

Published by the Democratic Publishing Co. ROBERT TYLER, Editor.

TERMS OF THE PAPER: One year, \$10.00; Six months, \$6.00; Three months, \$3.50; One month, \$1.00.

Office—23 and 21 COMMERCIAL PLACE, F. R. SOUTHWAY, Business Manager.

Saturday, December 25, 1875.

We desire to say to the business men of all kinds and classes in New Orleans, that we are going to furnish a daily paper which will necessarily command a large circulation, as it will boldly advocate the right and denounce the wrong, and we confidently look for a substantial advertising patronage.

A MISTAKE IN THE TYPES.—In alluding to the new paper—the Cycle—issued at Mobile, Alabama, the editor's name, W. T. Walthall, Esq., was misprinted, while the business manager's name is Mr. Thames, and not Thomas.

We return our sincere thanks to our friends, Messrs. Mumford & Watson, of the City Hotel, for an invitation to their Xmas dinner to-day, which, judging from the menu, promises to be a most delightful entertainment.

THE LEVEE COMPANY.

Elsewhere we publish an advertisement the "Address to the Public by the Louisiana Levee Company," John Henderson, President.

We wish it distinctly understood that we do not, even by implication, give our sanction to this thing called the "Louisiana Levee Company," and, in general terms, for the following reasons:

1. The original charter of this company was obtained from the Warrenton Legislature—was a set of scamps as ever cursed civilization—and, no doubt, by the most corrupt means.

2. The present company purchased the franchises of the original company with a full knowledge of the odium attached to it, as well as a full knowledge of the utter detestation in which it was held by the good people of the State.

3. Because the company is not, and never has been (even if acting under a legitimate charter) peculiarly able to meet the exigencies of the vast undertaking of building and repairing the levees of the State, as is made manifest by their own showing.

4. Because we cannot regard as at all legitimate or proper a company of our own citizens organizing to build and repair levees with money gathered from the people by taxation, when the same money can be used by the State for the same purpose.

5. Because, beyond a peradventure, the prices received by the Levee Company for building levees is exorbitant, clear beyond the actual value of the work.

6. Because, whereas there was in the original charter obtained from the Warrenton Legislature one partially saving clause for the unfortunate planter—the clause for recovery of damages from the company in case of crevasse and overflow—the present company did prevail on the equally vile Kellogg Legislature to repeal said clause, thus fixing a contract with the company whereby they could safely tax the planter, but suffer no penalty in case of negligence or misapplication of funds.

Finally, the Louisiana Levee Company is part of a wretched system of monopolies, and is thus at entire variance with our ideas of good government.

THE GRAND JURY REPORT.

The report of the present Grand Jury on the Louisiana Lottery Company, which was presented to-day in the Superior Criminal Court, we lay before the public in another column. It deserves the careful reading and serious consideration of every good citizen who is interested in the welfare of this community. The document needs no comment at our hands. It speaks in no uncertain tone of a deadly evil, and was signed by every member of the Grand Jury. We commend the document especially to those prominent citizens who have, according to some of our contemporaries, been induced to lend their sanction to the approaching drawing, as also to the acting Attorney General of the State, to whom the Grand Jury commend a line of very proper action. We trust the Legislature will take steps immediately after organization to rid the State of the loathsome corporation.

The Decree of the U. S. Court in the Maehant Case.

We learn that the impression prevails at the City Hall that the injunction served upon the city and its officers, in the Maehant case, by Judge Woods, either on account of a clerical error or inadvertence of the Judge, falls, while the funds raised for the payment of interest on the consolidated bonds issued under the city charter for February 23, 1852, and held by the plaintiffs as being of the bondholders who did not consent to the terms of ordinance No. 3190, of July 14, 1875, for any purpose whatever, or order said holders to pay out to above mentioned holders of consolidated bonds the funds so restrained. This interpretation seems to present a very good authority that Administration has daily applications for consolidated bonds for

CHRISTMAS DAY.

