

The Daily Comet.

BATON ROUGE, LA., DEC. 27, 1866.

CHANGE.—Change is the special order of the day. As regards the press of this remarkable city it has been nothing but change for the past half-year. We are not yet fully awake to what is actually the fact about us. Yesterday evening's Advocate tells us that, Mr. Tom. Bynum, of the Parish of Rapides, has purchased the interest of the late David Martin, in that paper. The firm will continue, as before, under the style of J. M. Taylor & Co.

CHRISTMAS REVIEW.—The day was not so cool as a connoisseur in eggs etc., could have wished, but just of that temperature desired by one, to enjoy a drive. In the morning the usual number of crackers were burned by Young America, and dimes were rapidly exchanged at the shops. At 11— we visited St. James Church, and heard an appropriate Sermon from Rev. M. G. GUYON. Text: 2—Matt. Listening to the eloquent gentleman, we could see, that same bright star as it stood glorious in the midst of worlds, and as it now stands directing man with unerring light, the safest and happiest way through that portion of his journey, called *time*. One of our reporters visited St. Joseph's, where were assembled a large audience, and becoming so entranced by the sweet tones of their new organ that he would only reply to our many questions: "yes it was very good, and the voices accompanying, a little sweeter than the thing itself." After mass an address appropriate to the occasion, was delivered by Rev. M. PRACMENTER. The excellent music in this Church is enough of itself to make one feel devotional and wish for Heaven. There was no service in either of the other churches. A little before 12—egg-nogs were the order of the day, and a reporter tells us the one hand at—was just "the thing." No disturbance marred the day, all was pleasant and the evening brought many re-unions where each sought to make the other happy.

The Presbyterian Fair.

The ladies of this Church with a commendable zeal have been giving entertainments for two or three evenings in the Masonic Hall.

The *Tableaux Vivants* was as beautiful in every respect as we ever witnessed. The table was loaded with just such dishes as the lady managers of that Church know how to have served, and makes one sigh to think over the next day. That big *blueish* bowl over on the end of the table looks suspicious but as a charming young lady stands near with a lady in hand, there can't be much harm—so following the example of Col. —, a tumbler is handed and soon returned, filled with a foaming half and half liquid, which may be ate or drank—but in *silence* and *beat* without moustaches, as friend G. can testify. The receipts have been large as they should have been.

THE COMMON ENEMY.—The common enemy of mankind, is undoubtedly, that rare combination of oxygen and hydrogen called alcohol. Without it, the leaning of the race, would certainly be to virtues side. There is but little variety in the reports of our City Marshal—drunkenness and disorderly conduct is the common complaint.—On Christmas day there was but one arrest and that was for drunkenness and disorderly conduct—disturbing the peace of North street. Mr. John Kinney, was the offender who was properly committed.

On Christmas night, two of Uncle Sam's gallant sons came down town, to see "the Christmas," and were, attack by the common enemy under the hill. They were enabled to stagger under wounds to the Garrison gate, where they fell to the earth—vanquished. Marshal NERLEN, having regard for the dignity as well as the peace of the city, dragged the vanquished into the government grounds, and out of the jurisdiction of the city, where they had nothing but the heavens to cover them until morning. Soldiers are expected to be possessed of qualities of endurance, and no doubt that this is the reason why, it is the principal feature of their tactics.

ANOTHER CASUALTY.—Yesterday, Master James Rivers, in company with his mother and some neighbors, were looking at improvements being made, when attempting to mount a work bench, holding a gun in his hand—the piece was discharged, the load passing through a portion of his left hand. He is now in town receiving medical attention. His mother resides in the country about 9 miles distant. How often and how long shall we have to chronicle these "accidents?"

A FORTUNATE TRAVELER.—It is stated that a German, with whom Bayard Taylor formed a friendship, has recently conveyed to him as a free gift, an estate near the Thuringian forest, which contains a beautiful residence, built in 1560 by one of the ministers of Ernest II.

DEATH OF COL. THOMAS F. HUNT.—Col. Thomas F. Hunt, Assistant Quartermaster General U. S. A. died on Monday last, the 23d inst., at his residence in New Orleans, after a lingering illness. Col. Hunt was a native of Salisbury, Rowan county, North Carolina, and at the time of his death, near the attainment of his sixty-fourth year. He entered the army in 1813. During the administration of President Madison, he held a Third Lieutenantcy in the 1st Regiment of Dragoons. He was in the memorable campaign—during the war with England—against Montreal.

