

THOS. MCINTYRE is our duly authorized agent at New Orleans.

Masonic Celebration To-Morrow.

The Natchitoches Lodge, Phoenix No. 38, of Free and Accepted Masons, will commemorate to-morrow, 27th December—the anniversary of the birth-day of St. John, the Evangelist, one of the most worthy time-honored patron saints of the Ancient Order of Masonry.

The origin of this Charitable and Honorable Order is almost co-extensive with that of Time. Founded—tradition informs us—by King Solomon, the wisest of men, to whom Masonic Lodges were dedicated from the building of the first Temple at Jerusalem to the Babylonian captivity.

From that time to the coming of the Messiah, they were dedicated to Zerubbabel, the builder of the second Temple; and from that time to the final destruction of the Temple by Titus, in the reign of the Emperor Vespasian, they were dedicated to St. John, the Baptist. A meeting was held in the city of Benjamin, when St. John, the Evangelist, at that time Bishop of Ephesus, was appointed to the office of Grand Master to direct affairs.

After his death all Masonic Lodges were dedicated to him and St. John, the Baptist, as being eminent Christian patrons of Masonry. Since which time the Masons have celebrated the 24th of June in commemoration of St. John, the Baptist, and the 27th of December in commemoration of St. John, the Evangelist.

Kingdoms and Empires have arisen and perished; fire and sword have deluged the world with blood, yet this noble Order has withstood them all, and still exists in every land and in every clime as a living monument to the good deeds and shining virtues of civilized man.

Yesterday—the time-honored annual Christian festival—Christmas, was duly observed in this place by all. The heavy cares of worldly affairs were forgotten in the midst of conviviality and mirth.

The weather for the past week or two has been warm—almost oppressive, rather reminding one of Spring than Winter.

The River at Grand Ecore is reported as falling. At this point it cannot recede much—and be a river.

One of the colored members of the Convention to frame a Constitution for this State proved his eligibility by serving a term in the Orleans parish work-house.

The resolution providing for the issuance of State bonds to the amount of \$300,000, passed the Convention by a vote of 57 yeas, to 32 nays.

The Republican National Executive Committee at Washington, it is said, were to purchase these bonds at 65 cents on the dollar, but afterwards declined the idea. At last accounts, five per cent. could not be realized.

There were 13,000 desertions from the United States army last year. The total number of enlistments were 34,000.

To successfully overthrow and annihilate the hostile Indians, by the United States Army, Gen. Augur estimates, would cost ten millions of dollars a week for two years.

Forty long-winded speeches were lost to the world by the summary squelching of impeachment.

Chinamen cannot testify in California courts, notwithstanding the Civil Rights Bill.

The Memphis Avalanche says there are twenty thousand starving negroes in Memphis, living in filth and rags, who are kept alive only by stealing. Deplorable as this may be, it is the case to a greater or less extent in every Southern town and city.

The Secretary of the Treasury has asked for additional appropriations for the present fiscal year, amounting in the aggregate to \$16,564,000. The Senate Committee on Military Affairs have decided that hereafter brevet commissions shall only be issued in time of war.

The Chicago Journal says that Southern conservatism is dead. If it is, the Radicals are afraid to pass the graveyard.

NEGROES BEFORE THE COURTS.—Their Intelligence.—There has been a correspondent of the Cincinnati Enquirer taking observations in this State. From one of his recent letters we make the following extracts:

I saw, upon entering town, at Springfield, La., at least two hundred head of the "cellud" portion of imposed citizens, sitting, lying, standing and walking around, apparently enjoying their freedom by trying to crowd legitimate citizens out of the town. I inquired what this gathering of dark elements was significant of. I was informed that this was a specimen of the future grand and petit juries. There were eighty drawn and summoned to appear for a final drawing, and some of these were those who had appeared agreeable to summons, each one, from his countenance, wishing he may be so lucky as to hold what he supposed to be some lucrative office. Some of them appeared much more sanguine than others, some displayed as much anxiety as I before now have seen exhibited at a drawing of the Kentucky State Lottery, while others seemed downcast.

At length I approached one of those supposed Black Republican Radical office seekers, and asked him if he was one of those drawn on the jury.

"Yes sah, I is dat," was his reply. "I worked 'nuff in de field, an' am gwine to hab an office, and do 'nuffin, like de white folks," he further stated.