No matter what are our heavier cares or lighter but still annoying troubles, we find at least a temporary amelioration of our perplexities in the sympathy of feelings, which seem to characterize all friends and enemies alike, on this quiet Neutral Day of the year dedicated by common consent, to our most amiable behavior, our best sentiments, our most acceptable charities and our gayest temper. Good old Telesophorus, the enlightened Pope, who established the blessed days as one for pious commemoration, for physical recreation, for charity and for merry-making throughout the combined Christian nations, certainly in doing so built himself a monument, by his Decretal, in the hearts of men which has already survived more than eighteen centuries, and will yet last, we trust, for thousands of happy generations dwelling in the centuries to come. It is true that the present Xmas day, the 25th of December, was not at first chosen as the exact time of our Savior's nativity, and in the East the month during which the wonderful Birth, so full of humanity and love and joy, occurred, was April in some places, and May in others. But Julius, the third, an accomplished Ecclesiastic, scientist and philosopher, having instituted an investigation for the purpose of fixing on a day absolutely correct, or as nearly correct as possible, after examining, it is said, carefully the tables of the calendars in the Roman archives, containing the best evidence to be attained in regard to the eventful period of Jewish history, in which Jesus of Nazareth lived, it was decided to celebrate the 25th of December, our present Christmas, as being the most appropriate. After full deliberation throughout Christendom, and final accordance between the East and the West, the authority of the day was universally accepted. Hence it is that in all parts of the globe, where our beneficent religion prevails, on this day, men engage in the same prayers, indulge in the same charitable thoughts, and indulge in the same innocent and hilarious festivities and enjoyments. Of course the mere forms in the observance of Christmas differ in many countries; but it is substantially the same thing everywhere. Holiday apparel, the ringing of bells, brief church devotion, songs, glad voices of acquaintances and friends, family reunions at dinner, evening gatherings for dancing and music, Xmas trees for children, such tribute to the poor as means will permit, wherever the Christian's hand is seen or his tongue is heard on the wide face of the earth, these are in the main his social practices on this Divine day.

It is curious to trace the origin of some of the ceremonies and decorations still practiced. The ringing of bells originated from the circumstance that it was supposed the Lord was born about the hour of midnight, and it therefore became the custom throughout England, France and Germany to usher in the first hour of the 25th (5th of January, old style) with these sounds of joy, as if to inform an awakening people of his birth. The evergreen decorations with ivy, holly, bay, laurel and mistletoe are derived, without doubt and not improperly assimilated, from the ancient Druidical worship which preceded the Christians in Europe. The expressions of "kissing under the mistletoe," or "whispering under the rose," are the result of Xmas gossip, or games, or love making, long before Harold the Saxon lord, and William the Norman gained at Hastings the crown of England, and the romance of Voltergen and Rowena is said to have transpired.

In the distant times the priests and people met together in the streets of the several cities, and with carols and instruments of music, and afterwards in the theatres with dramas and spectacles deemed suitable for the occasion, expressed the general mirth and happiness associated with the glorious day. The antiquarian curiosity in the shape of the "Xmasse carolles" printed by Winkin de Worde, in 1521, will show in what bad English our ancestors sung their joyous roundelays, but at the same time their eminent piety, goodness of heart and rollicking gayety hundreds of years ago. Indeed, while mankind have unquestionably vastly improved in material civilization, and in nothing more than in the pronunciation and reading of the English language itself, within the last century or two, we doubt very much whether there has been any remarkable advancement in those humane and fraternal sentiments which should accompany a more as well as a mental progress. The "Abbot of Misrule" have been banished, and the practical habits of this commercial age dispenses with their presence and former services, but their large and genial hospitality, their loaded boards in the hall, their larders full of meat, their cellars full of drink, their warm yule log, their pity and blessings for the poor, their jokes, and conjuring and forfeits, and merry dances and music, cause them to be remembered as a type of the most exalted humanity of the period, as bright and much more unfading than their own overgreens.

