

The Spectator.

J. M. SCANLAND, EDITOR. NATCHITOCHES.

Thursday, April 16, 1868.

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

The river at this place has fallen about six feet within the last week, and is receding at the rate of half an inch per hour.

The South-Western of the 8th instant reports a fall of 7 feet at Shreveport.

Last Tuesday this community was visited by a heavy drenching rain, which continued throughout the day. This, it is supposed, will have no effect toward a rise in the river, or even check its downward tendency.

The District Court is still in session at this place, and will likely remain so until Saturday. There were about 150 cases, both civil and criminal, disposed of.

Tuesday morning last it was the good fortune of quite a number of the beauty and gallantry of Natchitoches--with a slight sprinkling of venerable matrifamilias--to avail themselves of an invitation from that affable and courteous gentleman, Capt. Doty, of that elegant and commodious steamer St. Nicholas, to visit our pleasant little neighboring towns, Grand Ecote and Campte, on a pleasure trip.

The participants and their numerous friends return their sincere thanks to Capt. Doty for his extreme kindness, liberality and gallantry as displayed on this happy occasion, with the hope that unbounded prosperity and safety may ever attend him and his favored craft--unsurpassed by any that floats upon the placid bosom of Red River.

The Texas Farmer is the title of an agricultural paper recently established at Henderson, Texas, by Messrs. Dodson & Marshall. Success to you, gentlemen!

The New Orleans Crescent of the 11th inst., contains a notice of the death of Judge W. M. Semple, who, for the past several years was an able leading editorial writer on that paper.

The trial of ex-President Davis will take place at Richmond on the 2d prox.

Mrs. Stan'on's paper thinks a woman would pop the question in a less awkward, stammering way than man.

We would more likely be convinced of the fact by seeing the experiment tried.

SYDNEY ADRIANCE; OR, TRYING THE WORLD.--This is the name of a new Novellet by Amanda M. Douglas, the talented author of "In Trust," "Stephen Dane," &c. It is the story of a young orphan girl's experiences. It is now being published in The Saturday Evening Post, and will run through from fifteen to twenty papers. One dollar sent to the publishers, H. Peterson & Co., Philadelphia, will secure The Post for six months, including this and other deeply interesting stories. Single numbers, 5 cents.

THE MCCARDLE CASE.--It is reported that the Supreme Court, with only one dissenting vote, decided favorably to the petitioner in the McCardle case, but that subsequently, with two dissenting voters, said to be Justice Field and Grier, it was determined by the court not to promulgate at present the proceedings and decision made in the case.

THE STRONG CASE.--Judge Carter, on the 3d, discharged Samuel Strong, on the ground that the evidence furnished did not clearly and sufficiently show that Strong was a fugitive from justice, in the sense of the Constitution of the United States. (Strong, it will be remembered, was first arrested on a requisition from Governor Pierpont, of Virginia, on a charge of embezzlement, and discharged on the ground that Virginia was not a State. He was subsequently re-arrested on the same charge, on a requisition from Gen. Schofield as commander of that district.)

Confiscation.

The impeachment of the President is part of the scheme of reconstruction as maintained by the extreme Radicals. It has been found of late that the plan of reconstruction as heretofore adopted has essentially proved a failure, and it is not likely to be consummated in any legal sense prior to the Presidential election.

The stringent measures which the extreme Radicals are under the necessity of adopting cannot, perhaps be sustained by a two-thirds majority in both Houses. Mr. Wade's method of forcible reconstruction, which he has more than once threatened, cannot be adopted until he (Mr. Wade) shall have succeeded President Johnson, for the latter would use the veto power to prevent it.

Several measures have been indicated by the Radicals which they fear may fail of obtaining the two-thirds majority in both Houses. One of these is the bill forcing universal suffrage upon all the States, and vesting in Congress the power to annul the laws of any State that may abridge or deny universal suffrage. There are also in contemplation several projects for the coercion of the Southern people into the adoption of the Radical system, and into submission into radical power.

It is now understood, also, that the project for confiscation has not been abandoned, and is about to be revived, in view of the expected accession of Mr. Wade to the Presidency. Mr. Stevens' confiscation bill was a failure, as impeachment was for a while, but the success of the impeachment would perhaps secure the accomplishment of its kindred measure--confiscation.