"What office are you going to hold?" asked I.

"I se gwine to be de man what sends white folks to jail," says he.

"What office is that," I asked, "is it Judge, Sheriff or Constable?"

"No sah!" was his reply, "none of dem low down billets; dem good 'nuff for dese Rads, but dey ain't good nuff for a Union man like me. I se gwine to be de jury, sah."

I asked him if he knew what a jury was?

"Of course I does," says he, "It means if I see a white man or a black man who don't 'have hisself, an' I tell him to 'have three times an' he don't do it, to koteh him an' put him in de place of 'finement, and keep him dare till he does 'have hisself."

Seeing that it was useless to argue the point with him, I complimented him upon his superior intelligence, and wished him a very good day. Meanwhile the jury was drawn, and it so happened that my intelligent contraband did not be so lucky (as I should say if it was me) to escape; he was drawn. Subsequently the Judge, upon the appearance of the District Attorney, discharged the jury, whereupon this darkey became wrathful, and swore vengeance against the Judge, and said he would tell the General about that.

I must relate another incident which happened a short time previous, when the sheriff was serving the summons, I happened to be at a certain house where one of the number drawn made his home. The sheriff rode up and inquired for a colored man named Tom. Tom appeared. The sheriff gave him his summons.

"What's dis for?" says woolly.

"That is a summons to serve on the grand jury," says the sheriff; whereupon he read it to intelligent (?) nig.

Nig responded by saying, "I's done 'nuffin; what you take me for?" whereupon he turned on his heel very suddenly, saying he would just step inside the house a moment, and in less time than I have taken to write this Mr. Nig was seen leaping the fence in rear of the house and making double-quick time through the under-brush, and he has not been seen or heard of since in this neighborhood. Your correspondent, however, saw him a few days afterward on the railroad, near Amite City, thirty miles from here.

THE ARMY REGISTER.—The army register for this year is just out, and will be laid before Congress soon. It bears date August 1, 1867. The regular army at that time consisted of one general, one lieutenant general, five major generals, 19 brigadier general, 88 colonels, 103 lieutenant colonels, 291 majors, 2528 other commissioned officers of other grades, and 51,605 enlisted men, making the entire strength of the regular army 54,641 men.

Major Generals according to rank are Halleck, Meade, Sheridan, Thomas and Hancock; Ten Brigadier Generals according to rank are McDowell, Cook, Pope, Hooker, Schofield, Howard, Terry, Ord, Canby and Rosseau. Besides there are Brigadier Generals as follows: Rawlins, Chief of Staff; Thomas, Adjutant General; Holt, Judge Advocate General; Eaton, Commissary General; Brice, Paymaster General; Humphreys, Chief Engineer; and Dyer, Chief of Ordnance.

Col. R. B. Marey is ranking Inspector General and Col. A. J. Myer Chief Signal Officer. There are twenty officers in the Adjutant General's Department, and ninety in the Quartermaster General's Department, five in the Pay Department, and 222 in the Medical Department, besides hospital stewards. The army is organized with ten regiments of cavalry, five of artillery, and forty-five of infantry.

REALITY AND IMAGINATION.—Sometimes there are living beings in nature as beautiful as romance. Reality surpasses imagination; and we see breathing, brightening, and moving before our eyes sights dearer to our hearts than any we ever beheld in the land of sleep.

An editor wrote a leading article on the fair sex, in the course of which he said: "Girls of seventeen or eighteen are fond of beans." When the paper was issued he was rather shocked to discover that an unfortunate typographical error had made him say, "Girls of seventeen or eighteen are fond of beans."

He had better use the French plural (beaux) hereafter.

There is a cloud hovering over the State of Massachusetts in the shape of a public debt. The amount is small—only \$27,688,213.

A PLEA FOR MEAN MEN.—The Missouri Republican has a correspondent, who undertakes the thankless task of defending mean men. He endeavors to prove in an elaborate essay the superiority of the "mean man" to the "good fellow" of our period. And in good sooth, he comes nearer to success in his task than it is polite to acknowledge.

