THE NEW ORLEANS DAILY BEE,
DUPOUY & LEBIT, PUBLISHERS.
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TERMS OF THE BEE.
Terms of Subscription—Daily, per annum, in advance, $12; half-yearly, $7; quarterly, $4.
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The Semi-Weekly is published every Tuesday and Saturday. Subscription, $6 per annum, invariably in advance.
Rates of Advertising—Standard advertisements based on the run of the paper, first insertion $1 50 per square; each subsequent insertion, 75 cents per square.
First, or Editorial Page Standard Advertisements, each insertion, $2 50 per square.
Advertisements inserted at intervals, to be charged as new each insertion.
First or Editorial Page, Monthly Advertisements, each square, $20 per month.
Regular advertisers, who advertise largely, shall be allowed such discount from the above named liberal rates as may be agreed upon. In no case shall such discount exceed 33 per cent.
All business Notices of Advertisements to be charged 20 cents net per line, each insertion.
All Transient Advertisements must be paid for in advance.
All Advertisements not specified for any number of insertions will be published six times.
All bills with regular advertisers shall be rendered monthly.

NEW ORLEANS:
FRIDAY MORNING DEC 27, 1867.

COAL.—Mr. David Stickney, No. 6 Carondelet street, advertises that he has for sale low, deliverable in any part of the city, Anthracite coal, (egg size,) in quantities of a ton or more, to suit purchasers. Also, Pittsburg and English Cannel coal at reasonable rates. Orders received at his office, or on the levee landing foot of Esplanade street.

We are requested to call the attention of our readers to the advertisement in another column of the auction sale, by Charles T. Nash, at the Merchants' Exchange, Royal street, on Saturday, December 28th, on account of the succession of D. W. Ashbridge, deceased, and in pursuance of an order of the Second District Court of the parish of New Orleans. The property consists of two lots of ground and the improvements thereupon, including a brick dwelling house containing six rooms in the main building, kitchen and other outhouses, and is situated on the square bounded by Columbus, Villeré, Kerlerec and Planché streets.

We are requested to call the attention of parties interested to the announcement of Mr W J Carter, Secretary of the company, in our advertising columns, that the annual election of directors of the Pontchartrain railway company will be held at the office of the company on the 6th day of January next, between the hours of 10 a. m. and 2 P. M.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

The latest phase of the correspondence between the Governments of England and the United States, upon the subject of the *Alabama* claims does not indicate a near approach to a settlement of that troublesome and now rather stale dispute.

It will be remembered by those who have followed the discussion, that England proposed to refer to arbitration the question of her moral responsibility in regard to the depredations of the *Alabama* and vessels of her class, and that the United States accepted the proposition with the proviso that the tribunal to which this question might be referred should also consider and decide the question whether the act of policy of the British Government in recognizing the Confederate States as a belligerent power, was or was not suitable to the circumstances of the time when the recognition was made.

The British Government also proposed to refer to the adjudication of another and distinct tribunal, the general claims of the subjects and citizens of both countries arising out of the war. Regarding this last proposition, Mr. Seward said in reply:

"That the Government of the United States did not consider any distinction as to principle between the two tribunals to be necessary, and that in every case they agree only to unrestricted arbitration; that the claims might indeed be conveniently distributed between two tribunals, both of which, however, the Government of the United States consider should proceed upon the same principles and be clothed with the same powers."

To this requirement of the United States Lord Stanley positively refuses to accede and communicates the same, through the Chargé d'Affaires at Washington, to Mr. Seward in a dispatch dated November 16. Lord Stanley states that Her Majesty's Government have fully considered the proposition of Mr. Seward's proposition, and adhere to their distinct and repeated avowal that they could not consent to a reference of the question as to whether England was right or wrong in recognizing the belligerency of the Confederates, and adds:

