DAILY DEMOCRAT. Official Journal of the State of Louisiana. Official Journal of the City of New Orleans,

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GEORGE W. DUPRE, J. HEARSEY, ALBERT O. JANIN. JOHN AUGUSTIN

E. J. HEARSEY..... EDITOR

NEW ORLEANS, JULY IS, 1878, WEEKLY DEMOCRAT.

We call the special attention of our business community to the excellence of the WEEKLY DEMOCRAT as an advertising medium. The circulation of the WEEKLY DEMO-CRAT throughout Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Texas is second to that of no other paper in the Southwest. It contains the latest news from all political and commercial centres and the best selection of reading matter. Send in your orders early.

THE GRAND JURY REPORT.

In the meeting of the City Council last Tues day Administrator Edwards, who has charge of the City Insane Asylum, made a very full and clear statement relative to the condition of that institution, in reply to the recent report of the Grand Jury. At the same meeting, Administrator Diamond, under whose control the Boys' House of Refuge is, reported that he had, for the present, suspended the super-Intendent and employees of that establishment, accused of cruelty to the inmates by the Grand Jury; and at the same time he requested the Mayor to appoint a committee to investigate the horrible charges made by that body, suggesting that the Mayor, the city physicians, and Dr. Choppin, president of the Board of Health, constitute part of the committee. The committee has been appointed, as requested by the Administrator of Police, and will, so soon as organized, institute a thorough and impartial investigation into the condition and management of the Boys' House of Refuge. Administrators Edwards and Diamond have acted promptly on the very serious charges made against them, and it is but simple justice that the public suspend judgment against them until the committee has reported.

The Grand Jury is a body, under our laws, of great weight, and the present jury is com-posed of gentlemen of high character in this . The grave charges of inhuman-Ity, nay, of gross brutality, they have brought against the management of the Insane Asylum, and the Boys' House of Refuge, have, erefore, been universally accepted as true. the fullest and most irrefutable testimony. Edwards and Diamond has run very strong and high. But, nevertheless, these gentlemen have a right to a full and impartial hearing. If they are guilty, there is no measure of con-demnation too great to be imposed upon them. acted in so grave a matter without due and powers of investigation, has too lightly and who attempted to carry it out, were cowards. upon insufficient testimony, where adequate testimony could have been had, made charges of infamous neglect of duty against other pubrelative to these institutions is demanded by with him. the public, and should be furnished as soon as

HEROTO FIREMEN.

The Board of Underwriters deserve great credit for the move it has made in behalf of the families of those gallant firemen, Hartpett and Lehr, who sacrificed their lives at the Prieur street fire on Monday night. It is to be hoped that none of the fire insurance companies taking risks in our city will fall to tacked by the North, and her people resorted contribute their share to the fund for the relief of their widows and orphans. It is but right and just that the families of such men should no be left to suffer in consequence of the heroism and seft-devotion of their natural protectors, and those in whose service the lives of these ter instinct of humanity if they refused the succor which is due their families, not as a charity, but as a compensation, and a poor and trifling one at that.

By an old metaphor the fireman in peace is likened to the soldler in war. The metaphor should go further, and liken the fireman only to the patriot soldier, who fights and dies for the protection of the homes of his people and burg paper, will not render this Union one bit the helpless creatures who gather about their more secure than it would be if the doctrine hearthstones. The same merciful considera-tion for others, the same unselfish devotion, States. Wrong and oppression brought on the same love of excitement, the same indif-the war, and wrong and oppression ference to danger that marks the one is also will bring on another war, whether we characteristic of the other. If death or dis-abiling wounds overcome the soldier, a grateful country provides by pension for his decentry with revolution if the resumption act were repealed. The fires of revolution are pendent upon him. Certainly the fireman is now smouldering all over the West, and the no less deserving of consideration on the part people are in a temper to rise against the bond-of those for the protection of whose interests holders and capitalists, who they believe are he has as unselfishly sacrificed his oppressing them. Let the miserable politi-life. If this be true, then, M. Lehr and clans and newspapers that are howling J. W. Hartnett should not be forgotten against Jeff Davis, and secession, and Southnor their families left to suffer in consequence ern rebels, look to their own hearthstones. of their heroism. We are informed that the Corrupt legislation and the arrogance of the But, even if this were not the ease, there is shade. Crying down secession and abusing ever reason why the proper provision for the as traitors men who believe in it will not save families of all firemen who die at their post the country. Remember, the people hold should be made by the insurance companies from God himself the right of revolution, of friendship and brotherhood; but when it tion and patriotic statesmanship. comes from the source from which it is now vices rendered and sacrifices incurred in be- been heaping upon Jefferson Davis.

tainly this much is their due.

for the "Great Fraud."