One thing that a mean man is remarkable for is his reliability. You always know where to find him. Ask him to contribute to a testimonial for Fodgers; or to subscribe for the relief of Smuggers. He says no. But he also acts no. He don't give a cent. But put the same appeal to a "good fellow," and he says, "Certainly, my dear boy; put me down for a Y." And you do put him down for a Y, subsequently enjoying the privilege of making the subscription good out of your own pocket. For "good fellow" always says yes, but never acts yes.

So far we have discoursed on the text given by our topic. Now let the correspondent speak for himself.

Who makes the best husband? At the risk of bringing down a torrent of maledictions on my unprotected head, I shall still adhere to the man who is supposed to have no heart or genuine human sentiment. The good fellow for a lover, the mean man for a husband. The latter will rob all creation to supply his household; the former will rob his family to accommodate his friends.

Form all the married women in St. Louis in a solid column up and down Fourth street, and if I don't get ninety-nine votes out of one hundred in favor of my proposition, I will treat the drinking community to a barrel of gin and water on the occasion of the first election for a female president. Good fellow, all love; mean man, all business. One takes his wife to the opera in a four-horse carriage, the other rides triumphantly in a street omnibus. The good fellow never can be cross to anybody but his wife, for fear of making himself unpopular; the mean is so sour with all the best of the world that he has not one particle of ill-temper to spare at home.

"Love rules the camp, the court, the grove, For love is heaven and heaven is love."

but it won't buy beef. Mean man seldom gets "salubrious;" he is too mean. His wife is never jealous. She knows all women hate him because he is mean, and she rather likes it. She laughs and grows fat. Good fellow drinks; too kind hearted to refuse, and he loves everybody. Good fellow's wife pale and emaciated, decrepit with care and full of sorrows; mean cuss's wife hale and hearty; fat, red faced, and weighs a ton. Am I right.

Somebody locates the following in the Granite State:

A couple had quarrelled during the whole long term of their married life. At last the husband was taken ill and evidently about to die. His wife came to his bedside, where, after she had seen his condition, the following colloquy ensued:

"W'y, daddy, your feet are cold, and your hands are cold and your nose is cold!"

"W'y, daddy, you are going to die!"

"W'al I guess I know what I'm 'bout."

"W'y, daddy, wat's to becom of me if you die."

"Duno, and don't care! Wat I want to know is, wat's to becom of me?"

When Brooks, a much smaller man than Sumner, came him, the Boston pet did not attempt to resent it; but went to Europe to have the Duchess of Sutherland, and other abolition dames, bathe his bruised cranium and heal his wounded honor. When a German Baron grew sweet on Mrs. Sumner, the brave Senator did not challenge him; but wrote a letter to Bismark, reflecting on his wife's honor and requesting the recall of the offender. Such is the honor of the Radical leader of the Senate.

Mr. Samuel Edwards, in a letter written from Brazil, to a friend in Vicksburg, which we find in the Telegraph of that city, uses the following pertinent language:

We have been most woefully deceived by the men who have come here for the purpose of settling colonies. I look upon them as a parcel of speculators, I might say impostors, and I hope they will get their reward, if not in this world, in the other. There are many here who came here from their representations, who are now in a state of destitution and want, and are compelled to stay as it is their only alternative. I can see nothing but misery staring them in the face.

Physiognomy is a true science. The man of profound thought, the man of ability, and, above all, the man of genius, has his character stamped by nature; the man of violent passions and the voluptuary have it stamped by habit.

NEGRO OPINION OF WHITE RADICALS.—A correspondent of the Savannah Daily Advertiser says:

A few nights since, passing a church where freedmen love to congregate, we overheard a conversation which amused us, and may not be uninteresting to your readers. Sam and Joe were cozily seated on the steps, when Sam remarked, "Joe, why don't you go to de league now, like you used to do?" Says Joe, "De fac is, I don't like de white trash dat belongs to it. You see, dat is 'society anybody can jine, white or colored, and de white folks dat is jined are berry small taters, few in a hill, rotten in de middle, pithy at both ends, and mighty stingy at dat, and I don't want to have nothin' to do wid 'em."

Sam's hearty response was, "dat's de blessed troof."

A convention of old maids is to be held at Little Rock Ark., "to gain a true knowledge of the nature and attributes of man." Matrimony is the shortest road to the knowledge they are in search of.

