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NEW ORLEANS, TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 15, 1853.

THE DAILY BEE.

Tuesday Morning, March 15, 1853.

☞ The Northern Mail failed yesterday from beyond Mobile.

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

Whether strong by the sharp reproofs administered to them for their supineness, or impelled by a really laudable desire to put forward able and zealous representatives, we know not, but certain it is, that the Whigs of one or two upper wards in the First District, have absolutely taken preliminary steps towards nominating candidates for Aldermen and Assistant Aldermen at the approaching Municipal election. This is all very great, as far as it goes, but we admit that unless the Whig generally follow the example, and systematically organise, and select candidates in all the wards, the movement will be apt to prove a complete abortion—first, because general activity must be displayed, in order to arouse the party and induce them to make a respectable effort; and next, because, if the contest be confined to the two wards which have entered into it, success or failure will be alike unproductive of practical results. We have already expressed the opinion that a tame surrender is the last and most painful alternative to which a party can be reduced. We are decidedly opposed to it. We like not masterly inactivity at any time. The policy of waiting for the sky to fall, that we may catch larks, seems to us eminently silly. If we could accomplish any real good, let us toil for it, for the chances are a hundred to one, that it will never reach us otherwise. The idea of actually forfeiting a party, because it has been defeated, can only originate in the minds of those who connect party with place, instead of principles—whilst the notion that it will war stronger by remaining hatless and inert is too preposterous to merit serious notice.

Clearly then, we are in favor of doing every thing honorable to keep the Democracy out of the City Council. We have no faith in that party. We believe its domination invariably injurious, and we by no means disposed to try a serious experiment of suffering the city to be as badly governed as possible, in order that the people may next year be disgusted, and turn out the imbeciles. The Whigs of New Orleans owe to themselves the assertion of their principles on all fitting occasions. If they are unsuccessful at one time, let them "pack their flints and try it again."

Nevertheless, it is better perhaps to decline the combat, than to indulge in ineffective skirmishing, with mere picket guards and sentinels. In other words, it is hardly worth while for one or two wards to nominate Whig candidates, and even to elect them, unless the movement be extended to the entire city. Three or four Whigs opposed to some twenty Democratic Assistant Aldermen would not suffice to constitute even a decent opposition, but a large minority is certain to claim respect, and frequently exerts a beneficial influence in checking the excesses of the majority. Hence we would see her have no Whigs in the Council, as a meagre and contemptible squad, and hence too, our desire that the Municipal election should be, as heretofore, conducted on regular party grounds, with candidates on both sides out in every Ward. Failing in this, we unwillingly admit, that unless that the most sensible course the Whigs can pursue, will be to allow Democracy to occupy the field without impediment.

We hope nevertheless that the Whigs throughout the city will exhibit some manliness and spirit, and not suffer the chanticleers of the enemy to crow defiant notes, without a response. The Locofocos have thrown down the gauntlet. Have we no champion ready to raise it? Shall it be said of us, that the loss of a single battle has driven all courage from our souls? Are we prepared to bow the knee to the conqueror, and to admit his supremacy, upon the strength of one hard-won triumph? We cannot think so highly of the Whigs. But if they would vindicate themselves from the suspicion of cowardly inactivity—if they would avoid the with ering scorn with which their adversaries already begin to comment upon their supine nose, they will at once make up by augmented activity, for wasted time, organize their forces, and prepare to measure weapons with the foe.

COL. HUNT'S SPEECH.

We invite attention to the report of the speech delivered by Col. T. G. Hunt, in the House of Representatives, on the bill to amend the City Charter. It is a dispassionate, searching and monitory analysis of that pernicious measure, and exhibits its evil tendencies and inevitable results with unanswerable ability and force. Should this miserable concoction of partisan rabbit become a law, the citizens of New Orleans will at least enjoy the satisfaction of knowing, that it was not permitted to pass without a manly, enlightened and vigorous opposition from those of her Representatives who consult high and honorable objects rather than political purposes, in legislation.