JEFFERSON DAVIS ON SECESSION.

We do not believe that any considerable

number of the people of Mississippi or of Vicksburg will endorse the coarse comments of the Vicksburg Herald on the recent eloquent and most noble address of Jefferson Davis at Mississippi City. In that speech Mr. Davis said nothing which might not have been uttered in Maine or New Hampshire, or in any other State of the Union. He counseled obedience to the laws and devotion to the constitution of our fathers; he expressed a haughty seem of the system of ward politics trust animates the breast of every honest man in America, that a way will be found by which the original character of this government may be restored, and the higher statesmanship of the past once more brought to the front.

We are glad that Mr. Davis also touched upon the question of secession. The views he entertained during his long and eventful public career he entertains now. same views were entertained by the framers of the constitution, and Massachusetts, half a century ago, we believe, was the first State which threatened to practically enforce them. If the doctrines advanced by Mr. Davis are, as the Vicksburg Herald says, detestable and destructive-devilish dogmas, devised by ambitious leaders, and which ought to be spit upon by every prominent man in the Souththey were none the less the dogmas of the men who framed the constitution, and who for upwards of a century all Americans have been taught to love and reverence.

We have no respect for the counsel of men who hold that the bayonet and the bullet determine the nature of constitutions and settle questions of right, or the wisdom or unwisdom of great political principles. In the history of the world it has oftener been the case that the sword has destroyed good government and subverted the liberties of the people than that free institutions have been sustained by military force. If the doctrine be true that the sword settled any disputed principle in our constitution, then must we concede that reconstruction, with all its shame, and oppression, and robbery, and crime and malevolence, was right, just and patriotic, and in entire accord with American institutions. If we concede that the success of the Union arms changed the principles of the constitution, we are forced also to concede that the success of the Great Fraud In 1877 has legalized the employment of perjury, forgery and revolution in the election of a President.

We decline to concede these pernicious and destructive propositions. The constitution means in 1878 just what it meant when it was adopted by the States, and just what it meant in 1860. In 1860 Mr. Davis believed in the doctrine of secession. Nearly all the leading Democrats in the North and South coincided with his views. The public man who believes in a principle or a policy and skrinks from It has not been thought that so respectable and carrying it into practice when a public exiconservative a body would make such horrible gency arises which demands its application, is charges against public officials except upon simply a coward. But the Northern people, and, we are pained to say, many Southern Hence public indignation against Messrs. men and journals who have sunk to the low moral plane of the politics of to-day, are attempting to reverse this judgment and brand as traitors those men who conscientiously attempted at all risks to carry out the principles they had advocated in the Union and believed Upon the other hand, if the Grand Jury has in all their lives. It is a bitter lie to say that such men were traitors or rebels. The simple positive proof, the censure of the public should truth is, that the men who upheld the right fall upon a body which, intrusted with high of secession, and then joined in to crush those

Mr. Davis is a man of firm convictions, and he believes now what he has always believed, and believing which he risked everything to lic officials. A full investigation and report maintain. We and thousands of others think

That the doctrine of secession led to the war is false. If the doctrine of secession had never been dreamed of the war would have come, and not a drop less of heroic blood would have been spilled. The South did not go to war for secession any more than the English cut off King Charles' head and the French overthrew Louis XVI for revolution. The South believed that her rights and interests were about to be atled to war. If we had never heard of secession we would have had the same war, because we would have resorted to revolumen were lost would be recreant to every betwe still have the right of revolution; deny that and you deny the right of the people to resist usurpation, tyranny or fraud-you legitimatize despotism.

To denounce and "spit upon" the doctrine of secession, to use the language of the Vicksrelief fund of the Firemen's Association is money power are fanning a flame which, if it almost exhausted, and hence this appeal. once breaks out, will leave the rebellion in the the experience of the previous days holds and the citizens in whose behalf their sacri-and, when the incentive is sufficient, they fices are made. When such relief comes from will exercise it. The way to save the country the Firemen's Association it is charity, born is to return to honest politics, sound legisla-

We have not felt it necessary to notice the sought, it is but the acknowledgment of ser- columns of abuse the Republican papers have half of those who profited by the exertions and devotion of the martyrs.