On the abandonment of that expedition, his regiment was ordered to Utica, N. Y., and he was sent on recruiting service to his native State, and was not again during the war personally engaged against the enemy. In 1815 the regiment to which Lieut. Hunt was attached was ordered to the West, and on the 6th January, 1816, after a tedious voyage in keel boats all the way from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; two companies of it to which he belonged arrived at Natchitoches, Louisiana. In 1817 he received his Lieutenantcy, and on the resignation of Captain W. L. Robeson, Assistant Deputy Quartermaster General, he was ordered to perform the duties of that office at New Orleans.

He became Captain in his regiment, the 3d Rifle—afterwards merged into the infantry; from this he was transferred to the 5th Regiment—received the appointment of Assistant Quartermaster. He continued in the performance of his duties in this capacity until 1826.

From 1829 to 1836 he was actively engaged in the office of the Quartermaster General in Washington, where he frequently acted as chief. In 1834 he was breveted as Major for ten years' faithful service as Captain. In 1836 he was assigned to duty in Georgia, at the commencement of the Florida war. In 1838 he was appointed Quartermaster with the rank of Major, relinquishing his commission as Captain in the line.

From 1838 to '41 he served uninterruptedly in the Florida war, where for services he was promoted to the office of Deputy Quartermaster General, with the rank of Lieut. Colonel. During the Mexican war he was stationed at New Orleans, where he was engaged in the important service of forwarding the army under Genl. Taylor, with the munitions of war.

In 1848 he was breveted Colonel for meritorious services, and on the death of Brevet Brigadier General Whiting, became Assistant Quartermaster General, with the rank of Colonel, which rank he still held at the time of his death, having served his country faithfully, skillfully, and patriotically for the long period of forty-three years.

Col. Hunt was a generous and warm friend; Louisiana he regarded as his home and he took a lively interest in all that concerned her honor or welfare.

Mr. BUCHANAN.—We see a great many speculations about as to what Mr. Buchanan will do, and there is a vast amount of good advice daily tendered the kind old gentleman, we think of tendering a little ourselves, not doubting but it will be as well received as though it were from "tother side." The very best thing you can do Mr. B., is to get you a neat tidy lady, to share your joys and sorrows, to keep the fire well built up these long cold evenings, after your Ministers have retired and the gay crowds deserted your parlor, it will make you sad and *shiver* a little to turn your face towards that small room, where your thoughts must be your only companion. Get a wife Mr. B., and the sooner the better, she'll dissect more rascality in one evening, than you will in a week.—Don't take any of the old women, they know too much. Get one about 18, with full blue or black eyes, pointing juicy lips &c., and then see, that now, desolate room will be the most longed for, of any in the house.

A RARE CHANCE FOR THE YOUNG AND STRONG OF HEART.—From the New Orleans Delta, we take the following card:

NICARAGUA.—We have been requested to call the attention of those who meditate emigrating to this beautiful country, to the fact that a *free passage* will be given to all respectable persons, by application to the Emigrant Agent, No. 28 St. Charles street, New Orleans. A steamer will leave on the 26th of every month, and one or two sailing vessels will also be sent off each month if emigrants present themselves in sufficient numbers.

Here is a rare chance for the young and unnumbered; unable to raise the wind, to set their sails for a haven of fame and fortune. The new republics of Central America, offers a bright field, for the honest and industrious, to carve out for themselves, both fame and fortune.

EXPLOSION OF A LADY.—M. Bragelone, tells a story of a young English lady who had just arrived in Paris, and who had the pretension to believe that she knew how to speak French and to dress in French mode. She bought one of these air-crinolines ordered it home, and put it on, for the first time, for a *steece*. But the cloth, it appears was defective; for the first time she sat down, after arriving at the party, a formidable noise startled the people present, and the lady sprang to her feet, flat as a balloon collapsed. Like a true Briton, she did not lose her presence of mind, and added, tranquilly, "Oh! that is nothing; nothing at all—it is only my *meuniquet* that is deranged."

THE NEWSPAPERS OF VIRGINIA.—At present (says the Southside Democrat, Virginia), there are one hundred and fifty newspapers published in the State of Virginia, the working expenses of which amount to \$400,000 per annum.

A STRING OF BEADS.

BY MRS. H. M. L.

Chapter 4th—Dress.

