



CLINTON, LOUISIANA:
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1855.

We are under renewed obligations to the officers of the packet steamers Gem, David Gibson, and Bella Donna, for late favors.

Ours thanks are due the Harpers, through Messrs. Langworthy & Tildon, for the February number of Harper's Magazine.

Ten sailors were tried last week before the U. S. District Court, at New Orleans, for refusing to discharge their duties on board the American ship *Amelia*, on the voyage of that vessel from New York to New Orleans. Judge McCaleb sentenced three of the ringleaders to one year's confinement in the Parish Prison, and the remaining seven to eight months' confinement. They were all foreigners.

The bill appropriating \$500,000 for the improvement of the mouth of the Mississippi was passed in the Senate of the United States on the 6th inst.

The town of Grenada, in Yalabusha county, Mississippi, was almost totally destroyed by fire on the night of the 4th inst. Only two business houses were saved in the place.

G. G. Foster, author of *New York in Slices*, &c., was married on the 25th ult., in Moyamensing Prison, to Madame Margurittes.

Captain Simeon Hicks, the last of the Americans who were in the battle of Bennington, died at Sunderland, Vermont, on Wednesday, the 4th ult., aged ninety-nine years, five months and two days.

The Philadelphia North American complains that the liquor traffic on the Sabbath continues rather more extensive than is consistent with the peace of that city.

KANSAS.—We see it stated that the election of members of the Kansas Legislature will take place on the 23d of March.

During the year 1854, 73,697 persons died in London. The population of the great metropolis is upwards of two millions and a half.

The Hon. Junius Hillyer, of Georgia, and Hon. Roland Jones, of Louisiana, have declined being candidates for re-election to Congress.

A LIKING FOR THE LAW.—It is stated that there is a merchant in Boston who, during fourteen years has always had his name on the docket of some court either as plaintiff or defendant. The lawyers "tip their beaver" to this gentleman on all occasions.

The earth was nearest to the sun on January 1, when it was only distant 93,506,607 miles. It will be 96,695,300 miles distant on the 3d of July.

John P. Miller, of New York, has been nominated to the Senate, to be Secretary of Legation to Peru, in the place of James C. Marriot, resigned.

Collector Redfield, of New York, has never intended a desire to be relieved from the duties of his office, and the rumors to the contrary are false.

The appointment of a successor to Mr. Pleasanton, the late Fifth Auditor, has been made by the President, but not yet announced.

The whig caucus of the New York members of the Legislature was held on the 1st inst. The vote of the members was called; 81 were present, including the President of the Senate, being one less than the majority in the House. Absentees in the Senate Messrs. Barnard, Brooks, Field Putnam and Whitney. In the Assembly twenty whigs were absent. On the first ballot Seward obtained 74 votes, and was consequently declared the caucus nominee. From this it is apparent, that a number of whigs refused to go into caucus.

ACCIDENT ON THE N. Y. CENTRAL RAILROAD.—A fearful accident occurred on the New York Central Railroad on Wednesday week, about 18 miles east of Syracuse. As the Buffalo Express was whirling along at the speed of 25 miles an hour, a wheel of the locomotive flew in pieces, and the engine itself pitched down the bank. The passengers only felt a slight concussion, but looking out of their windows on one side, they saw the engine lying a wreck in the ditch, and the engineer and fireman crawling out from the ruins. The train ran on a distance of 50 rods before stopping. Provisionally, the engineer was but slightly hurt, and the fireman escaped without harm.

SINGULAR INCIDENT.—During the year 1838 an old colored woman, named Mary Ridgely, while passing through one of the streets of the city of Baltimore, found a bank note, on taking it to a grocer near by, proved to be for one thousand dollars. The grocer retained the bill and advertised it for six months, after which he invested it until 1842. At the last date he paid over to the City Register \$1,080, being the amount, with interest, after deducting the expenses of advertising. Since that time a period of thirteen years, it has been in the possession of the city, and has been used by the city. The woman now comes forward and by petition asks that it may be returned to her, as there is no probability that the real owner will ever call for it. The whole amount, including interest, is now \$1,842 40, which she is entitled to, and which she can recover from the city.

