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The Weekly Comet

GEO. A. PIKE, Editor.

CAPT. URR'S FLOATING PALACE THE CAPITOL.—This magnificent water craft touched our landing Saturday Evening going down. The firing of cannon attracted an eager crowd from all parts of the town, and when the boat landed they rushed aboard to survey the various appointments, for which a united voice of admiration went up. The boat remained some half hour or more and a table of viands was spread out at the upper end, where many of our fellow-citizens with wanted sagacity found their way. The Capitol is by all odds the finest boat—the most complete and perfect in all appointments we have ever been on; the far famed boats on North river not excepted. The following brief description of her, is taken from the Louisville Journal:

The Capitol was built for the packet trade between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, for which she is most admirably adapted, and in point of speed, endurance and beauty she cannot be excelled, if equalled, by anything afloat. The hull is 237 feet in length, with 37 feet beam, and 8 feet hold. It is faultless in model, being both sharp and easy, and as strong as oak and iron can make it. It was built by Dan and Jas. Howard, who have constructed the best and fastest boats yet built, and we think the Capitol will eclipse all her predecessors. The machinery is in keeping with the hull, and as good and perfect as any yet in use, which, together with the doctor engine, was made at the well-known foundry of Roach & Long, who always give satisfaction. The engines are 30 inches in diameter, with 8 feet stroke, working a water-wheel 33 feet in diameter, with 15 feet length of bucket. She has five boilers, each 28 feet in length and 40 inches in diameter—power enough with her model, to make her equal the telegraph and beat a locomotive out of sight.

To this may be added, beautiful oil paintings in the first style of art on the panels of the state room doors and elsewhere. A long and prosperous life say we to the "Capitol," we feel a personal pride in the possession of such a magnificent packet and doubt not the same feeling pervades the community.

NEW ARRANGEMENT.—It will be seen to-day, that Mr. and Mrs. Ford, have purchased the eligible location of Mrs. L. M. Phillips, and will shortly open their school at that place.—They have disposed of the "Bellevue" place, on the opposite side of the river.

The reputation of Mr. and Mrs. Ford, as teachers, is too well known to require and praise at our hand; and the ability of their amiable daughter as an instructress, of music—Piano and Harp, is not surpassed.—See their card in to-days paper.

MR. GILL'S MAP.—A single glance at this work will convince any one that it is by all odds, the most correct—the most complete and perfect map which has ever been made of this city. Every property holder should have a copy. It is to be mounted on rollers canvassed, colored and varnished in the best style, and will be a fine ornament, for Parlor or counting house. (Mr. Gill is now canvassing for subscribers to the work, which is soon to be forwarded to the lithographer.

The Superior Court on the 8th inst. granted an injunction against the Commercial Bank of Philadelphia, which was charged with violating its charter by discounting paper after bank hours at usurious rates of interest.

What a State of things is this

On Saturday evening, after a number of the legislators, had arrived in town, and selected soft places to sleep during the session; a rumor circulated and gained strength and credit, that a general sweeping out of Sergeants, Door-Keepers, Messengers, Clerks—enrolling, translating and copying; special and general, would take place, contrary to the expectations of those sworn into service at the last session. On the instant, a thousand and one idle fellows sprang up, ready and willing to abandon their honest and honorable calling of doing nothing; all of whom were not only willing, but extremely solicitous of serving the State in some low, if not high degree. "Cards," "cards," "cards," was the demand in every direction, and the paste boards were made to fly. People were knocked up early on Sunday morning and the doors of printing offices, and stationery establishments, were besieged.—Even the Comet, whose pious predilections are well known, was forced to forego the pleasure of a day more of meditation (if not prayer) and open the door of the front office to the eager crowd. We excuse ourselves for it (and shall at leisure, do penance) partly on account of the compensation, but mainly on account of our untold patriotism. We were willing to make a martyr of ourselves, in order to aid the host of ambitious aspirants to serve the country; because we know that offices of profit and honor now-a-days, go begging, and it is difficult to find parties willing to serve. At the bar-room of the Old Harney, at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9, and at Lukes and Stephen's at $\frac{1}{4}$ past 11, there was a great deal of the blindest smiling, which it has ever been our pleasure to look on. "This is my card sir, I am a candidate for water-closet keeper," "Sir, here's my card, I am a candidate (as monsieur Sad Luckie would say) for clerk of the Finances—the wasteful expenditure of the public monies prompts me to this, and I have been solicited by my friends. The Hon. — is pleased to vote for me." To listen to this ipecac, and rats-bane, to the moral atmosphere, has no effect upon us.—Our stomach is lined with the same materials that "Old Grimes' breeches were; as to sensitiveness of mind, the newspaper business has worn all off, that originally was. We are a compound of brass and bell metal, or should feel a nausea at such scenes.—That so many of our own young men should stoop, for such paltry positions is lamentable to say the least of it.—But this is the natural offspring of our peculiar institutions; where any and every honest occupation is deemed a disgrace. There must be a change from such a condition. Offices should be fewer and have less compensation attached to them. The people are tax ridden, and burthened to death to support a condition of society, that must drive away, what little christian feeling that yet lingers amongst us. There are too many offices—too many "reporters"—reporting nothing—too many door keepers, water closet keepers, sergeants, clerks, cubs, soups et quod hoc. There are too many legislators, and altogether too much legislating. When shall we come to an end of it. To members of the legislature who have been bored and overburdened with cards and complements by our own people, we have an excuse to offer in behalf of the town. The same condition of things is to be met with elsewhere.