Mr. Stevens has submitted an inquiry to the Committee of Ways and Means, whether any and what means are to be adopted for compelling our "conquered enemies" to pay for the losses and burdens consequent upon the late war. Mr. Schenck, of that committee, replied that the subject was within the jurisdiction of the Reconstruction Committee. It may, therefore, be expected that the Committee on Reconstruction will bring in a confiscation bill to accompany the various supplementary bills for reconstruction, and that the whole batch, together with bills for readjusting the Supreme Court, will be passed, if Mr. Wade shall reach the Executive Office.

CLEAR AS MUD.--The New York Times urges as a matter of prime necessity that the Southern territories get into the Union as fast as possible. "Then," says the Times, "they can make constitutions to suit themselves."

After the fashion of Tennessee, we presume. Will you walk into my parlor, said the spider to the fly?

FINANCIAL ASPECT OF IMPEACHMENT.--The following, which we take from the New York Financial Chronicle, is worthy of careful consideration:

The action of Congress in raising the spectre of impeachment threatens us with a protracted neglect of all the great vital interest of the nation, already suffering under their postponement to political issues and partisan debates. All men are weary of this. The commerce, the industry of the entire people languish. Our financial prospects are gloomy, and need immediate attention. Our fiscal system is unsatisfactory, and needs immediate attention. Our foreign policy is undetermined, and needs immediate attention. But all this legitimate business of the representatives of the people, sacrificed already for months upon months to less worthy objects of Congressional attention, is now to be virtually thrown up together, and the halls of Congress converted into a grand arena of political sensations. Such a state of things, such a prospect, carry on their face the condemnation, both loud and deep, of the acts which are thus afflicting the American people.

ATTORNEY.--This word is a relic of the customs of chivalry. It originally meant one who appeared at a tournament as the champion or representative of another, who, on account of tender years, old age or infirmity, could not personally do battle in the lists--the trial by combat in those times taking the place of our Courts of law for the adjudication of both criminal and civil cases. When it was discontinued the name of attorney was still given to the counsel who represented in Court either party at a suit. The readers of the Waverly Novels will remember a beautiful illustration of this kind of championship at the tourney in the case of Ivanhoe, appearing for the Jewess Rebecca, and doing mortal battle on her behalf with the templar Knight, De Bois Gilbert.

General Harry Wells, of Alexandria, was, on the 4th, appointed governor of Virginia by General Schofield. Wells has been residing in Virginia since 1862. He is from Michigan, and was a brevet brigadier general in the United States army. He enters upon the duties of the office at once.

An Omaha dispatch of the 28th ult., states that the Union Pacific railroad is completed to a point twenty-seven miles west of Cheyenne, and within four miles of the highest summit on the entire route. The number of men now employed in that section is three thousand.

MILITARY.--Brevet Maj. Gen. J. J. Reynolds, U. S. Army, having been relieved from the duty which called him to New Orleans, has returned to his proper station at Austin, Texas.

The N. Y. Herald thinks that the Radicals are afraid of Alabama, and will not admit her while it is uncertain how she might cast her Presidential vote.

Latest News.

SAVANNAH, April 5.--At a Republican meeting in Augusta, Ga., last night a disturbance was caused by the discovery of a keg containing a small quantity of powder under the speaker's desk. The meeting dispersed amid considerable excitement. It is generally believed to have been done by the Republican party for capital, as the leaders appeared unconcerned.

MEMPHIS, April 5.--Gillem's official report is required to decide the Arkansas election.

The new Legislature entered the State House at night, and ordered the arrest of the Superintendent, who refused them the keys. Gillem decides that State officers have no right to exclude the Legislature from the Capitol.

There are five negroes in the House and one in the Senate.

WASHINGTON, April 9.--A conference of several Radical leaders, with Mr. Stanton, took place to-day at the War Department relative to the organization known as the Ku-Klux-Klan. The exaggerated stories set afloat here within the past few days of the alleged numerous threatening missives of the Klan to Messrs. Wade, Butler and other Congressmen, have worked upon the fears of timid men, and caused the conference to-day to take steps to prevent the execution of the threats, and ferret out the Ku-Klux by the employment of detectives.

