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TERMS OF THE BEE
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NEW ORLEANS:
SATURDAY MORNING, DEC. 12, 1868

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

There are portions of this inordinately lengthy document not without interest. It is a fault of President Johnson that he is so exhaustive in his communications to Congress, when brevity and condensation are desirable. But this does not affect the merit of his irresistible logic, the soundness of his reasoning, or the value of his recommendations. The pure ore of truth is there, even if it be hidden by the dross with which it is enveloped. Neither will the puny spitefulness of Congress, in its unanimously and contemptuous reception of this message, affect the judgment of impartial men upon it. The great Bacon, in expressing, although his "will," his last desires, left his "name and memory to his countrymen after some time be passed over" Mr. Johnson is probably content to leave his also to the judgment of the future. We suppose, indeed, that in preparing this message the President did not anticipate its favorable reception by men who have no long and so successfully endeavored to thwart, to overthrow and to humiliate him. He had in view, we presume, the placing upon the historical records of the country an exposure which would last, of the miserably obsolete statesmanship of those who have assumed to guide the country through the financial and other troubles of the *past bellum* period. Mr. Johnson had also in view, no doubt, a vindication of the wise and healing policy of his predecessor, a policy which he had determined to adopt and was engaged in executing, when he was shocked in his humane endeavors by these would-be statesmen. As Mr. Johnson's entire term has been a continued protest against the extravagance and the folly of his legislators, so this message is intended to remain as his last and crowning effort on behalf of constitutional government. It forms an indictment, too, against those conspirators, and an exposure to the country of the crimes of which they have been guilty. The boldness of his accusations, the skill with which these crimes are laid bare, and their absolute verity, sufficiently account for the wrath they excited and the treatment the document has received.

The Radical leaders are sore upon the "Reconstruction" question. Their policy has proved to be a complete failure. What wonder they now withdraw their tail singer when they are reminded of their shortcomings! It is Mr. Johnson's misfortune, perhaps, to have lived at a time when the tenancy had engrossed the leading strings and the restraints of its written Constitution—to have sat at the feet of the great expounders and defenders of that instrument and to have drunk in their teachings, and when he saw that inroads were making upon it to have placed himself as a barrier, a breakwater in the way of those who would destroy it. He may have overestimated his powers of resistance. The future only can tell. At present that great charter of our liberties seems to have been overthrown.

Whatever may betide, Mr. Johnson closes his term of office with the respect, the confidence. May the administration of every man capable of appreciating his well-meant efforts to protect and preserve what he believes to be valuable in the Constitution and to carry out to the last the terms of his oath as the Chief Magistrate of the United States. He has fought a good fight. He has shown a wonderful tough ness and elasticity in his great contests with the Legislature, and he will retire without a single imputation upon his purity and integrity as a man and his fidelity as a public officer. His only error if error it be, has been his obstinate opposition to the Congressional majority, and to their unconstitutional legislation. There are recommendations in Mr. Johnson's message which deserve attention, suggestions touching the finances and territorial expansion which we propose to make the subject of future observations.

A POPULAR ENCYCLOPEDIA AND DICTIONARY.—We have received from Mr. E. Lefèvre, of the *Renaissance Louisianaise*, who is the general agent for the work, in this State, the first number of a new publication under the title of "Lalli's Popular Encyclopedia and Universal Dictionary," issued under a Philadelphia imprint and edited by L. Colange, who is assisted by eminent scientific and literary gentlemen. The peculiar feature of this work is that it forms both a dictionary and an encyclopedia, and the fact that it is illustrated with nearly two thousand engravings and maps. In the language of the prospectus "The design of this work is to incorporate into a compact and concise form the vast information hitherto found only in numerous books, such as gazetteers, biographical dictionaries, the dictionaries of law and medicine, the encyclopedias and dictionaries of language all combined, and at a cost much below that of any encyclopedia heretofore published." The work will be issued in parts or numbers, weekly, each number consisting of eight pages and costing only ten cents.

THE FRENCH OPERA.—The opera of "Robert Le Diable," so well put upon the stage of our Opera House by Mr. Calabresi and presented on last Thursday evening, will be repeated to-night. Madame Cambier, Miss Hasselmans, Mr. Picot and Mr. Van Hulfen personating the principal characters. We cannot too highly commend the efforts of Mr. Calabresi and his artists to keep up the reputation of this establishment, nor urge too strongly the lovers of music to give these efforts every encouragement.