Ever since the very unpopular Bloomer movement at the North, there has existed a more or less expressed rebellion against the dominant fashions; desires not matured into intentions, intentions not carried into practice to reform abuses in the manner of clothing, have pervaded the community very generally. Indeed there has been a ladies convention at the North, the object of which was to bring about a simultaneous action to this end. It appears from recent accounts that the ladies of the French Imperial Court have been entertaining a similar idea. How far the views of the French and American women coincide, does not appear from the reports which have reached us. If however mere common sense were exercised in both cases, there must have been some thoughts in common.—Gentlemen have taken one rational step, at least, in substituting the pliable easy soft hat, for the absurd stove-pipe, but ladies need to model their costume, from the crown of the head to the sole of the foot. The present bonnet is of no use whatever. The pretty "French Cottage," worn ten years since, which covered the head; shaded the eyes and protected the complexion from sun or wind was exceedingly simple, graceful and becoming.—Why not return to it again. Again; who will defend the present magnitude and length of skirts! Would any painter or sculptor of good taste and judgment have represented this beau-ideal of womanly beauty, in such a garb! The very idea provokes ridicule. It reminds one of a painting not long since exhibited in New York. The subject: "The Prodigal's Return,"—the painter—a Spaniard of the nineteenth century. The repentant prodigal presented himself at the arched portal of a palace in the Spanish costume, short cloak over the left shoulder, plumed cap and the inevitable guitar slung at his back. The dignified old Don, his father, was be-cloaked, be-plumed and be-daggered according to the reigning mode—the sisters with hailing skirts, lace mantillas and fluttering fans were veritable representatives of the court ladies of his most Catholic Majesty, Ferdinand. To return to my subject—one would scarce have her full length portrait taken in the present costume. It will soon become obsolete, and then the posterous bad taste of the dress will become so apparent that the picture although executed in the highest style of art, would be only the more absurdly ridiculous.

The term *dress*, implies greatly more than mere clothing. It involves the idea of ornament, the exercise of taste, the expression of character and the indication of the social position. To combine all these with convenience, healthful adaptation, as clothing, to the requirements of climate, to the physical organization, together with fitness for times and seasons, may be a somewhat difficult, but not a hopeless task. It surely becomes us to do that with good sense and propriety, which we must endeavor to do in some manner.

It is very desirable, that the hoped for reformation extend beyond diminishing the length and volume of skirt. The innumerable fantastic and troublesome details of female apparel should be discarded. This would give a charming and dignified simplicity to the attire, ease and dispatch in dressing would be secured, and the mind be thus left free for nobler and better things. It is indisputable that the greater part of a woman's life is consumed in trifles, and if she would gladly come to knowledge of herself, and her capacity for intellectual development, let her joyfully hail anything that promotes even in a small degree, her disenchantment from the thousand pettinesses and contemptible little cares and avocations which degrade her into a mere lay figure, swathed in silks and velvets and bedizened with ribbons and laces.

If it were felt to be really vulgar, as it is ungenerous to those poorer, to appear on the ordinary promenade in any fabric better or more expensive than cotton, linen and wool, (and these include fabrics of great taste and beauty) the sentiment would be most decidedly republican, and breathe a truly American spirit, excelling Rome's best days, and surpassing in true humanity, Rome's noblest women.

Invidious distinctions bespeak a groveling soul, and I have often wondered that a woman from whom it is naturally expected a delicate generosity, could parade upon her person, expensive textures and ornaments, with which not one in ten of her compeers, fellow-country-women, sisters in the great human family, could compete. It is a most unworthy and improper use to make of God's rich gifts. Let ostentations show be avoided as indecorous and wicked, while peculiar characteristics and individuality of taste may find proper and ample scope. I am not saying that "full dress" and ornaments should never be worn. There is a time for them, but not at church, or on the promenade, or in

a promiscuous assemblage. Let us, as American women, set a noble example to the world. Let us dare to be sensible and rational in studying our own convenience and comfort and being guided by our innate sense of propriety.

By so doing we shall doubly, respect ourselves and command the respect of all, while *humanity will be benefited*. For, there is no question that many of suicidal and unnatural customs in dress have dwarfed and enfeebled the race. The women of the present generation are unfit for maternity. Let them begin so to act and live, as not only to enjoy themselves in a newer and greater degree, but to ensure more of life and vitality to their children. Finally, it is each woman's duty to give whatever influence she may possess, to the promotion of anything that promises improvement, reformation and advancement in human welfare and happiness.

General Walker.