After industrious inquiry among those who are reported to have received the bugaboo warnings, it is found that the stories published are extravagant alarms, based upon the receipt of pretended or real Ku Klux notifications by three several persons, Mr. Wade among them, each having received just one missive; and it further appears that these pleasant epistles were received about the 1st inst. The inference therefore is that they were merely prepared as April fool jokes by some wag who is now enjoying the fun hugely.

The President to-day signed the treaty recently made with the North German Confederation, by Hon. Geo. Bancroft, our Minister there, regulating the right of citizenship, &c.

In the Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Davis delivered the decision in the case of Mrs. Gaines vs. the city of New Orleans. The court reviewed the whole case, as to the law and the facts. The opinion is favorable to Mrs. Gaines regarding her legitimacy, the marriage of Zulime Carriere with Daniel Clark was valid. All technical points were decided in favor of Mrs. Gaines, and the court expressly stated that it considered this decision conclusive and final. D. Clark's will of 1813, as probated in Louisiana, is binding, and sales by the executors under the will of 1811 are declared null, and purchasers must take the consequences.

Two other cases, involving the same principle, were decided in favor of Mrs. Gaines. Justices Grier, Swayne and Miller dissented.

WASHINGTON, April 7.--In the case of the steamer Battle, captured at Mobile, the Supreme Court declares that the capture violates existing laws.

The Supreme Court has decided that a contract interrupted by war must be completed on the return of peace.

WASHINGTON, April 11.--Mr. Woodward introduced a bill to test the constitutionality of questionable acts of Congress. Referred to Judiciary Committee.

The act provides that the Attorney General shall bring any bill vetoed by the President on the ground of unconstitutionality, and passed over the veto, before the Supreme Court on figured issues.

The decision of the Supreme Court on such figured issue shall be valid.

LONDON, April 10.--The war office has Abyssinian advices that Napier has reached latitude 13. Theodoros was entrenched at Magdala [a distance of about five miles,] with 5000 men and twenty-six large guns. Napier's plans for a general assault were completed.

WASHINGTON, APRIL 11.--It is reported that the counselor of the President advised him, in case of his conviction, to test the constitutionality and competency of the court, by pardoning Mr. Davis.

THE SUCCESSION.--The correspondent of the New York Herald says that the bill for regulating the succession to the Presidency, now before Congress, is not so innocent as it looks. It is only "designed as a stalking horse to be trotted quietly through both Houses of Congress in two readings; after which it is to be suddenly saddled with a revolutionary amendment proclaiming Gen. Ulysses S. Grant the successor to Mr. Johnson; and this is to be put through both Houses without debate under the gag law of the previous question." The bill is based on the idea that Senator Wade, who is only President pro tem. of the Senate, cannot constitutionally succeed Mr. Johnson, and that the right man must be some officer of the United States. There is also a report that Speaker Colfax is to resign any right to the succession and to refuse to receive the office, thus passing it over to Gen. Grant, in consideration of which Mr. Colfax has been promised the nomination as Vice President by the next Radical National Convention, while Gen. Grant is to be continued as the head of the ticket.

In Florida, near the town of Ocala, there is said to be a spring of water which covers more than an acre of ground to the average depth of thirty-seven feet. From this basin a stream more than fifty feet wide flows, and the water is so clear that the form and color of pebbles and leaves on the bottom can be distinctly observed. Steamboats of light draft can go up the stream fed by this spring, and lie at anchor in the basin.

"Poor little fellow, ain't you cold?" said a pretty young lady to a newsboy of whom she had just made a purchase. "Yes ma'am, before you smiled," was the gallant response.

The Tax Repeal Bill.

The following is the text of the bill to exempt certain manufactures from the internal tax and for other purposes, as agreed to by Congress, and which has received the signature of the President:

Be it enacted, etc., That sections 94 and 95 of the act entitled an act to provide internal revenue, to support the government, to pay the interest on the public debt, and for other purposes, approved June 30, 1864, and all acts and parts of acts amendatory of said section are hereby repealed, except only such said section and amendments thereto as relates to taxes imposed on gas made of coal wholly or in part of any other material, or illuminating, lubricating or other mineral oil, or the products of the distillation, redistillation or refining of crude petroleum, or of a single distillation of coal, shale, peat, asphaltum or other bituminous substances; on snuff and all the other manufactures of tobacco, including cigarette, cigars and cheroots. Provided that the products of petroleum and bituminous substances hereinafter mentioned, except illuminating gas, shall, from and after the passage of this act, be taxed at one half the rates fixed by the said section 94.