"To prevent any misapprehension on the subject, Her Majesty's Government think it necessary distinctly to say, both as regards the so-called *Alabama* claims brought forward by the Government of the United States, and as regards general claims, that they cannot depart, directly or indirectly, from their refusal to refer to a foreign Power to determine whether the policy of recognizing the Confederate States as a belligerent power was or was not suitable to the circumstances of the time when the recognition was made. As regards the so called *Alabama* claims, the only point with which Her Majesty's Government can consent to refer to the decision of an arbiter is the question of the moral responsibility of Her Majesty's Government, on the assumption that an actual state of war existed between the Government of the United States and the Confederates; and on that assumption it would be for the arbiter to determine whether there had been any such failure on the part of the British Government as a neutral in the observance, legally or morally, of any duties or relations toward the Government of the United States as might be deemed to involve a moral responsibility on the part of the British Government to make good national redress for damage caused by the *Alabama* and other vessels of the same class. As regards the general claims the question of moral responsibility on the part of Her Majesty's Government does not, and cannot come into dispute at all. Mr. Seward rightly supposed that Her Majesty's Government contemplated two tribunals for the adjudication, one of the *Alabama* claims, the other of the general claims—the one being, in the first instance, at all events, the tribunal of an arbiter, who would be called upon to pronounce on the question of the moral responsibility of the British Government, and on the nature of whose decision would depend the question of the appointment of a mixed commission for the examination in detail of the several claims of citizens of the United States, to which that decision applied—namely,—those arising out of the depredations of the *Alabama* and other similar vessels, and the adjudication of the sums payable in each case; the other, in its commencement and to its close, a purely mixed commission for the examination of the several claims of the subjects and citizens of both countries arising out of the war, and the adjudication of the sums payable by either country in each case. The distinction between the two classes of claims is clear—the one may never come before a mixed commission, and therefore may not require the assistance of an arbiter to decide differences of detail arising between the Commissioners; the other, though originally brought before a mixed commission, may possibly require the intervention of an arbiter in case of difference of opinion among the members of the commission which could not be otherwise reconciled, and for which case provision would be made in the ordinary way in the Convention for the settlement of the mixed claims by the insertion of articles in regard to the selection of an arbiter. The functions of such an arbiter, as well as of an arbiter for a like purpose in the other mixed commission, for which provision would have to be made to meet the contingency of the so-called *Alabama* claims coming eventually under the cognizance of a mixed commission, would have nothing in common with the functions of the arbiter to whom the question of principle involved in the last mentioned class of claims would be referred. Her Majesty's Government cannot but apprehend that if Mr. Seward really requires unrestricted arbitration as applicable to both classes of claims, and that the tribunals to both classes of claims should proceed upon the same principles and be clothed with the same power, he has not fully considered the wide and inevitable distinction which exists between the classes and, in directing you to submit to the consideration of Mr. Seward the explanations and observations contained in this dispatch I have to instruct you to express the earnest hope of Her Majesty's Government that the Government of the United States will, on further reflection, accept the without hesitation the proposal made in my dispatches to Sir F. Bruce, of the 9th of March, and of the 24th of May, both of this year—namely, limited reference to arbitration in regard to the so-called *Alabama* claims, and adjudication by means of a mixed commission of general claims."

To the communication Mr. Seward replied on November 29, through Mr. Adams in London, that "the Government of the United States adhere to the views concerning the proposed arbitration which I have heretofore had occasion to make known to you through your legation to Lord Stanley. We are now distinctly informed by Lord Stanley's letter that the limited reference of the so-called *Alabama* claims which Lord Stanley proposes, is tendered upon the condition that the United States shall waive before the arbitrator the consideration they have constantly maintained from the beginning, namely, that the Queen's proclamation of 1861, which accorded belligerent rights to insurgents against the authority of the United States, was not justified on any grounds either of necessity or of moral right, and therefore was an act of wrongful interference, a departure from the obligation of existing treaties, and without the sanction of the law of nations. The condition being inadmissible, the proposed limited reference is therefore declined.

This ends what seemed to be an interminable negotiation on a threadbare subject, and Lord Stanley, although not a lawyer, does not come off second best, but holds his own with Mr. Seward with small if not greater ability than his predecessor in the Foreign Office, on these disputes with the American Government arising out of the war. The British Government would have been derelict in its duty and extremely weak if it had consented to submit to the opinion of another power its conduct in the matter of recognizing the belligerency of the Confederate States and the propriety of the United States that this question should be pushed upon by the arbitration upon any one the latter can conceivably make; the United States Government itself having been the first to accord belligerent rights to the Southern people. The British Government did not first do so to insult or injure the Yankees as it would have been easy to show; but did so because the example of the United States in previously exercising the same character, but being the defendant in the controversy, she simply availed herself of the right to claim "a peremptory exception" to the tribunal, which neither at the very foundation of the claim. The United States asks England to make an adjudication which is regarded as legal nonsense in contending that issues and liability flowing the act and very responsibility for it, may "press up your back."

The New Orleans Bee.

OFFICE 73 CHARTRES STREET. NEW ORLEANS, FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 27, 1867. Vol. XXVII—New Series. Vol. XVII—Whole—14,323

