruff voice of the ancient "Persian" making the woods vibrate with the echo of her senape pipe and paddle wheel. Then you could hear the water crafts ten miles by silent moonshine. Now sir, is true, the modern "upper-cabin-all-in-State-rooms" contraptions, are different; and steal on us, like the midnight thief. And it may be said "there are as many boats, but they do not make so much ado in passing." But then, tell us, why it is, the man sits on his trunk at the landing from day to day, and sometimes week to week, in the vain effort to discover some craft to take him up the river? There is no way to solve the problem, unless you go into the North or the West, and take a look at the railroad operatives: which are not impeded by low water or freezings, or anything. It is on these roads, that new and easy channels for trade are found, with which the steamboat, and the mighty Mississippi can never compete. Poor Louisiana! From the bottom of our soul (if it has any bottom) we pity her.

She is bound up in such fetters, by her peculiar institutions; that she must needs stand idle and unfruitful as she is; until the next and the next generation passes away. Her so called enterprises, are all conducted by speculators, who have precious little interest in her welfare, beyond their own pecuniary benefit. Will the West send her products to the New Orleans markets, when the facilities to reach the great Northern sea ports are so great? Never! What remedy is there for this! There is none! for its folly to talk of railroad enterprises, in Louisiana, where wealth and labor, are monopolized under peculiar institutions: which time alone—long and wearily drawn out, can change.

Some of the lawless rowdies at Erie, Pa., have taken to pelting the cars with stones as they pass through that place. We suppose Governor Bigler will "sympathize" with those vagabonds!—*Ex.*

The Legislature.

A few days only, will elapse before the legislature is to commence its session. The Hall has been swept, the desks dusted, and the spitboxes adjusted, so that gentlemen may stumble against them, to the best advantage. Some of the delegates, have chosen seats (in "retired parts," of course,) and they have been duly labled to order. Nicely printed, white-enamelled-on-both-sides cards, begin already to appear like snowflakes on the desks; setting forth in appropriate characters, the fact that Brown is a candidate for—"extra compensation." Some of the cards, lay loosely on the benches; others are pinned, and (some these are desperate fellows) have nailed them to the counter. These last are determined, that rival candidates shall not filch them for base purposes. Sometimes, this thing is done; a rival, tear down the claims of a rival with the boldness in which, the king displaced Bombastes boots. We have seen it and our blood curdles to think of the baseness.

There is much for this present legislature to do, and it is to be hoped that the work will be well and expeditiously done. The session, is by the constitution limited; and therefore the House should not adjourn for the week earlier than Wednesday. By adjourning on Wednesday, it will leave Thursday, Friday and Saturday, for recreation at the Shades, and a visit to "Murphies." This ought to satisfy even the country members who are accustomed to exercise at home; and cannot find it, in such a cramped up place as Red stick, is well known to be.

There will be various petitions for "relief" presented this coming legislature; and we advise the members, to scrutinize them closely, and vote for no man's relief bill, unless he will vote for a similar document of your own. The Great Northern Railroad, will doubtless ask for "relief," and say to the State, as it has done, "If you don't give us more, you must be prepared to loose what you have already given!" This is the very best argument in the world, and we advise each member to vote for the bill. The public school system, has to be patched in in its fundamental parts; and we would advise the Speaker to have on this committee, at least one man who knows some little about financial matters; for it is of more importance that teachers shall be paid, than that the sprouting generation shall be educated. We hope the committee on Education will turn out a "plan" they understand themselves, if nobody else does.

We notice that no provisions has been made for the "lobby." This oversight, should be covered with "a bill" in the early days of the session. If the lobby cannot have sofas; soft-bottom chairs will answer. It is unjust, to expect that valuable members of the community, can loose their time; standing to see, that that sacred instrument, the constitution, is not violated. Provision should be made The water-tanks, that are ever kept full of the coolest ice winter, should be filled with hot whisky punch; which is a powerful auxiliary to patriotism, in cold weather. It is unfair to expect the lobby to go to the the "Convention House," for water, at their own expense.

One thing more for arrangement sake. Mr. Sergeant-at-arms, for the love you bear the State, keep no reserved seats "for the ladies." We never knew any sensible thing to be done in the way of legislation, when

the ladies (the Lord bless them) were looking on. The appearance of the ladies, throws the house into confusion, and "the best looking man" invariably gets up to make a speech.

Mrs. Bloomer.—This lady, who is the editor of *The Lily*, at Seneca Falls, N. Y., and inventor of the celebrated costume for ladies, which bears her name, we learn, has removed to Mt. Vernon, with the view of making it her future home. In her last paper she thus announces the fact: "Our husband having purchased an interest in *The Western Home Visitor*, published at Mt. Vernon, Ohio, and determined on removing to that place forthwith, we, as a true and faithful wife, are bound to say in the language of Ruth—"where thou goest I will go," and so before another number of the *Lily* reaches its subscribers we shall, if all is well, have settled in our western home."

