

# THE WEEKLY COMET.

VOLUME II.

BATON ROUGE, LA., SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 5, 1855.

NUMBER 36.

## The Weekly Comet

GEO. A. PIKE, Editor.

We are under obligations to our cotemporary of the "Crecent," for a copy in pamphlet form, of the proceedings of the "Southern Commercial Convention;" embracing all the resolutions speeches and general transactions.

**A GOOD BILL.**—The Hon. J. A. Japness, Representative from New Orleans, introduced a bill to the legislature the other day, to exempt "Grand Lodge Masonic Hall" in the city of New Orleans from taxation. What has been the fate of the bill we know not, as we have been absent from town, and lost the thread of proceedings. If it has not already been acted upon, we feel satisfied that it is only necessary to make known, the object of the masonic fraternity in purchasing that magnificent establishment, to have the united support of every member of the legislature in favor of the bill.

According to the resolution of purchase by the Grand Masonic Lodge, all the revenue of the building is appropriated to objects of charity.

**"A RARE CHANCE TO SPECULATE."**—Under this head we frequently meet in the papers flaming notices to young men and others, with a "small capital" to make a profitable investment of the same. Hints are thrown out of a prospective fortune if the business is prosecuted with assiduity and attention; and certificates are not unfrequently furnished from parties who have grown rich in the same kind of business, and retired in their generosity to give place to others. Of all the rare "chances to speculate" we seldom meet a more flattering one than that offered to-day, by the Mayor of the city, in the disposition of the "Vegetable Market." Here is what might very well be denominated a "rare chance"—the securities required, is the only draw-back. No doubt there will be brisk bidding on the day of sale. When is that hog trough—vulgarily denominated the "fish market" to be sold? We have a serious inclination to go into that kind of business.

**DR. HINES.**—The Orleansian of the 30th ult., in speaking of Dr. Hines' visit to the Capital says:

Perhaps the legislators desire to derive some practical information from the Doctor with regard to the labor within the Penitentiary and the large profits derived therefrom, as proclaimed by him: an experienced and former inmate, who, having the good of Louisiana at heart, and anxious to render the "state some service," now wishes the reversion of the prison to first hands, that the management may be changed, and the advantages accruing therefrom be enjoyed by the State, not losses—men who have become opulent, and against whom he declaims for having originally voyaged to Baton Rouge in a flat-boat. The Doctor's enmity in this regard, we reckon, is owing to the losses not having come to the capital in the character of a gentleman, or in the same capacity which he came there himself? For it is declared that a fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind.

With respect to the vast gains of the losses, as stated by the Doctor—and he is an excellent authority, and to be relied on—they should be permitted to enjoy them some time longer; for if they have really made penitentiary labor a source of profitable revenue to themselves, we should remember that it was more than the State could do; and that it was, if we err not, while managed by directors, on the part of the former, a non-paying confused and embarrassed establishment.

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NEW ORLEANS.**—It was our pleasure a few days ago to visit one of the Free Public Schools of New Orleans in the fourth District, and we came away, willing to endorse every thing that has been said in commendation of them.—In the female department, under the management of Mrs. Yeiser, we found a number of Misses all very far advanced in the various branches of a polite education; and we were very favorably impressed with the neat manner in which they were dressed and the order and cleanliness of the school room. The occasion of our visit was taken to review the studies of the week; and several original compositions were read, all of which were highly creditable to the young ladies and the school. The following struck us as possessing so much merit, that we made a request to have it for publication. It is the production of Miss Belle Barrette:

### Reflections upon a Flower.

As I was walking out this evening, after the duties of the day, I espied upon the ground, a simple little flower, I picked it up, and thought within myself, how simple, and yet how beautiful! This little flower led me to think of the goodness of God. Its origin, its growth, its color, and its odor, were alike the subjects of my contemplation. Philosophers have deplored of ever ascertaining the mode of its growth; thus, even the mind of a child, is as far advanced upon this point, as the greatest genius of the globe. This little flower, which is very simple, when carefully examined with a microscope, is found to be so compounded in its structure, as to engage the attention of the botanist, and to puzzle the chemist in attempting to analyze it. The natural Philosopher has not thought it unworthy of his attention, but has devoted a great deal of time in finding the designs of Nature in giving it its tint and the means by which this color has been imparted. Thus the little flower, which to the eyes of many people, is very insignificant, assumes an importance in every respect worthy of our attention, and our thought. Many details might be given, which would draw the mind to a consideration of God's wisdom and command the love and adoration of every thinking being.

Attention is asked to the Communication to day, in reference to "Cotton Seed Rock." During the absence of the Editor, last week, a communication was admitted into this paper which to say the least of it, was "hasty," and the grounds for attack very inexact. We regard the cotton seed rock as a very valuable discovery, and one that needs but a fair trial to convince the skeptical.