The whole dispute lies in the fact as to whether or not the Confederate States were *de facto* a belligerent power, and it would be the most consummate folly in England to agree to arbitration to refer a question like that upon which the whole world—the United States included—during the contest and since, have agreed. Nobody knows that better than Mr. Seward, who is merely trying to make a capital for himself out of this lengthy correspondence. The doctrine that a government in fact is to be regarded by foreign powers as a government of right, is not exclusively of European origin, but was at one time a favorite assertion with the American people and has been repeatedly acted upon by their Government. They never saw its doubtful correctness until it came to be applied to themselves. It makes such a wonderful difference *when* or it is that is greed. In standing so firmly upon her prerogative in judging when a *de facto* power should be accorded belligerent rights, England is contending for a right once strenuously maintained by American statesmen and one, which in the coming time, it may be of the utmost importance to the United States, should not be denied. In asserting it so bravely now, England, as on former occasions, is fighting the battle of liberty and protecting America against her own mad mania. It is manifest that the course of the British Government towards the Confederate States, "could not be submitted to the revision of any arbiter without a complete abandonment of all rights, as an independent State, to determine for itself the particular policy which it may think proper to pursue." Nor will any war arise between England and the United States on this question, which will probably now be suffered to sleep. When two contending parties are willing to submit their differences to arbitration, and it is not done because they cannot agree upon the facts to be submitted, it would be contrary to the ordinary course of things, that they should fight, and there is enough good sense left in both countries to enable them to discover some method of settling the difficulty, without resorting to *the ultima ratio regum*. It may not, however, be done during Mr. Johnson's administration.

NEW CITY OFFICERS.—The election of Judge Buchanan as City Attorney gives great satisfaction to the public. It shows the progress we are making, as this election could hardly have been effected one month ago. It is a singular commentary upon the action of Gen. Sheridan and the present Council that they had to call for advice on legal matters outside of their own circle, but if they are getting some sense knocked into their stupid heads, we may let them off from any further observations on this subject.

We have heard the name of a very worthy citizen suggested for the office of Mayor, and we are sure he would honor the post and not be honored by it. Mr. Mann is a man of great purity and dignity of character and fine legal attainments, but unfortunately afflicted with a rare modesty which prevents him from pressing his claims upon the powers that be, which are equal, if not superior, to those of any other citizen. Gen. Hancock could not appoint a more capable man than Mr. Martin Blache, the gentleman to whom we allude.

THE FRENCH OPERA.—The performance of the opera of *Guitarre* at this house on Christmas night, was very spirited and gave unbounded delight to the audience. Miss Aubert was in fine voice and rendered the drinking song most exquisitely.

Last night *La Reine de Chypre*, was presented for the first time, Miss Aubert taking the *role of Catarina*. Mr. Picot, Mr Han Huffien, Mr. Lechevalier in the other characters. The opera was put upon the stage in all its splendor and the scenic display was unusually fine. The duo in the third act between Picot and Lechevalier was much admired and was said to be the gem of the season. The performance passed off quite successfully. Miss Aubert, Mr. Picot and Mr. Lechevalier were applauded frequently. This opera will be repeated on Saturday night.

Faust is under preparation.

THE VARIETIES THEATRE.—Mr. Booth continues to be the great attraction at this house. On Monday and Tuesday he appeared in his favorite character of *Hamlet* in which he has had so much success. We did not witness the performance but are informed that Mr. Booth came fully up to the mesure of the public expectation. On Christmas night he performed the character of *Cardinal Richelieu* in Bulwer's celebrated play of that name. He went through the grand scene with powerful effect.

Last night he repeated the character and tonight he will appear in his father's great role of *Iago*.

La Bostonite of Assumption Parish announces the death, on the 19th instant, at Paincourtville, from yellow fever, of the Rev. Father Chevrot, of the church of St. Elizabeth of that place. The deceased was a native of Haute Savoie, in France.

The same paper announces the death, on the 19th instant, at Labadieville, of Madame Claire Leblanc, wife of Mr. Emile L. Hebert, merchant, of Napoleon, and daughter of Mr. Denis Leblanc and Madame Eglantine Comeau.

The *Pioneer of Assumption* announces the death, on the 20th instant, of Mr. John McCartney, a prominent and worthy citizen of that parish. The deceased was a native of Ireland, but had resided in Assumption for 33 years.

By a dispatch to Messrs. William Ruperti & Co, we learn that the Prussian steamship Bavaria hence for Hamburg, made the passage in 17 days from Southwest Pass.

The steamship Star of the Union, Captain Cooksey, sailed last evening at 6 o'clock, for Philadelphia, via Havana, with a full freight and a number of passengers.

THE SOUTHERN DIRECT TAX.—Congress suspended, some time since, the law providing for the collection of the direct taxes at the South, and appointed a Board of Commissioners on duty there were dismissed. During the past month many of these commissioners have applied for reinstatement on the ground of hard moneys, and others have presented their petitions to be appointed at that time. Secretary McCulloch, believing that the Southern people are not in a condition to pay the tax, submitted the propriety of a further suspension to the house committee on ways and means. No action was taken on the subject, but the Secretary will not appoint any tax commissioners or take any further steps toward collecting the tax until after the reassembling of Congress.

