

The Weekly Comet

Friday, Morning, : : March, 9, 1855.

THE LEGISLATURE.—The prescribed limit of time for the existence of this body, draws rapidly to a close; it will expire next week, and its light and life perish forever. Like the palsied old man who feels sensibly the approach of his latter end; the body is superannuated, and rises in its strength to brawl out anathemas, on others, for its own negligence. It finds now, too late, that much that should have been done has been overdone; in other words done brownly. Like the old man on his last legs, the Legislature finds its moneid estate unappropriated; the legal heirs, come in, and are clamorous for a division of the silver spoons and wooden ladels, and nothing is more interesting than the general appropriation bill and the bill, of "contingent expenses." Had we a prayer to offer we should pray that a just distribution be made, and each man have his full share, for it is this that stimulates all industry and patriotic action. We hope the book will amount to the full number of pages, required for a respectable book of acts, and we hope it may be bound up in good style, that posterity may have the benefit of it, before the worms do. We hope the parting members may "meet again" but for the State's sake as much as for their own, we hope it will not be in General Assembly.

HAVANA LOTTERY.—At the drawing of the Havana lottery, on the 1st inst., the principle prizes were as follows:

| | | | |
|--------|---------------|--------|--------------|
| 29,793 |\$60,000 | 19,902 |\$2,000 |
| 17,250 |25,000 | 29,981 |2,000 |
| 14,180 |15,000 | 4,911 |1,000 |
| 12,667 |8,000 | 7,068 |1,000 |
| 1,681 |9,000 | 9,177 |1,000 |
| 19,619 |1,000 | 10,973 |1,000 |
| 30,413 |1,000 | 18,864 |1,000 |
| 39,396 |1,000 | 24,562 |1,000 |

In a suit before the Court of Common Pleas at Mansfield, Ohio, a Mr. Barber an operator in a telegraph office was a witness, and was ordered by the Court to reveal the contents of a certain message which had passed over the wires. This he refused to do and was committed to jail.

BAYOU LAFOURCHE.—The Thibodaux Minerva says: The Lafourche still continues low and no prospect of a rise. What a beautiful stream it is? being closed nearly all the year, and terrifying the people when it does rise, lest it should destroy their crops.

Commodore Dick Markham keeps us under a stress of obligations. We have a bottle of *cilery morceau*, laying in wait; and we look to see him leave the old warf boat, to her fate at an early day, and cast his fortunes in a weaker, but a better vessel. A good looking young gent, like the Commodore, not bound in "the silken band which unites two sympathising hearts," is very much like a vessel in the wide sea of existence, without compass or chart. In a state of double blessedness, the chart may be dispensed with, but the needle points with unerring truth to the true pole of all earthly felicity. To make a note of the Commodore's everlasting happiness, we have nothing to do but unloosen the brass wire whereby the "cilery morceau" aforesaid, is confined to its appointed place.

APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT.—Gen. Winfield Scott, of the Army of the United States, to be Lieutenant General by brevet in the same, for eminent services in the late war with Mexico, to rank as such from March 29, 1847, the day on which the United States force, under his command, captured Vera Cruz and the Castle of San Juan de Ulua. The National Intelligencer, of the 1st inst., in noticing the appointment, says: We understand that the President sent in the nomination on the twenty-second of February, but the Senate has held no executive session until yesterday, when the nomination was immediately and unanimously confirmed.

THE LAST SUPPER.—We had the exquisite felicity of seeing again the other night, "Mr. Alexander's Grand Moving Diorama" of the Antediluvian world, and was very much gratified to find it the same "show" that was here about a year ago, and then called "Paradise and the fall of man." We took occasion then, to express our "sentiments" in reference to "Mr. Chaos," who now goes in to make up the full "Pantoscope," cutting a figure on canvass that never did Chaos before. "The artist" as the man says, who dilates in explanation on this miserable daub of white and black paint—"the artist designed in this picture to represent the form of things, before the creation—when darkness was upon the face of the deep, and the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters; and when God said "let there be light, there was light," and just now, tallow candles are brought to bare on the picture, and we behold a work sufficient of itself, without, the "Last Supper" or the resurrection, to immortalize any artist. The sheet iron thunder, given in this scene, to heighten the idea of the sublime—the grand, gloomy and peculiar, was the best part of the show, and certainly had that effect upon the colored population in the back ground.