THE ABSURDITY OF DRINKING.—It has become a sort of popular—almost national—faith that it is not possible to be truly happy unless you drink. Among certain classes—and they are by no means the lowest—drink is the beginning and end of everything. The very name of liquor is held to be synonymous with enjoyment, and the clearer the liquor the more it is prized and coveted. Yet every man who is not a downright drunkard, is well aware that the pleasures of drinking are, beyond a certain point, a mockery, a delusion, and a snare. I put it to any one who has stood half the night at a bar or sat half the night in a club-room, drinking, smoking, and bandying reckless talk, if the enjoyment of such an evening has been anything like that of a few quiet hours spent at home with a book or newspaper? The evil influence of tavern pleasure on the health is too obvious to be denied by any one, and the illusory nature of the pleasures themselves would be undeniable also, if the persons who indulge in them did not deceive themselves and put the truth out of sight.

No one ever brought any good out of a drinking bout yet. It is a short, feverish spasm of animal enjoyment, which leaves nothing behind but remorse, regret, headache, bad temper, and self-reproach. I should like to ask you, sir, if you say your prayers when you come home in that state? No, you don't. You are ashamed to say them. You postpone them until you have purged yourself, your mind, and your lips by more sober and rational behavior. Next night when you pass the hours quietly at home with a book or a friend, you feel that you have had real enjoyment, and that the time has passed pleasantly, that you have learned something, and that you have not injured your health. You are not ashamed to say your prayers, and you get up next morning with a clear head, a good appetite, and an increased faculty for work and enjoyment of life.

SOUND AND FURY.—Gen. Sheridan had a "triumphant reception" at St. Louis. Drums beat and trumpets brayed. The day following this ovation, the hat was passed round among the "trooly loil, but they had no money. It is suggested that Sheridan settle the bill. If he does not, the next military hero that comes along will have to blow his own horn and beat his own tinpan.

The Californian publishes the following from a Sunday school address delivered in that State, with the view of inculcating moderation and kindness on the part of the strong toward the weak: "You boys ought to be kind to your little sisters. I once knew a bad boy who struck his little sister a blow over the eye. Although she didn't fade and die in the early summer time, when the June roses were blowing, with sweet words of forgiveness on her pallid lips, she up and hit him over the head with a rollingpin, so that he couldn't go to Sunday school for more than a month, on account of not being able to put his best hat on."

KIND INQUIRIES.—Cousin Kate was a sweet, wide-awake beauty of about seventeen, and she took it into her head to go down on Long Island to see some relations of hers who had the misfortune to live there. Among those relations there chanced to be a young swain who had seen Kate on a previous occasion, and, seeing, fell deeply in love with her. He called at the house on the evening of her arrival, and she met him on the piazza where she was enjoying the evening air in company with two or three of her friends.

The poor fellow was so bashful that he could not find his tongue for some time. At length he stammered out: "How's your mother?"

"Quite well, thank you."

Another silence on the part of Josh, during which Kate and her friends did the best they could to relieve the monotony. After waiting about fifteen minutes for him to make himself agreeable he again broke the spell by—

"How's your mother?" which was answered much after the same manner as the first one, and then followed another silence like the other.

"How's your father and mother?" again put in the bashful lover.

"Quite well, both of them." This was followed by an exchange of glances and a suppressed smile.

This lasted some ten minutes more during which Josh was fidgeting in his seat and stroking his Sunday hat. But at length another question came—

"How's your parents?"

This produced an explosion that made the woods ring.

Gen. John C. Breckinridge and Col. Barbark, of Kentucky, have gone from Paris to Egypt and the Holy Land. Gen. B.'s family remain in Paris during his absence. He and they will return to this continent in the spring. The General was in perfect health when he left Paris.

The New York Herald thinks the Radicals may radicalize the Southern vote so as to answer their purpose in the Presidential election, but, says the Herald:

From the signs in the heavens and the earth, Massachusetts and Vermont will, perhaps, be left as the only remaining monuments of Radicalism in the mighty North. These two, with the eleven States of the South, will probably constitute the opposition to the new administration and the new Union party in power from and after the 4th of March, 1869.

Edward Ford, in the Philadelphia jail, has been under sentence of death sixteen years. The Governors reprieve him, but do not pardon him.

Genius either discovers new materials of nature, or combines the known with the novel. Talent arranges, cultivates and polishes the discoveries of genius.

FOREIGN ITEMS.—There are seventy thousand slaves in the Portuguese colonies, one million in Cuba and two million and a half in Brazil.