The Movement to re-organize the Army

The bill now before the Senate for a complete reorganization of the army, is creating a lively interest in the country, outside the National Capital. Gen. Scott, in response to a call, from the committee on Military affairs, was at Washington on the 3d inst., and it is said he concurs in many features of the bill introduced by Mr. Shields. Speaking of this matter, the National Intelligencer says:

In the Senate, the bill for the reorganization, of the army was re-committed, with the understanding that the two committees of Congress would have the benefit of the veteran's advice on the subject. Gen. Jesup and other distinguished officers of the army will also be summoned before the committees. There appears to be a general impression that the schemes for which Mr. Shields is laboring in the Senate and Mr. Faulkner in the House will meet with favor. That portion of the bill which provides for an increase of the army secures almost universal concurrence. The increase of pay and the retired list may produce some difference of opinion, but they seem to be dependent propositions.

The retired list, is the most objectionable feature. In a government like this was originally designed to be, there is now further need of a standing army, than to keep the military posts in order; and a force sufficient for this is all that the welfare, of the republic demands; because every citizen is a soldier upon principle as well as interest. The alacrity with which volunteers come forward in the hour of need and the efficient service they render—fighting as they do; not at the mandate of a despot but for the love of country, is a bulwark of defence, that can never be surmounted, as long as the Union which unites twenty-six million of people in one, remains intact.

There is no argument therefore for an increase of the army over and above what is necessary to keep up the posts and protect the western frontier, against Indian depreidators. As for a retired list of officers who have grown old and fat without ever having tasted the smoke of gunpowder afar off, we would sooner see a retired list of superannuated politicians. It would be less prejudicial to the interest of the Republic.

SMALL THINGS.—A Small hand-bill on the street corners, and prominently in the coffee houses, attracted our attention on Sunday evening, and we notice, for no other reason than because of its smallness. The small bill read thus: "Democratic Members of the House, are requested to meet this evening, Sunday Jan. 14th, at the office of T. G. Davidson, Laurel street, back of the post office, at half past six o'clock." To which might have been added for peace sake, "bring no concealed weapons." In former days, a large poster, in flaming colors would have announced the fact that the "Democrat members are requested to meet," and the name of some responsible member, of some responsible vigilance committee would have been appended; but now, we have a very modest timid suspicious looking 4 by 6 affair; coming—no one knows from whence, and what for. Something private—something at a cost of four bits to the pocket of some individual who expects to receive a benefice of a dollar. A corporal's guard respond to the call, and what has done to affect the destiny of the nation, is yet a "mystery profound;" without a whispered word for its solution. Evidently, enough, is it visible,

in the signs of the times, that a great sanative change is fast coming over the body politic—a change to disarm the demagogue, and re-establish the sovereignty of the people.

THE GREAT SOUTHERN CONVENTION.—In the proceedings of this body we notice the following resolutions introduced by our fellow citizen, Dr. J. W. P. McGimpsey, delegate from East Baton Rouge;

Resolved, That this Convention strongly recommend the Chambers of Commerce and Commission Merchants of our Southern and Southwestern cities to adopt such a system of laws and regulations as will put a stop to the dangerous practice, heretofore existing, of making advances to planters in anticipation of their crops; a practice entirely at variance with any thing like safety in business transactions, and tending directly to establish the relation of master and slave between the merchant and planter, by bringing the latter into the most abject and servile bondage.

Resolved, That this Convention recommend in the most urgent manner, that the planters of the Southern and Southwestern States patronize exclusively our own merchants, and that our Chambers of Commerce and merchants generally exert all their influence to exclude foreign agents and sale of produce in any of our Southern and Southwestern cities.

