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The New Orleans Bee.

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THE DAILY BEE.

TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 16

THE NORTHERN MAIL came through yesterday with the latest dates.

TEST VOTES.

It is remarked in the summary of the proceedings in the United States House of Representatives, on the 8th inst., that the opponents of the Lecompton Constitution succeeded for the time in defeating the administration. The test vote was taken on the motion of Mr. McPHERSON to refer the subject to the Committee on Territories. The object of this motion was to obtain an early report, and to ensure a speedy action. This was lost by 113 to 111. The change of a single vote would have given the victory to the South, but this was not to be. The question then recurred, upon the substitute offered by Mr. HARRIS, of Illinois, to refer the subject to a special committee of thirteen, with power to send for persons and papers, and to institute a searching inquiry into all the facts connected with the recent elections in Kansas. This motion was decided—ayes 114, nays 111.

The analysis of this vote reveals some interesting facts. Every Black Republican in the House voted in the affirmative, but the entire strength of that party would have been weak by insufficient without a considerable accession of Democratic forces. The Black Republican representatives numbered 18 anti-slavery men, viz.: ADRIAN, of New Jersey, CHAPMAN, of Pennsylvania, COCKERLIN, of Ohio, Cox, of Ohio, DAVIS, of Indiana, DEWART, of Pennsylvania, ENGLISH, of Indiana, FOLEY, of Indiana, GROSBECK, of Ohio, HALL, of Ohio, HARRIS, of Illinois, HASKIN, of New York, HICKMAN, of Pennsylvania, LENTE, of Pennsylvania, LAWRENCE, of Ohio, MCKEON, of California, MARSHALL, of Illinois, MONTGOMERY, of Pennsylvania, MORRIS, of Illinois, NIBLACK, of Indiana, SHAW, of Illinois, SMITH, of Illinois—22 in all. Of the Americans, one, to wit: H. WINTER DAVIS, voted with the majority. In the list of nays appear the names of the remaining Democrats, and all of the southern Americans. The Democrats were absent—four from the South and two from the North. One American, HASKIN, of Maryland, and one Black Republican were not present.

The telegraph has informed us that the special committee has been appointed by Speaker COLFAX, and that it is composed of seven Lecompton men and six opponents. If this committee really proceeds to perform the work assigned to it, that is, to "inquire into all the facts connected with the formation of the Constitution, and all the laws under which it originated," and into all the Kansas elections and alleged election frauds that have transpired since the formation of that Constitution, to the end of ascertaining whether the same is acceptable and satisfactory to a majority of the legal voters of Kansas, we may not expect a report for two weeks, and when it is presented, we may look for an interminably voluminous document filling many hundred pages, and containing upon the public treasury an expense of not less than a hundred thousand dollars. If we are to wait for the settlement of the Kansas question until that report can be formally discussed by the House, Greek Kalends will be reached before anything can be taken.

It looks, however, a probability that the question will be disposed of by another and a shorter legislative process. In the United States Senate a motion to refer the Lecompton Constitution to the Committee on Territories was fully warmly combated, was carried by a majority of six. The question thus comes to its regular course. The majority can no doubt report at an early day, perhaps in a few weeks the Senate bill, or as far as in it lies, that Kansas shall be admitted under the Lecompton Constitution with all of course be transmitted to the House, and a very strong and successful effort will be made to hurry it forward in advance of the proceedings of the House committee. We say "possibly," we state with much confidence the assertion of the Democrats who voted with the administration on the motion to refer the Lecompton Constitution to the Committee on Territories, will vote for that Constitution whenever it is brought before the House, and that two or three votes will probably convert the Black Republicans into a majority through victoriously. No doubt intrigue will be used to secure this consummation, and we know enough of Congressional policy to justify the hope of success. So we make it be! Should it succeed, the controversy will be kept alive for months to come, and may not be settled even at the present session of Congress.

Hamberg and Vieuxtemps' First Concert.