THE MISSISSIPPI PASSES.—The Engineer Department has received information that the channel at the Southwest Pass of the Mississippi has been excavated to a depth of 18 feet by a dredging machine. A German steamer, which drew 18 feet, has passed out without touching bottom.—*Washington Star, Chicago Tribune.*

EXIT STANTON.—President Johnson's last message has effectually disposed of Mr. Stanton for the remainder of his days. It shows that the Secretary of War has been playing a double game from the time of Mr. Lincoln's death until his removal. No one talks or thinks now of the Secretary's retainment, or of his move being made in the matter. It is scarcely possible, even, that he will have the temerity to defend himself, even if some obscure country newspaper, should die at the crushing blow delivered by Old Andy "straight from the shoulder."

THE SPIRIT TAX is beginning to engage the attention of members. The Committee of Ways and Means to-day had the Hon. Charles H. Curtis, of Quincy, Ill., before them, upon the subject, and examined him at length as regards the working of the present law, and the proper means to be used to collect the tax. Mr. Curtis thinks the tax so high as to be virtually a premium on fraud; also, that the tax should, in all cases, be paid before the spirits leave the distiller's premises. To-morrow Mr. Curtis will be again examined, and, I learn, will present a tangible outline of a plan for the collection of the tax to the committee, for their consideration. I was informed by one of the members that Mr. Curtis made an excellent impression upon the committee, and that his answers to all the questions propounded to him threw much light upon the whole subject of the spirit tax, and the manner in which its collection is now so fraudulently and shamefully evaded.

BUSINESS IN NEW YORK, I learn, is very bad. There are many heavy failures, and large numbers who have not failed are nearly crippled by the gale." I have conversed with many leading gentlemen from that city, and all unite in representing the condition of trade there as anything but satisfactory. The worst of it is, that no one knows to what source or quarter to look for a revival from the general stagnation.—*Ibid.*

The following is a copy of the retraction demanded of Messrs. Maltby and Kinney, editors of the *Rescue*, by the military. Instead of being continued under guard they were released and the guards taken away from the office upon their giving their parole to publish this retraction in their next issue. Owing to the fact that Mr. Maltby has gone to New Orleans, the next issue of the *Rescue* will not be until his return, when we hope, and have no doubt to see the paper remodelled:

"By attending here being called to certain indecent publications in reference to Northern women in my issue of the 8th instant, I have to state that they are false, that I knew them to be false when publishing, and now greatly regret having published them.

"In future I propose conducting my paper with less severity than heretofore."

We saw a copy on the door of the *Rancheros* office, and an announcement beneath that it filed of Mismagentalik on the morning of the 15th instant, a decree legal friend of ours says he thinks it was caused more by a violation of a certain M. D we have in our midst—otherwise Military Despotic. We think he is right, although misapprehension is enough to kill anybody or anything.—*Rio Grande Courier, 17th.*

General Sheridan visited the Chicago High School on Friday, and the pupil sang "Rally Round the Flag," and when retiring he was applauded and blessed by the lady scholars and teachers.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Christmas Incidents Agreeable and Service—Christmas day was celebrated in no unusual manner. The various public offices were closed, the customary services were held in the churches, in some of which there was added to festivity of the "Christmas tree" for the gratification of the Sunday school scholars. Many a private residence was the scene of a fine dinner, while toys for the children and more substantial gifts for the older ones were the usual order of things in doors. Outside fire-crackers, Roman candles, sky rockets and other pyrotechnic displays were as numerous and brilliant as we have ever known on similar previous occasions.

The various places of amusement were crowded. That elegant "home institution," the Academy of Music, was literally jammed from pit to dome, mostly with children, all of whom were gratified with the receipt of toys from the liberal managers. Messrs. Spalding & Hidwell, the former aided by his gentlemanly ushers, dispensing them in his most gracious manner. The scene inside "The Tale of Enchantment" was a world of wonder to the little ones, and was relished with the innocent freshness, relished by all, with which some of the juvenile visitors indulged their propensity for fire-crackers by occasionally throwing them upon the stage to burst and startle the actors as they executed their fairy dances, making them laugh at the cunning *diablerie* of the youngsters.

The St. Charles was also crowded with a similar variety of visitors, the jam at the Academy driving many a disappointed family of young folk to find seats in its grand precincts to witness the marvelous beauties and strange presentments of the "Black Crook."

The Museum on St. Charles street was also largely visited, and its hundreds of natural and artificial curiosities admired and wondered at from noon till night. *The Olympic Theatre had a full attendance.*

The other places of amusement were all largely attended, and altogether it was a profitable day to the caterers to the public taste in every species of public enjoyment. The drinking and eating saloons, not least of all, must have done a fine business, for so far as our observation went, there was a vast amount of indulgence in the gratification of the appetites. It was indeed a jolly day, in such respects, at least.

