

The Weekly Courier

Sunday Morning, March 15, 1856.

FIRE.—On Friday night last, still another attempt was made to fire another cooper shop of F. Arbour Jr. in the lower part of town. The night was dark, and the winds blowing; had the fire been later, great damage would have been done our city. Mr. Arbour has had two houses burnt to the ground within the last two months; and he offers a reward of \$500 for the detection of the incendiary. Every body is alike interested in the detection of such a villain in society; and if positive evidence cannot be had "circumstantial" might be used, to detect the cowardly villain who is guilty of these acts. Hanging would be too good for such a man; he should be drawn and quartered.

The memory of man goeth not back to a parallel season to this. We have had no rain in this region since—we have forgotten the time when. The sugar planters complain that their plant cane has taken the dry rot, and seed sown a month ago have not yet made appearance on the parched earth. Prevalence in '53 famine in '54 and flood in '55. This is looked for in fulfillment of the prophecy. We were suddenly alarmed for the safety of the Crescent city, the other day when a committee appeared here, to enlist the aid of the State for a levee; but were afterwards pleased to learn that the city is not in so much danger of inundations, as some speculators in swamp lands adjacent.

Mr. GORENFLO, the celebrated German flutist has arrived in town and proposes given a concert during the week. Time and place not yet known; we shall inform our readers at an early hour when this rich musical treat is to come off.

It will be seen to-day that on Thursday next the 22d inst., a lot of damaged provisions will be sold at the commissary store at the Barracks.

LIFE OF JAMES GORDON BENEFIT. The editor of the New York Herald denies having anything to do with the preparation of his forthcoming life. He says:

"We never mean to make such an ass of our poor self as we have seen in Chevalier Barnum. Chevalier Greeley, and others who have given their silly biographies to the public. When we have leisure—if we ever can spare from the consideration of public affairs in this country and Europe—we may write the history and progress of journalism during the last forty years in the United States. We have the means and materials to accomplish such a task better than any other journalist now living."

A very destructive fire in the woods of South Carolina, has recently taken place in which farms and plantations have been entirely consumed. Railroad tracks have been taken up by the devouring element, and communication with the North entirely cut off.

Escape and Recapture of a Murderer.—Phelps, under sentence of death for the murder of his wife, escaped from the jail in Albany, N. Y., on 8th inst., by locking the jailer up in his cell. He was, however, recaptured some four miles from the city.

Something of a row was had in Augusta about 11 o'clock on Tuesday night week. Some six or eight people as the account goes, met in a drinking shop kept by a man named Benjamin Johnson, near the Augusta Factory, and closed the usual performance with a free fight in the street, where blows were the principal weapons used.—Mears Ataway, Decatur Tanner, and Lewis Thompson were out, the two latter pretty seriously a passer by also Mr. John W. Tison got a thrust in the back through mistake.

The Mayor of Albany has proposed an ordinance in the common council of that city, prohibiting the use of compans, under the penalty of \$25 for each violation of the law.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.—From the General appropriation bill of the Legislature just adjourned, we take the following—designed for contingent expenses for the fiscal year:

For Insane Asylum at Jackson, \$15,000; finishing buildings do, do \$20,000; Female Orphan Asylum New Orleans, (Sister Regis) \$6,000; Society for Relief of Destitute Orphan Boys, Fourth District, New Orleans, \$2,000; Institution for indigent Colored Orphan Boys, Third District, New Orleans, \$1,000; Fireman's Charitable Association \$2,000; St. Anna's Asylum for the Relief of Destitute Women and Hopeless Children, of all religious denominations, \$2,000; Female Orphan Asylum Baton Rouge \$2,000; Benevolent Association of Catholic Ladies, Baton Rouge, \$1,000; St. Mary's Catholic Boys' Asylum, \$6,000; Indigent Widows under Dames de la Providence, \$2,000; Tuition of Deaf and Dumb Children, \$9,500; erection of buildings of Deaf and Dumb Asylum at Baton Rouge, \$20,000; St. Vincent's Hospital and Asylum of Sisters of Charity at Donaldsonville, one half to each, \$2,000.