The first concert in New Orleans of Thalberg and Vieuxtemps was given last evening to a full house, before one of the largest and most fashionable audiences that ever assembled within its walls. These two artists appear in a very quietly, in fact almost unobtrusive style by the brilliant European concerts which preceded them hither, and in the case of the last named gentleman, it is only borne out on the occasion of a few years ago. Thalberg we have never heard, but we had heard of him in his boyhood, and Vieuxtemps had, we should say, stay among us, contrived to create a friendship between the right hand, and himself and violin, that we are not surprised at the success which they achieved last night. Thalberg's style is the perfection of ease and grace. It is the style of a gentleman, in other words, of a man who has seen much with so well that he is never tempted to make a parade of what he has, or to pretensions to what he has not. His playing is very quiet and subdued, and we suppose at present last night who expected the expectation of witnessing any thing in the way of piano-smashing, were disappointed. What pleases in Thalberg is his utter simplicity, which, in his case, is the perfection of art. Of that he has attained so high a pinnacle that he is with supreme intelligence and refined effects, feats of prestidigitation and the general clap-trap of the stage, which, not than so *brilliant* a performer are essentially attached to that rather inferior world as we have listened to. He never attempt to take the audience by storm, at least, in our eyes, is not the least of his merits, it cannot possibly be detected at the attempts to take it at all. It appears every movement of his face, in his every gesture, that he has been an art student in the highest sense of the word. His, we feel assured, have been no vulgar or common-place objectives to toil. He is a genius, and a genius, as we believe, the word signifies the man of transcendent faculties, great patience and great power of will, he owes his fame. Who can say how great, how gigantic the efforts that Thalberg must have put forth to overcome the difficulties he has done—difficulties too, not always appreciated by the critics? And yet how splendid has been the result. He sweeps over the keys with a movement as bold, free and free as the wind's when it breathes through the chords of the Eolian harp. Nothing do the confines of Art and Nature touch. We shall not pronounce Thalberg the greatest pianist that ever lived—we shall not pronounce him the greatest artist living. But he is certainly an artist unlike any ever performer, and there is no doubt that no other pianist that ever visited this country can be compared with him for a moment.

FACSIMILE OF THE MIRIAM KEEWE OF KOSOM. This mysterious and fantastic association gives its annual grand gala this evening, at the Variety Theatre. The doors will be open at half-past 7 o'clock, P. M., and dancing will commence immediately after the close of the entertainment. From the taste, humor and ingenuity of the gentlemen who have in charge the programme of ceremonies, a most lively and amusing entertainment may be anticipated. Fortunate are those who have been provided with tickets of invitation.

We have understood from one who seems to know a-meaning of the mysterious movements of the "M. K. C," that they will meet the Mayor on Lafayette Square at about 9 o'clock this evening, after which they will proceed up Camp street to Julia, down Julia to St. Charles, down St. Charles to Royal, up Royal as far as their time and other attendant circumstances will permit, to Chartres, up Chartres to Canal, and thence to the theatre.

DR. MACKAY'S LECTURES.—We are happy to perceive that this celebrated song-writer, and member of the editorial profession, has been induced to visit our city for the purpose of delivering a course of lectures for the Mercantile Library Association, on Poetry and Song. The first lecture will be given Friday evening next, at the Grizzly Theatre. The reputation of Dr. MACKAY is such as to leave no doubt of the cordial reception he will obtain from every one having the slightest claim to literary taste.

By Telegraph.

[TRANSMITTED TO THE NEW ORLEANS BEE.]

CONGRESSIONAL.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—*Senate.*—Mr. Warren unsuccessfully endeavored to confine the debates of the Committee of the Whole to the subjects pending.

Mr. Wolcott made a written answer, whereupon Mr. Stanton moved his commitment, as the question of the investigating committee as to what he did with the $65,000 of Lawrence, Stone & Co.'s money, is not satisfactorily answered.

Mr. Jones, of Tenn., moved to table the whole subject. Lost by 133 to 55.

On motion of Mr. Morrill, the Committee on Foreign Affairs was instructed to inquire into the expediency of abrogating the reciprocity treaty with Great Britain.