The latest news from Nicaragua is unfavorable to Gen. Walker, and his star is evidently on the decline. Whether he possesses real genius will soon be tested.—At this distance, and the little information we possess of recent occurrences, no definite conclusion or opinion can be formed as to ultimate results. Should he now succeed the world will pay him an ovation, no, much more—a triumph such as no Roman ever had. Should he fail, no language sufficiently expressive of condemnation can be had. Every step he has taken will be criticized, analyzed, and condemned. Walker has had our sympathies from the beginning, although we doubt whether "the end would justify the means." We never hear of an American in difficulties in other lands, that all our sympathies are not at once aroused in his favor. It is to us a kind of self-evident proposition—"Americans in a foreign land are always right."

THE SUGAR DUTY.—Gen. the Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun writes:

The burden of the sugar tax is severely felt, and complaints against the present rate of duties are very general. Gen. Houston's resolutions for an inquiry into the expediency of exempting the article from duty for two years will be considered by the Committee on Finance, whose report with sugar still on the rise, will be looked for with interest. The duty is thirty per cent., *ad valorem*, and therefore, the higher the price of sugar the higher becomes the duty. When sugars are cheap the tax is small, and when they are dear the duty becomes exorbitant and oppressive. The value of the sugar imported is about twenty-one millions, and of the domestic products fifteen millions. The duty operates as a tax upon the entire consumption of the article, and therefore, amounts to near twelve millions. Sugar, if duty free would be but eight cents where it is now, twelve, or six cents where it is now nine. It is probable that Gen. Houston's motive in limiting the exemption to two years, is to afford time for the resuscitation of the sugar culture in the South, and also, for the result of the experiments now about to be made with the Chinese sugar cane, which is found to be so prolific every where south of the parallel forty-two.

It is rumored, too, that a combined and formidable assault is to be made in Congress upon the railroad iron duty. The Southern, Western and Northern railroad interests may all be combined in favor of some measure, at this session, for their relief, by reducing, refunding or abolishing duties on railroad iron. For the promotion of the Pacific railroad enterprise a measure of this kind is to be strongly urged. The report of the Secretary of the Treasury does not propose any change in the rate of duties on iron and steel, but it forcibly urges the propriety of abolishing duties on wool and other raw materials, which duties are burden some taxes on production, and oppress unnecessarily the industry of the country.

Congress is expected to take up the subject of the tariff at this session, and the time is more favorable for the adoption of a "judicious tariff" at the close, than at the commencement of a party contest.

MOVEMENT OF TROOP.—The transport ship Arkwright, which arrived at Fort Monroe on Friday week from Tampa Bay, Florida, bound to New York, had on board three companies of 9d Artillery, with Col. Brown and family, Ely and Pratt, and Acting Adjutant Lieutenant Vincent.—The ship was to leave her dock at Norfolk and proceed to New York.

The Norfolk Argus of Monday has the following additional intelligence. Capt. Howe, in command of company G, 4th Artillery, and Lieut. Bennet, with fifty men, from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, arrived Sunday, 7th. These are a part of the permanent garrison of Fort Monroe.

The following are daily expected: Captain Totten, with company F, 2d Artillery, from Pensacola; Major Hunt and company from Washita, and Bragg's old company, now in command of Major Reynolds; company C, 3d Artillery, also from Washita and Col. Magruder's company, from Texas. Capt. Gibson's company will remain in Florida until Spring.

These will be permanently garrisoned at Old Point.

WINTER SPORTS AT BOSTON.—The ice upon Bullard's pond, in the suburbs of Boston, has during the week, afforded fine skating. The Traveller of Wednesday, says:

"Last night, between one and two hundred persons of all ages and both sexes were on the ice engaged in skating. There was, we are told, some excellent skating, especially by one or two young ladies, who seemed to be thoroughly at home upon the icy surface of the lake, exhibiting both as regards grace and swiftness a marked contrast to the rather cumbersome efforts of their worthy sires. During the evening, the *Marseilles* hymn was sung by the assembled people, and with fine effect."

Orders From Headquarters.