SEWARDISM.

The recent election of William H. Seward to the United States Senate has caused a tremendous chattering from Old Fogey one-horse street politicians. A great discovery has been made. Smiling countenances are everywhere to be seen. A general dissolution of the American party is the all absorbing topic. The "knowing ones" among the Old Fogies are painting a glowing picture from the landscape, and a bright ray of sweet hope is once more entertained by them. And why? A fusion of the Americans and Abolitionists in the New York Legislature, in order to secure the election of Seward is announced, or at least a hope is entertained by the old-line Democracy that such is the case, and the imagined event is eagerly seized as an element of destruction to cast among the ranks of the American party.

That the American organization was in the ascendancy, or even held the balance of power, in the New York Legislature, cannot with any degree of knowledge on the subject, or regard for truth, be advanced. The fact is well known, and to which we have previously alluded to, that in the canvass of last fall in the State of New York, the American party was unprepared to enter the political arena. True they advanced the claims of Mr. Ullman, but no general ticket was organized, and Mr. Ullman was placed in nomination simply for the purpose of showing an entire disconnection with all other parties and factions. Well, Mr. Ullman, as was previously anticipated, met with defeat. Why? Because the Seward or Abolition wing of the Whig party were in the ascendancy in the State of New York? Consequently the election of Mr. Seward by the New York Legislature may be easily accounted for. With a majority of 48 on joint-ballot, which is held by the Whig and Free Soil party, we are not surprised at all at the result. But to attempt to saddle the election of Mr. Seward upon the Know Nothings of the New York Legislature is absurd. The Know Nothings had about as much or less to do with his election as did they in the election of Mr. Slidell, by the Legislature of Louisiana. Mr. Seward, it will be seen by reference to the following excellent article which we take from the N. O. Bee, failed to get the entire strength of the Whig vote, by 16, and this can be safely put down as about the Know Nothing force in the Whig ranks of that body.

MR. SEWARD AND THE KNOW-NOTHINGS.

Our cotemporary of the *Picayune*, in the course of an article upon the election of Mr. SEWARD, appears to hold the Know-Nothings of the New York Legislature directly responsible for the result.—Such an opinion advanced in the columns of a Democratic print would not have surprised us, as that party is just now waging a relentless war of slander and detraction against the Know-Nothings. But an independent paper of the standing and influence of the *Picayune* should be cautious in making assertions, unless it is prepared fully to substantiate them.

We are satisfied our cotemporary's censures of the American party as the agents in the election of SEWARD are hasty and unmerited. It argues as if that party had an absolute majority on joint ballot in the New York Legislature, and could therefore, had it pleased, have baffled the ambitious aspirations of Wm. H. SEWARD. Now what are the facts? Mr. SEWARD was chosen by a vote of 18 in the Senate and 68 in the House. The Senate consists of 32 members, and the House of 182.

The political composition of the one (we quote from the Whig Almanac for 1855—first rate authority,) is, Whigs 22; Democrats 10; of the other, Whigs 82, Democrats 46. The Whigs, therefore, number 104 members of the New York Legislature, while Mr. SEWARD was elected Senator by 86 votes—a palpable proof that he failed to obtain the unanimous vote of his own party.—Here we see much mention made of Whigs and Democrats, but not a syllable of Know-Nothings. Where were the latter all the time, and how is it that in a body in which sundry New Orleans papers tell us they have a majority, their name does not even appear? The answer is easy. The late election, as far as the Legislature was concerned, was conducted mainly upon old party grounds. In a few isolated districts Know-Nothing Whigs and Democrats were elected, but as a general rule, the American doctrines did not enter as a prominent element into the contest. The Whig Almanac, after classifying the Legislature, adds "there are Know-Nothings sprinkled miscellaneously among Whigs, Hards and Softs, but how many there are of these gentry, nobody knows." Precisely so. There were no doubt some Know-Nothing Whigs in the Legislature, and probably the sixteen who refused to vote for SEWARD belonged to the secret order. That the Know Nothings constituted a majority of the Legislature has never been asserted in New York, or anywhere else until recently. It is true that some faint hope was entertained of the defeat of SEWARD. It was thought that a sufficient number of Know-Nothing Whigs might be found to compass this object, by detaching themselves from the SEWARD Whigs, and uniting with the Democratic minority. This was the only way in which such a result could be accomplished. That it failed is evidently due to the preponderating strength of the Seward Whigs. The Know-Nothings were too few and feeble to break down the Free-soil Whig organization. Had it been otherwise, no one at all acquainted with the inveterate hostility evinced towards Mr. SEWARD by the American party, can imagine that they would have stultified themselves, and injured their cause by aiding in the triumph of their sworn foe.