Adjourned.

Senate.—Mr. Seward presented a memorial from the New York Emigration Commissioners, complaining of abuse to female passengers by the officers of ships, and gave notice of the introduction of a bill on the subject.

Mr. Wilson's resolution asking the President for a copy of his instructions to Mr. Meade, U. S. Minister to Brazil, passed.

Mr. Houston presented resolutions from the Texas Legislature, praying for an investigation of the charges against Judge Watrous.

On motion of Mr. Hamlin, the Indiana contested Senatorial case was taken up.

Mr. Gwin's resolution was adopted, instructing the Finance Committee to report a bill increasing the facilities for raising gold at the branch mint in San Francisco.

The Indiana Senatorial case was up.

Mr. MASON made a speech on the admission of Kansas.

Mr. Bayard made an argument to show the importance of deciding the question before considering the admission of new States.

After further desultory debate the Senate adjourned.

LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE.

BATON ROUGE, Feb. 15.—No business of importance in the Senate.

House.—Mr. Hawkins introduced a joint resolution relative to a geological survey of the State.

The New Orleans Court-house bill passed.

WOLCOTT'S CASE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Wolcott has been committed to jail by order of the House.

BAY STATE MILLS.

BOSTON, Feb. 15.—Judge Thomas, of the Supreme Court, granted a perpetual injunction against the Bay State Mills Company, the creditors to appoint receivers.

DEFALCATION.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 15.—George Sminer, late Collector of St. Louis county, is a defaulter to the amount of $160,000.

MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—Cotton firm. Flour, $4 15 to $4 25. Red Wheat, $1 66 to $1 72. Corn dull. Mess Pork, $18 25 to $18 40. Bacon—Hams, 8½c. to 8½c.; Shoulders, 6½c. to 6¾c. Sugar quiet. Coffee firm. Molasses 28c. to 29c.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 15.—Flour, $3 75 to $3 90. Whisky, 17½c. Hogs, $4 75 to $4 85. Provisions unsettled. Mess Pork—holders asking an advance; buyers offering $15 50 freely. Shoulders and Sides 5½c. to 7½c. Lard, 9½c. asked. Sugar scarce and firm at 5½c. to 6½c. Coffee active—10½c. to 11½c. Molasses, 26c. to 29c.

RIVER NEWS.

PITTSBURG, Feb. 15.—It is reported that the river is closed by ice a few miles below. No boats left this morning.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 15.—The river is falling, with six feet seven inches in the canal.

STEAMBOATS COMING.

VICKSBURG, Feb. 15.—The Golden Age passed down at 11 A. M., the Monarch at 4, and Vicksburg at 5 P. M.

WEATHER AT 9 A. M., FEBRUARY 15.

Buffalo—Snowing; wind Northwest; 16 deg
Detroit—Cloudy; 16 deg.
Cincinnati—Snowing; cloudy.
Pittsburg—Snowing: 28 deg.
Rock Island—Southwest wind: 6 deg.
St. Louis—16 deg.
Dubuque—8 deg.
Prairie du Chien—3 deg.
Milwaukie—10 deg.
Cleveland—Cloudy; wind Northwest; 23 deg.
Louisville—Cloudy; wind Northwest; 39 deg.
Nashville—Clear; 37 deg.
Tuscumbia—Clear; wind East; barometer 29.55.

PORTRAIT OF WASHINGTON.—*Tombola.*—Most persons have seen the splendid portrait of WASHINGTON, purchased by DURAND, the optician, at Paris last year, and exhibited at his store, No. 50 Chartres street. This fine picture, which was executed for LOUIS XVI. by one of the first artists of the age, possesses a double value—first as a work of art, and next, on account of the historical reminiscences it recalls. Mr. DURAND gave a large sum for the portrait, in the hope that it would be reproduced in the United States. In consequence of the stringency of the times, he has failed to find any one disposed to pay the amount at which it is estimated, and has therefore consented to arrange a lombola, of which this magnificent picture will constitute the highest prize.—Each subscriber will receive a beautiful photograph of the picture. We invite attention to the announcement in our columns, setting forth the more matter particularly.