SECTION 2. That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to repeal or interfere with any law, regulation or provision for the assessment or collection of any tax which under existing laws may accrue before the 1st day of April, A. D. 1868, and nothing herein contained shall be construed as a repeal of any upon machinery or other articles which have been or may be delivered on contract made with the United States prior to the passage of this act.

SEC. 3. That after the first day of June next no drawback of internal taxes paid on manufactures shall be allowed on the exportation of any article of domestic manufacture on which there is no internal tax at the time of exportation, nor shall such drawback be allowed in any case unless it shall be provided by sworn evidence in writing to the satisfaction of the commissioner of internal revenue that the tax had been paid, and that such articles of manufacture were, prior to the 1st day of April, A. D. 1868, actually purchased or actually manufactured and contracted for, to be delivered for such exportation, and no claim for such drawback or for any drawback of internal revenue tax on exportation made prior to the passage of this act shall be paid unless presented to the commissioner of internal revenue before the 1st day of October, 1868.

SEC. 4. That every person, firm or corporation who shall manufacture by hand or machinery any goods, wares or merchandise--breadstuffs and manufactured timber excepted--not otherwise specifically taxed as such, or who shall be engaged in the manufacture or preparation for sale of any article or compounds not otherwise specifically taxed, or shall be put for sale in packages with his own name or trade mark thereon, any articles and compounds not otherwise specifically taxed, and whose annual sales exceed \$5000, shall pay for every additional thousand dollars in excess of \$5000 two dollars, and the amount of sales in excess of the rate of \$5000 per annum shall be returned quarterly yearly to the assistant assessor, and the tax on the excess of \$5000 shall be assessed by the assessors and paid quarterly yearly, in the months of April, July and October of each year, as other taxes are assessed and paid, and the first assessment here in provide for shall be made in the month of July, 1868, for the three months then next pending.

SEC. 5. That every person engaged in carrying on the business of a distiller who shall defraud, or attempt to defraud, the United States of the tax on the spirits distilled by him, or any part thereof, shall forfeit the distillery and distilling apparatus used by him, and all distilled spirits, and all raw materials for the production of distilled spirits found in the distillery and on the distiller's premises, and shall on conviction be fined not less than \$5000, and be imprisoned not less than six months nor more than three years.

SEC. 6. That if any officer or agent appointed and acting under the authority of any revenue law of the United States, shall be guilty of gross neglect in the discharge of any of the duties of his office, or shall conspire or collude with any other person to defraud the United States, or shall make opportunity for any person to defraud the United States, or shall do any act with intent to enable any other person to defraud the United States, or shall make or sign any false certificate or return, in any case where he is by law or regulation required to make a certificate or return, or having knowledge or information of the violation of any revenue law by any person, or of fraud committed by any person against the United States, under any revenue law of the United States, shall fail to report in writing such knowledge or information to his next superior officer and to the commissioner of internal revenue, he shall on conviction be fined not less than \$1000 nor more than \$5000, and shall be imprisoned not less than six months.

SEC. 7. That no compromise, discontinuance, or nolle prosequi of any prosecution under this act shall be allowed without the permission in writing of the secretary of the treasury and the attorney general.

In Germany, when a paper says anything witty, they kill the editor; and not one editor has been killed in two hundred years.

CHANGE OF NAME.--It has just been discovered that Gen. Bank's family name is Leather. It was changed to Banks by act of the Legislature of New Hampshire.

Often a man drives a span of bays while he himself is driven by duns.

Some one wants to know if there was ever an eclipse of the honeymoon.

