

resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, that it is with profound sentiments of regret that this House has heard of the death of the Hon. Alexander Mather of St. James.

Resolved, further, That as a tribute of respect for his memory, and as a sincere manifestation of the feelings of his colleagues, the members of this body will wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

Resolved, further, That as an additional mark of respect for the memory of the dead, this House do now adjourn until tomorrow.

The House adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 6, 1848.

SENATE.—Mr. Sigur presented a bill appropriating \$50,000 for the support of public schools in this State, and 15,000 for those of New Orleans, for the years 1846, '47, and '48. The rules being suspended, it was read a third time, and passed.

A number of bills and resolutions of no general importance were introduced, and the Senate at an early hour, went into executive session.

HOUSE.—The speaker laid before the House a communication from the Governor, informing the House that, under the resolution instructing him to contract for the statue of Washington, of life size, for the capitol at Baton Rouge, he had communicated with Hiram Powers, at Florence, who had accepted the commission, but suggested that the sum of \$5000 was inadequate. A letter from Hiram Powers was also read, in which he asked permission to make the statue above the life size, that the magnitude of the surrounding objects might not destroy and diminish the proportions to the eye. Referred to a special committee of three members.

Mr. Smith, of Orleans, reported a bill repealing the law establishing the interchange of judges in certain cases; also a bill repealing the act obliging the Attorney General to reside at Baton Rouge after January 1, 1849, also, a bill to increase the salary of the District Attorney to \$2,000, the office expenses to be paid by himself.

Mr. Smith made an unfavorable report on the proposal to incorporate the Ladies of the Sacred Heart, of St. Landry, as it is unconstitutional and there is already a law for the incorporation of scientific associations.

Mr. Smith also reported a bill to provide for the appointment of three persons to revise and consolidate the codes and all general laws, and appropriating the sum of \$12,000 as their compensation, to be paid as the work progresses, except the last payment of \$3000, which shall be paid upon the completion of the work. Passed and ordered to be sent to the Senate.

After some further business the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, Dec. 7th, 1848.

SENATE.—This body met, as usual at 10 o'clock, pursuant to adjournment, Lieutenant-Governor Landry in the chair.

On motion of Mr. Strickland, the bill of last session, providing for the sale of slaves born in the penitentiary from convicts sentenced to imprisonment for life—the sale to be made for the benefit of the school fund was amended so that the children of negro convicts will be sold when ten years of age, instead of eight, as previously provided. It was then passed.

Several bills for the relief of individuals and several local objects, were presented and referred.

The Committee of Internal Improvements reported a resolution instructing the State Engineer to examine the Bayous connected with False River. Adopted.

HOUSE.—The House assembled pursuant to adjournment.

A resolution from Mr. Smith, of Orleans, requesting the Governor to endeavor to obtain from the French Government documents pertaining to the early history of Louisiana, together with all land grants and deeds or copies thereof, was passed.

Digest.—A bill was reported by the same member, directing the appointment of three persons to make a digest of the Laws of the State, with a compensation of \$12,000; to receive their appointments from the Governor, confirmed by the Senate. It gave rise to considerable debate. Mr. Larue being of opinion that it was unconstitutional, as the Governor is the only authority to judge of the qualification of persons to be nominated.

Mr. Warfield remarked, in reference to a suggestion that these nominations be made, on the recommendation of the Judges of the Supreme Court, that the present reporter of the Supreme Court was appointed on the recommendation of the Judges—this was a precedent for the proceedings contemplated in the present bill

and the Judges were those whose opinions of this sort of qualifications were most worthy of trust.

Mr. Duncan said that the Governor was constituted, by the Constitution, the only judge of qualifications of those to be appointed to office.

On taking the question, there were 40 yeas, and 40 nays. The Speaker voted in the negative.

A bill, appropriating six hundred dollars for payment of the expenses of the Presidential election in this State, was read three times and passed.

FRIDAY, Dec. 8, 1848.

SENATE.—This body met as usual, at 10 A. M., pursuant to adjournment, Lieut. Governor Landry in the chair.

A resolution, which passed the House at the last session, providing for improving the navigation of the Bayou Tortu, was read a third time and passed.

HOUSE.—The House met at 11 o'clock, A. M., pursuant to adjournment.

State Seminary.—A resolution was submitted, requesting the Governor to appoint a commission to select the most eligible site for the erection of a State Seminary, and report to the next Legislature. It was referred.

A bill providing a sum not to exceed \$3000, for the payment of expenses incurred in mustering into service, for the Mexican war, volunteers from this State, was referred.