ticians and journals which uphold an administration which was established by perjury We hope most sincerely that the claims of and forgery, by overriding the rights of the the families of these unfortunate men will States, and by every conceivable species of meet with a hearty and liberal recognition. fraud, find congenial employment in abusing who may escape death, will yet permanent. Nothing can compensate their families for the the great head of the Confederacy. But we loss they have suffered, yet they can be made confess to chagrin and mortification at seeing that the sun at St. Louis has caused a mortalcomfortable and saved from want, and cer- articles in a Southern Democratic paper such ity as great as the worst epidemics that have Rise up. Gov. Cox, and tell the country bune, the Chicago daily bulletins of indecency, what you honestly think of the witnesses on whose affidavits the electoral vote of Louisithem shriek on; they cannot disturb in the worst days of our great yellow fever and was stolen by your party and counted the ear or arouse a single emotion in the effect of 1853. them shrick on; they cannot disturb the ear or arouse a single emotion in the worst days of our great yellow fever the ear or arouse a single emotion in the heart of the grand old man who is passing the the ear or the grand old man who is passing the the single "sun epidemic" began last Frifes it also began last Frifes it also began last Frifes it was a guaranteeing everything they sell.

remainder of his days at Beauvoir, for he day. The thermometer then averaged 95 de is as high above his traducers as is the orbed grees. The result was some fifty sunstroker moon above the dog that howls at its path and thirteen deaths; on Saturday the sunthrough the heavens.

NOW IS THE ACCEPTED TIME.

We have watched with deep interest the anifestations of public opinion in this State | Fortunately it was a day of rest, or the loss on the question of calling a constitutional of life would inevitably have been far greater convention, and we have not heard that any than it was. The effect of the weather was man of influence, or any paper of consequence, shown in the churches, which were very man of influence, or any paper of consequence, has taken any other position than that there must be a constitutional convention. We majority of the people staying inside which has been nationalized and which con-have not heard of a single man who has stitutes the statesmanship of the present day, and he expressed the hope, which we not spoken or written from the stand-ers postponed evening service, thereby not spoken or written from the stand-point that the present constitution is a disgrace to the State and objectionable in a multitude of respects. Our excellent friends in Ouachita, who lead off on this question by instructing the delegates from that parish to vote against committing the Dem-ocratic party at Baton Rouge to a constitutional convention, concede that, sooner or later, we must have a convention. The Democrats of Assumption, who alone, so far, have followed the lead of Ouachita, broadly admit the necessity of a new constitution after a while, and we know of not a newspaper in the State which has had the temerity to defend the present bayonet edict, or to hold that it should not be, in the course of time, entirely heat, it is true, but otherwise apparently in done away with and a new constitution, good health; they were found next morning framed by the representatives of the people, substituted for it.

> On this point there is a singular unanimity of public opinion, and every section of the State declares that there must be a new constitution. It is needless, therefore, to argue this phase of the question or to waste time in pointing out the defects of an instrument which all men universally condemn.

> A very serious difference of opinion, howhas arisen as to the time when we should take the necessary measures to repudiate before the whole world this obnoxious constitution and frame one in the interest of the people, based upon the principles of free government.

The anti-conventionists hold that we should wear the collar Radicalism has hung about our necks until 1880; that we should yet two or three years suffer the extravagance and other is called at this time, or early in 1879, we may vide for a new State government and attempt to readjust the State debt.

convention papers throughout the State, and we believe they have been abandoned by the anti-conventionists, who now rest their opposition to a constitutional convention, solely upon the ground that we may not be able to carry the election.

This objection is based upon a singular misapprehension of the political events of the last few years and of the present situation in Louislana. The truth is that we are now, and will be in the spring of 1879, better able to carry this State by a sweeping majority than we will ever be again. The Radical party is now totally disorganized; it has neither leaders nor unity; it is as incapable of making a stand against the Democracy as the Radical party of Misslssippi was when it was beaten in 1877 by a hundred thousand majority. If a living question, such as a constitutional convention, shall be presented by the Baton Rouge convention, the Democrats will carry Louisiana by 20,000 majority, and elect a large majority of the members of both houses of the Legislature. So complete is the demoraliza-tion of the Radical party that our friends from Northeast Louisiana assure us that the Democrats will carry even such parishes as Madison, Tensas and Carroll. No intelligent man can believe that this condi- Louis. tion of affairs will continue until 1880. have a certainty of carrying the State this fall, and again in 1879, if we call a convention. But the elements of opposition to the Democratic party will organize an opposing party before 1880 as certainly as the sun shines and under leaders which will make its opposition more formidable than many seem to apprehend. Indeed, we believe that if another Democratic Legislature assembles in this State without calling a convention, the opposition to the Democratic party in 1880 will carry the election and gain fairly the control of the State. We hold, therefore, that if the Democrats hope to prolong their power in Louisiana, they must yield to the demand of the people for a constitutional convention. Let the Democratic conventions, therefore, in the several parishes beware how they instruct their delegates to vote against committing the party to this great popular Democratic All factions of the party; all the leaders and journals of the party have, without exception, conceded that the bayonet edict of 1868 is an infamy and an incubus; therefore let the party, when it assemblies in Baton Rouge, be true to Democratic principles; true to the honor and the best interests of the State, and pledge itself to call a constitutional convention

