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"Truth is omnipotent, and Public Justice certain."

FOR GOVERNOR

HENRY JOHNSON,

NEW-ORLEANS:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, DEC. 15, 1841.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Like all the communications from our able Executive, the message is pertinent and to the point. It is likewise of commendable length, and deals directly with the most important subjects of State legislation, without entering into tedious disquisitions and irrelevant discussions upon national politics.

The message begins by impressing upon the representatives of the people of Louisiana the necessity of complying with the injunctions of the constitution in regard to a new apportionment of the State. Every attempt has for many successive terms utterly failed, at this is no reason why the Legislature should not make an effort at least to establish on a just basis the system of representation.

The condition of the State treasury is precarious. The expenditure exceeds the annual income $199,000, and the deficit in 1842 will probably reach $200,000. Under these circumstances retrenchment and economy are required on the one hand, and increased taxation on the other. To measures which are absolutely indispensable to enable the State to redeem its obligations, the people are too just and honest to object.—The infamous doctrine of the repudiation of State debts is not for an instant entertained by the citizens of Louisiana.

The Banks are made the special subject of much animadversion. The Governor urges strongly on the Legislature the propriety of enforcing an early return to cash payments, as well as the necessity of providing for the liquidation of those corporations which are unable to sustain themselves. His remarks on this subject are forcible and sound. He considers all hope of the intervention of the federal government for the re-establishment of a sound currency at an end, and therefore contends that it behoves the State authorities to contribute every thing in their power towards the accomplishment of so desirable an object. He contests the doctrine that resumption cannot be permanent unless general, and points to New York and Boston as illustrations of the opposite argument.—New Orleans, says he, can and ought to do what those two cities have done. She possesses a more extended commerce than Boston, and to sustain her specie payments she has the advantage over New York of exporting two products of the soil which, as long as Europe pays in coin, represent yearly from forty to forty millions in specie.

The banks generally are considered in a better condition for meeting specie payments now than they were when they resumed in 1838. The obligation under which these institutions lie of maintaining each other in *solido*, is regarded as the chief safeguard to resumption. This can be obviated by a bill enabling the weaker banks to wind up. We have time and again urged the adoption of this measure, and we repeat that the Executive entertains similar opinions. It is our hope that the Legislature will not adjourn until adequate means are provided for the resumption of the strong and the liquidation of the weak banks.

Additional penal provisions against frauds on banks are recommended, particularly against those who obtain money by drawing checks on banks where they have no funds. Several cases of this kind have occasioned large losses to these institutions.

Modifications of the laws against bigamy and duelling are required. For the first offence the penalty is entirely too light, for the second so disproportionately severe that it operates as a dead letter, and is never enforced. It is recommended that duelling be punished by imprisonment, and by rendering the survivors of seconds severally liable for the debts of him who falls.

The message urges the disposal of a portion of the public lands, for the purpose of creating a permanent school fund, and purposes an alteration in the system of public schools, like that in operation throughout the State of New York.

The Governor believes that the only mode of enabling the Baton Rouge Penitentiary to repay the $30,000 which it annually costs the State, is to employ all the prisoners in the manufacture of coarse cotton and woolen goods.

The message alludes to the law respecting the indentation of convict slaves into the State. Under the present enactment, it is provided that such slaves should be resold *in the State*, thus perpetuating the very evil which it is attempted to guard against. A modification of this law is suggested.

A large number of manuscripts relating to the early history of Louisiana, and deposited in the archives of the French government, have been examined and copied by order of the Executive. These manuscripts are valuable, and shed much light on the annals of the State. The Legislature will doubtless appropriate a liberal amount required for transcribing them.

FRENCH ATLANTIC STEAMERS.