THE EXPRESSION OF HANDS.—Lavater told Goethe, that on a certain occasion when he held the velvet bag in church, as collector of the offerings, he tried to observe only the hands, and he satisfied himself that in every individual the shape of the hand and of the fingers, the action and sentiment in dropping the gift in the bag were distinctly different and individually characteristic. There are hands of various characters, the hand curled and the hand to hold; the hand to clasp and the hand to grasp; the hand that worked or could work and the hand that has never done anything, but holds itself to be kissed, like that of Joanna of Arrago, in Raphael's picture.

In Alexandria, on Sunday the 4th, a fire occurred in the daguerrean room of Mr. Gurney, which, preceded by an explosion, caused considerable excitement in the town. The fire was extinguished, however, before much damage had been done to the building. It is supposed that a bottle of alcohol exploded by the rays of the sun.—The loss of Mr. Gurney is about \$1,200.

In five years the number of believers in spiritual rappers has, it is stated, increased in this country to over two hundred thousand, and they now support eleven newspapers.

One of the most important members of the Democratic party, in a far Western town, which shall be nameless, of whom it is said that he never finished a speech, sentiment or sentence, in public, with out making a failure, in consequence, of too ambitious a start, at a supper given in honor of Gen. Cass visit to that region three years since, made the following *faux pas*: Rising in his place, and calling attention by a thump on the table, he exclaimed: "The Democratic party—the idol of the people, the hope of the world, the temple of true patriotism: so long as its members are true to their trust the malevolent vituperations of its hereditary enemies, the Whigs and Abolitionist, are—*are*—(a long pause, the speaker evidently "attuck," and growing more confused every instant.) "are bound, gentlemen, [pause.] bound, a gentlemen, to—slump through!" With this peroration he sat down and whiped the sweat from off his streaming face.—Knickerbocker.

LAST OF THE YOUNG BACHELORS. Our gallant friends, the Young Bachelors, give their last grand mas k-d and fancy dress ball of the season on St. Joseph's night, (19th inst.) at Masonic Hall; and that it will be a brilliant one there can be no doubt, as he renowned Vegas is manager. We shall of course, be present, to bid farewell to the Bachelors—and hope never to meet them more—as Bachelors. For arrangements, etc., see in another column.—Delta.

The New York Herald, the would be Columbus of Newspapers, has discovered a secret society in Canada, having for its object the release of that province from allegiance to the British crown.

Naval Appropriation Bill.—This bill provides for the construction of the six steam frigates authorized at the last session of Congress, and appropriating \$858,000 for the Collins line of Liverpool steamships, together with the usual provision for the support of the navy. The whole amount covered by the bill is \$1,000,000 or upwards.

The Hon. J. P. BENJAMIN has our thanks for a copy of the eighth annual report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institute, the "Black Warrior" case, and other interesting Public Documents.

A Journalist's Club has been organized in New York city, composed of editors, reporters, regular correspondents, and publishers connected with the City Press. Its objects are to promote social intercourse, and to relieve the want of persons attached to the press, of a central place of resort, and a library of reference to which free access may be had at any hour, and for the promotion of such other desirable objects as easily suggest themselves in this connection.—Nearly every newspaper office in the city is already represented to the number of some fifty members. The nucleus of a Library is already formed, and in every way the thing is prospering. The desirableness of such a club, in such a city, is too apparent to need remark.

An interesting libel suit was decided in New York on the 2d inst. Dr. Wayland, President of Brown University, in Providence, R. I., at the request of Mrs. Judson, wrote the life of the distinguished Baptist Missionary, Adoniram Judson and presented the copy-right to the family of his widow, E. H. Fletcher, a publisher in New York, issued the life of Dr. Judson about the same time, which seriously affected the sale of the authorized one by Dr. Wayland. C. B. Norton, another publisher, in New York, and proprietor of the Literary Gazette, criticized the action of Mr. Fletcher in several terms where-upon the late-mentioned Mr. Norton a libel in the sum of \$10,000. The case occupied four days. The jury returned a verdict for the defendant, after having been out three minutes.