SUNSTROKES IN ST. LOUIS.

while there is a certainty that the Democrats

can elect a large majority of the delegates and thus insure the people an honest, eco-

nomical and truly republican constitution,

The news brought by the telegraph vester day that fifty-four persons had died in St. Louis from the effects of the terrible heat prevailing there, is alarming indeed; yet, horrible as it is, it is scarce half the truth Besides these fatal cases there were some two hundred other victims prostrated by the weather under treatment, many of whom, if good, will never recover; and lastly, there are cores of deaths due to the heat, yet caused only indirectly by it—persons in feeble health that the heat has broken down and killed. The mortality among children, for instance is particularly large, yet in but few cases on their death be ascribed to sunstroke or congestion of the brain; it is due rather to those many complaints of infancy, fatally aggravated and augmented by a temperature Poli- that forbids that rest by day or night which nature needs and demands, by a heat which keeps up a constant irritation that saps and exhausts vitality. Considering further the fact that scores of the victims of sunstrokes ly lose their health and faculties, it is evident 127 and 129 .. Common street .. 127 and 129 as those which have appeared in the Vicksburg visited this country; in fine, the deaths from Herald. As for the New York Times and Triheat in St. Louis, which boasted, only a few

The result was some fifty sunstrokes strokes increased considerably in number with fourteen deaths. Sunday made an even worse showing; the thermometer ranged on that day from 99 to 105, and at one time reached the unprecedented figure of 111 in the shade nearly deserted during the morning, the

A large number of these died in their beds from heat, without any previous admonitions of illness. On Sunday morning, for instance no less than six persons, Wm. Hodtson, Hermann Loenig, Richard McCormick, Ed. Pine, Franz Dieder and Leopold Nilsdmann, were found dead in their beds. All of them had retired the previous night complaining of the dead in their beds, and an examination by the coroner showed that the heat alone caused their deaths. Numerous other persons were prostrated in their own houses, persons who had been at no time exposed to the rays of the sun, while several cases are reported of children dying from the effects of the weather in the very arms of their mothers. Nor did these victims leave this world easily and unconsciously; their sufferings and agony are described as extreme, the majority of them dying in terrible convul-

The loss of horses on all three days was quite heavy, and several negroes fell victims of the heat—a circumstance that created considerable surprise among the St. Louisans, who seemed to think that the negro ought to be safe from sunstroke.

Such was the terrible story of a hot Sunday evils entailed upon us by the bayonet edict of in St. Louis; elsewhere, the loss of life from 1868. And why? They hold that if a convention | the heat was nearly as great. East St. Louis was reported even hotter than St. Louis, and be beaten in the elections for delegates; that a number of fatal sunstrokes were chronicled even if we are not, the convention may pro- there. St. Joe reported fourteen sunstrokes, Cincinnati nine fatal cases, Quincy five, Little Rock three, Omaha three, and Dubuque The two latter objections have already been | Chicago, Burlington and other Western cities fully answered by the DEMOCRAT and the other a heavy mortality from the effect of the weather

The heat, with its fatal results, seems to have created an actual panic in St. Louis, as that city, the largest in the Mississippi Valley, actually proposed to suspend business of all kinds until the temperature cooled off a

Such was last Sunday in the West. It was not, however, the hottest day, as the Monday that followed was even hotter, and Tuesday worse than Monday.

There has doubtless been a bitter abuse of the weather in this city for some days pastreviling the temperature is a summer luxury that few can surrender. It would be well for those people who complain to read the story of a summer day in St. Louis before they break out again in these weather denur ciations. If they but glance at the weather report they will notice that New Orleans, the past week, has enjoyed a lower temperature than almost any city in the Union. This, together with our summer breezes, the humidity of our atmosphere, our soil, and the better care our citizens take of themselves in the sun, will prevent New Orleans from ever being visited by such a "sun enidemie" as has lately panic-stricken St.

Ben Hill, one of the Georgia saviors, his brains enough to talk passing well, but he h. s not sense enough to keep his mouth shut.

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PACKARD—At Sarah plantation, Plaque-mines parish, La. Friday, July 12, 1878, ... C. Packard, Esq., aged fifty-two years, a native of Auburn, Mune.

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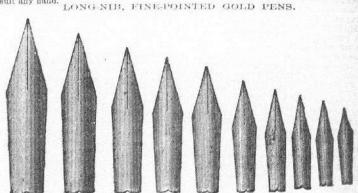
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