Resolved further, That this Convention recommend to the Legislatures of the Southern States to pass laws making it a penitentiary offence for the planters to ask or the merchants to make such pecuniary advances. Referred to General Committee.

This, rather takes us aback. There must be some mistake in reporting the Doctor's resolution. If it is to be a penitentiary offence, to ask advances, then it should be hanging, to receive; and we should have a few days notice, so as to import a few hanged men. Then the law should fix a general hanging day, and have a committee to see, that the violators of the law, are well hung. By the way, Doctor, the dimensions of that excellent moral suasion establishment, the State prison, should be enlarged, before such a bill passes.

RESIGNATION OF MR. SICKLES. The Washington Star says the return of DANIEL E. SICKLES, Secretary of Legation at London, was preceded by his resignation.

That factious fellow—the getter up of short paragraphs for the Delta, who is a wag of the first water, respectfully calls the attention of the Great Southern Convention of military men and Lawyers, to the following significant paragraph in the St. Paul (Minnesota) Pioneer:

"Six hundred able-bodied lawyers are wanted to break prairie-land, split rails and chop wood. Eastern and Southern papers please copy."

There gentlemen, if you have nothing to do at home, here's a rare inducement to migrate. In this line you may make an impression on the living and moving age, and write your names indelibly on the sands of time.

It is the folly of madness in an age like this—with so many remarkable men at every corner, on a strained look out for "something to turn up" to make themselves great in the very "hugest" proportions; for any man—however much possessed of chining talent and soul appalling eloquence, to rise above the dead level to which a host has dragged us down. The perfection to which the science of optics has been brought by modern discovery, has not only resolved the mystery of the milky way, but also demonstrated that all the stars in Heaven are of the same magnitude. To make a very chaste and classical quotation from our dictionary "*Dammum appellandum est cum mala fama lucrum.*"

THE GOVERNORS MESSAGE.—Monday evening's Advocate furnished us this document entire. The Governor opens his message, deploring the loss to the State of two of her most eminent citizens the Hon. J. W. Downs, and W. W. Farmer. The Gov. recurs to the general prevalence of the yellow fever the past two years, and assumes that the disease has assumed a fixed habitation within the borders of our State. In reference to the epidemic he says an awful responsibility will attach to us, if we do not use the powers vested in us, in good faith and with such lights as science and experience have furnished us, to attempt at least, to avert the annual recurrence of a plague which has rendered life so insecure within our borders.

The report of the Auditor and State Treasurer are submitted, showing a balance of the several funds amounting in all to \$743,398.23.

The report of the swamp Land Commissioners is submitted, showing that a vast amount of the public domain has been reclaimed and brought into cultivation within the past year. The fifty-two miles of railroad from New Orleans to the Lafourche is referred to, and the Gov. says;

Only twenty-eight miles remain to be constructed to connect New Orleans by this line, with Berwick's Bay. Four miles of this section will be completed by the month of March; the remainder has already been cleared and graded and will soon be put under contract. The company still hold \$1,500,000 subscribed by the city and secured in her bonds, which they have thought inexpedient to attempt to realize in the present condition of the money market.

The 87 miles of the Great Northern road is also referred to as an evidence of commercial prosperity.

The Report of the State Engineer is submitted—also the report of the State Superintendent of Education and Governor laments that the present system is lame and inefficient, he concurs in the suggestions made by the State Superintendent for reformation, of the system.

In reference to the Military and volunteer corps, the Gov. says:

Under Republican Governments, the citizen soldiery must ever be the chief reliance of the State in sudden emergencies. It must be so in an especial manner in our country where a traditional suspicion prevails against standing armies. The necessity of a well organized militia has accordingly been proclaimed in the constitution of all the States; but the most strenuous efforts to obtain it have been attended with partial success in the formation of uniformed corps in towns and cities.

The administration of the Charity Hospital, is referred to, showing that it is in a flourishing condition. He refers to the State institution for mutes and the blind, and says:

The institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind has continued its beneficent course, dispensing advantages of the most important nature upon the unfortunate objects of its care. In addition to the Mute Department which has been in successful operation for the past two years, a department for the blind will soon be opened. The buildings have been prosecuted as rapidly, and as far as the funds placed in the hands of the judicious Board of Administrators would allow.

On Saturday the 27th inst., VAN AMBURG, the Lyon king will make his farewell visit to this city.—At that time, the Floating Palace will be at our landing again, offering our citizens, the last opportunity of seeing the animals. Independent of the Elephant's performances the Giraffe, will make his first appearance on any stage.