HIDE AND SEEK.—This powerful story, full of freshness, vigor and originality, has been reprinted from the London edition, by DIX & Fitzgerald, and is for sale by NORMAN, No 14 Camp street. "Hide and Seek" is by Wilkie Collins, author of the "Dead Secret."

ASTOUNDING DISCLOSURES.

Further Testimony in the Lawrence, Stone & Co. Bribery Business.—How the "Truth" (Wolcott) Money was Disbursed.—Who Got It!—Some Things are Managed at Washington.

BOSTON, Feb. 5.—The stockholders of the Bay State Mills held a meeting to-day, at which the report of the Investigating Committee was read by the chairman, Mr. R. J. B. Crowninshield.

The report makes over four newspaper columns, embracing a detailed history of the company, and its connection with Messrs. Lawrence Stone & Co. Mr. Lawrence, as treasurer, received a salary of $6,000 per annum, and the firm a commission of two and a half per cent. on all their sales. The entire amount of their commission from 1828 to 1857, from the Bay State Company alone, was over $335,900, besides doing large commission business in the Middlesex, Tremont, Boston and New England Worsted Companies. Their aggregate commissions for the year 1856 amounted to nearly $96,000. In the failure of the firm they owed the Bay State Company nearly $371,000, of which, with the exception of $17,400 paid on account of Taylor bill, no trace can be discovered. The report says:

"This large sum of money has been taken from the company by its confidential agents, of whom the treasurer was one, without the knowledge, consent or even suspicion of the directors, and the facts have been carefully and studiously concealed from them, and it has been appropriated to their own use, in such manner as they have seen fit. Whatever that application may have been, or however they may have foolly or foolishly hoped or intended to make it good at some future day, does not change the nature of their acts, which can be characterized only as fraudulent and criminal conversion—an appropriation to their own use of the property of a too confiding company, by its agents, appointed and munificently compensated to watch over its interests and manage its most important concerns.

The report alleging to the tariff disbursements says:

What shall be said, however, of the large sum of $87,000, which in effect forms a part of that so taken from us and from others, which was applied to the procuring of the passage of the best tariff—that paradox which was to cure all our evils. In that application of money such as to command it to our approval, or to that of the public? It is true that we know not with certainty where it went, or how it was applied, if we except some $9000, which was spent for publications, newspaper articles, and the like. Of the balance we know that it has gone, and we know one person by whom it was disbursed. We know that there were at one time certain memoranda in the possession of our agents which would, it is supposed, explain in part this mystery, but they have disappeared. While we have guesses for matters which do not appear objectionable—the diffusion of light, of information and arguments—there is a careful omission of any thing which would show what became of the balance of the money. This gives rise to disagreeable suspicions that it must have gone for purposes which would not bear exposure, and which needed to be hidden and concealed. Was it employed in costly entertainments at Washington, given to those supposed to be able to influence legislation thereby? Was it expended in the bribery of a corps of lobby members, hangers on to the skirts of members of Congress, to worry them into giving votes in favor of such measures as might be supposed favorably to affect the interest? or was it employed for still darker and more objectionable purposes? We only know that one of the firm—Mr. Rand—has told us that while he was at Washington, laboring diligently and ably at his mission to diffuse information, by all fair and honorable means, among the members of Congress, the tariff which would prove best conducive and most advantageous to the various interests which have long been depressed, he was told that, if he hoped for success, it would be necessary for him to adopt quite another course of conduct, and to be less scrupulous than he was in the way of distributing documents. Such letters were even in his hands, urging that some other agent should be employed, that he was too scrupulous and too honest to be successful, that the number of the firm was small, and that another member of the firm was held in reserve for such purposes, and that unless he could be authorized to use the money in question, he was not the man for the place, and that unless he could be authorized to use the money in question, he was not the man for the place, and that unless he could be authorized to use the money in question, he was not the man for the place