But, as usual, Christmas was not without its sad features to some. Independent of the fatal accident with fire arms elsewhere noticed, there were other events of a serious character. A quadroon girl, named Sarah, was stabbed at 120 Rampart street, about midnight, by some one supposed to be her husband, said to be jealous of her and to have threatened her life while she was at a party on Christmas eve. She was seized and stabbed in an alley way as she was returning, the party who stabbed her escaping in the dark. It is apprehended she will not recover.

A little girl had her dress set on fire by a fire cracker bursting as she passed on the street, but it was soon extinguished.

A boy named Nicholas Merz was seriously burned at the corner of Washington and St. Denis streets, by the explosion of a flask of gun powder. He was pouring the powder on some fire-crackers. Another, whose name we did not ascertain, had a finger shot off by the accidental discharge of a pistol.

Still another was struck on the head with a sky rocket, and so seriously injured that his life is disparaged of. The accident occurred on Ninth street. The sufferer's name is Jacob Bottelberger. The stick of the rocket passed through the nose and lip. George Mulsevic, at whose hands the rocket was lightened, has been arrested.

James Patterson, who is charged with committing a violent assault and battery on his wife, resisting officer Malone, who was arresting him, and was shot by the officer in self defence. The wound is considered trifling.

Reportorial Modesty.—Gen. Steadman has returned to the city and resumed the duties of United States Revenue Collector.

A police officer found a $100 bill which had been dropped by an old lady in the ladies' house of Pike, Lapeyre & Bro., Tuesday, and honestly returned it, though so far as there was any evidence of detection, he might have kept it with impunity. He modestly requests that his name be withheld.

The young men who have been charged with robbing the Lafayette, in the street of all the boxes of merchants, took cotton permits therefrom and sold them. They are to be examined before United States Commissioner Holland.

Parties in the city are annoyed by United States tax collectors from the country, sent here to collect revenue on cotton sent to the city. The tax on such cotton is due here, we learn, and collectable here by Gen. Steadman and his accredited deputies.

Installation.—The following officers of Monroe Chapter No. 18, Royal Arch Masons, for the ensuing year, were duly installed on Tuesday, the 17th inst, viz:

Joseph E. McGuire, Most Excellent High Priest; Eugene Tisdale, Excellent King; John G Saunders, Excellent Scribe; George Chamberlain, Captain of Host; James G. Richardson, Principal Sojourner; Frank P. Stible, Royal Arch Captain; R. W. Jenkins, Grand Master Third Veil; George W. McFee, Grand Master Second Veil; Fred. Endom, Grand Master First Veil; Simon Marx, Treasurer; John A. McGuire, Secretary; F. L. McCormack, Guard.

The Case of Alleged Official Corruption.—The case of Street Commissioner Wm Baker and his Deputies, Messrs Wm H Brown and E C D'Hemecourt, charged with official corruption in extorting considerable sums of money, amounting in the aggregate to about $1600, from F. Marquez, on 3d Cadeleda street for work done, or represented to have been in the Street Commissioner's Department, was considered last evening in a special meeting of the Board of Assistant Aldermen, called by Mayor Heath for the purpose.

On motion, the Chairman, Mr. Hepp, appointed Messrs. Joubert, Gauche, Sterry, Straight and Marie a committee to investigate and report upon the matter with a view to impeachment if the charges are substantiated.

On motion, it was determined that the committee conduct the investigation in open door, for the satisfaction of the public. The investigation will commence at 5½ o'clock this evening.

On motion, it was resolved that both Boards meet in joint session, in order to approve or reject the adjudication to be made to day of the contract for taking the revenue of the markets. The meeting will be at 7 o'clock this evening.

The Nec City Officers.—The selections of Judge A. M. Buchanan, formerly of the Supreme Bench of the State as City Attorney in the place of S. S. Fish, Esq., and of Messrs. C. E. Girardey & Co. as City Auctioneers, give the most abundant satisfaction to the public. Better selections could not have been made. The following is Judge Buchanan's letter of acceptance:

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 26, 1867.

"Hon. E. Heath:

"DEAR SIR—Your letter of the 26th instant is received, informing me that at a joint session of the Common Council, held on the 23d inst., I was unanimously elected to the office of city attorney of the city of New Orleans.

"For this proof of the confidence of the Council, I tender them my gratified acknowledgements, and accept the honorable and arduous trust, hoping that I may be able to discharge it to the satisfaction of my fellow citizens. I pledge myself that no exertions shall be spared on my part to effect that end.

"I remain, dear sir, very respectfully, yours,
"A. M. BUCHANAN."

