THE DAILY BEE.

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NEW ORLEANS:
THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 17, 1860.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to THE WEEK

The carriers of the BEE are authorized to receive subscriptions to our paper, at the rate of $5 cents a week, payable in all cases to the carriers themselves.

Sales at Auction To-Day.

B. P. M. Sykes, at 10 o'clock, at No. 45 Magazine street, Stevens' store, also, at 11 o'clock, at No. 47 Magazine street, superior Rhine wines; also, at 11½ o'clock, at No. 91 Tchoupitoulas street, tobacco, whisky and hams.

By E. Roger & Co. at 10 o'clock, at Nos. 45 and 47 Levee street, ready-made clothing.

By M. Bernel, Jr. at 10 o'clock, at No. 30 Chartres street, the fancy stock of Misses Maria & Dreville—auction sale.

By C. A. Fortelli, at 5 o'clock, P. M., in Orleans street, the stock of a good grocer stand.

By the Sheriff, at 12 o'clock, at the City Hotel, Common street, two scrips in the Jackson Railroad Company; a certificate of ten shares of the Jackson railroad, and three promissory notes.

THE GAS CONTRACT.

From the proceedings of the Board of Assistant Aldermen on Tuesday evening last it will be seen that the Gas Company, it is clear that no new contract can yet be concluded. The evils prevailing under the old contract are undeniable. What ever may have been the specific character of the arrangement heretofore existing between the city and the Gas Company, the practical effect was to leave the streets in Cimmerian darkness during a part of every month. On those evenings when the moon, according to the almanac, was to shine, the lamps were left unlighted. Now, as meteorology does not always correspond to the exact niches of the Gas Company, it must frequently happen that the disk of the moon is covered with clouds, and its radiance wholly intercepted, on which occasions the Company makes no allowance for lunar obscurations, and suffers pedestrians to stumble and grope blindly along the streets as they best can.

It was chiefly with a view of correcting these gross blunders in the last contract, and of requiring the Gas Company to furnish sufficient light to the city whenever it is needed, that we have commented at various times on the necessity of binding the corporation in the contract to be negotiated. It appears, however, that a diversity of opinions among the Committee on Finance of the Common Council, to which the subject was referred. Two reports were submitted. That of the majority recommends the acceptance of a proposition made by the Company to keep the lamps lit every night in the year for a specified amount per lamp. That of the minority denies the necessity of having the lamps lit every night in the year, and objects to the price demanded by the Company as exorbitant. After a spicy and prolonged discussion, both reports were laid upon the table, subject to call.

To our mind it appears as if there were a modicum of truth in both reports. We really see no reason why the Gas Company should be required to have the lamps lit every night in the year. That would be a complete waste of light and gas. In such months there are from four to seven days of brilliant moonlight during which gas light is not needed. We admit that the horizon is frequently covered with dense clouds that rain weather, accompanied by intense darkness, is experienced, and that when the latter days of the expiring moon becomes a necessity. But, however, in the very difficulty to be avoided. To meet it by paying an enormous sum for gas every night, without exception, would be a foolish and unmerited for profligacy. To allow matters to remain as they now are would be to subject the citizens to a continuance of the evil complained of. The proper remedy, we think, would be to make an Arrangement with the Gas Company on virtue of which the city would be thoroughly lighted not only on moonless evenings, but whenever in consequence of cloudy or rainy weather the moon fails to transmit her radiance to the earth. If the Gas Company acted in good faith, there would be no trouble in effecting such a contract.

There is justice in the averment of the minority that the price demanded by the Company is not per lamp per annum, and $60 per annum for the levee and market lamps—is extravagant, and the comparison established between the rates charged in New Orleans and those paid in New York and Philadelphia demonstrates the truth of the allegation. In fact, gas in New Orleans is a most expensive luxury. Private dwellings cannot afford to use it, except for a small portion of the year, because it costs a fabulous sum to light dwellings, because it costs as much as oil or candles. In public places such as hotels, printing offices and the like, the item of expense for the consumption of gas is a very serious one. After January next, there will be a reduction of about ten per cent. on the price per thousand cubic feet, and even on the price per thousand cubic feet, and even that the rate will be very considerably above that of the Northern cities. If, as was affirmed by Mr. Dicker, at $40 per lamp, the Company will realize a profit of fifty per cent., this is surely quite enough to satisfy even an exacting conscience. As the city is one of the most extensive patrons of the Gas Company, it should reasonably be entitled to some advantage in the way of cheapness. On the same principle that a merchant who sells a thousand gallons to the value of a thousand dollars will be contented to receive a smaller percentage of profit than he would buy on a transaction of one fifteenth the amount.

We have no idea what the ultimate action of the Council will be—but as the city must have light, and as the Gas Company is a perfect monopolist, having the power to dictate its own terms, and being without a rival, we take it that on the earliest Council will have to accept whatever the Company thinks proper to offer. We hope, however, that a decent regard to integrity and fair dealing will induce the Company to be some what moderate in its demand for compensation.

LETTERS ON THE DIVINE TRINITY.—We are indebted to the Rev R F Barrett for a small volume containing a series of letters on the Divine Trinity, addressed to the Rev Ward Beecher, by R F Barrett. Although the clear sense of our mutual necessarily excludes every species of our mutual necessarily excludes every species of our mutual necessarily excludes every species