Let the Know-Nothings, North and South, be held accountable for their acts, and abide the restless power of public opinion; but not let them be subjected to the penalties of that rigid judge, when they are guilty of offence. Had the American party the ascendancy in the New York Legislature, we should be foremost in stigmatizing their conduct as recreant and treacherous, but until it is shown that they could have defeated Mr. SEWARD, the blame must fall elsewhere, and seems to us to be specially and signally deserved by the free-soil whigs. Upon them devolves the odium of an election which has sent back to the United States Senate the vilest, most unscrupulous and craftiest Abolition agitator in the land.

THE LEGISLATURE.

The Penitentiary question, swallowing up all others in its own importance, has monopolized the attention of the Legislators for the past week.—The present lease expiring in May next, it devolves on the Legislature to renew the lease or make some new disposition of the institution, and the question to be decided is whether the State shall resume the superintendence or whether the policy of leasing shall prevail. The tide of excitement seems to have run higher, and more discussion has been elicited on this subject than with any other matter which has been before the present session, and though several important steps have been taken in the premises, the end is not yet.

Those who contend that the State is the proper authority to manage and control the Penitentiary, and that it should be administered with a view of turning the revenues derivable from it into the coffers of the public treasury, whence such large sums have from time to time been drawn to build it up, support their position by much argument and good reasoning. For a long time this institution was a burden on the people, and was kept up by direct appropriations by the State. Now it pays a revenue, and a large one.

The lessees, by their own showing, and the impression generally prevails, that they have not told all, have realized large profits—becoming rich themselves, while they are paying a mere nominal rent to the State. As the State has made such outlays for machinery and fixtures, it is perfectly right and reasonable to expect that some compensation shall be paid, adequate in some measure to the expenditures.

The first question which presented itself to be settled in the commencement of the long wordy war between the two parties differing in their views upon the matter, was whether the State should control and administer the institution by her proper officers, or whether it should again be leased out.

The bill was introduced into the Senate, and after much warm discussion it was determined to lease, but the price to be paid by the lessees was raised from four to about \$7000. When the bill came from the Senate into the House, the greatest excitement prevailed, and the discussion was long and warm upon many points. Several amendments were made to the Senate bill, the most important is that the lessees shall pay to the State the sum of \$12,000 and the salaries of all the officers. The matter stands thus at this time, and whether the Senate will accept of the amendments proposed by the House remains to be seen. If these amendments are not accepted it is highly probable that some plan entirely new will be adopted.

Another important amendment made by the House to the Senate bill, is that the lessees shall be allowed to engage in all kinds of merchandise—whatever they may see fit to employ the convicts on. If the making of boots, shoes and tailoring is carried on in the Penitentiary, which is now not allowed, it will interfere very seriously with the manufacturing establishments of this kind in the town of Baton Rouge, and the consequence will be that all the workers in leather and cloth will be driven out.

A bill has been introduced to the effect of taking the sense of the people in reference to moving the capitol to New Orleans.

A NEW STATE.—OREGON.—On Monday week, a bill passed the House of Representatives, which authorized the people of Oregon Territory to assemble in convention and form a Constitution and State Government. When the Constitution shall have been formed, it will be submitted to Congress. If it meets the requirements of the Federal Constitution, and is republican in its character, then the Territory will be admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States, and bear the name of the STATE OF OREGON. The *National Intelligencer* gives the following synopsis of the provisions of the bill:

"The usual Courts are to be established, and until another census and apportionment the new State is to be entitled to one Representative in the Congress of the United States. Sections 16 and 36 in every township of the public lands in said State are to be granted for the use of schools; two entire sections are to be given for the use and support of a university; and then entire sections are to be appropriated for completing the public buildings of said State, or for the erection of others. Five per cent. of the net proceeds of the sales of the lands lying within the State are to be paid to the State for the purpose of making public roads and canals in the same, as the Legislature thereof shall direct, upon condition that there be no interference with the primary disposal of the soil within the same, and that no tax is to be laid upon the lands of the United States and no higher tax upon non-resident proprietors than upon residents.