New Books—Our thanks are due the publishers, Harper & Brothers, through J. B. Steel, No. 60 Camp street, for the following new publications:

The Complete Works of Samuel Taylor Coleridge—with an introductory essay upon his philosophical and theological opinions. Edited by Professor Shedd. In seven volumes. Vol. I. The publishers of this book have conferred a substantial boon upon the thinkers and students of the age. Very few, except purely literary men, have read more of Coleridge than that he was a fine poet, and eat opium. Of his profound metaphysical genius, his vast scholarship, his unsurpassed analytical spirit, his wonderful grasp of mind and his matchless powers of criticism, little comparatively is known. In diffusing the productions of this mighty intellect and rendering them familiar to all who can appreciate each and depth of thought clad in a style of exuberant, though often mystical splendor, the editor and publishers are contributing materially to the direction of public taste into judicious paths, and to the elevation and expansion of the public mind. The volume before us contains "Aids to Reflection" and the "Statesman's Manual."

Pastoral Theology, or the Theory of the Evangelical Ministry. By A. Vinet. This is a religious work of marked ability and fulness. It is translated from the French by Thomas D. Skinner, D. D.

The History of An Adopted Child—a clever and pretty story for children, by Miss Lewsbury.

Castle Avon. The last of Mrs. Marsh's Novels. We have not read it; but the English critics speak of its merits in such glowing terms, that we shall make a point of doing so.

Black House. No. 12. Incorparable Dickens goes on improving with every number of Black House. There are humor and pathos enough in this number to form the material of a whole novel.

Harper's New Monthly for March. Rich and racy as ever this popular Magazine continues to flourish. The number before us contains an admirable account, illustrated, of the copper region of Lake Superior, another chapter from Mr. Abbott's Napoleon Bonaparte, life in Paris, Black House, and a host of literary bits beside.

Prairie Lodge, No 37, I. O. O. F., was dedicated to Friendship, Love and Truth, at Washington, La., on the 2d inst., with highly appropriate and impressive ceremonies.

☞ Florida has a white population of less than 50,000—smaller than any of the thirty one States, yet St. Augustin is the oldest town in the United States, being been founded in 1564, and the "City of Key West," is the most populous town in the State, and is the Southernmost settlement in the U. S.

☞ We are indebted to J. C. Morgan, of the Literary Depot, Exchange Place, for a copy of Mrs. Marsh's new work, "Castle Avon."

☞ Mr J Fowzer, of the Franklin Book Store, opposite Jackson Square, has our thanks for the March number of Harper's new Monthly Magazine.

☞ We call the attention of the Stockholders of the Citizens' Bank to our advertisement in another column requesting them to call at the banking house any day this week, between banking hours.

Washington, March 4.

Gen Pierce attended the inauguration—*The Diplomatic Corps—Functies—The Extra Sessions, &c.*—President Pierce received company this afternoon at the White House, after the conclusion of the inaugural ceremonies—Quite a large number of friends called upon him. He appeared in good spirits, and much relieved from the excitement natural to the occasion.

The Diplomatic Corps, by some mismanagement, were rather uncermoniously crowded out of the procession to-day, by members of the House and others.

A large party of persons, it is believed generally from Pennsylvania, dressed in fantastic costumes, took quite a conspicuous part in the procession, causing great amusement, but more annoyance than otherwise.

The Senate assembled in extra session this afternoon, after the inauguration, for a short time and adjourned until Monday, on which day it will confirm the Cabinet appointments.

A large number of office seekers in attendance here to-day have left for their homes, but the city is still crowded.

Catalogue Sale of Dagnuerr and Spend Day Books—The attention of Dealers is called to the catalogue sale of damaged bad stained Dry Goods to take place THIS DAY, at 10 o'clock, at McPherson & Co's Auction Rooms, No. 80 Old Levee, between Customhouse and Bienville streets.