SALE OF THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD.--That portion of the road running from this place to the Texas line, together with all the rolling stock, was sold in this city last Saturday at sheriff's sale to the highest bidder. It was knocked down to Col. B. M. Johnson, who purchased it in trust for the judgment creditors, at \$152,000. A new company is to be formed, to be composed in part of the judgment creditors, who take stock in it to the amount of their claims, and more if they wish. The road has now fallen into the hands of parties who have ample means, and who will push it to completion. The old road is to be thoroughly repaired, machine shops built, new rolling stock procured and the track extended forty miles further into the interior within the next six months. The plans of this new company are feasible and will no doubt be carried out. The work commences at once. [Shreveport South-Western.

The Baton Rouge Gazette, of the 9th, says the season thus far in that parish has been exceedingly propitious, and the prospect is one of the finest ever known for an abundant harvest.

The Brooklyn Union says of Butler's recent impeachment stump speech, that a journalist could--"in the same space write a history of the world and elucidate the origin of evil."

The Vicksburg Herald says that the Mississippi river is wearing away the point opposite that place, and is forming a large sand bar on the Mississippi shore, which is throwing the current forcibly against the Louisiana side. The Herald fears that unless something is done the entire course of the river will eventually be changed.

In a certain family, not long since, a pair of twins made their appearance, and as a matter of course, were shown to their little sister of four years. Now it so happened that whenever a rather prolific cat of the household had kittens, one of them, of course the prettiest, was saved and the rest drowned. When the twins were shown to the child by their happy father, little M--looked at them long and earnestly, and at length putting her little finger-tip on the cheek of one of them, looked up and said with all the seriousness possible--"Papa, I think we'll save this one."

POOR PAY.--The New Orleans papers of the 1st state that the police of that city have not been paid since January. This of course has nothing to do with the large number of robberies, thefts, &c., committed of late in that city.

A New York paper speaking of the new fashions says, "On Wednesday there was another successful opening of bonnets and dresses." Oh fie!

Speaking of the laws of Iowa admitting women to practice law, some old bachelor, undoubtedly, says: "The wisdom of Blackstone and Cook hereafter will be nowhere, and beautiful lawyeresses, with a bewitching smile and a speaking eye, will turn jurymen's heads topsy-turvy. The only remedy will be to give women a representation on the jury also. It takes a woman to read a woman."

General Grant has a brother thirteen years younger than himself selling leath-er in Chicago.

The true division of labor--if the men make all the money, the women should spend it.

INDIAN EXHIBITIONS.--The Mittie Stephens, on her last trip down, had a party of Choctaw Indians on board, numbering thirty-five, en route to the principal cities of the United States and Europe, for the purpose of giving exhibitions of ball play, Indian warfare, &c. They will make their first appearance in New Orleans. [South-Western.

Col. St. Leger Grenfel has escaped from the Dry Tortugas, where he was sentenced for life on conviction of a conspiracy with others to burn the cities of Chicago and Buffalo, and effect the release of the Confederate prisoners confined at Camp Douglas.

Miguel Lopez, Maximilian's betrayer, has been arrested and imprisoned for not complying with an order from the government to leave Mexican territory.

Strange but true--that ladies never get jealous or angry when their husbands bring home pretty lawn-dresses in their arms.

Registration in the parish of St. Tammany stands, whites 651, negroes 599, leaving a white majority of 52. Total number of votes 1250.

Greece will open a railway from Athens to Piræus in August next.

Peace is the evening star of the soul, as virtue is its sun, and the two are never far apart.

The armies of Europe are said to be larger at present than at any time since the wars of the first Napoleon. France has 1,300,000 men, of whom 550,000 are in the reserve. England has 200,000 men; Prussia 600,000; Italy about 215,000; Austria 700,000; Russia 860,000, with 400,000 more in reserve; and Spain about 80,000.

It is an extraordinary fact that when people come to what is called high words, they generally use low language.

"It is said only one meerschmann in ten made in Germany is genuine." And that one is always kept there.

GEN. SHERIDAN.--This officer has at last entered upon his duties as commander of the Missouri, with headquarters at Fort Leavenworth.

The advantage of having corns is that then you always stand on your own feet.