TOO PROUD TO BEG.—It is said there are thousands of worthy citizens, men and woman, in New York who are too proud to beg or let their circumstances be known, and are, therefore, silently pining in secret destitution. The Mirror says the pawn-shops only tell their sad story, and adds:

First go to the luxuries—the superfluous furniture—the silver spoons—the spare clothing—the jewelry, even to the bridal ring; and then the bedding, the tables, the chairs, and so on through the whole inventory of articles that can be dispensed with, while life is retained. To accommodate this inborn and indelible American pride, the pawn-shops are provided with stalls, so that the melancholy bartering may be done without exposing the poor victim of that "peculiar institution" to public shame. The amount of business at these establishments within the last three months exceeded all precedent. Watches, gold pencils, and silver spoons have been pledged by the bushel, and every nameable and unnameable article of furniture and clothing. A friend of ours saw a poor woman at Simpson's one day last week, pawning her under-clothing to raise a shilling to go to market with. Another had cut up her bed and made it into pillows, which she had pawned for a similar purpose.

EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA.—There are in the State of California 160 public schools, with 214 teachers. The year previous to the last there were but 53 schools and 55 teachers.

Four of the States of the Union are so fortunate as to be free from debt. They are New Hampshire, Vermont, Delaware and Florida.

European Affairs.

ARRIVAL OF THE STAMSHIP ATLANTIC.

The Collins steamer *Atlantic* arrived at New York on the 9th inst., with Liverpool dates of the 27th ult. In the telegraphic advices that have been received there is nothing of importance from the Crimea.

The British army was in a most deplorable and wretched condition, in consequence of the mismanagement of Lord Raglan and others.

A battle was reported to have taken place, but it had been ascertained that the rumor was incorrect.

Lord John Russell, the British Secretary for Foreign Affairs, had resigned; in the House of Commons he gave an explanation of his conduct. The press seem almost unanimous in the feeling that the whole Cabinet must go out of office.

Public opinion seems now to be tending towards peace.

The Vienna Conference would not meet until the middle of February.

The Swedish army was to be placed on an immediate war footing.

Negotiations were still in progress between Austria and Prussia, respecting Germany and the army of the latter.

The Queen of Sardinia is dead.

The steamship *Great Britain* had arrived at Liverpool, from Australia, with £750,000 in gold. Rumors of numerous failures were current for a time in Liverpool, but turned out to be greatly exaggerated. Cotton was somewhat influenced thereby.

CONFLICT OF LAW.—We published yesterday a telegraphic dispatch, of a decision by the highest court of Tennessee, which is in direct conflict with that rendered by our Supreme Court. Mr. Isaac Franklin, died some years ago, leaving a large property. Among his bequests was one to an academy or college in Tennessee, to be supported by a fund perpetually accruing. This legacy was attacked by the widow in this State, on the ground that it created a trust estate, which was contrary to the letter and spirit of our law. The court sustained the objection, and the legacy was annulled, so far as it affected the Louisiana property of the deceased. A like effort was made on the same ground in Tennessee; but it has resulted in the affirmation of the legality of the bequest. Thus, then, the will of Isaac Franklin is valid in one State and not in another. And these States exist under one Federative system, and yet are so dissimilar in the principles of their fundamental law. We observe, too another curious feature of the decisions in this case. The point was much litigated whether Isaac Franklin was a citizen of Louisiana or of Tennessee. The executor, our respected fellow citizen, Mr. John Armfield, had some interest in this question, as his commissions depended upon its solution. The Tennessee court has allowed his commission, or a charge, on the Tennessee property.—*Delta*.