LARGE SALE AT AUCTION OF INSURANCE SCRIP AND STOCKS, AT THE MERCHANTS AND AUCTIONEERS' EXCHANGE.—Messrs. Palfrey & Co. will adjudicate to-day a large list of insurance scrip and stocks—catalogues of which can be obtained at their office. As the sale is positive, parties interested would do well to be personally on hand. See advertisement in the French columns.

CALIBATA BARK.—It is said that Messrs. Dubuc & Co., (proprietors of the PLANTATION BITTERS) are the largest importers of Calisaya Bark in this country, and that, with the exception of an occasional sale, all their import is used in the compounding of their celebrated PLANTATION BITTERS—to which they undoubtedly are indebted for their wonderful health-restoring properties. As a Tonic and Appetizer they are not surpassed, and we cheerfully recommend them. All first-class Druggists keep them for sale.

MAGNOLIA WATER, superior to the best imported German Cologne, and sold at half the price.

AUCTION SALES THIS DAY.

CHAS. E. Fortier sells real estate, at 12 o'clock m., at the Merchants' and Auctioneers' Exchange, Royal street, between Customhouse and Canal.

Warning to Carpet Baggers.

The Mayor of Baton Rouge publishes the following notice to the Supervisors of Registration for that parish, which they would do well to heed. It applies to some others as well:

MAYOR'S OFFICE, CITY OF BATON ROUGE, }
December 7th, 1868.

Whereas, In the report of William Baker, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Registration for the parish of East Baton Rouge, to the Governor, on the late election, as published in the New Orleans Republican of the 1st inst., there is a statement tending to cast odium and obloquy upon the citizens of Baton Rouge, utterly false and malicious and misleading in its details. And whereas the making of this false statement claims to derive its independence or opinion from a supposed and pretended communication from the Registrars of this parish. I hereby make it known to so many of them as Supervisors have signed said document or lent themselves to the work of maligning this community, and also to their sureties and abettors, who have furnished the data upon which this falsehood is based, that they even their present immunity here in some measure at least, to the efforts which the officials of this place have made in the interests of peace, and to such protection to their persons as we have been kind to them afforded them.

As the protection of the law and the forbearance of the community are appreciated in no other way by those persons than edict Beasts for the paltry and unrepentant nature, I am compelled to say that while my oath of office, and I believe an ever present sense of duty, indicates me to extend to all inhabitants and sojourners in the city the protection of the law, I shall for the future regard these miscreants as outcasts from the public peace and unworthy of public confidence.

That while we are bound and willing to throw around them the aegis of the law, their ill-repeated and gross insults upon the citizens of Baton Rouge, render more and more difficult the duty of saving them from the just indignation of the subjects of their misrepresentations. They, as well as Mr. Baker and the Governor, know that in this instance we have been misrepresented.

Given under my hand and seal of office, the date above written.

J. E. ELAM, Mayor.

The Case of Jeff. Davis—Disagreement of the Court—What will be Done Next.

(From the Richmond Dispatch.)

In the Circuit Court of the United States on Saturday morning the Chief Justice announced that the court had failed to agree upon a decision in regard to the motion made to quash the indictments against Mr. Jefferson Davis.

The counsel for the defendant then asked that the fact of the disagreement be recorded in the Supreme Court of the United States.

The Court signified its acquiescence, and thereupon the following paper was entered upon the record:

"At this term of the court, began and held at Richmond, in the said district, on the 23d day of November, 1868, and continued until this day, a motion was made on behalf of the defendant to quash or set aside the said indictment, and to dismiss the same and the prosecution thereof.

"And upon that motion it appeared that the said Jefferson Davis, having previously to the offences charged in the said indictment taken an oath as a member of Congress to support the Constitution of the United States, the question arose whether, by the operation and effect of the third clause of the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the defendant is exempted from indictment or prosecution for treason in levying war and participating or engaging in the late rebellion. And upon that question the opinions of the Judges were opposed. And thereupon the said point is, upon the request of said defendant, stated under the direction of the said Judges, and certified under the seal of the said Circuit Court to the Supreme Court of the United States at its next session."

It was generally believed that the Chief Justice was in favor of granting the motion to quash, while Judge Underwood wished to overrule it. But the Chief Justice stated in private conversation that he wished it distinctly understood that he had expressed no opinion on the subject.

After the record had been read, District Attorney Beach said the only thing necessary to be disposed of was the appointment of the day for the trial. As counsel were anxious for a full bench on the occasion, he suggested the naming of some day after the adjournment of the Supreme Court and before the close of the present session of this court.

The Chief Justice: The difficulty is in fixing a day when there will be a full bench, as it is impossible to tell how long the Supreme Court will sit.