TEXAS.

By an arrival from Galveston, we have received files of Texas papers to the 11th inst., inclusive.

At the municipal election in Galveston on the 7th, M. Seeligson was chosen Mayor, receiving 190 votes to 161 for J. S. Sydnor.

The steamer *Colorado* was stove up and sunk about ten miles from Lagrange, on the 2d inst. The cargo was saved, but the boat is thought to be a total loss, except the furniture and boilers.

The *Austin Gazette* says:

We learn from Judge Olives, who is up from Rastrop that the small pox is prevailing in that place. A number of cases have occurred within the last few days. It is all however, mild in its character, frequently yielding to medical treatment in two or three days. It is also prevailing at Georgetown.

A letter from the Postmaster of Houston to the Postmaster of Huntsville, is the item, says that the mail left Houston for Huntsville on the 7th of February, on horseback. It appears that the carrier was thrown from his horse about nine miles from Houston, when the horse ran away with the mail, and nothing was seen of either till the 11th or 12th, when the horse was found in one place and a small portion of the mail in another, the mail bag not being found at all. It is supposed the mail was robbed and that the portion of it missing, was thrown into White Oak Bayou with the bag. The small portion recovered was sent to its destination.

Fatal Accident.—A German drayman, whose name we have been unable to learn, while driving along the Commercial wharf yesterday, with a load of wood, was thrown from the dray and instantly killed by one of the wheels passing over his breast.

The breaking of the dray stake, letting the wood on the horse and frightening him, occasioned the accident.—*Galveston Journal, 10th.*

The Jefferson *Herald* says the opinion is daily gaining ground, that every consideration of policy, justice and public faith requires that Texas should discharge her public debt just in the manner and according to the terms in which it was contracted, and that the exact amount should be paid, without evasion or subterfuge. The editor seems to think it very discreditable to the State, first to abuse its creditors, calling them speculators, usurers, &c., and then refuse to pay them according to its promises, claiming the right to construe written obligations differently from their express terms, and giving them a meaning that was never before thought of either by the Government or its creditors.

Speaker Boyd's Valedictory.—At the close of the thirty second Congress, Mr Speaker Boyd addressed the House of Representatives as follows:

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives.—I may be allowed this occasion to say that, in undertaking to discharge the duties of the chair, I relied far more upon your kind forbearance and kindly and than upon any poor abilities of my own. That reliance, I am happy to say, has not been in vain. Its fulfilment, by your untiring efforts I feel I have made to perform the task in a becoming manner, have been most and sustained with a degree of liberality seldom equalled in any deliberative body. A striking illustration of this is seen in the fact that notwithstanding the multiplied questions of parliamentary law and usage, which have arisen, and in despite the errors I may have fallen into, (save in a single case of little interest,) each and all of the decisions of the Chair have been cordially sustained by the judement of the House, and as a further mark of respect and kindness you have been pleased to favor me with a vote approving my conduct in every case where I or officer of the body. In all this I have been peculiarly fortunate, and for it all I feel you to accept my most sincere thanks.

Allow me to congratulate you, gentlemen, upon the harmony and personal kindness which has so generally prevailed throughout this hall. It must create a source of unmixed pleasure in us all that our conflicts of opinion have, however force they may occasionally have been, not alienated materially the kindly social relations, and that now, having finished our work, we part in peace.

This House stands adjourned *sine die*.

The delivery of this address was received with applause, such as the clapping of hands and stamping of feet.

The members then took their leave, one of another, and in a few minutes thereafter the hall was deserted.