It must be apparent to an ordinary observer, having moderate business with that branch of the General Government over which Mr. Campbell presides—(we mean the Post-office Department)—that within the past few years greater number of circulars of "instructions to Deputy Post Masters" have issued than during any former administration. In the face of this, the service has been striding on from bad to worse, until now it is so low down in point of public interest, that the ravenous jaws of the public press has spit it out and will have nothing more to do with it. Many of the details of the service are left to the head of the Department to regulate, hence the sufficient reason why that functionary should be practical man. Judging from his official acts, the present chief of the Department is about as ill-fitted for the position as a man who has presided over it, since the formation of the Government. The circular to Deputy Post Masters in reference to the registry of valuable letters, requiring the sum of "five cents" for security of transmission, which has proven to be no security—the order, in "circular form," that Circulars, with any line or mark of printing on the outside, shall be charged with letter postage; and now, the order that all letters or Circulars addressed to an office or a "box" in an office, shall be returned to the Dead Letter Office, as some of the brightest edicts that have issued from Washington for the past year.

THE RIVERS ABOVE.—The St. Louis Intelligencer, of the 16th, says:

The river is still falling. During yesterday, I fell about fifteen inches—the channel was filled with floating ice all day, becoming thicker and heavier every hour.—We have no news from the Missouri, nor have we any from the Illinois from above Griggsville. It is believed that the Illinois river is gorged at Spring Lake, about fifty five miles below Peoria; there are several boats at that point that have been up three or four days. The James Lyon arrived from Keokuk yesterday morning, and from her officers we obtained the annexed news in reference to matters along river.

THE MON OF NOVELLS.—Within the last three years, the country has been flooded with novels mostly written by women.—We have been lately told that the sale of these books has fallen off astonishingly, and the demand has almost ceased. This fact should encourage the ladies to stop.—Go out washing, take in sewing, attend to the children, nurse the sick, do anything honest and useful, but do stop writing wistly-washy, namby-pamby, milk-and-water, sentimental love stories.—New York Observer.

LAND FEVER IN KANSAS.—Land speculators appear to have got on a full head of steam in Kansas, and we may soon expect to hear an explosion. A letter from Leavenworth says: "A lot containing 50 acres, lying half a mile from town, sold at private sale a day or two since for \$11,000! One of 83 acres for \$12,500. One of 16 acres for \$3000. Single lots 24 feet by 110 are selling from \$200 to \$2500! Small office buildings rent for \$500 per year."

MARRIED.

By Rev. Wm. H. GREENHAW, on Thursday evening, the 25th inst. Mr. J. WILLIAMS, of West Feliciana, and Miss JANE DETHAM.

On Tuesday evening, the 23d inst., in Buhler's Plains, by Rev. John M. GRAY, Mr. EZRA C. HOLMES, of Clinton, to Miss JULIA S. LILLEY.

The parties to this interesting affair, did not forget to observe a very ancient and honorable custom, which makes us indebted to them in thanks, for delicacies from the wedding feast. A special messenger came down with the intelligence, by whom we return our congratulations. May they enjoy the full measure of happiness which falls to the lot of mortals in that happy state of union, which should know no geographical distinctions—no dissensions.

FLOUR.—St. Louis "Extra," of choice family Flour, just received.

SUNDRIES.—Cherry Valley Butter—superior; Fine Candies—full weight; Winchester Soap; Olive Oil; Pearl Starch; Brooms, &c.

PIGS FEET.—Spiced Pigs Feet, in small packages, for family use.

WHISKY, BRANDY, &c.—Old Rye, Monongahela, Bourbon, No. 1, and Mazoni Whisky.

NEW BACON.—Sugar cured Hams, choice article; sugar cured Shoulders, choice article.

To all whom it may concern.

NOTICE is hereby given to forewarn all persons from trading for a note drawn by myself in favor of Wm. Jackson, for Sixty Dollars, (\$50 00), dated sometime in October, 1866. The consideration for which said note was given having failed, I will not pay it unless compelled by law.

A. REGER,
House, Sign, and Ornamental Painter,
Third Street, Baton Rouge.

Will attend promptly to all orders in this city and vicinity, for House, Sign and Ornamental Painting, Glazing, Gilding, Paper Hanging, &c.

Orders from the country solicited.

PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS.

WE HAVE just received a large quantity of fine, fresh GROUSE, PARTRIDGES, WILD TURKEYS, and other Game, for the holiday entertainments, and would be pleased to fill orders for our friends.

A. MONTAN & BRO.

SILKS! SILKS!
Another assortment of Fine Plaid and Black Silks, Saranges, Alpaca, Muslin De Lane, Calico; Ladies Cassimere Cloaks; Sattin, Tweeds, Camet, Jeans, French Cottons; Plaid and plain Travelling Dresses, &c.

J. A. TROUSDALE & CO.
Gazette and Advocate please Copy.