Magnetic Telegraph.—A bill in relation to this important agent, was submitted by Mr. Smith of Orleans. It renders it the imperative duty of all operators of the telegraph, to transmit all messages offered, and in the order in which they are offered, under a penalty for non-fulfillment of fine and imprisonment. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Public Schools.—The bill for the appropriation of \$555,000, for the schools, having been brought forward, a motion was made by Mr. Duncan, of St. Mary, to postpone the passage till the amendments referred to the Education Committee shall be laid before the House.

It was then stated by Mr. Phillips, for the Education Committee, that the amendments would not affect the appropriation. He, therefore, urged the passage of the bill.

Mr. Duncan thought that the course to be pursued was first to proceed with the amendments, and then vote on the bill.

Mr. Larue advocated its passage, forthwith. Considerable discussion ensued, on this point, which continued during the remainder of the sitting.

SATURDAY, Dec. 9th, 1848.

SENATE.—The Senate met this morning at 10 o'clock, the Lieutenant Governor in the chair.

A petition from certain inhabitants of the parish of St. Landry, complaining of being over assessed, was referred to the Finance Committee. [They say the over assessment is owing to the 3 per cent. allowed Assessors.]

Mr. Richardson called up a bill introduced at the last session of the Legislature to amend an act encouraging the culture of silk in this State. The amendment consists in offering a larger sum than previously provided as premium on each pound of silk produced in Louisiana during the next four years. It was referred.

Mr. Brashear called up his resolution for the division and completion of the Barrataria and Lafourche canal.

HOUSE.—The house met at half-past 10 o'clock.

The Committee on Finance reported a bill appropriating the sum of \$30,000 for the support of public schools during the years of 1846-'47-'48. This is a substitute for a bill introduced and referred to the committee, and is for the expenses incurred under the old system.

The Senate bill in relation to the cession of a portion of the Lafourche and Barrataria Canal Company, with provisions for placing the ceded portion in a navigable state, was taken up and read once.

A bootless endeavor to take the bill relieving the person who forfeited his recognition from the non-appearance of a culprit who stole a pair of boots, in the parish of St. Helena, was made. It was taken up, but indefinitely postponed.

The special committee to whom the subject of the Washington statue was referred, reported a joint resolution authorizing the Governor to contract on the most liberal terms with Hiram Powers for a statue of Washington, in the full confidence that he will faithfully execute the commission. By a suspension of the rules, the resolution was read three times and adopted.

The City Council of Savannah has adopted a resolution to invite General Taylor to pass through that city on his way to Washington, and to partake of its hospitality.

The California Gold Mines.

[Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun.]

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26.—It is reported, with truth and reason I believe, that Col. Mason, of the army, commanding our forces in California, has sent an official account of the extraordinary gold and quicksilver mines of California to the Secretary of War, and that similar accounts from officers in the navy have recently reached the Secretary of the Navy. The previous reports that all other kind of business, excepting digging for gold, is deserted, is confirmed, and the extraordinary price of flour, which is said to have risen to fifty dollars a barrel, maintained to the latest period. Solid lumps of gold have been found equal to \$4,000 in value.

The mines, with the exception of the property belonging to Messrs. Forbes & Suter, are public lands, estimated at a thousand millions of dollars. From this, of course, an equally enormous discount must be made. Gold and silver, like every other product of the soil, requires labor, and if that labor, as is in the accounts, is now remunerated at the rate of twenty dollars a day, the profits even of these wealthy mines must be limited. Alexander Von Humboldt has proved that the poor silver mines of Saxony are more profitable than the rich silver mines of Mexico, furnishing the silver dollar sixteen cents cheaper than it can be furnished in Mexico.

The gold region of California is said to extend on both sides of the Sierra Nevada, and to embrace a surface larger than that of the State of New York. If these discoveries are really of the importance these statements lead us to infer, they will probably be embodied in the respective reports of the Secretaries of the Army and Navy, as otherwise Congress itself will institute the inquiry, and demand an account of them. It is indeed a strange and mysterious fact, that while all other countries are involved in great national disasters, every thing seems to prosper in the United States, both in war and peace, and in our foreign and domestic relations.

If the above accounts which resemble, in more than one respect, the "Arabian Nights' Entertainment," are correct, the Governorship of California may prove to be a more desirable appointment under Gen. Taylor than a membership of his Cabinet, and some "disinterested" politicians will no doubt insist on the removal of Gen. Lane. Col. Jefferson Davis is already mentioned in connection with that appointment, too; but it is thought by many that Gen. Taylor will insist on having at least one intimate, private, personal friend in his Cabinet, and that friend is Col. Davis.

The following letter, published in the N. Y. Tribune, gives some idea of the difficulty in which all vessels on the coast are placed, on account of the desertion of their men to seek quicker fortunes on the banks of the Rio de las Plumas:

MONTEREY, Sept. 15, 1848.