The Montenegrins—The contest between Turkey and the petty province of Montenegro has acquired a new importance since the outbreak in Milan. The following account of the country and the people is from the Boston Courier:

Montenegro is a territory occupying about 30 miles of the eastern shore of the Adriatic, and extending about thirty miles inland. It is full of mountains and rocks, with little forest. The country is ill adapted for agricultural purposes, wild and destitute of roads. The inhabitants are armed shepards, living in their fastnesses, ready for plunder, delighting in war. They are a pure Slavonian race, retaining their primitive manners, professing for the most part the faith of the Greek church, and governed to the present day by their own patriarchal institutions. This territory was originally a dependency of Servia, when the latter was a Slavonian kingdom, and when Servia became a tributary to the Porte, Montenegro still preserved its independence, though the Turks nominally took the allegiance of Scutari. It has been overrun by Turkish armies, but they were never able to retain possession of the country. From the commencement of the Turkish revolution, the Montenegrins became the allies of Russia, and whenever that power was at war with Turkey, they actively contributed to aid the latter. A second to this which comes to them with that potentate consists in the fact that they are members of the Greek Church, of which the Russian Emperor is the temporal head. The population is somewhat above 60,000. The military strength of the country is comprised in a body of 20,000 warriors. Every man is practised in the use of arms, but besides the actual population of Montenegro, properly so called, a considerable number of families of the same race have gradually settled in the neighboring Turkish provinces of Bosnia, the Herzegovine and Scutari. Who retain a near connection with their kinsmen and their birthplace, and could possibly extend over a much wider field, the hostilities which have broken out in Montenegro.

Washington Items.—In the Memphis *Enquirer*, of the 10th inst., we find a despatch from Washington, dated March 8th, which says, that the following nominations are expected to be made soon: Mr Buel, of Michigan, to be Minister to Berlin; Mr Meade, of Virginia, will be sent to Peru; Mr Buchanan, to London, Mr Nicholson, of Tennessee, to Spain; Mr Bedinger, of Virginia, to Central America; B R Carter, of Ohio, Commissioner of Patents, Wagner, of Louisiana, Land Office; R D Owen, Charge d'Affaires to Naples.

Another dispatch to the same paper, dated the 9th instant, states that Charles Earnest has been appointed Assistant Secretary of State, and that Mr Wagner, of Louisiana, has been appointed Commissioner in the General Land Office.

The coalitionists of Massachusetts, as far as heard from, have carried the Constitutional Convention.

The officers of Gen. Pierce's Mexican Brigade, by invitation, visited him on the 8th instant.

The new Cabinet were to have been sworn in on the 9th instant.

It is said that the appointment of Peter G. Washington as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice Hodge, removed, has caused great dissatisfaction among the local Democracy of that office holding city.

Serious Accident.—On the night of the 4th Col. B. R. Rogers, a resident of Bellvue, in Bossier Parish, sustained a heavy loss by the falling of a shed which he had erected for stables, and the protection of hay. Having made a good crop of corn during the year now passed, he filled the loft which had been intended only for fodder and hay, with it. There were about fifteen head of horses in their stalls beneath, when the great weight of the corn above caused the timbers to give way. In the twinkling of a eye nine of his horses were killed perfectly dead, two others were severely injured, and four only escaped unhurt.

Fatal Accident.—We take the following from the Columbus (Ga) *Enquirer* of the 8th inst.:

Few circumstances of the kind has given so more regret and sorrow than the death of William, eldest son of the late Judge Robert B. Alexander, in the 14th year of his age, which occurred on Saturday last, whilst at play with his companions, one of them accidentally struck him with a piece of wire, which, penetrating his brain just above his eye, caused his death on Sunday night. The deceased was an amiable, intelligent and promising youth, universally beloved by his young associates, and greatly prized by his older acquaintances for that combination of good qualities so rarely found in one of his age.

☞ The London correspondent of the Spirit of the Times writes as follows: "Henry Russell is giving his entertainment of the "Emigrant's Progress to the Far West," and blackguarding our country at the Strand Theatre. A few evenings since a party of Americans visited the theatre, to witness his representation. They listened patiently to his falsehoods for some time, but when he told that in one of our best hotels in New York, he was called up by the servant girl, who wished the sheets to use for the breakfast table-cloths, they could no longer stand it, and joined in a hearty good hiss. He continues to state nightly that he is the author of 'Woodman spare that tree,' but this is one of the lightest of his falsehoods."