In America, even now in the land of the Puritans who were once fanatically opposed to Xmas because it was associated originally with Catholic history and worship, but whose grim and most unreasonable prejudices have been much softened if not entirely removed, we celebrate this day for the most part as one affording an opportunity for an exhibition of affectionate interest by each member of a family towards the others, in the gathering of old and young around the family table at dinner, and in the parlors at night, in not being unwilling witnesses to the rich gifts that Santa Claus brings to the little ones in the morning, and to the much admired and coveted treasures that elder sisters and brothers or loving mothers have placed in the branches of the fairy tree at night. All those that ever remember the poor as human brethren, also always think of them during these festive hours with compassion, and make a proper provision for the weak, the sick and the needy out of their own comparative

this country we generally, as a people, so conduct the celebration as to be cheerful and happy ourselves, and to try to make others as much so as our rather selfish natures will permit. There is very little poetry left in our Xmas of 1875; but still, it must be confessed, much substantial comfort. With our respectful and warm salutations to all, we wish our readers and all friends health and happiness and a "Merry Xmas."

THE PRINCIPLE FOR WHICH OUR MAYOR CONTENTS.

It is a matter of the utmost importance for the people to bear fully in mind that the chief point in the recent message of our honored Mayor is his main protest against the outrage of bestowing the taxing power on those irresponsible bodies of unscrupulous partisans known as the Police and School "boards."

If there be a fundamental principle of Republican government worth fighting for, it is that of "No taxation without representation." and if that great principle is to be maintained, these legislatures (presumed to be the representatives of the people) must be made to feel that they cannot delegate to any "board" the power to tax at all, much less to tax indefinitely, and without responsibility.

In the proper organization of our republican form of government legislatures have been and very justly and properly very jealous in the bestowal of the privilege on city, town and county corporations of fixing even a prescribed tax on their own people for their own benefit; and it is within the observation of every intelligent man that even this privilege has been grossly abused. But what a monstrous outrage is it on the commonest rights of freemen to delegate to a board selected by a Governor the power to tax without limit.

And then when we contemplate the appalling facts that this very Governor is not the choice of the people, but is an usurper of the vilest kind, and that his appointees are in many instances vagabond aliens, without material or any other interests here beyond that of living and fattening off the reduced substance of the people, we can only wonder that not before this has the great contest inaugurated by the Mayor been raised.

The great principle for which our forefathers liberally plunged into a physical conflict of seven long years with the mother country, and that which illustration compared to that which is on this people. Rather than drink taxed without their consent, the people of Boston pitched the cargoes into the sea and took to their muskets for support; the taxes levied by the Police and School Boards are to rivet the chains of slavery on our wrists and to degrade our system of education to the standard of the usurper and the carpet-bagger.

Never was more important issue made than this one by our brave and patriotic Mayor. The Administrators must stand by him. They were put in office through herculean exertion of the people for the purpose of relieving the people. Nobody can more properly make the great and vital issue of resistance to despotic unrepresentative law than the constituted local authorities of a great city claiming to exist under republican government. For the Administrators to sit quietly in their seats and administer laws upon this people which they know to be oppressive, destructive and unrepresentative, is to be only as useful as Radical Councils have been and would be again. Until they have publicly determined to do so, we shall have the fullest faith that they are the faithful and patriotic servants of an oppressed people.

OFFICIAL ACTS.

Before he was drawn by force from the Governorship to which the people of Louisiana had elected him by a large majority, Gov. McEnery had not only issued many commissions, but the following regularly authenticated writ of election to the supervisors of the several parishes, to which it was directed, for the purposes as stated. This fact disposes of the Blaine question, to which such a prompt answer was given, and by which it was denied on the floor of the House of Representatives that Gov. McEnery had ever performed a single official act. We publish the paper showing an official act by the Governor, before he was interrupted by Grant's power in favor of usurpation, and actually forced to yield his office, and to see the rights of the people overwhelmed. The paper is as follows:

STATE OF LOUISIANA, Office of State Registrar of Voters, New Orleans, La., Feb. 21, 1873.