Gentlemen—I embrace this opportunity to inform you of my situation, which is bad enough. All hands but two have left me: they will stay until the cargo is landed and ballast in, then they will go. Both mates will leave in a few days, and then I will have only the two boys, and I am afraid they will run. I have got all landed but 900 barrels: on Monday I shall get off ballast, if the weather is good, there is no help to be got at any price. The store ship that sailed from here ten days ago took three of my men at \$100 per month. There is nothing that anchors here but what loses their men. I have had a hard time in landing the cargo; I go in the boat every load. If I can get it on shore I shall save the freight. As for the ship she will lie here for a long time, for there is not the least chance of getting a crew. The coasters are giving \$100 per month. All the ships at San Francisco have stripped and laid up. The Flora, of New London, is at San Francisco—all left. You probably have heard of the situation of things here. A sailor will be up at the mines two months, work on his own account, and come down with from two to three thousand dollars, and those that go in parties do much better. I have been offered \$20 per day to go, by one of the first men here, and work one year. It is impossible for me to give you any idea of the gold that is got here.

CHRISTOPHER ALLYN,
Captain of the ship Izaak Walton.
Messrs. GREENNELL, MINTURN & Co.

It seems that we are to have another dose of the Benton and Butler affair, at the opening of the session of Congress. The talk at Washington is, that Benton will not let Butler alone, but will on the first opportunity in the Senate, demand an investigation of the charge that he violated any confidence in the publication of his resolution against General Kearny.

THE "LILLIPUTIAN WATCH."—At Mr. Louis Muh's, 41 Chartres street, is to be seen, in the form of a watch, the most astonishing specimen of mechanism; without doubt, that we have ever scrutinized. We think we hazard nothing in calling it the smallest watch in the world! How to describe it we hardly know. It is a perfect *bijou*. It is the work of Mr. Auguste Matthey, of Geneva, and was over three years in being completed. Of course, he was only occupied at intervals in producing this extraordinary piece of workmanship. This wonderful timepiece is perfect; keeps good time. It is about as thick as three half-dimes laid one upon another—including case, crystal and all, and measures in circumference just the size of a half-dime, it has a spring case of enamel, gold dial, and steel hands, cylinder escapement, with ten holes jeweled in ruby. It runs twenty-five hours without winding up. Besides, it is so arranged as to admit of being worn either in a brooch or finger-ring. It is, to our minds, in fact, a rare curiosity. But we have no farther space to describe it. An elaborate description of this pretty little watch, from the "Class of Industry" of the Fine Arts Association of Geneva, speaking in the highest terms of praise of its ingenuity as a sample of mechanism, may also be seen at the store of Mr. Muh, who authorizes us to say that he will give \$1000 reward to any watchmaker who will make a similar watch in the space of two years. He also goes farther, and promises to pay any one who will take the watch to pieces and put it together again, \$100—provided the first deposit its estimated value, (\$1500,) as a guarantee not to ruin it in the attempt. Mr. Matthey, the maker, is at 41 Chartres street.

In a subsequent number of the Picayune, from which paper we extract the above, a material error is corrected, in this respect, that the watch is only half the size of a half dime, instead of the half size of a dime, as stated in the foregoing.—[Ed. SENTINEL.]

Mysterious Disappearance.—The greatest excitement exists, at the present time among the usually quiet German portion of the citizens of faubourg Trémé, owing to the sudden and mysterious disappearance of a German gentleman, a merchant well known in this city, and long a resident of that faubourg. It appears the gentleman alluded to was rather unfortunate in his matrimonial connections; so much so, that he recently obtained a divorce in one of our courts, for infidelity on the part of his spouse, and was on the point of being married again, to an interesting and highly respectable young lady whose family resided in the vicinity of his residence. On Thursday morning last he left his home, for the purpose of being married. The bride and her relations were anxiously awaiting his arrival. No bridegroom appeared on that day or the next; and up to last evening, his friends have been unable to learn the slightest intelligence of him. To cap the climax of the mystery, and to strengthen the preconceived opinions of his friends, that he has been foully dealt with, his former wife—she from whom he had been divorced, has since presented herself at his residence producing a letter, purporting to have been written by the missing individual, giving her full authority and power to enter upon the possession of his property, real and personal. In this letter he expresses penitence for his previous difficulties with his wife, and a desire to recompense her for the wrongs he may have done her; and declares that it is impossible he can ever live happily as the husband of any one but the wife from whom he has been divorced, and to avoid this misery, and release himself from the embarrassments of his position he has determined to destroy himself. There are persons who doubt the genuineness of this letter, and many suspicious of foul play are indulged in the matter. We trust that a searching inquiry will be instituted into the affair, and the facts of the case be satisfactorily ascertained. Until this is done we refrain from giving the names of the parties.—Delta of Dec. 6.