A White Man Seriously Wounded by a Negro.—The Opelousas *Courier* says: On the night of the 3d inst., Mr Richmond Doucet, a resident of the vicinity of Mossville in this parish, was walking in his negro quarter to observe the order of his slaves. The negro man Reuben had violated some commands, for which Mr. Doucet gave him one or two strokes with his cowhide. The negro immediately drew his knife and inflicted a wound across the abdomen of Mr. D. which is in fained and appears fatal.

The negro made his escape, but his place has been taken up and he now lodged in our jail.

SPEECH OF COL. HUNT,

On the Bill to amend the Charter of the city of New Orleans.

Mr. Speaker:—Before I enter upon the task I am about to assume, I beg leave to read to the House the following passage from a Report of the Proceedings of the Board of Aldermen of the city of New Orleans. (Here Mr. H read a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to transmit to the Legislature a Memorial protesting against the proposed amendments to the City Charter, &c) The passage is from the official journal of the city of the 2d inst. It will be recollected, that a member from New Orleans opposed a motion made by a friend to postpone a discussion of this Bill for a few days, so that the House might be in possession of the Memorial of the Representative body of the people of New Orleans, and spoke contemptuously of that body, and affected not to believe the statements in the Picayune as to the existence of a Memorial, on which statement I had based my motion. I desire the House to keep these matters in mind, as evidence of the temper and disposition of the supporters of this Bill.

Mr. Speaker: The consolidation of the various portions of the City, was called for by the voice of the people of New Orleans. The bill for consolidation "underwent its several readings and passed" without a dissenting vote, in the Senate, on the 4th February, 1848. And it appears from the Journal of the House, that on the final passage of the bill in that body on the 12th February, seventy-seven members voted for it, and two against it.

The act of consolidation is only a year old It is in the course of experiment. It has not been fully tested. And yet an attempt is made to overthrow it by the bill before us.

And, sir, what is the character of this bill? It is a bill to break down the Executive Department of the city government—to destroy its efficiency and responsibility, and to divide and place in irresponsible hands the Executive power. It is a bill to take away the power of appointment from the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen, and the power of removal from the Mayor and the Common Council, and to confer those powers, without check or control, substantially on four petty justices or committing magistrates of the city—called Recorders—to whom is given the Chancery Court of equitable jurisdiction, a despotic rule for qualified and well rounded power four Chiefs of divisions with imperial sway, in the stead of a Republican Magistrate exercising a limited authority under checks and restraints as safeguards of the liberties of the people.

It is, further, a bill to create new Courts with a retinue of officers, to provide large salaries for those officers, and to establish fees and costs—a fruitful source of plunder and oppression. And these Courts are to be clothed with powers heretofore unknown to our laws and Constitutions, and to those principles of liberty which are the basis of all free government.

The right of trial by jury is to be a mere matter of option for the wretched culprits—and if dissatisfied only for his personal interest—and not a necessary form of law and justice essential to the preservation of liberty, to the pure administration of justice; to a just and impartial judgment on a question of guilt or innocence, of the highest interest to society. These are the most prominent characteristics of the bill before us. But I propose to examine the bill more particularly, critically, and I trust, the more fully.

The first section of the bill relates to the powers of the Mayor.

In forming a new City Government, the framers of the State was anxious to establish an energetic and efficient Executive. The people of New Orleans had witnessed in their recent experience, the evils of the old government of the City and the State, and calculated to injure the character of the country at large. I allude to the depredations committed on the property, and the violence done to the persons of certain Spanish residents of the city. They had seen their Magistrates—State and Municipal—listless and inactive while a tempest was brewing, and indecisive and impotent when it raged in its fury. They had felt the wanted authority and responsibility in our situation of mind. They knew that a crowded and growing metropolis would be liable to popular tumults and commotions, and that occasions would sometimes occur when popular feeling would be so excited as to require the strong arm of the law promptly and strongly to preserve the public peace and maintain the law in its office. And hence, sir, they adopted the 25th section of the City Charter.