It is proposed in New York to establish a State Institution for the treatment of consumption. This will hardly prevent the usual number going that road to dusty death. Consumption is one of the hereditary diseases of the effeminate age we live in and as such, it is not within the compass of medicine, to eradicate it.

By late arrival from California, we learn that Sacramento city has been declared the Capital of the State.

The auger in the artesian well Charleston has reached a depth of 1225 feet, and the Courier states that the quality of the water which is now discharged at the rate of 25 or 30 gallons per minute, is improving.

### Centralization.

The fact that serious difficulties involving questions of vital importance, have grown out of the church controversies at Buffalo and St. Louis; has, no doubt with the aid of new principles in the politics of the country given rise to the legislative enactment we are about to refer to.

In the New York Legislature the other day a bill was introduced, the object of which, is, to strike at the very foundation of temporal religious power, and as far as the Republic of the United States of America is concerned, to disperse and put at end forever the dangerous religious hierarchies which from time to time must influence, if not gain ascendancy over political power. The bill referred to is published in the New York Herald of the 12th inst., and is recommended to the attention of such politicians and public men, as have at heart the permanency of our institutions.

The object of the law, is to disband, the unity of church property—to make it unlawful for any denomination whose head of government is not within the State, to hold property in it. To bring the church property of each denomination under the control of each congregation; a republican principle, that it is the legitimate business of government to see to. We believe that there is no denomination that does not through its Priests and Ministers aspire to centralize wealth and power for political purposes, and there is a law, operating alike upon all, that strikes at the foundation of an error, than which there is none other, more prejudicial to the cause of liberty, and freedom of conscience.—When we come to consider calmly the influence—not only of domestic, but foreign religious governments, upon us—when we look about and see the immense wealth that is yearly accruing to various denominations, we can come to no other conclusion than this: that a check must be put to it, by legislative enactment; and the "New York bill" is one having strong claims upon the attention of every other State. The passage of such a bill cannot be denominated "persecution," because by it all are alike affected.

**NEWSPAPER FACTS.**—There are six hundred million fifty thousand four hundred and sixty newspapers printed in the course of a year in the city of Albany. This is 321 to each inhabitant, or more than one to each person every week-day in the year. "The man that don't take the papers" does not live in Albany.

The people in the Union spend in a year for newspapers \$15,000,000 or would if they paid all their debts.

The newspapers that they read, if all put together in a continuous string would reach more than ten times round the world, and weigh seventy million pounds! If they were spread out to dry, they would more than cover the whole District of Columbia like a blanket.

The origin of newspapers is traced to Italy. The first in England appeared during the reign of "good Queen Bess," at the time of the Spanish Armada. It was named *The English Mercury*, imprinted in London by Her Highness printed in 1588.—Franklin's *Boston News Letter* was the first in America. It commenced in 1705. A hundred years ago there were not more than twenty-five published in America.—*Albany Journal*, 15th inst.

Gov. Gardner, of Massachusetts, has practically commenced his administration by putting into force a portion of the know-nothing platform, upon which he was elected. In compliance with his recommendation, seven military companies composed of foreigners, have been disbanded, viz: four in Boston, one in Lowell, one in Lawrence, and one in Worcester.

### Communicated.

**Ed. Comet.**—Your correspondent "Old Brick" is evidently laboring under some misapprehension, relative to the motives and actions of the gentlemen who are at present engaged at this place, in the manufacture of the "Artificial or Cotton Seed Rock."

They have never attributed to it any superior qualities, in withstanding the action of fire, nor have they ever dreamed of bringing it in competition with the granite manufactured in "old dame nature's" laboratory.

The inventor and patentee of this rock was well known in the scientific world, and lasting monuments of his genius are visible to every beholder in different parts of the United States.

After years of experiments with various vegetable substances, Mr. Remington discovered in the ashes of cotton seed a cohesive petrifying quality peculiar to that vegetable alone. That the ashes of other substances may not possess a similar power is not denied, and no one would be better pleased with any improvement by which the rock could be made cheaper and more durable in texture than the persons now engaged in its manufacture.

The pretensions put forth in favor of the rock, have been of a very unostentatious character. The testimony in its behalf has been altogether voluntary, and the witnesses are men of well known integrity and respectability.

The oldest specimens of this rock, is that made by the inventor Mr. Remington himself. A correspondent of the *Somerville Reporter*, thus refers to it:

The style and finish of your public works; your Educational Edifice, the pride and ornament of your Town as the nursery of the Arbitors of manners; last though not least, the improvement on your public square; these to my great delight, I found another monument to the memory of departed worth; a monument that rears not "its lofty top to the clouds" but in a few years from its utility must become identified with our National prosperity. "The Cotton Seed Rock."