The Jews, the world over, are noted for their kindness to their own people. In London they number about fifty-five thousand, the majority of whom are foreigners, and receive only a little aid to help them on their way to other countries. It is against Jewish principles to allow any of their poor to come upon the public. All the sick in poverty are cared for, and provision is made for widows and orphans. Efficient societies, liberally provided with funds, supply the poor with food, help the old people as they need, and bury the dead. Some of the free hospitals in London have Jewish wards, but all the expenses of those wards are paid for from the treasury of Jewish organizations. If any able-bodied persons are out of employment, and need help, they receive no gratuity, but are accommodated with a temporary loan, and the cases are said to be rare in which these debts are not fully repaid.

It is said Butler in his impeachment speech, attributed the words "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do," to Stephen, the martyr. In this connection we may remark that a famous Judge Advocate in a court-martial case was once equally at a loss. He overwhelmed the defence by declaring, with a majestic wave of the hand: "In the language of the seventh commandment, 'Thou shalt not steal.'"

ST. PETER'S, IN ROME.--St. Peter's by its erection, required one hundred and seventy-six years, and, to perfect the structure, demanded an additional hundred and seventy-four years. Its cost was fifty million dollars in gold, and to keep it in repair, requires an annual expenditure of twenty thousand dollars. Of its vast dimensions, perhaps the best idea is conveyed by the statement that it covers eight acres of ground. To the top of the dome is four hundred and forty-eight feet, and in approaching Rome, long before any other structure about the city strikes the eye, this dome, like a great ball, is seen towering in the air.

FACTS ABOUT LIFE.--The total number of human beings on the earth is computed at 3,000,000,000, and they speak 8'000 known tongues. The average duration of life is estimated at 33 years.

One third of those born, die before they are 7 years old, and one half at the age of 17.

Out of one hundred persons only six reach the age of 50.

Out of five hundred persons, only one attains the age of 80.

Macaulay, in that celebrated account of the trial by impeachment of Warren Hastings, has these remarks: "Whatever confidence may be placed in the decision of the Peers on an appeal arising out of an ordinary litigation, it is certain that no man has the least confidence in their impartiality, when a great public functionary, charged with a great State crime, is brought to the bar. They are all politicians. There is hardly one among them whose vote on an impeachment may not be confidently predicted before a witness has been examined." Will any future historian apply remarks like these to the American Senate?--New York Times.

LOYAL LEAGUES.--In a recent speech in New York Horace Greeley told the following:

I was a little amused by an anecdote which Chief Justice Chase once told me that he had heard while down in North Carolina while holding court. It was the story of an old planter talking to one of his ex-slaves. "Sam," says he, "wasn't I a good master to you?" "Oh, yes, massa." "Hav'n't I treated you well since you were free?" "Yes, massa, I hav'n't a word of complaint." "Sam, do you keep away from these political meeting and stick to your work?" "Oh, yes, massa, I's going to." "Sam, do you keep out of those Union Leagues?" "O no massa; I must join the Union League." "Why, Sam, what must you join the Union League for?" "Why, the women won't speak to me if I don't join the Union League, massa." [Great laughter.] Sam could not stand that sort of proscription at all. [Laughter and applause.]

A marriage ceremony came to an abrupt termination in Providence in consequence of the bride putting in a stipulation that the bridegroom should thenceforth eschew his cigar. The latter stalked out of the church, lit a fragrant Havana at the first corner, and disappeared blowing a tranquil cloud.

The scrip used by the Florida Convention is not very valuable. The members have to pay \$100 of the stuff for a bottle of whisky, and single drinks \$20.

The Atlanta correspondent of a Georgia paper tells of a chap who came down from one of the upper countries and encountered a man with a hand-organ covered with green cloth. The man began to turn, and the countryman put down a quarter, which the other immediately took up. Down went another, which shared the same fate, and then another. The stranger, finding his pile getting low, turned to a bystander and asked: "Mister, what sort of a game is this anyhow?"

Consumption of man manufactured tobacco in this country last year is estimated at 130,000,000 pounds, which at forty cents per pound ought to have yielded \$52,000,000 revenue; but only \$15,250,000 were collected.

There are now thirty-nine sovereign princes in the civilized world, viz: four emperors, one sultan, one pope, ten kings and two queens, six grand dukes, five dukes and ten princes, including the prince of Monaco. Of these sovereign princes the Pope is the oldest; next follows the King of Prussia, and then the Duke of Anhalt.

In looking through the past you will find that your happiest days were those in which you lived not for yourself, but for others.