The English papers state that at the election of Oxford University, the Rev. Dr. Pusey, the leader of the Romanizing party, was elected on the Governing Board by a very large vote.

A sub-marine telegraph across the Black Sea is to be constructed.—Morse's system of telegraph is to be used. A London steamer took wire for the cable for the line between Vera-na and Balaklava, a distance of 400 miles, and by the end of February, a direct telegraph communication will be opened between the head quarters of the allies in the Crimea and London and Paris.

The whole amount actually received by Gardiner for three-fourths of his fraudulent Mexican claim was about \$320,000. Of this the Government has recovered about \$220,000. Of the residue, a considerable portion went into the hands of lawyers and agents, who were the instruments in carrying out the fraud. There is not much likelihood that any portion of this will be recovered, although we understand that the Government will make an effort for that purpose.

There has very recently been found at the shop of a pork butcher in London, a considerable portion of a very fine copy of the first edition of Aristotle's works, printed by Aldus at Venice, in 1597, and also fragments of other works of less rarity, but still of considerable value.

HEIR TO THE FRENCH THRONE.—An extraordinary report is current in Paris, to the effect that the Emperor has resolved to declare Count de Moray the legitimate son of King Louis of Holland and Queen Hortense, and consequently, his own brother. It is added that his Majesty will at the same time raise the Count to the rank of Imperial Highness, and declare heir to the empire. It is said that recent events which have occurred at the East, together with the fact that there appears to be no chance of a direct heir to the Imperial throne, has of late forced this measure on the attention of the Emperor. In Paris, and throughout France, Prince Napoleon's career, as a warrior, has become the subject of jokes, distiches, and all that artillery of satire, for which the French have ever been noted.

The public debt of the Empire of Russia is set down at \$315,925,000. The regular custom and excise duties levied by the Government amount to only \$24,260,000. The brandy monopoly pays an additional sum of \$48,870,000; direct taxation \$36,125,000 and indirect \$38,725,000. The export of grain from the single port of Odessa in the year 1852 was to the value of \$28,135,000.

BAD THINGS AND GOOD, ALIKE MUST HAVE AN END.—About the small hours of Thursday night, the Legislature of this eventful iniquity season came to its end—died amid the groans, the curses and the revels of a host of hangers on, from the lobby and elsewhere, who had come into the death.—Like all expiring sinners, it seemed to have put off every thing to the last breath, in the hope of then being able to make an equitable distribution of the balance on hand. What a contrast between the first hour and the last.—The session opened with prayer—was fully prayed for, whilst many of the parties were reeling about, amid the fumes of coffee houses, indifferent to the high, the holy trust reposed in them; and here at the last hour, came, to indulge in the midnight debauch. Bills—important bills were acted up—messages from the Governor and the Senate, read amidst the uproar of a miniature bedlam. What is the country coming to? Look at the acts of this Legislature, and weep for the future prospects of Louisiana. Here we have evidences of fraud too glaring to deny—The people burdened with onerous taxes and the money thus raised used to pay the price of iniquity. Thank Heaven for it, that the Lower House of the next session of the Legislature is to be curtailed in the number of its members to about 70 instead of 98, as it now is. This is the calculation based upon the total population.

We should like to give a perfect—uncolored *d'guerre* type of the expiring moments of this session, but our camera lucida is not large enough to take it all in. Imagine, Honorable Gentlemen in their shirt sleeves fiddling and dancing over the flames kindled by desire to know "what has become of the appropriation bill."—*Exposes* of all the secret under currents of the game of "law making," developing themselves. Imagine every man throwing up "his hand and passing out;" and each hand discovering "stocked cards." Listen to the curses of this one, upon that one who has been a little deeper in the public treasury than another. Draw aside from the confusion, and ask in silence the question, is not the hour approaching when the people will rest from the hands of demagogues their delegated authority? Is there no hope in the future; is there not native patriotism enough, apart from the reeling influence of "small potatoes," to resurrect from the dead, the heaven born principles upon which the republic once stood? If not, a brief half century, will suffice to put an end to the best hope of the civilized world.