Whilst walking to and fro, on that beautiful surface which now surrounds your Halls of justice, my mind with the quickness of thought was thrown to a distant land where I knew him well; where now rest his remains, a victim to that scourge of the South (yellow fever) and where now stand monuments erected by his own genius. More than two years since, by his own liberal spirit he had placed in front of the Houston House, Houston Texas, a double block for the convenience of the traveling public on horse or by stage. At the Houston House livery stable, a pavement which continues to resist the Horse Shoe and carriage wheel; in front of the merchantile Houses of Kline and Clark, and of Rice and Nichols are pavements equaling in smoothness of surface and apparent durability, those of Front Row and Main street Memphis, and many others for various purposes in various parts of the city.

I was resident in Houston at the time of this work, and was familiarly acquainted with the various opinions in regard to its composition, utility and durability; some twelve months since I retired to a distant part of the State, but on my recent visit to your Town, I spent some several days in Houston and as a consequence in my little perambulations in different parts of the city many instances of this work came again under my immediate observation, and often elicited remarks and I am proud to say through the high regard I cherish for the memory of the distinguished inventor and the present enterprising Proprietor, I saw no appearance of decomposition or breakage;

I earnestly hope he will succeed in an enterprise productive of so much general utility.

M. R. G.

In conclusion Mr. Editor, the gentleman concerned most cordially invite "Old Brick" and every person feeling interested in this matter, to call and make the minutest inspection and investigation.

Humblegery is no part of their nature, they ask of no one anything

but that which is right nor do they wish to be impugned with anything that is wrong.

**Socialists Coming to Texas.**—A recent letter from Strasburg, is published in the National Gazette of Switzerland, the Socialist party in Alsace is about to emigrate en masse to Texas, where one of their chiefs, the well known Victor Considerant, has purchased a large quantity of land.—The first departure of emigrants is to take place during the ensuing spring, and there is more than room enough in Texas for all.

A recent meeting of the Board of Councilmen had been set apart for the third readings of the bills. A motion being made "that the board do now proceed to the third reading of bills," one of the new members, an Irishman, rose hastily and protested against any such proceeding. He said that this third reading of bills was all a humbug. As for himself, he could understand the meaning of a bill after it had been read twice;—and he thought it was a useless waste of time to read it a third time! This exhibition of parliamentary lore created the most uproarious laughter and applause, and quite discomfited the new "guardian of the city's laws."—*N. Y. Journal of Commerce*.

**A COSTLY FLOWER.**—The New York Mirror says: "A Fifth avenue young lady well known in fashionable society was the recipient, on New Year's day, of the most elegant flower-gift we have ever seen in this or any other country. It was made in the shape of an elaborately wrought table, with an octagonal base, enclosing a canary bird suspended under the central basket in a beautiful cage. The flowers were of the richest and rarest—native exotic—and we are told that the cost of this piece of supreme folly, was nearly \$200.

The largest load this season was brought in this morning by that magnificent boat the *H. R. W. Hill*, from Memphis, consisting of 4964 bales cotton, 46 hlds. tobacco, besides a lot of sundry merchandise.

**AGES OF ENGLISH AUTHORS.**—Macauley was born in 1800; Bulwer in 1803; Ainsworth in 1804; D'Israeli in 1805; Dickens and Thackeray in 1811.

The election in Parkerburg, Virginia for councilmen, resulted in the entire success of the Know Nothing ticket by a majority of 113 to 17.

**HAVANA LOTTERY.**—The principal prizes in the Havana lottery, drawn on the 23d inst., were taken as follows: \$20,000 by 9,950; \$20,000 by 23,783; \$16,000 by 23,541; \$5,000 by 6,626; \$2,000 each by 7,348 and 12,294; \$1,000 each by 4,755, 9,370, 10,944, 11,014, 13,389, 13,638, 14,017, 18,735 and 22,925.

In Providence (R. I.) the other day Miss Mary E. Clark obtained a judgment of \$5,000 against Thomas M. Brown for a breach of promise in marriage.

**T. PRENDERGAST & Co.** are constantly in receipt of fresh supplies of Western Produce—Staple and Fancy Groceries, all of which are offered at the lowest cash prices or on time for good paper. See advertisement to-day.

**BEAUTIFUL BRITANIA WARE.**—Douglas Montan, on Church st., has just opened, and exposed for sale, a very large assortment of Britannia and Tin Ware; which embraces every article of household ware. Special attention is directed thereto.

Capt. T. Effert of the Coast Packet Gem, will receive our thanks for continued favors.

The attention of Citizens generally is called to the advertisement of Prof: Moss. He has organized his Class in vocal music; and now is the time for those desiring to have a full course of institution to enter. Prof: Moss' plan of institution, is one generally recommended as the best.