Fire—A fire occurred about 12 o'clock on Wednesday night, in a dairy, corner of Hagan Avenue and Bienville street, owned by Mr. Morel, and occupied by John Forman. The fire originated in a hay-stack in the yard, and destroyed the stable, a one-story house, and a kitchen and three sheds. No insurance. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

Substantial Compliment.—A substantial and richly deserved compliment, Christmas Day, paid to Mr. J. A DeBlanc, Deputy Surveyor of the Port, by the employes in the Surveyor's Department of the Customhouse. It was made the recipient of an elegant and massive gold watch and chain, manufactured by the house of R. S. Griswold & Co., as a token of their warm regard Mr J. F. Brazil, in behalf of the donors, made a neat and tasty address on the occasion, which was handsomely responded to by Mr. DeBlanc.

Fatal Accident with Firearms—The Coroner held an inquest yesterday on the body of Christian Ravenscack, aged 37 years and a native of Germany, who died at the residence, in Carondelet day, from the effects of a pistol-shot wound inflicted by John D. Levison about 5 o'clock last Tuesday evening, in the store of H. L. Stern, corner of Gravier and Magazine streets.

The testimony was to the effect that deceased was employed as porter in the store. As they were about to leave the store Mr. Stern went to his desk and took out one of his pistols to carry home. Mr Levison had one exactly like that of Mr. Stern's. A conversation ensued, in which Mr. Stern said he could fix Mr. L.'s pistol in the same way, so it would not go off. Mr S. handed the pistol to Mr. L., and while the latter was revolving the cylinder and holding the pistol upon the hammer his thumb slipped and the pistol exploded, the ball first passing upward up in front of him, with the unfortunate result which terminated in his death Christmas day, as stated.

The verdict of the jury of inquest was in accordance with these facts.

Benat Butler and General Hancock.

[Correspondence of the Public Ledger.]

New York, December 18.—The President's message in relation to General Hancock is the subject of much remark with the politicians. Some of the Republicans on Change expressed the opinion that the only motive for writing it was a desire to further irritate Congress. The Democrats, per contra, are delighted with it, and say if Congress fail to give Hancock the reinforcements recommended by the President they will call a public meeting in the Park forthwith to make good the default.

The Supreme Court of this State this morning rendered a decision against Gov. Butler, who, as executor of his brother, the late Andrew J. Butler, refused to make a return to the Surrogate of the property belonging to deceased out of as well as in this State. The decision declares that executors must renve inventories of all the personal property of their testators, wherever such property may be.

The personal effect of this will be to compel the General to submit an inventory of all the property belonging to deceased which he became possessed of in New Orleans during the occupation of that city by the Union forces. The case has been pending for nearly two years and a half, but under this ruling of the court the way is clear for a final adjustment of the difficulties in the way of settlement.

There are many reasons for rejoicing at the square and unqualified rejection of the impeachment proceedings. Not least is the deliverance from the deluge of speeches which we protested against last week. Then we were not alarmed without reason, may be judged from the fact that before the motion referred to there had no less than forty-six members of the House had filed notices of their intention to speak on the impeachment question. Perhaps a dozen of this portentous list constituted the solution of the House. At all events, we rejoice that no speech got into the world of talk."—*N. Y. Mr. Post.*

John Bull is making rapid strides on the Alabama question. Four years ago, while we were at war, he would not even discuss the matter; now he is willing to meet Brother Jonathan half-way.

A New York paper says: "It may have been forgotten that during the war a well known merchant of this city bought a set of diamonds which proved to be "paste," that is, the stones were counterfeit. Last week they were valued upon books of paste. The buyer was afraid to invest in Government bonds, and preferred to be the wall of talk."

THE LOUISIANA CONVENTION.

TWENTY-FOURTH DAY—DEC. 26, 1867.

Adoption of First Article of the Constitution.

The Convention met at 10 A. M., pursuant to adjournment. President Taliaferro in the chair.

An ordinance offered by Cooley, of Pointe Coupée, amending the ordinance adopted Tuesday so as to make warrants issued for the payment of the expenses of the Convention receivable for State taxes, was adopted under a suspension of the rules.

The special committee appointed to ascertain whether any portion of the Convention printing is being executed by "presses hostile to reconstruction," reported as follows:

"To the Honorable President and Members of Constitutional Convention:

"In behalf of the committee to which was referred a resolution of inquiry relative to the rumors that officers and offices had been engaged to execute the official printing of this Convention, I respectfully ask leave to report that I have carefully investigated the matter, and find that a portion of the job work of the Convention is done at the office of the New Orleans *Times*.

"And in this connection I would respectfully suggest that the proprietors of the New Orleans *Republican* have a splendid job office and are prepared to do work as cheap and neat, and expeditiously, as any parties in the city, and it might seem more becoming in us to patronize our friends rather than to throw work into the hands of those who are constantly abusing and seeking to destroy us. Respectfully submitted.

"W. JASPER BLACKBURN,
"Chairman Com. Printing.

Judge Cooley thought that the *Tribune* had an unquestioned right to have the work done wherever it could the cheapest, and that the Convention had nothing to do with it. The report was laid over under the rules.