During the revel of Thursday night, the Governor's Private Secretary came in to inform the house of the action of the Gov., on bills then in his possession. We learn with regret that the bill to take the sense of the people was *quashed*, (a legal phrase). The last Penitentiary bill, also met the same fate. We wish the departing members safe passage home; and have nothing more to regret about their going, than that they have not had the pleasure to look upon the Father of his Country, as chiseled by Mr. Powers; for that piece of work still lies smouldering at the warehouse, in Florence street.

BOUNTY LAND CLAIMS.—The frauds in land claims perpetrated in this city, are said to have been numerous, and many persons connected with them. It was for such charge William H. Wilder was found guilty; and now another individual, in the person of Charles Boland, for a similar crime, has been condemned to ten years imprisonment in the Penitentiary at Baton Rouge, by Judge McCaleb. This species of fraud, it appears, had become so glaring and extensive that the government determined on effectually checking it by severe punishment, therefore the sentence.—*Orleanian*.

The Sentinel at Jackson publishes in full, a brief, which it is pleased to denominate "a model"—written by our talented fellow-citizen and ex-Mayor, William Gil Esq. The brief in question is a model. It is clear and logical, besides being concise and brief. Gil was acting as *curator ad hoc*, for an absentee representing \$30,000. It seems that the Judge of the Sixth District Court, had ousted Gil, and Gil applied for a mandamus to compel the Judge to reinstate him in his capacity as *curator ad hoc*.

In justification of what we say, that the document in question is an able document, we should like to publish it in full. The closing paragraph of the brief shows clearly the force—the *fascile* action of the pen, when a man really feels that he has been badly treated as *curator ad hoc*:—Counsel has confined himself to the injured rights of the absent defendant strictly, reserving his silent contempt for the lower judge, who has descended to a gross insult to the counsel.

THE BEAUTIES OF A SECTARIAN PRESS.—Strange it is, that the religious elements of government cannot be kept separated from the political.—It would seem that mankind only emerge from night and darkness, to be dazzled by the brightness of day, and fall again blindly into error.—One of the great evils of the day—the light which is to mislead the world again, into darkness and error; is to be found in the fact, that all the various sects of religion are at war for temporal power; how singularly at variance is this, with the doctrines of the religion of Jesus Christ? The so called "Christian press" is at war to the daggers point, and pray what is it for, is it for "possession" of the right road to heaven? Certainly not. But it is for possession of the tripod of power, and the key to the sub-treasury.—How nauseating must such things be, as the "letter" written to some New Hampshire people" and published in the New Hampshire Patriot, wherein it is stated that Bishop Hughes of New York, proposed to Gen. Scott in 1852 during the Presidential canvass to sell the Catholic vote of the Union? A charge bearing on its face, the evidence of undoubted falsehood. And, yet a thousand such are daily fabricated, by what is vilely denominated the "Christian Press."

LADIES SUPPORTERS.—Such is the name of an article of ladies wear advertised in a city paper, "patronized" as the card has it, "by the most eminent physicians throughout the United States. Not to be over curious, we should like to know what are Ladies Supporters? The questions first to be answered, is; what constitutes a lady; and are all women ladies? The argument is, that all ladies are women; but all women are not ladies. This is rather paradoxical, but not the less so. Until the question is settled, "what are ladies," it is improper to advertise "Ladies Supporters."

THE ULTRA MAINE LAW.—It appears they are anxious in Maine to make still more stringent their prohibitory liquor law. A committee of the Legislature now has the subject in charge, and the New York Tribune says:

That committee, we understand, are hesitating on this point: "Shall we sweep away at once all the liquor agencies, affirm the inutility of all alcoholic beverages to subserve any laudable purpose—mechanical, medicinal, or religious—and forbid the sale of such beverages under whatever circumstances?" Or "shall we tolerate the deference to what remains to ancient ignorance on this subject and allow liquor to be sold for certain specified uses, other than that of potation?" We believe a majority of the committee at present, incline to take the strong ground and say, "There is no legitimate use for alcoholic drinks, and none shall hereafter be sold in this State, save in violation of law."