Esq., Supervisor of Registration, Parish of ———

Sir—Your attention is respectfully invited to the subpoenaed writ of election, issued by his Excellency John McEnery, Governor of the State of Louisiana, to wit:

WRIT OF ELECTION—OFFICIAL. STATE OF LOUISIANA, Executive Office, New Orleans, Feb. 19, 1873.

Whereas, the Senate of the State of Louisiana did, on the 19th day of February, 1873, by the constitutional two-thirds vote of its members, declare the following named Senators expelled from the Senate, to-wit: A. E. Barber, A. B. Harris, J. H. Ingraham, P. F. Herwig, M. H. Twitchell, Edward Butler; and

Whereas, the seats of the following named Senators were declared vacant, to-wit: O. H. Brewster, T. B. Stamps, E. L. Webber and T. C. Anderson; and

Whereas, official information of such vacancies has reached me in accordance with law; and, therefore, I, John McEnery, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do issue this my writ of election to the Supervisors of Registration in the parishes and Senatorial Districts hereinafter named, ordering and directing them to hold elections for Senators for their respective Districts, in accordance with act No. 89, approved November 20, 1872, as follows: One Senator from the Tenth Senatorial District, composed of the parishes of Calcasieu, Lake, and Iberville, to-wit: T. C. Anderson; One Senator from the Eleventh Senatorial District, composed of the parishes of Ouachita and Caldwell, to fill the unexpired term of O. H. Brewster; One Senator from the Fifth Senatorial District, composed of the parish of Plaquemine and the Right Bank of the parish of Orleans, to fill the unexpired term of Edward Butler. One Senator from the Fifteenth Sena-

of Concordia and Avoyelles, to fill the unexpired term of A. B. Harris.

One Senator from the Twelfth Senatorial District, composed of the parishes of East Feliciana, West Feliciana and Iberville, to fill the unexpired term of E. L. Webber.

One Senator from the Twenty-second Senatorial District, composed of the parishes of Natchitoches, Red River, E. Barbe and St. Helena, to fill the unexpired term of M. H. Twitchell.

Two Senators from the First Senatorial District, composed of the First, Second and Third Wards of the parish of Orleans, to fill the unexpired terms of E. Barber and A. B. Harris.

One Senator from the Third Senatorial District, composed of the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Wards of the parish of Orleans and the parish of St. Bernard, to fill the unexpired term of J. H. Ingraham.

One Senator from the Sixth Senatorial District, composed of the Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Wards of the parish of Orleans and the parishes of St. Charles, Jefferson and St. John the Baptist, to fill the unexpired term of T. B. Stamps.

Said elections to be held and due notice thereof to be given within the limit of time required by law, and the returns thereof to be made in accordance with the provisions of the act aforesaid.

Given under my hand and the seal of the State, this nineteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, and the ninety-seventh of the independent United States of America. (Signed) JOHN MCENERY, By the Governor: S. ARMISTEAD, Secretary of State.

A true copy: WALTER S. LONG, Ass't Sec'y of State.

You are consequently directed to designate the day upon which you propose to hold the election for Senators in your parish, and notify this office to that effect.

Very respectfully, Your obedient servant, State Registrar of Voters.

THE ANNUAL ESTIMATES BEFORE CONGRESS.

The Estimate for 1876 Twenty-one Millions and a Half in Increase of the Last Fiscal Year.

IMPERIALISM AND EXPENSES HAND IN HAND. ECONOMY AND PURITY IN ADMINISTRATION NEEDED.

(Cincinnati Commercial.) The Book of Estimates sent in to Congress by the Secretary of the Treasury last week, presents a total array of public expenditure that is alarming.

The estimates called for in the aggregate for every department of the public service amount to the gross sum of \$314,612,938 48. This exceeds the estimates sent in a year ago for the current fiscal year to the amount of \$4,581,838 52. But the actual excess of the estimated wants for the next fiscal year, beyond the appropriations made by Congress for the current one, is the enormous sum of \$21,446,539 91. That is to say, Congress appropriated for the fiscal year 1875-6, a little over 233 millions, whereas the estimates for the fiscal year 1876-7 exceed 314 millions.