The Convention then went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Barrett, of Union, in the chair, to consider the majority and minority reports of the Committee on Draft of the Constitution. After some discussion it was resolved to act on them together.

Judge Taliaferro, as a substitute for the first article, submitted the following: "The citizens of this State owe allegiance to the United States, and this allegiance is paramount to the allegiance due the State."

After discussion, lasting till near 4 o'clock, the following was adopted as the first article of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana:

"All men are created free and equal, and have certain inalienable rights: among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. To secure these rights governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Before this was finally adopted there was an infinite amount of discussion, in fact, nearly the whole day, mooted on the question whether the article should begin "All men are *created* free and equal, or "All men are *right* free and equal."

The Convention adjourned till 11 A. M. Friday.

Latest News by Mail.

STRUGGLE TO CONTINUE THE BUREAU.

Washington, Dec. 24.—It is learned that in spite of Gen. Howard's recommendation for discontinuing the Freedmen's Bureau, in July last, a strong effort is being made on the part of the civil employés throughout the South to bring an influence to bear on Congress to have the Bureau continued for another year. Gen. Grant, however, seems to be of the opinion that the district commanders, with the force on duty, are competent to do all that is now performed by the large array of civilians in the service of the Bureau, with scarcely any additional expense.

It is very significant that a body so thoroughly radical as the Virginia Convention does not desire the continuance of the Bureau.

ANOTHER RADICAL CONVENTION PROPOSED.

Intimations are given out in the radical papers that a movement is on foot among the Southern Radicals to get up another Presidential Convention, on the ground that the Southern States will not be represented by the 22th of May, and therefore will be more persons from the wreck of the Union available for the Chicago Convention. The new movement is represented as being in the interest of Judge Chase.

COLLECTION OF DIRECT TAXES IN THE SOUTH

Washington, Dec. 22.—Congress suspended, some time since, the law providing for the collection of direct taxes in the South until January, 1868, and the tax commissioners on duty there were dismissed. During the past month many of these commissioners have applied for reinstatement on the ground of hard money, and others have presented their petitions to be appointed at that time. Secretary McCulloch, believing that the Southern people are not in a condition to pay the tax, submitted the propriety of a further suspension to the house committee on ways and means. No action was taken on the subject, but the Secretary will not appoint any tax commissioners or take any further steps toward collecting the tax until after the reassembling of Congress.

Benat Butler and General Hancock.

[Correspondence of the Public Ledger.]

New York, December 18.—The President's message in relation to General Hancock is the subject of much remark with the politicians. Some of the Republicans on Change expressed the opinion that the only motive for writing it was a desire to further irritate Congress. The Democrats, per contra, are delighted with it, and say if Congress fail to give Hancock the reinforcements recommended by the President they will call a public meeting in the Park forthwith to make good the default.

The Supreme Court of this State this morning rendered a decision against Gov. Butler, who, as executor of his brother, the late Andrew J. Butler, refused to make a return to the Surrogate of the property belonging to deceased out of as well as in this State. The decision declares that executors must renve inventories of all the personal property of their testators, wherever such property may be.

The personal effect of this will be to compel the General to submit an inventory of all the property belonging to deceased which he became possessed of in New Orleans during the occupation of that city by the Union forces. The case has been pending for nearly two years and a half, but under this ruling of the court the way is clear for a final adjustment of the difficulties in the way of settlement.

BY TELEGRAPH.

[To the New Orleans Bee]

FROM WASHINGTON.

Sale of Dismal Swamp Canal Stock Postponed.

Murder by a Negro.

Return of Money Stolen from a Bank Messenger.

Another of the Raleigh's Boats Arrived.

Policeman and Two Boys Killed at Memphis.

FROM EUROPE.

Proposed Sale of Cuba a Canard.

The Fenian Scare all Over.

Foreign and Domestic Markets.

From Southwest Pass.

Washington, Dec. 26.—The Bureau of Statistics reports the total authorized mileage of railroads in the United States at 54,000 miles, completed, costing $1,054,000,000.

The Ohio Congressional District, made vacant by the death of the late Mr. Hamilton, gave that gentleman a majority, in 1866, of 1852 votes. The contest for the nomination on either side is already bitter.

T. L. Bingham, of North Carolina, and Humphrey Marshall, of Kentucky, are here.

Internal Revenue receipts to day, $567,000.

The Secretary of the Treasury has determined to postpone indefinitely the sale of the Dismal Swamp Canal stock.

A negro to day fired his revolver at three men who ran against him. One of the men has since died from the effects of wound received. The murderer escaped.

Judge Underwood has appointed Hamilton A. Pratt, of Richmond, Receiver of the Bank of the Valley of Virginia; assets over a million of dollars.

Montgomery, Dec. 26.—The *Advertiser* of to-morrow will contain a letter from ex-Senator Benjamin Fitzpatrick, of Marion, who was arresting the service of the Bureau, with scarcely any additional expense.

