

# THE WEEKLY COMET.

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## The Weekly Comet

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That good natured friend of SAM's who presides over the column of "Things," in the Advocate, undoubtedly has SAM's thanks for sundry notices published gratuitously of meetings "special and ordinary." Under the head of "Notice Special" in last Saturday's issue, he says:

Those sensible K. N.'s who take the Advocate in preference to all other papers in town, are informed that their party will hold a meeting to-night, at "the usual place," and that they are particularly invited to attend and take part in that "business of importance" that appears determined to remain on hand at headquarters, in spite of all efforts to transact it. If they don't dispose of it at this meeting, we will withdraw our influence in getting a quorum together.

That the business on hand will remain, until fully and fairly transacted, "Things" need have no fear. A full proportion of the American people make up the American party; a majority at least know what they are driving at; and when they flag in energetic action to that end, then "Things" should make a note of it—such a note as will serve to hand the fact down to remote posterity. By the way, now that meetings are the subject matter of discourse; will our neighbor please say what become of the "Grand Rally Wake up Jake" that was to have come off in the Hall of the House of Representatives in obedience to a demand from the "DEMOCRATIC ANTI-ASSOCIATION;" at which time "Messrs. Henry C. Miller, Wm. J. Lacey and several other distinguished Speakers" were to have held forth on that very beautiful part-colored subject "The Politics of the day?" We had nine reporters on the spot—phonographers, stenographers and chirographers, and not a line from the Hall, save this: A about 12 o'clock (the time appointed for meeting) a gentleman came into the Hall, slightly bent with age and the cares of State (who had a look of expectancy to be called on to preside) looked vacantly about, pulled his hat over his eyes—muttered something inaudible and went off.

We are not satisfied with this—should like to know more—and beg the Advocate through "Things" to let us have the proceedings of the meeting.

REPORTED DEATH OF THE EX-QUEEN OF THE FRENCH.—A Paris letter of November 29th, to the New York Evening Post, says:

It is reported at the moment I write that the poor Queen Maria Amelia, the widow of Louis Philippe, has just breathed her last at a country place near Geneva, and that her two sons, Prince de Joinville and Duke of Anjou, who were notified of her illness by telegraph, arrived at her bedside too late to receive her parting blessing.

SLOPPY BANQUETS.—Our sidewalks are not altogether in the best state to suit the skirts of the ladies dresses—some of the skirts, especially those which resemble the train of Charlotte Cushman, as *Queen Katherine*, in "Henry VIII." How very funny these appendages appear, all bedraggled with muddy slush, as they go, like so many mops, over the sloppy banquets! Talk about hooped petticoats, one of the ugliest inventions of the day! Why, they are beautiful in comparison with your long, soiled, sweeping skirts any time. We are down on both. The ladies must excuse us for it.—*Picayune.*

### The Present Political Aspect.

It is the duty of each and every newspaper publisher, now and then, to enlighten his readers, with an article bearing the head of this; in which he should place all the political charts before him, and endeavor to deduce from calculations of latitude and longitude, the present position of the vessel of State, and show, as far as his limited vision may extend, where the boat is bound to, and what dangers there are, to the leeward as well as the windward. It is more particularly the duty of the independent portion of the press to do this, than any other; since the party organs are known to be inflated to make a particular kind of hand organ music, the notes of which are set by the chief priests and scribes; and they have no option to say what they honestly know to be true.

The misfortune with the American people is; that as a body they do too little thinking for themselves. Pecuniary matters, relating to the incoming and outgoing of money, alone interest them; and it is only on the eve of being sold out of house and home by the tax gatherer, that they get up indignation meetings, to enquire into prodigal expenditures, and demand redress. We think that Louisiana, has arrived at such a crisis. The people now are beginning to enquire "what becomes of all the money" and the past few pages of history, points them, to the enormous salaries of executive officers; the lavish manner in which funds are expended for getting together the statutes at large; the accumulating liabilities for Rail, and other roads, and the other thousand and one ways devised, by jugglers, to augment taxation, and thus depreciate the value of property. Look to our own great Metropolis. Is it not to the interest of every citizen, as far as his influence goes, to keep her unshackled; and out of the hands of speculating capitalists? Certainly so; and yet all manner of means are resorted to, in order to give the form of law to some new burthen, more onerous than the last.

Decidedly the worst feature in the present political aspect is the noticeable and notorious fact, that money is used at elections—not only for bringing up voters, but to buy them in the exercise of their franchise. It is a common way of talking among politicians to say that such and such a man carries with him—any way he may go—so many votes. We have heard it said, that a gentleman not more than a hundred miles distant from the Capital, has under his knuckle some one hundred and fifty—we should like to say men, but *swine* is a more appropriate general term for them. Such animals are unfit to live in a republican government, where every man is supposed to exercise the sovereign right of franchise, independently and intelligently.