A cute female has been discovered in playing the "confidence" game in New York, to a considerable extent. It appears that she pretended she was about to establish a "Christian Home for the benefit of female servants," and to make a beginning, it is alleged she fraudulently procured, or forged, the name of Peter Cooper, among others, as subscribers to her fund for \$500. Upon this start, she got a subscription from James Boorman for \$1,000; S. P. Townsend, (Sarsaparilla) for four lots of land; C. Vanderbilt, \$2,000; and from many others. She had a printed document signed with the names of several clergymen, and of ladies, endorsing her, and her operations, which were all printed without the least authority. It is supposed she raised about \$20,000 before she was exposed.

CONDITION OF THE ENGLISH ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.—The following is from the London Weekly news of the 20th ult:

Those who are waiting to learn by every mail that Sebastopol is fallen, will find the prospect of the speedy arrival of that gratifying intelligence diminished by the statement, forwarded by the correspondent of the Morning Post, of the reduced numbers of our effective army in the Crimea. Out of forty thousand nine hundred and thirty-two men forming the gross of Lord Raglan's army on the first day of this year, every third man was in the hospital! The total of sick and wounded was thirteen thousand four hundred and nineteen, leaving only twenty-seven thousand five hundred and thirteen men in the field, of whom, on an average, one hundred a day fell out of the ranks ill, and fifty died.

Supposing the sickness and mortality to have continued at this rate until now, the numbers in the field will have been reduced by this day to a little over twenty-five thousand men, leaving one-fourth of the whole in their beds, and one-eight in their graves. Then, of the twenty-five thousand who remain, a large proportion are on the very verge of breaking down. Many are on their legs, and holding out against nature—not ill enough to be admitted into hospital, not well enough to be worth much on duty. The terrible ravages of diseases cannot be more clearly apprehended than from the words of the correspondent: "The British lose upwards of three hundred by death every week, so that they had need receive an extra regiment every fortnight."

RELIGION.—Whatever of excellence is wrought in the soul itself, belongs to both worlds. Real goodness does not attach itself merely to the present; it points to another world.

Political and professional fame cannot last forever, but a conscience void of offence before God and man, is an inheritance for eternity. Religion, therefore, is a necessary, and almost indispensable element in any human character. There is no living without it. Religion is the tie which connects man with his Creator, and holds him to His throne.

If that tie is sundered or broken, he floats away, a worthless atom in the universe, its proper attractions all gone, its destiny thwarted, and its whole future, nothing but darkness, desolation and death. A man with no sense of religious duty is he whom the Scripture describe—in so terse but terrific manner—as "living without God in the world." Such a man is out of his proper being—out of the circle of all his happiness, and away, far away, from the purpose of his creator.

Daniel Webster.

A bill has been proposed in the Legislature of New York requiring the sellers of patent medicines to make known the ingredients of which the preparations are composed.

The Know-Nothing State Convention for New Hampshire met at Manchester on Tuesday, and nominated for Governor Ralph Matcalf, instead of Rev. John Moore, who is ineligible. Mr. Matcalf has heretofore been a Democrat. He is a lawyer, and president of a bank at Newport, where he resides. The Boston Post says this is as formidable a nomination as could possibly have been made against the Democrats, who will endeavor to counteract it by increased exertions in behalf of Gov. Baker. The election will take place next month.

The dismissal from the Navy of the United States of Lieut. Charles G. Hunter is announced in the Washington Star. He was recently in command of the brig *Bainbridge*, on the Brazilian station, and, in consequence of a difference of opinion as to their respective duties between him and the Commodore of the squadron, he brought his vessel home without orders from his superior. For this act of insubordination the President has caused his name to be struck from the rolls of the Navy, which he entered twenty years ago.

A large and enthusiastic meeting of the citizens of Noxubee county, Miss., was held in Macon, on the 6th ult. The Hon. W. W. Roby, Hon. A. W. Dabney, and eight other influential citizens, were appointed a committee to prepare and report resolutions. The object of the meeting was to sustain the course of Senator Adams, upon the subject of the naturalization laws. The resolutions reported were carried unanimously. They approved the course of Senator Adams, declare that he will be sustained by the Democratic party, as well as by the people of Noxubee county, condemn the administration for its appointment of foreigners to offices abroad, and approve Senator Brown's vote in favor of the indigent insane bill against President Pierce's veto.