The Chassepot musket has astonished the army. It kills, or inflicts wounds which are worse than death. The noise made by the firing does not resemble the sound of the old musketry; it is a continuous rolling, which fills the mind with unspeakable terror.

During the removal of articles from the Paris Exhibition, in the Italian section, a workman called on one of his comrades to assist him in lifting an immense cheese, which had stood against a wall, and they found that the article was as light as a drum. A family of rats had installed themselves in it, and nothing but a mere shell remained.

The stupid conduct of the young king of Bavaria is said to be due, in great part, to the stupidity of his father, who educated him like a martinet. He allowed him only one mutton chop for breakfast. The first order the young king gave after his father's death, was, "Two mutton chops for breakfast. I am master here now." He had never been to a theater. The first night he visited an opera house, "Tranubauer" was played. He was so delighted that he thought Wagner a demi-god. This is the origin of his passion for Wagner.

CLAIMS THE SPOILS.—A Chicago Methodist writes to the Knoxville Free Press as follows:

You may as well say that an army has no right to the arms and supplies which it wins on the hard fought field of battle as to say that the Northern Methodist Church has no right to every church, school-house and every acre of land formerly held by the Southern Methodists. Not only so, but it is just as wrong and pernicious for Northern Methodists to permit Southern Methodists to meet and worship at all, as it would be to permit Lee or Johnston to call together and drill their disbanded men under arms.

CHILDHOOD.—The finger of God upon our brow, gradually removed by the hand of time.

A movement has been set on foot to erect an asylum for useless young men. The only trouble which the committee fear will be insurmountable, is that of getting a building large enough.

The Cincinnati Times says "Horace Greeley was confirmed as Minister to Austria without division." He should by all means have been divided—one half to be sent to Austria and the other half somewhere else.

Corinth, Mississippi, is about to have a broom factory, and the News, of that town, sees no reason why the South should not make its own brooms as well as the North.

An English farmer recently remarked that he fed his land before it was hungry, rested it before it was weary, and weeded it before it was foul. Seldom, if ever, was so much agricultural wisdom condensed into a single sentence.

The Sultan of Zanibar, in Eastern Africa, imports into his dominions twenty thousand slaves a year.

AIR AND WATER.—Set a pitcher of water in a room, and in a few hours it will have absorbed nearly all the respired and perspired gasses in the room, the air of which will have become pure, but the water utterly filthy. The colder the water is, the greater the capacity to contain these gasses. At ordinary temperatures, a pint of water will contain a pint of carbonic acid gas, and several pints of ammonia. The capacity is nearly double by reducing the water to the temperature of ice. Hence water kept in the room while, is always unfit for use. For the same reason, the water in a pump stock should always be pumped out in the morning before any is used. Impure water is more injurious than impure air. This shows the economy as well as the convenience of a modern ice pitcher, a splendid invention, which, as it seems, is more than ornament and show; ay, it is really and abolutely a necessity. Let these hints be heeded by our health-loving and life-preserving citizens.

A little girl once hearing the remark that all people had once been children, artlessly inquired, "Who took care of the babies?"

How did Noah preserve honey bees during the flood? In the ark-hives of the old world, of course.

The Montgomery convention is satisfied with a per diem of \$3.

When will the laundresses strike? When the iron's hot.

One of the guards who conducted Louis XVI to execution has just died at Fulong, France. He was 95 years old.

MAXIMILIAN'S PROPERTY.—Maximilian's estate in Europe is giving trouble to his executors. His chateaux of Miramar and Lacome are estimated at about \$1,500,000 but instead of yielding any profit, they cost \$30,000 to keep them up, besides being mortgaged for \$400,000. There is some difficulty about his debt at Trieste, which amounts to more than \$100,000. The Belgian executors, in the interest of their sisters, wish these debts to be paid by Austria, on the ground that they were contracted in the public service. This is contested by the Austrian imperial family. The unfortunate Princess Carlotta, it is said, would willingly pay her husband's debts from her private purse, if she was in a state to authorize such a measure, but her insanity prevents it.

The bottom of the Tennessee river is said to be floored with government property between Eastport and Paducah. A Yankee has undertaken the contract of fishing it up.