No wonder that there is misrule, prodigal expenditure and onerous taxation, stifling the very best interest of the nation; for such a condition renders it necessary for politicians to hang together like thieves, and get in place, of course they get their purses; thus making the people back the purchase money, with interest compounded.

Now is the time to kill the fattened calf, and make mince meat of him. Beal, as also Montan, has all the condiments necessary to do him up with, in the most approved mode.

### FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT

DEAR COMET:—The weather during the past week has tried to show how many changes it could afford us.

A military company, composed principally of veterans of the war of 1812, from Manchester, N. H. arrived in this city, on their way to Washington, on Friday afternoon last, they were tall men, and most of them advanced in years; they looked very well and seemed to be better drilled than most of our military companies.

There was a meeting of the abolitionists of this city, last week, many matters of importance were discussed. It was stated by one speaker, that the society had been in existence for nineteen years, and had expended, some \$150,000, but, as yet, had advanced its cause to a limited degree. It was also stated that one person had been instrumental in sending off ninety hundred and fifty runaway, since the passage of the Fugitive Slave Bill.—One of the Speakers pronounced this successful co operator in their cause "a good egg."

A. H. Simmons, Esq., of the *Daily Ledger*, of this city, died last Sunday and was buried on Wednesday. The funeral was quite large. He is highly spoken of by the press of our city.

We mentioned last week some of the proceedings of the Irish National Convention, in New York; since then Mr. R. Tyler, of this city has become a member of that convention. For this proceeding he was pretty extensively ridiculed by some of the members of the press. This led to the publication of a letter in the *Ledger*, to ———, Esq., which has no means tended to clear up the business of that convention, nor did it excuse the gentleman for the course he pursued.

The Baker Trial consumed the whole of the week. The rush for seats also continued throughout the trial, and \$2 to \$4 (it is said) was offered for good seats in the court room. The evidence having been all received on Friday afternoon the jury proceeded to prepare their verdict; they, however, could not agree, and were finally dismissed. Baker was sent back to the Tombs to await another trial, the result of which will probably be either a verdict of murder in the third degree, (the penalty of which is five years imprisonment) or what is still more probable, an acquittal. Stanwix Hall rows (in miniature) are of frequent occurrence in all our large cities, and we fear that their frequency will not be diminished in any other manner than by passing a severe sentence on some of the offenders, and why not on Baker? At the occurrence of the Baker and Poole affair, it was thought quite an awful transaction. Poole, was a prize fighter, but he was a *man*, and no doubt had a man's feelings; and Baker shot that man, it was said at the time deliberately, and in cold blood. In our humble opinion the verdict of the jury should be, "murder in the second degree." It is the opinion of many persons in New York City and Philadelphia that he will be acquitted.

The balloting for speaker in the House of Representatives has continued during the whole of last week, with but little variation in the ballotings; consequently we are no nearer the ultimate election, than we were this day week. We think, however, that there is a weariness perceptible on the part of the members. Bank's of Mass. (Republican) vote was in the first part of the week 107 against Richardson (Dem.) 74. Fuller's (of Pa.) vote being 40. The result of the sixty-first ballot stood:—Banks, 105; Richardson 74; Fuller 40; scattering 6. No election. This was the last ballot on Saturday. To-day's proceedings have not yet been telegraphed. They will be of very little consequence. Nothing decisive will take place until Mr. Banks can either add one more of the small parties which compose his vote or manage to absent some of the members. Horace Greeley who is at present in Washington, is evident from these communications that Horace is not all his influence to get Mr. N. P. Bai in the speaker's chair. But vote chance is rather slim, for his vote together likely to be immensely swayed by the falling off of small parties who the gen-

tleman's friends (we are informed) have hard work to keep together.

Mr. E. Forrest, the tragedian, commenced an engagement here on Monday evening, last. Mr. J. E. Murdock has just concluded a very successful engagement at the City Museum. The places of amusement, and indeed all other places are preparing for Christmas. The stores are all very pretty.

Wishing you the best of Christ-masses I remain yours &c.

"OBSERVER."

THE WEATHER.—It is a rule of action with us, to say nothing on this without subject, unless some sudden and strange freak, on the part of those having charge of this department of physical government, warrants it.—Christmas day of this year was by all odds the coldest, on the record of the past half century. We went into the country against the wind, in the morning—buggy up to evel in the mire—horse ditto to belly-band—refused to go over dilapidated bridge—had to get out—(mud chin deep) to convince him of its soundness got frightened at a defunct animal by the road-side—had to get out again, and convince the living, of no harm in the dead.—In the evening got back to town stiff—met gentlemen, who had been on a like excursion of pleasure (who sports mustaches, as luxuriant as the Grand Turk's)—with pendant ornaments of ice thereto—travelling over road, so slippery, frozen and that the iron nails in their boots, struck fire as they went.