We are glad indeed, that the gentlemanly proprietor on this occasion, informed us, that another artist painted the "bow in the cloud" than the one who painted Chaos; because it would be a great disparagement to the former (Mr. Alexander) to confound him with the latter. However, we make no doubt that the former is related to the latter—perhaps an *uncle* of the same name. If they had their deserts they would both be crucified, for perpetrating this slander, on a subject, than which none can be more near and dear, to the Christian community.

It is high time that a stop was put to these villainous and contemptible humbugs, travelling about in vagabondism under the comprehensive head of "Great moral exhibitions."—Alexander's Antediluvian World etc., is in considerable danger of coming to an end, if it remains here, and the b'hoys are to be credited. If such an event should happen, all we have to regret about it, is that Alexander and his *confere* artist, is not here, to share the fate of the delinquent.

Prospect for High Waters.—Under this heading the Memphis Whig, of the 28th ult., has the following paragraph. It is one of many of a similar nature that are appearing in the papers published in the great valley, sounding the note of warning. "Look to your levees," ye planters on the coast:

We do not profess to be "weather-wise," or to read with extraordinary sagacity the "signs of the times;" but the conclusion forces itself upon us that a calamity will soon fall upon the people of the West and Southwest, in the shape of devastating floods. The quantity of snow fallen throughout the Northwest is immensely great, and a sudden thaw, with a heavy rain sufficient to sweep off the accumulated moisture, would swell the rivers disastrously. We have not yet had the great flood to compensate for the great drouth—but it will surely come.

If this is really Senator Wilson's Opinion the Country is still Safe.

"Senator Wilson, of Massachusetts, has again, for the third time lately, defined his position on the slavery question. The following is given as a brief programme of his principles and intentions, as avowed during the late exciting debate in the Senate, on Friday night week. He wishes the fugitive slave law repealed; slavery in the District of Columbia abolished; the Wilmot Proviso established; all new slave States excluded; all connection between the General Government and slavery abolished, and agitation of slavery continued until these objects are accomplished. He understands these views to correspond with those of the Know Nothings as a party, so far as they have any position on the question.

WHAT'S THE NEWS?—Now and then, this is an unanswerable question. The moving panorama stands still—comes to a dead halt, and nothing turns up, fit to make leaders out of.—A compassionate and charitable public should therefore be lenient with the newspaper makers, and not throw down the morning edition with that too common exclamation "There's nothing in it," because there is; there are advertisements set up in all manner of type to attract attention; well written things, that have cost a great deal of reflection to get up, in an attractive style, so as to strike public attention. You find here, in this department, all the wants of humanity, and a great many more besides. Do not therefore say "the paper has nothing in it." Because the editor cannot by any kind of legerdemain multiply the loaves and fishes so as to make more than there actually is. We are like the *cuisiner*, we dish out what we have, and trim it up with the sauce of words and the sugar of much eloquence. We cannot be guilty of all manner of things; make "daring robberies" out of small thefts—make "murders" out of mere assaults, and turn out things from our imaginations, as though the brain editorial were Pandora's box. At this present moment the country is without a "Lion," we have no *Kosta*, no Kossuth; and Uncle Tom "has gone where the good niggers go." We have not even an Alboni, a Grisi or an Elser to talk about, and even "Jenny" has gone and taken a Jack of a husband, and the "Nightingale" is by this transition converted into a "Jackdaw." We have nothing now to talk about, unless it be the last new swindle; whereby the uncomplaining sovereigns, are again robbed with their eyes open and are choked into submission by a legion of united mountebanks and sword swallows, who appropriate the honest earnings of the toiling million, to their own use, and live secure in the possession of that great secret of life—the receipt of doing nothing and getting rich and fat thereon. Verily, there is so much baldfaced rampant rascality going on, all around us, that when we sit down to expose the *last out*, something still more enormous occurs to us. Truly a lantern of unusual brilliancy is required to discover an honest man in the business walks of every day existence.

TELEGRAPHIC.—Messrs. Tanner & Reed, of the Executive Committee of the New Orleans and Ohio Telegraph Line, with which Plaquemine connects at Baton Rouge, have passed the present week in New Orleans, and have in a liberal spirit consented to an arrangement by which each line shall keep its own receipts on messages sent on the other. This will enable our citizens to telegraph at a material reduction from the previous tariff.

The submarine cable for Baton Rouge crossing, will be laid down as soon as the weather admits. It is now in warehouse in New Orleans.—A second cable manufactured in England for Mr. Smith, arrived by the Baltic at New York, and will be in New Orleans by the first steamer. It will be laid down probably at Natchez, for the Red River Lines.—[*Plaquemine Gazette*, 3d.]