The San Diego Herald of the 3rd ult., contains the following proclamation from President Walker:

PROCLAMATION,

Issued on the 3rd day of Dec. 1853.
The Republic of Lower California is hereby Declared Free, Sovereign, and Independent, and all Allegiance to the Republic of Mexico is forever renounced.

DECREE—7th inst.

All duties, whether exports or imports, are hereby abolished.

DECREE No. 2—7th inst.

From and after this date, the Civil Code, and Code of Practice of the State of Louisiana shall be the rule of decision and the Law of the land in all the Courts of the Republic to be hereafter organized. Nothing however, in this Decree shall be construed so as to make it an organization of the Courts of the Republic.

WM. WALKER,

President of Lower California
FREDERIC EMERY, Sec'y. of State.

The Thibodaux Minerva of the 26th ult., says that an interesting case has been pending before the District Court at that place. About one third of the inhabitants of the village, together with some from the country, have been indicted for gambling. Twenty-seven of them have given bonds in the sum of \$1,000 each to appear at the Court. They are arranged for playing at a game called *vingt et un* against which the law is very severe, but has never been enforced. We learn by the same source, that some of the most influential citizens and officers of the Parish are included in the list. We would say one word to the gents about Baton Rouge who occasionally indulges in the innocent game of *vingt et un*: look out or you may get c-le by a "fra factions."

It is said that Cuba was a part of Louisiana, whose dominion was ceded by Spain to France, and that, therefore, we bought Cuba without knowing it.

We find the following despatch, in the Evening True Delta of the 2th inst:

Mississippi Senator—Gov. Foote.
JACKSON, MISS., Jan. 7.—The Hon. A. G. Brown was last evening nominated for U. S. Senator from Mississippi, by a majority of two votes.

Ex-Governor Foote left here yesterday for California, by way of Montgomery and New York.

KENTUCKY.—A change of venue to Hardin county has been granted to Mat. F. and Robert J. Ward, Jr. upon the indictment against them for the murder of Wm. H. G. Butler.

We notice the return home of our friends JACOB PIRER and C. J. HUESTON, from a tour to the west.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

Russia and Persia.

It is understood that Persia was induced to declare war against Turkey by a direct promise from the Emperor of Russia to remit the debt due by Persia, and to restore to the latter country the territory which has been in dispute between the two nations. The Shah has engaged to place 30,000 troops at the disposal of the Czar.

Entry of the Combined Fleets.

The French, British and Turkish fleets entered the Black Sea on the 10th of December. It was believed that their destination was Sebastopol. Three ships of each squadron, remained as a naval guard for Constantinople. This measure causes much anxiety in Europe, and the result is looked for with great interest, as the Emperor of Russia has repeatedly declared that he would consider the entrance of these fleets into the Black Sea, equivalent to a declaration of war. It is expected that in consequence of this step, the Russian Ministers at Paris and London, will immediately withdraw.

Attack on Kalafat.

The Russians made an attack on Kalafat, on the 4th of December, but were repulsed with great loss. The carnage was great also on the side of the Turks.

Another Attack.

Two Russian steamers and some gun boats attacked Mutchin on the 13th of December, but the result had not yet been learned.

Asia.

Nothing latter had been received from Asia with regard to the movements of the armies there. The indications were said to be rather unfavorable for the Turks.

Two Duels Fought.

A duel has taken place between Mr. Soule, the American Minister, and the Marquis Turgot, the French Minister, at Madrid; and one between young Mr. Soule and the Duke of Alba. No damage was done on either affair.

In the Orleansian of yesterday we find the following:

"BRICKS" AND THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.—A good story is told of the Yallahusha chieftain, "Bricks," who is by grace of the President, Pierce, and certainly not with the consent of his party or the people, Postmaster of this city. Bricks made his appearance, on Monday last, at the sixth precinct, for the purpose of depositing his voice. As the election was a contest in which few cared who whipped, there was but little scrutiny by the judges or investigating committees as regarded the qualification of voters, and Bricks, though not considered a resident of this State, was permitted to drop a ticket in the ballot box. A box to receive contributions to the Washington Monument was placed conspicuously at the sixth precinct poll. The judges and by-standers, feeling certain that the Yallahusha chieftain would be as liberal in his contributions as they were towards him, in permitting him to vote, called his attention to the box, but he, indignantly gave it go-by. As he strutted off a rollicking "son of the sod" gave him the fervent blessing of "bad luck to you, Bricks. You have done to the Washington Monument what you would do to an enemy—you have turned your back on it."

MISSISSIPPI.—Robert W. Wood has been elected Mayor of Natchez. The Natchez Courier, of the 3rd instant, says:

An affray of a serious nature occurred at the City Hotel, on last Friday night, which resulted in the severe injury of our much esteemed fellow-citizen, A. M. Griffin, Esq.—We are happy to state that, by early and skillful treatment, he is fast recovering from his wounds. As this affair is yet to undergo judicial investigation, we refrain from publishing the "thousand and one rumors" so currently afloat in the streets.

DEATH OF A PIONEER.—John Lauderdale, a pioneer of Tennessee, and a most excellent and useful citizen, died in summer county, Tennessee, on the 27th of September—aged 85 years.