People living near the pole, can form no idea of what kind of cold weather we have in this latitude, *when it is cold.*

OUR FATHER RECOGNISES.—The ultimate recompense of reward is very much in the line and direction of present character. In other words, when we shall land in heaven, we shall find it is no introduction into a new course but the continuation of the course we commenced on earth. Have you, for instance, sent your riches abroad in acts of charity, in deeds of magnanimous beneficence? You will receive in heaven, by grace, a richer reward—riches that thieves do not break through and steal, and that do not take wings and flee away. Have you resigned, given up the pursuits of literature, in which you might have attained eminence, for the apparently humble and lowlier services of Christian duty, in which you will meet with reproach? Your name shall be pronounced in heaven; it shall be inscribed upon a pillar from which it shall not be eradicated. Have you bore patiently, and without murmuring the afflictions of the world? the cup that your Father has given you to drink have you patiently drank it? Yours shall be the radiance of immortal youth joys, that are at God's right hand, and pleasures that are forever and ever.

—*Conclusion.*

A PLAN OF THE DUKE CONSTANTINE TO BURN LONDON.—According to the St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Paris Pays*, the Grand Duke Constantine, some time since, in a council of war, made a most singular proposition, namely: to arm and equip the whole fleet of Cronstadt, Revel and Swaborg, embark 20,000 men of picked troops, to make sail at a propitious hour to force a passage through the allied squadrons, or await their departure, and the moment they left the Baltic to effect a landing in Scotland or England. At first the Emperor assented, but was afterwards prevailed upon by the Empress, disapproved of his brother's plan. It is, however said that he has again resumed it. His *idea fixe* appears to be that he could sack and burn London, or bury himself and his troops under the smoking ruins of the first commercial city, of the world.

VIAGET has many beautiful articles for the toilet, appropriate for Christmas presents.

GEOFFREY MONCTON.—To Messrs. De Witt & Davenport, publishes, No. 160 Nassau street, New York, we are indebted for a copy of a novel bearing the above title, from the pen of Mrs. Moodie. The work holds the mirror up to nature, in presenting that every day character, the "Faithless Guardian," the present chronicles of the times offer many such. We look about us and see living and moving characters, whose history would be interesting in a day to come, when some few honest men may be found in the community,—*modest*, honest men, who do not make a boast of it. Mr. Digby has furnished us one of his inimitable daguerreotypes of "a model Administrator" under the laws of Louisiana, which shall be presented to the world at an early day.

There are more fortunes made in winding up estates, and attending to mortuary proceedings, than in speculating in the political stock market, or the corn exchange.

BUSINESS IN THE CITY.—The city papers—the great heart of trade, as well as index of the spirit and soul of the times, show the usual activity in business. The Crescent of Saturday says: that at the Arcade on Magazine street, on Saturday, there was great activity in trade under the auctioneers hammer. Houses and lots, lots without houses, located in every part of the city, were offered; negroes, horses, mules, cows, buggies, carriages, carts, shrubbery, plants and dogs, in fact everything requisite to stock a plantation, was for sale. Buyers and lookers on were almost as numerous as the leaves of Vallambrosa; Carman & Co., the auctioneers, were as busy as bees. Fortunately, Magazine street, is pretty broad and capacious, or the steps and corner of the Canal Bank might be taken possession of by the great crowds which assemble every Saturday, or oftener, on this great thoroughfare.

Whilst sojourning in the city a few days last week, we noticed, that everything sold well, at auction except lots—*"towa lots."* In the rotunda of the St. Louis, where some were offered, bidders shook their heads at low prices; and notwithstanding, they were cried in good French and indifferent English, still the crowd would not bid, but stood by with heads down and permitted one after another to be withdrawn from sale. There was no haste in the crying—no lack of beautiful maps in red white and black, showing the location—the lots were "going going, going" "once and twice," but never three times. It occurred to us, then and there, that some of the windy political trucksters, of all parties might read a valuable lesson here of their own writing. So much leakage and stealage, has taken place in New Orleans, the past few years, that (we have the Commercial Bulletin as authority) the tax on real estate is 2.49—per cent. This with insurance, wear and tear, making it equal to between five and seven per cent—

We are informed that a person who desires to remain unknown has addressed to the chief of the Russian legation a check for four thousand dollars to be transmitted to his government. The unknown donor, who only signed the initials M. Y. states in his letter that, full of admiration for the gallant defence of Sebastopol, he sends this liberal sum of money to be distributed among the widows and orphans of the Russian soldiers who fell bravely fighting for their homes against foreign aggressors. [Washington Union, 15th.