SEA SERPENT.—Mantell, the geologist, after censuring M. Koch for his humbug fossil serpent, exhibited publicly some years, admits that there are forms of cartilaginous fishes living in the ocean that may resemble the sea serpent seen by the crew of the *Dædalus*. He says there cannot be an ophedian or true snake of that size.

The Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Journal of Commerce, says that Gen. Taylor is the own cousin of the Virginia "Orator" and politician, John Taylor, of Caroline, who was long distinguished as a soldier, an agriculturist, and a politician of the school of 1798—twice a Senator in Congress, and a voluminous writer on free government, free trade and good farming.

A very genteelly dressed woman was arrested in New York on Saturday, the 1st inst., for picking the pocket of a lady in Washington market.

POLICE JURY.

PARISH OF IBERVILLE.

Pursuant to law and adjournment the Police Jury met this 4th day of December, 1848. Present:

C. N. Bruslé, member of 2d ward and President; Paulin Dupuy, 3d do; T. W. Brown, 4th do; J. Mitcheltree, 6th do; Don L. R. Orillion, 7th do. The following proceedings were then had:

On motion, it was—

Resolved, That the parish Treasurer be and is hereby fully authorized and empowered by the Police Jury to collect of and bring suit in the name of the parish against all persons debtors of the parish.

On motion, it was—

Resolved, That in consequence of the delay in furnishing J. L. Petit, Parish Collector, with the Parish Tax Roll, he be allowed until 1st of June, 1847, for the final payment of the parish tax levied by the police jury for the year 1849, on condition that he shall pay the said tax into the Parish Treasury as collected.

An account amounting to \$92 95, was presented by Madam F. Shanks, of which on consideration, the sum of \$79 95 was allowed and the President allowed to draw.

An account amounting to \$30 00 was presented by Dr. J. L. Hornsby for attendance on Patrick Sheridan, an indigent sick individual, which was allowed and the President authorized to draw:

An account amounting to \$15 25 was presented by H. Sullivan, which was allowed and the President authorized to draw.

An account amounting to \$50 00 was presented by Peter Kelly, of which on consideration the sum of \$35 00 was allowed, and the President authorized to draw.

An account amounting to \$51 25 was presented by W. P. Bradburn for advertising notice of election, which, on motion, was allowed, and the President authorized to draw.

An account amounting to \$50 00 was presented by J. L. Petit, sheriff, for holding elections, &c., which, on motion, was allowed, and the President authorized to draw.

On motion, it was—

Resolved, That it shall be the duty of the Clerk of the Police Jury to furnish both newspapers publishing the proceedings of the police jury under contract, with a copy each of said proceedings in the French and English languages.

On motion of J. Mitcheltree, Esq., it was—

Resolved, that Messrs. Gallagher and Boot be required to show cause at the next meeting of the police jury why they should not be fined for non-attendance.

There being no other business before the police jury, on motion, it adjourned *sine die*.

C. N. BRUSLÉ, President.

Attest: J. SEDLEY WEBB, Clerk.

JURI DE POLICE.

Le Juri de Police se réunit conformément à la loi et a son ajournement, ce 4ème jour de Décembre 1848. Furent present:

C. N. Bruslé, Président et membre du 2ème arrondissement;
Paulin Dupuy, 3ème arr.
T. W. Brown, 4 " "
John Mitcheltree, 6 " "
D. L. R. Orillion, 7 " "

Il est résolu que le trésorier de la paroisse soit, et il est par le présent autorisé, assigner toutes personnes qui sont redevables à la paroisse.

En conséquence du délai en fournissant à J. L. Petit, collecteur, le Role des taxes, il est résolu qu'il ne sera tenu de faire paiement final que le 1er Juin, 1849, des taxes prélevés par le juri de Police pour 1847, à condition qu'il verse dans le coffre du trésor, toutes sommes des collectées.

Il est résolu que les comptes qui suivent, soient approuvés et paies conformément à la loi.

Madame F. Shanks,	\$79 95
Dr. J. L. Hornsby,	30 00
H. Sullivan,	15 25
Peter Kelley,	35 00
W. P. Bradburn,	51 25
J. L. Petit,	50 00

Résolu qu'il est enjoint au greffier du juri de Police, de fournir au deux journaux, copies des séances de ce corps en Anglais et en français.

Sur motion de J. Mitcheltree, il est résolu que Messieurs Gallagher et Boot soient tenu a faire leur excuse a la prochaine session pour leur non attendance celle ci.

Le juri s'ajourna *sine die*.
C. N. BRUSLÉ, Président.
J. SEDLEY WEBB, Greffier.