ONE OF THE RUMORS.—One of the rumors of the day says that the Palmerston plan includes the raising of an insurrection in Poland, the destruction of Odessa, the coercion of Prussia to take part in the contest, one side or the other, and an immediate loan of \$25,000,000 to remove all financial anxieties.

The whole extent of the capitol in Washington, when completed, will be seven hundred and fifty-one feet four inches; length of wings, including steps, three hundred and twenty-four feet; width of wings, one hundred and forty two feet eight inches; with the old capitol, three hundred and fifty-two feet four inches; are of ground actually covered, one hundred and forty-three thousand one hundred and twelve feet or more than three and a half acres; height of the proposed new dome above the basement floor, two hundred and forty-six feet.

Gross Fraud and Injustice.

Communicated.
Editor of the Comet: Sir:—Your penchant for truth and virtue is too well known to make it good taste in me, to lay on in the flattery of soft soap by still another compliment.—Whether you have any desire to do Mr. Ratsburg justice or not, I care not; but I know your gallantry will permit a note in answer to a paragraph in the Advocate the other day, wherein injustice is done a lady. It is said therein, that Mrs. Harper, of the "United States Hotel" under the hill (more recently Harper's Restaurant), did one day last week, pitch into Mr. Ratsburg, "contrary to the peace and dignity of the revised statutes of the State; and that after feloniously taking from Ratsburg, certain birds in a game bag, did then and there with malice *pre pense* hit Mr. Ratsburg sundry times in the face to no small damage of his best features." This sir, is not so. In other words sir, (I like plain English), it is false; as false as—"Glenalvin" says Randolph was. I was myself present at the time, and can testify in any court of competent jurisdiction, that it was Ratsburg himself, and not my friend Mrs. Harper who made the assault. About the "birds and the game bag," this is the poetry of your informant. The difficulty arose at tea, over a capon with "anchovy sauce." So you will perceive that the Advocate's informant is wrong, not only in point of fact but also as to time and place. I hope the community will stand corrected by your friend, JINGO.

BRITISH PASSENGER LAW.—It is stated that a very stringent passenger law is before the British Parliament the ostensible object of which is to benefit passengers; but the real design aimed at would seem to be to check emigration to this country. The Government has probably become alarmed at the depopulation going on in the British Islands from emigration, and therefore desires to check it. The law, it is said, provides for much greater quantity of food than hitherto required, and that it shall be cooked and served to emigrants on the voyage, together with other unusual, if not extravagant regulations.

The latest invention is that of a new Knitting Machine. It is very simple in its construction and easy in its management. A girl ten years old, with a single machine, by hand power, can knit six pair of stockings a day. It widens and narrows, heels and toes with the regularity and smoothness of experienced knitters. The machine is on exhibition at the Merchants Hotel, New York. It is the invention of a Connecticut man named Ellis, who died before reaping any of its advantages. It has been patented, and a stock company formed, which will establish a manufactory immediately in New York. A. T. Stewart has taken \$20,000 worth of stock.—The old women must look to their knitting needles else their favorite occupant will be gone.

The vital knot of the nervous system is not larger in size than a pin's head. Upon this tiny speck depends the life of the nerves, which is the life of the animal. Whatever portion of the nervous system remains attached to it, lives; while that which is separated immediately dies.

PROPORTIONS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM.—A sun, two feet in diameter, would correspond with Mercury as a mustard seed, with the Earth and Venus as a pea, Mars as a pin's head, the Asteroids as a grain of sand, Jupiter as an orange, Saturn a small one, and Herschel as a plum—their orbits varying from 164 feet to 8,000 feet.

At Boston, on the ult, Gen. Sam. Houston visited the City Hall, and was introduced to the municipal authorities and the numerous citizens present. In the afternoon he visited several of the public institutions, accompanied by the mayor and other members of the city government. In the evening the General delivered a lecture on Texas at the Tremont Temple, to a very large audience, the price of admission being 25 cents. He was listened to with great attention.

A new town called Superior City was laid out on Lake Superior in May last, and now contains a population of three hundred people, with a fair prospect of thriving the number this year. A valuable copper vein has been discovered recently in the vicinity of the town.

A CAR LOAD OF GOLD.—On Saturday week a car filled with bags of gold was transported from the U. S. Assistant Treasurer's office to the banking house of Page & Bacon, at St. Louis, who returned payment on Monday last. The gold was the cash for a 500,000 dollars' draft from New York.