But they took care, while strengthening the Executive power, not to lose sight of its tendency to run into despotic tyranny. They surrounded the power of appointment with checks and fences. The appointment of police officers was to be "made with the advice and consent of the Board of Aldermen." The designation of those officers was to be "communicated to the Common Council with their reasons for the same."

[Mr. H. here read the 25th section—and proceeded to show and to comment on the difference between that section and the first section of the Bill before the House.]

The Mayor is to be superseded and virtually set aside. He *and four Recorders* are to be a Police Board, and the majority of said Board are to *make* and *confirm* all police appointments. These words "make and confirm"—in constitutional language, refer to two separate and distinct acts. But here, if not to be taken as identical, they are a mockery and deceit, for they signify nothing.

The power of the Police Board is to be single and absolute and exclusive. The power of the Board of Aldermen in appointments is to be abolished, and the sole power is to be vested in a majority of the Police Board, and the Board is, with respect to discharging, suspending and removing officers, to be, as before, a perfect, an oligarchy—independent of the control of the Representatives of the people. Thus absolute, despotic rule is to be substituted for republican and limited rules. The individual power and responsibility are to be broken up, and divided power and responsibility to be substituted for them.

And what is all this to be done for? I will not refer to the declarations made by members, to impute to them any party purpose. But I will consider the matter on its intrinsic merits.

What is there in the official character of a justice of the peace or a committing magistrate, to make him the St. Executive head of a City Government? And what is the Recorder but a justice of the peace or committing magistrate?

[Here Mr. H. read the 27th Sec. of the charter defining the power of a Recorder.]

What would be thought, if it were proposed to give the powers in question to four Justices of the Peace in the city? It would be ridiculed as simply ridiculous. And yet the Recorders are but Justices, and not a whit superior in intelligence, learning and virtue, to those called expressly Justices of the Peace.

A Recorder occupies a very unfavorable position for making a proper selection of office. He is surrounded by a class of men during the business hours of the day, who are not the wisest and most trustworthy counsellors as to the character and capacities of applicants for public office.

Besides—these Recorders have quite enough to occupy them in the proper business of their offices.

Again—who can pretend that they could, in times of tumult and public agitation, command and maintain the power, with divided forces, and it might be, with divided counsels, as well as a single Magistrate in the command of a force sufficient for the purpose?

And what are the public to gain by removing clerks on the power of appointment and the power of removal, and placing the Recorders in the unrestrained exercise of these powers?

In addition to these considerations, I will express my conviction that the proposed change is not called for or desired. There is not a petition praying for it. Nor even are there, as far as I am informed, two prominent papers in the city in favor of it.

It should further be observed, that there is an obvious inconsistency in the bill, in that while it retains the clause in the present law declaring that "the Mayor shall see that the laws and ordinances be faithfully executed," it, at the same time, deprives the Mayor of the means necessary to carry that declaration into effect.

I will conclude these remarks on the first Section of the Bill with this reflection: Under our government public opinion, perhaps happily, fluctuates. The party in the ascendancy to-day, may be in the minority to-morrow. But the government founded on correct principles, should remain stable and firm. If this policy be pursued—the policy of the Bill—the stability will be wrecked, and indecisive and impotent when it roged in its fury. They had felt the wanted authority and responsibility in our situation of mind. They knew that a crowded and growing metropolis would be liable to popular tumults and commotions, and that occasions would sometimes occur when popular feeling would be so excited as to require the strong arm of the law promptly and strongly to preserve the public peace and maintain the law in its office. And hence, sir, they adopted the 25th section of the City Charter.

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