Mr. O'Conner said, that counsel may be definite in their appointments, he was rather inclined to the opinion of the countenance of Mr. Davis be renewed by the May term.

The Chief Justice: Well, the recognizance may be renewed any time during the present term. It is quite probable, however, that the court will adjourn before Christmas. The recognizance must of course be renewed before that time.

Mr. O'Conner: It will be renewed immediately—to-day or on Monday.

The Chief Justice: Well. The certificate of disagreement is made by request of the defendant. It may be filed and a copy forwarded to Washington to-day.

Mr. O'Conner left on the morning train taking a copy of the certificate with him.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS—HON. REVERDY JOHNSON DEFENDS THE BASIS OF SETTLEMENT.—On the 28th of October last, Reverdy Johnson was voted an address by the corporation of the town of Brighton. We give the terms for the settlement of the Alabama claims:

The third, and the only other, cause of trouble originated during our late domestic war. From the acts have arisen most of the claims made by your citizens upon my Government, and my fellow-citizens upon yours; the latter known by the general name of the Alabama claims.

The correspondence which we have recently agreed to (and which I have no doubt will be approved by both Governments), provides that these shall be settled by a board of four commissioners—two to be appointed by each Government.

In the event of their not deciding by a majority for or against any claim either of the Alabama one, the decision is to be made by an umpire chosen by themselves. In regard to the Alabama claims, the arrangement is somewhat different.

Before these are to be considered by the commissioners, that the two Governments are to agree upon the principles which they (the Government as an arbitrator, by whom the decision as to the liability of your Government for such claims is to be made, and the contingency that the commissioners fail to come to a unanimous decision for or against it.

This arbitrator, however, is to adjudge only the question of liability.

If he rule that question against your Government, the amount due to each claimant is to be ascertained by a majority of the commissioners. If he rule in favor of your Government, the claim is to be perpetually barred.

A Melancholy Case.

We find in the Louisville *Courier-Journal* the following paragraph, concerning the loss of the wife of one of our merchants, who was on board the United States:

Mrs. Mary Griffin and her friend Mrs. Commodore Thompson, who were placed upon the United States by Cincinnati by Mrs. Governess Wheles, of Philadelphia, perished in the great conflagration. The first-named lady was the wife of Mr. George W. Griffin, of the firm of Griffin & Porch, New Orleans. She had been on a pleasure visit to her native city, Philadelphia, for the first time since her marriage. Mr. Griffin is now at Columbus, Miss., on business, addressed a letter to his wife, in care of the Louisville Hotel, where she expected to stop, requesting her to meet him at Columbus. Mr. Griffin read the first news of the disaster, although his wife's name was not mentioned in the dispatches, and he did not know that she had taken passage on the United States. He immediately started for this city. It having been localized at the hotel that Mrs. Griffin was lost the letter of her address remained, and the whereabouts of Mr. Griffin ascertained, and a telegram sent apprising him of the loss of his wife. He arrived at the hotel only a few minutes after the departure of the steamer, and in hopeful than despairing, he asked the clerk if Mrs. Griffin was there. On receiving the mournful answer he left, was lost, but Mr. Griffin seized into tears, and was too deeply grieved to stir. He was helped into the hotel office, where he sat some time, and gave vent to the most pitiful anguish. As soon as he had composed himself sufficiently, he wended his way to the steamer Buell, and thence to Warsaw to search for all that remains of his young and beloved wife.

Central Pacific Railroad—Report of the Commissioners to Examine the Same.

Washington, Dec. 3, 1868.—The following is a telegraphic report of the Special Commissioners recently appointed to examine the Central Pacific Railroad:

SACRAMENTO, Dec. 2, 1868.

To O. E. Browning, Secretary of the Interior, Washington:

The Central Pacific Railway is well and substantially built to Wadsworth, on the Truckee River, eighteen miles from Reservamento, except some bridges now nearly finished. The grades and curves are within the limits, and the locations are satisfactory. The rails weigh fifty-six pounds to the lineal yard. Most of the ties are of second timber and full size, and are laid at the rate of 2400 to the mile.

The track is firmly laid and ballasted; the culverts and bridges are of superior and are of heavy granite masonry. The bridges are of the Howe Truss pattern, well framed and ironed. The iron weighs sixteen feet wide.

About 20 miles of the summit of the Sierras are covered with snow-sheds. Passenger trains can run from fifteen to thirty miles per hour between Reservamento and Newcastle. The engines and cars are sufficient for the present business