We have said that this account presents an alarming state of things; and in the present greatly depressed condition of the country, when the weight of taxation is so severely felt by the people, it would be less than two or three times as monstrous that increased instead of diminished expenditures to the amount of over twenty-one millions should be called for by the Administration. The last Congress certainly appropriated less than the new Congress does lavishly. It appropriated for many new sources of expenditure and enlarged many old ones; and yet the first thing that is done, now that a new Congress assembles, is to ask for an increase in the appropriations.

It is not only the new Congress that is doing this, but the old Congress, too. It has increased its appropriations for the current year, and the Department of Justice, which knows off a little matter of \$37,000 from its demands of nearly \$4,000,000 per annum.

There is in any economy, retrenchment or reform visible anywhere in the atmosphere of Washington, it is clear that it is not to be looked for in the departments and bureaus of the Administration. It is the settled function of every official to make his demands for money, and to extend his patronage.

Whatever may be their creed about the currency, it is abundantly evident that these officials, as regards public expenditure and official patronage, are big game hunters, and that they are not to be deterred by any more than inflation, and not of contraction. Their aspirations after making this not only the most splendid, but the most expensive Government on the face of the earth, must be curbed by a vigilant Congress, and by the people.

We propose to make a brief analysis of some of the items of expenditure estimated in the next quarter volume of 318 pages of rule-and-figure work just laid upon the tables of members of Congress, and containing the estimates of appropriations required for the service of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1877. We will begin with Congress itself, and we must remark at the outset that if members of the new House of Representatives would like to establish a reputation with the country for sincerity in professions, as well as economy in practice, they will do well to find out what the total increase of \$1,900,000 estimated for under the general head of Congress over the expenditures of the current present year is wanted for. If they will look into this, they will find that the heaviest item of increase is a claim for \$1,000,000 for the Department of the Interior, to-wit: for the Court of Claims, a court created by the Congress some twenty years ago for the audit of all sorts of claims against the Government of the United States. This is a most expensive court to the tax-payers, and asks for \$1,000,000 more than the other courts, and for the same reason, judgments which are or may be rendered by it in favor of suitors against the Government whose claims have not been allowed by the auditing officers of the Treasury under any existing laws.

ground (maintained by some extreme economist) that the man who has to prosecute a claim against the Government of his country is *prima facie* a defrauder, and ought to be treated as such because he could not recover it under the ordinary system of vouchers established by law. We do not say that the history of successful suits in the Court of Claims, and in the Department of the Interior, Pacific Railroad cases, exhibits many judgments that were paid that ought never to have been allowed. The number and variety of cotton claims alone growing out of the country, and the property during and since the war are so great, and the thousands and millions recovered by claimants under manufactured evidence presented so formidable a showing as to have called for a special remittance both in the report of the Attorney General in the last annual message of the President. We very much fear that there is small hope of getting these cotton judgments of which the tax-payers must yet be mulcted, seriously diminished under the present House of Representatives. But when the Court of Claims calls for \$2,000,000 for the coming year against only \$400,000 appropriated by Congress for the present one, it becomes the unquestioned duty of that body before it passes this large appropriation to find out what the money is for.

The next largest item of increase under the head of Government expenditure is in the estimates of the Congressional Printer for the public printing and binding. These exceed the appropriations for the present fiscal year, which were \$1,665,597 66, to the amount of \$374,788 90. This is a pretty big bill of increase for times of retrenchment and reform. Nearly \$400,000 in the aggregate is to be added to the public printing and binding, or about twenty per cent increase over the enormous expenditure of the present year. We think it is about time that some of the items of expenditure, which amounted to \$2,000,000 for the present year, should be looked into.

Especially is this the case where, as included, as is currently reported, large amounts of Russia and Morocco leather, and gold leaf for binding of extra copies of the reports of the various departments, and their political and personal friends throughout the country. This is ministering to the vanity of little officials at the expense of the taxpayers, while it is an absurd and grotesque violation of the public trust.

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ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC BY THE Louisiana Levee Company.