The New York Courier des Etats Unis says there can be no doubt that the government of France has taken up the project of establishing a line of steamships between the principal maritime cities of that kingdom and those of the United States, and of studying the improvements that have been made. The visit of the Prince de Joinville to this city has not been without reference to this object, as we judge from a paragraph in the Journal des Débats. It is added:

"M. d'Aubigny is of opinion that the close of 1842 may be assigned as the time at which a first line of four steam ships, between France and New York, may be put in operation. The vessels, which are already on a form of progress, are to be of the war model, but so constructed as to serve admirably, in time of peace, for the conveyance of goods and the conveyance of passengers.—They will be commanded by officers of the Navy. Their tonnage will be about 1,200 tons, and their power 800 horses. M. D'Aubigny will set out in a few days for the ports of those principal rivers and seaports he will examine. He has given minute attention to the steam frigates Missouri and Mississippi."

CRIMINAL COURT.

Joseph Fluchs, accused of an attempt to commit a rape, was declared not guilty, without the jury leaving the box. Anderson, accused of assault and battery on the person of Mde. Antiveau—not guilty.

William Robb was found guilty of larceny.

A number of persons convicted of petty offences were sentenced to fine and imprisonment.

The Minden (Claiborne county) *Gazette* of the 23d ult. says: About two weeks ago an Indian was buried about thirty miles north of this place, with his gun, blanket, kettle, and about twenty-five dollars in money. A man well known here, and bearing the same of Robert Parr, proceeded to the place where the Indian was buried, dug him up, and robbed him of all the above articles; he was found out immediately, and before any steps could be taken to have the black hearted villain arrested made his escape to parts unknown.

NO MORE REMOVALS.—A Washington correspondent of the New York *American* says: it is understood the President will permit no more removals, except for actual delinquencies in official duty—none for opinions or political action past. There is in fact a general act of oblivion decreed for all the outrages of office holders, under which the country has groaned for twelve years. In reference to all such charges, the "binding" is like that of an Illinois justice, on the case on an unfortunate horse-thief, "Not Guilty—I do hope he *won't do so again*."

MAD MONEY.—The Nat. Intelligencer says:—The numerous friends of this respected lady will be glad to learn that she has arrived at her residence, in this city, from her visit in Virginia, intending to pass the winter here. It gives us pleasure to learn that she is in excellent health, which we trust she will long live to enjoy.

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED.—The challenge of Boston to run fashion, over the Union Course, Long Island, four mile heats, spring 1842, for Twenty Thousand Dollars a side, on each horse, has been accepted by the friends of Fashion, and the second Tuesday, (the 10th) of May next, has been named as the day of the race.

DEATH OF A MEMBER OF CONGRESS.—Mr. Black, member of congress from the Somerset district, Pennsylvania, died a few days ago. He was found dead in his bed, having expired suddenly.

MR. SMITH has been elected to Congress from the Madison district, Va., beating Lynn Banks the late member, and slaughter the whig candidate.

☞ We are indebted to the steamer *Corvette* for late Arkansas papers.

RICHMOND, Dec. 6.—*The Legislature of Virginia.*—The General assembly meets to day. A quorum of both bodies is already in town. Little also will, we presume, be done for a week, in organizing the two Houses by electing Speakers and other officers. We have heard of no opposition to any of the old incumbents, and therefore conclude that Mr. Nash of the Senate, and Mr. Southall of the House, will be both re-elected.

According to the result of the elections, the Assembly is very nearly equally divided politically. In the Senate, there is a tie—16 to 16—and in the House, whigs 60, locos 60.

TEN OTHER SLAVE CASE.—Two colored women and a boy were brought before Judge Wilde, at Boston, on Saturday, upon *habeas corpus*. The vessel to which they belong is owned in Newbern, (N. C.) and the two women are proved to be the owner. On examination they did not appear to be at all alarmed, in time of peace, for the transport of goods and the conveyance of passengers.—They will be commanded by officers of the Navy. Their tonnage will be about 1,200 tons, and their power 800 horses. M. D'Aubigny will set out in a few days for the ports of those principal rivers and seaports he will examine. He has given minute attention to the steam frigates Missouri and Mississippi."

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