NEW SUBSTITUTE FOR COTTON.—We announced the other day the arrival from Mexico of Mr. Roetz, the introducer into America of the cultivation of the ramie, the new textile planting; which being perennial, growing from the roots from year to year, producing, after being well rooted, from two to four crops of clear fiber per season, and their being vastly finer and stronger than cotton or linen, sells at 60 to 65 cents per pound in specie, and having none of the vicissitudes of cotton, promises to become a chief crop in our cultivation.

He has brought with him a quantity of fresh and good root cuttings which are for sale, as is advertised in this paper, at \$200 per hundred, or one dollar each for a small quantity. It is easily and rapidly propagated. One man in Mississippi, multiplied eleven small root cuttings in four months of last summer, to one hundred. He has now approaching one thousand. Three thousand will plant an acre.

The machine for cleaning the fibres of the ramie has been patented, and a number of machines will be at once put up. It is simple and easily worked either by horse or steam power, and prepares the fiber from the stock in twenty-four hours from time of cutting it, leaving it in long skeins, beautifully white. The ramie fiber is of similar texture but superior to that known to commerce as Indian or China grass woven into grass cloth.

Why was the giant Goliath very much astonished when David hit him with a stone? Such a thing never entered his head before.

Invective and personality prove nothing on either side, but a lamentable want of good taste and good argument.

"Shure, which is the entrance out?" asked an Irishman at a railway station, the other day.

An elderly lady, who was handling a pair of artificial pates in a dental office, and admiring the fluency with which the dentist described them asked him: "Can anybody eat with these things?" "My dear ma'am, mastication can be performed with a facility scarcely equalled by nature herself," responded the dentist.

"Yes, I know, but can a lady eat with them?"

CHEAPNESS OF CHINESE WARES.—A vessel recently arrived at San Francisco with a large amount of goods from China, purchased at prices so remarkably cheap that the customhouse officers at that port would not believe in the veracity of the invoices, and seized the goods as falsely valued by the purchasers. The probability is, however, that the invoices are correct, it takes so little to sustain life in China and wages are so low. In the importation were handsome sets of porcelain bought for four dollars the set. Beautiful fans, painted by hand in brilliant colors, with figures of dragons and Chinese beauties, purchased at a cent each. Spades for garden use bought at the cost of a few cents each. Straw hats of a good quality invoiced at a cent each. Nice baskets, in sets of four, costing in the Celestial Kingdom but four cents a set, and other articles equally low.

A Frenchman who had purchased a country seat was complaining of the want of birds in his garden. "Set some traps," replied an old officer, "and they will come. I was once in Africa, and there wasn't supposed to be a woman within two hundred miles. I hung a pair of ear rings and a collar upon a tree, and the next morning I found two women under the branches."

"The receipts of the 'Universal' Exhibition," says the Nord, "from the 1st of April to the 10th September, are estimated at seven millions and a half of francs. Therefore, during the seven weeks or nearly so which the exhibition has still to remain open, a million and a half of francs must be received in order to attain the sum of nine millions required to cover the expenditure. That this result will be obtained is not improbable."

REDUCTION OF THE ARMY.—An effort is to be made in Congress, the New York Times says, to reduce the United States army. It is considered that a military establishment of 60,000 men is not great for a first-class power, according to the customs of other countries; but the sentiment and traditions of America are all against an army of this size, which is four times greater than our old regular army. So far as Indian hostilities are concerned, we may rest assured that they cannot be so formidable in future as to require a large number of troops on the Plains. The Times earnestly trusts "that there will be no necessity for keeping up great garrisons in the Southern States; indeed, we are unwilling to believe in the possibility of any such necessity as a permanent fact of our national existence."

Accurate measurement of some of the great Australian trees have been made, and one grand specimen found in Western Australia, was ascertained to be 400 feet high; while another measures 480 feet, which is as high as the great pyramid of Gizale. California must look out for her laurels.

IRON IN THE BLOOD.—When the blood is well supplied with its iron element we feel vigorous and full of animation. It is an insufficiency of this vital element that makes us feel weak and low-spirited.

Mr. Davis and Gen. Lee met, for the first time since the war, on Friday evening last, in Judge Ould's parlor, Richmond. What an impressive scene it must have been!

A major in the United States army during the war was last week summoned to serve on the grand jury at Richmond, and refused to serve with negro jurors.