OFFICE: LOUISIANA LEVEE COMPANY, No. 28 Canal Street, New Orleans, Nov. 13, 1875.

To the Public: The undersigned, President of the Louisiana Levee Company, in behalf of the directors and stockholders of said company, deems it his duty to the public and to the stockholders to publish the following statements in correction and refutation of the persistent misstatements and false accusations made regarding us and our motives and actions through the press of New Orleans.

The parties, not ourselves, who formed the Levee Company, and originally contracted with the State of Louisiana for the building and maintenance of levees, in February, 1871, found themselves wholly unable to comply with their contract for want of capital. The State had previously issued more than \$6,000,000 of bonds for levee construction purposes, under Boards of Commissioners; which bonds were much depreciated in value in the market, and the State was powerless to raise further means for continuing the work of levee maintenance. She had no money and could no longer get the work done on credit. The levees were broken and gone in very many places, and the country was in a state of desolation. A portion of the State was certain to be inundated during the next floods of the river.

The State could not build the levees, and the new Levee Company, as then constituted, was equally powerless to proceed with the work it had undertaken. Such was the situation in November, 1871.

At this juncture a few gentlemen, including among their number several bank presidents, large landed proprietors, and capitalists, all resident citizens of long standing, who thought they would thereby render the State good service, met together and agreed to incorporate and invest a portion of their funds, and undertake to do what neither the State, the new Levee Company, nor the riparian proprietors could do.

They acquired, as the only means of operating and of having the levees built, (for the one-half of the cost) the franchise and contract of said Company. They then jointly contributed and paid in upwards of \$100,000 in cash, for a capital, in December, 1871, and commenced to rebuild such levees as the State, through its Board of Commissioners, had designated as most necessary, and ordered for construction. They built every levee so ordered, and complied with all the requirements of their contract stipulations as designated to them by the State as the proprietor of the levees, through her officials.

By the use of their own capital, and at their own credit, they succeeded in building upwards of one hundred levees completely, with many others at the same time under process of construction, before receiving one dollar of compensation therefor from the State.

To October, 1872, they built levees amounting to the aggregate of 2,277 1/2 cubic yards, for which \$1,534,556 60 was due, and on account of which only \$229,000 had been paid to them by the State. The Levee Company has paid to its sub-contractors, on an average, from first to last, nearly thirty-five cents per cubic yard on a cash basis, besides defraying all of incidental and other necessary expenses. The Company's loss, in interest alone on the unpaid balances past due by the State for work actually performed, say on about \$1,500,000, at ten per cent for three and a half years, amounts to \$525,000. The balance due the Levee Company on the first of November, 1872, for work actually performed, was \$1,305,556 60. The printing of this report, and the construction and repair funds, was over one and a half millions of dollars.

We have built 5,617,553 cubic yards of levees in all, and the amount charged to the State for construction and repairs is \$2,295,347. It is said that the Levee Company has made a profit on its contract. If so, how? It is that stock, the face value of which is fifteen dollars (\$15) per share—on which no cash dividends have ever been paid—is now selling at prices varying from only two dollars to three dollars per share.

The facts are that the entire amount received from the State, so far—\$1,534,556—has been expended in levee construction, and disbursements connected therewith. In addition to the amounts received from the State, we have advanced and expended out of our own means, obtained from other sources, \$700,000, or about seven hundred thousand dollars, in interest on the time; for which we have received little else than abuse, coming from anonymous writers to the public, and which abuse was detested, in some cases, by those whose venality had been disappointed by our refusal to submit to the exactions of "blackmail," and, in other cases, emanating from the vindictive feelings of discharged employees.

How many business men in New Orleans, or anywhere else, would be willing to contract to build levees for the State of Louisiana at fifty cents per cubic yard, and wait a year or more to be reimbursed, with interest, after paying an average of thirty-five cents per cubic yard in cash, or its equivalent, to sub-contractors, interest on all loans, and other incidental expenses in addition? They would find the actual cost per cubic yard for levees at least forty cents—all expenses included.