BEAUTIFUL EXTRACT.—"Last evening we were walking leisurely along; the music of the choirs of three churches came floating out in the darkness around us, and they were new and strange tunes but one, and that one—it was not sung as we have heard it, but it awakened a train of long buried memories, that rose to us even as they were, before the cemetery of the soul had a tomb in it.

"It was the sweet old 'Corinth' they were singing—strains that we have seldom heard since the rose color of life has blanched; and we were in a moment back again to the old village church, and it was a summer afternoon, and the yellow sunbeams were streaming through the west windows, and the silver hair of the old deacon who sat in the pulpit, was turned to gold in its light, and the minister, who, we used to think could never die, so good was he, had concluded the application and the 'exhortation,' and the village choir were singing the last hymn, and that was 'Corinth.'

"It is years—we dare not think how many—since then, and the 'prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended,' and the choir are scattered and gone. The girl with blue eyes that sang alto, and the girl with black eyes that sang air—the eyes of one like a clear June heaven at noon.

"They both became wives, both mothers, and both died. Who shall say they are not singing 'Corinth' still, where Sabbaths never wane and congregations never break up? There they sat, Sabbath after Sabbath, by the square column on the right of the leader, and to our young ears their tones were the 'soul of music.' That column bears still the penciled names, as they wrote them in those days of life's June, 18—, before dreams or change had overcome their spirits like a summer cloud.

"'Aias! that with the old singers most of the sweeter tunes had died upon the air; but they still linger in memory, and they shall yet be sung in the sweet reunion of song that shall take place in a hall whose columns are beams of morning light, whose ceiling is pearl, whose floors are gold and where hairs never grow silvery, and hearers never grow old. Then she that sang alto, and she that sang air, will be in their places once more."—*It Murrel*.

Russian and French Soldiers.—A lively writer from Paris draws a parallel between the soldiers of the different nations now fighting in Crimea, and first says of the Russians:

The valor displayed by the Russians in the night attacks on the allies has never been surpassed by the soldiers of any nation or people whatever. The Russian soldiers lack strategy and quickness of movement, but he possesses a courage almost without parallel a remarkable strength of body and great resistance to the exhausting effects of wounds. It has been a common remark from the day of Napoleon to the present moment, that the Russian soldiers are the most difficult in the world to put hors de combat, which are to be met in Europe. *Mars de Combat* which are to be met in Europe. *Mars de Combat* which are to be met in Europe. "It will not suffice to shoot a Russian soldier; he must be pushed over." Remarkable instances of this power of resistance to the loss of blood, and to the first impressions of a wound, have been exhibited since the commencement of the campaign in the Crimea, and it is no doubt due to the rude life to which the Russian soldiers is subjected, not only as a soldier, but as a peasant.

Next he says of the Frenchman: While eating is no part of a soldier's life in the Russian camp, in the French camp it is quite different. A Frenchman must have his breakfast before he fights, and he will cook and eat it in the midst of bursting bombs rather than miss it; for between the fear of losing his breakfast and his life there is about an even balance. On the morning of the battle of Inkerman, 7,500 Englishmen were compelled to stand the shock of 45,000 Russians for three hours, before the French division arrived, the latter having stopped to eat their breakfast before starting to the aid of their suffering allies. They fought beautifully, as they always do, when they did arrive, but in the meantime they had been a fearful slaughter of Englishmen, which otherwise might have been saved. This is one of the faces which do not appear in print, for the good of the alliance, but is nevertheless true.

A SNAKE IN THE STOMACH.—The Petersburg (Va.) Express gives what purports to be an account of the ejection of a live snake from the stomach of a man named Wade, who, during the past summer, was in the habit of slaking his thirst from a rivulet in a field where he was at work. The Express says the snake was almost transparent, had reddish eyes of great brilliancy, and was five and a quarter inches long. Mr. W., it is said, had for some time been troubled with a feeling of suffocation and unusual fullness of the stomach.