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DEMAND FOR NURSERIES.

New York, Dec 22.—A Panama letter says: "I learn by private advices from Lattuagnea that Mr. Seward, having demanded in positive terms that the officers and others engaged in the assassination of President Lincoln be put to death, the civil authorities in possession of information that a general attempt would be made to rescue the Fenians confined in various parts of the kingdom for complicity in the late outrages. Special constables are everywhere on duty.

The *Times* has an editorial on the Abyssinian war, which it fears will be prolonged through next year, and Thomas Napier, who commands the forces, for the delay. Nothing of consequence will be done the present season.

Russia has addressed the French Government protesting against its shifting policy upon the eastern question.

China advices report rebel successes in their operations against the Imperial Government.

Charleston, Dec. 25.—The steamship Raleigh took fire on Tuesday, 24th, at noon. The following persons have been saved, and are here: Purser McManus and wife; D. B. Rice, chief engineer; John Smith, seaman; Thomas Keating; baker; James Crowley, third cook; John McDonald, seaman; Margaret Murtah, stewardess; Capt. N. R. Mills, an officer of the New York police; Charles Whitston, passenger; C. W. Bartlett, chief officer; Gordon Young, second officer; Chas. Smith, quartermaster; Michael Gibbney, messman; Thos. P. Brown, fireman; E. Roberts, steerage passenger; R. Short and Frances Mehal, steerage passengers.

The following are probably safe: C. C. Marshman, Jr., son of the captain; Patrick Harrington, fireman; John Larkin, fireman; Eugene Ellis, captain's boy. These persons are in a large boat, and are known to have others with them, names unknown, and it is believed that they picked up several parties that were floating on portions of the steamer.

The following are lost: Henry Plinn, chief steward; Thos. Calloy, third steward; Jas. Penfield, waiter; Thos. Brannan, pantryman; Wm. Walsh, and Martin, boys of New Orleans; Joshua Silvernail, coal passer; D. Lovell, fireman; Mrs. Bryant, passenger. The fate of the remainder, including Capt. Marshman, is up to this time unknown.

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL.

THURSDAY EVENING, Dec. 26, 1867.

The few changes in the money market to-day indicated increasing ease. The payments at the banks are more satisfactory, and there is less pressure for discounts. This is what might be reasonably anticipated from the active movement in Cotton, the sales of Sugar and Molasses, and the gradual improvement in the wholesale trade. Still prudent men are disposed to be conservative in their operations. Most Park held at 120 to $21, new and old. Bulk Meats 7½ to 8¾c, loose. Lard held at 14c. Butter steady, 30c. Cheese steady, 12 to 15c; Western firsts 15 to 16c factory. Sugar scarce, prices unchanged. Coffee dull, 18 to 24c.

St. Louis, Dec. 26.—Cotton, Middlings nominal. Flour, fine and medium, $5 to $6; superfine $3 to $3 25; fancy $7 to $8 50; XX $9 to $11; XXX to fancy $11 to $13. Wheat dull and prices nominally lower. Corn dull, 80 to 90c shelled, and 75 to 76 on the track. Oats dull and droopidg at 56 to 57c. Provisions very dull. Mess Pork $21 to $21 75. Bacon—clear sides 13 to 14c. Lard dull—12c. Whiskey firm, $2 00 to $2 05. Hogs nominal—$5 12 to $5 50. No sales. Number packed to date 219,000. Weather clear and cool.

Paris, Dec. 26.—E. G. Buffum, an old and prominent American journalist and author, committed suicide by taking laudanum.

London, Dec. 26.—The excitement of Fenian outbreaks did not occur. Tranquility and good feeling prevailed yesterday. The extra precaution against lawlessness was apparently unnecessary.

Paris, Dec. 26.—The *Patrie* confirms the report that 20,000 more French troops have been ordered to Civita Vecchia.

London, Dec. 26.—Hon. Edward Thornton, the new British Minister to Washington, sails in a few days for the United States.

Havana, Dec. 24.—The report published in the American newspapers that the home government had proposed to sell Cuba and Porto Rico to the United States, is not supported by advices from Spain. The story is undoubtedly pure invention, and is pronounced false by the highest authorities of the Island. Cubans are much amused at the story.

Havana, Dec. 24.—Sugar 7¾ to 8 reals for No. 12, Dutch standard. Exchange on London, 13¾; on New York and 2 to 3¼ premium. Freights—short light 12¼ to 12¾. Potatoes $4 75.

Southwest Pass, Dec. 26—6 P. M.—Wind S. E. Weather warm. Arrived French bark New Helvetia, Bernard, from Havre to Maxwigan & Laborde; brig J H Kennedy, Sillman, from Galveston, ballast to Tiele, Seller & Co.; schooner W