BRITISH FARMS.—The census taken in 1851 disclosed the following facts in regard to the number and size of farm holding in Great Britain. It appears that there are 190,573 farms under 100 acres each; 55,912 farms over 100 acres each; 20,603 farms over 200 acres each; 9081 farms over 300 acres each; 2816 farms over 600 acres each 1132 farms over 1000 acres each.

Warrants have been issued in New York for the arrest of persons charged with dealing in lottery policies.

In the case recently decided by the U. S. Supreme Court in which Mr. Goodrich applied for a *mandamus* to compel the Secretary of the Treasury to pay his salary as a Judge of Minnesota Territory since his dismissal from that office by Mr. Fillmore, the court gave no opinion as to the power of the President to make the removal, but denied the application, because it was not a proper case for a *mandamus*.

Cooking Stoves.
JUST received a lot of large and small sizes: Old Kentucky, Mayflower, Ohio Premium, and Crescent Stoves, also Pot Castings of every description.
[mar-11-1855] D. C. MONTAN,
Church st.

BATON ROUGE
West Baton Rouge Ferry to Let
The president of the Police Jury of West Baton Rouge and chairman of the Board of Selectmen of the city of Baton Rouge, will proceed on the 27th of March 1855 at the court house of West Baton Rouge, to let to the highest bidder, the privilege of keeping a steam ferry between West Baton Rouge and the city of B. Rouge, for the term of five years. The lessee to take said privilege under all conditions contained in the ordinance passed by the Police Jury on the 5th of February 1855. And in addition thereto the following conditions passed by the board of Selectmen for the city of Baton Rouge, to-wit:
That the lessee shall be required to keep on his boat, to manage the engine, an experienced white engineer.
That the privilege of keepingsaid ferry shall not extend beyond three miles each way from the court house of the Parish of West Baton Rouge. A. BARROW,
President, Police Jury, pro tem.
West Baton Rouge, Feb. 20th.

OFFICE OF THE BATON ROUGE AND CLINTON PLANK ROAD COMPANY.
Baton Rouge, February 15th, 1855.
NOTICE is hereby given to the Stockholders of this Company, that an instalment of ten per cent (or \$2 50 per share) will be due and payable on the 25th day of April next (1855).
By Order of the Board,
C. W. POPE, Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE BATON ROUGE AND CLINTON PLANK ROAD COMPANY.
Baton Rouge, March 2nd, 1855.
NOTICE is hereby given to the Stockholders, of this Company, that an instalment of ten per cent (or \$2 50 per share) will be due and payable on the 4th day of June next, (1855).
By order of the Board,
(Advocate & Gazette copy.) W. POPE, Secretary.

Notice.
AN ELECTION will be held on Monday the 19th inst., at Jas. H. Johnston's Store for four Directors to the Baton Rouge, Grosse Tete and Opelousas Rail Road Company. Commissioners, Messrs. Jesse Hart, Charles Bookish and P. P. Sugg.
mar. 6-td. JAS. H. JOHNSTON,
Secretary.

Public Notice.
PERSONS having claims against the estate of the late EDWIN MONTAN, deceased, are hereby notified to present them to the undersigned administratrix of the estate, or to her agent DOUGLASS MONTAN, within the time prescribed by law.
MARY A. MONTAN,
Administratrix.
[mar-2-1m]

JAMES REEDY, M. D.
IS permanently located at the residence of JAMES H. MUSE, 8 miles from Clinton on the Baton Rouge road, where he may be found at all times to attend promptly to professional calls. mar. 9. 6-mj.

Late Arrivals
OF WESTERN PRODUCE.
50 KEGS prime leaf Lard,
10 Barrels ditto,
10 Half Barrels Mess Beef,
10 Tierces do. do,
15 Barrels dried Apples & Peaches,
15 Half Barrels Butter Biscuits,
50 Bags Bran,
10,000 pounds Bulk Pork, Just received and for sale by,
[mar-9-1855] JOSHUA BEAL.

BUCK, AGAIN.
MR. E. BUCK, respectfully announces to his old patrons and the citizens of Baton Rouge in general that he will open his Dancing Academy at his former room, Church st. The Mazurka Quadrills will be taught during the session also several new waltzes.
Terms made known at the hall.
Mar. 7 t-w

CHARLOTTE & HOFFMAN,
DEALERS IN ALL KINDS OF
GROCERIES and PROVISIONS
—FEED, & C.—
Cor. St. Ferdinand and Africa Streets,
Opposite V. Heude's Dry Good Store,
BATON ROUGE, LA.