New Orleans Bee.

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THE DAILY BEE.

NEW ORLEANS:
THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 14

Sales at Auction To-day.

By E. T. Montgomery, at 11 o'clock, at 49 Camp st, 110 bales cotton.

By McCeren & Landry, at 9 o'clock, at Apollo store, 64 boxes candles, 5 bbls whisky, 3 bbls and 3 kegs brandy, 11 o'clock, at Masonic Hall, furniture.

Halowaye Pills are Guaranteed to Prevent, Rheumatism and Stiff Joints, will find a speedy cure in these medicines. Fever-sores in their use will be speedily rendered healthy under its influence. They operate and invigorate the whole system. Sold everywhere.

E. T. Montgomery will sell this day, Thursday, 14th inst., at 11 o'clock, at auction, 49 Camp street, 110 bales cotton, consisting of desirable grades

D. K. Murphy, auctioneer, sells this day, at 11 o'clock, A. M., on the Levee, head of Gravier street, a fine lot of bacon, hams and shoulders, at 10 o'clock, A. M., on the Levee, post No. 37, First District, 36 barrels potatoes.

McCeren & Landry advertise Sales at auction to-day of Cheese and Sheep on Apollo street at 1 o'clock, and Furniture &c. at their Mart.

Hats.—E. B. Sinclair, 25 Magazine street advertises elsewhere a large and select stock of hats, in French and American manufacture, of the latest style, and received by every steamer For sale by the packages or dozen.

Chamber of Commerce of the City Convention.—Elsewhere has given the resolutions of the Chamber of Commerce endorsing the Treasury notes of this city. Having devoted a special deliberation to the subject, the Chamber decided that this currency is equal to any in the country, and these notes rose upon more solid and ample securities.

Complimentary Concert to Miss Minnie Howe.—An unusually rich musical feast is promised for Friday evening at the Opera House, on the occasion of the grand complimentary concert given to Miss Minnie Howe, prior to her departure for Europe. The mention in the programme of such well known and superior artists as Messrs. Sarto, Olivetta, Greuling and Myer, assisted by several amateurs of talent, is a guarantee of choice music well executed that will not be overlooked by those who truly appreciate the musical art.

Benefit of Mr. Setchell.—To-night, as previously announced, will be given at the Varieties Theatre to the complimentary benefit to Mr. Setchell. The affair will, of course, be a triumph. Mr. Setchell, as a comedian on the stage, and a genial, "clubable" fellow off the stage, has become a favorite with our theatregoers, who will assuredly not fail to award him on so interesting an occasion as his benefit night. It will be seen that the bill is abundantly comical and highly characteristic.

New Steamers from St. Louis.—The St. Louis *Republican* of the 7th announces the following steamers to leave on that day for New Orleans: —The Saltana, the Henry Frost Pilot, and the Emma.

Explosion of the Steamer Reserve.—The steamer Reserve, belonging to Baker & Clarke while making a local trip yesterday afternoon, exploded her boiler, tearing the vessel all to pieces. The crew were thrown into the river, and one of the men, named Meckling, is missing. A young man named Wilson was scalded. The balance escaped. The disaster occurred when the boat was at the foot of Jackson street.

Two Days Later via the River.

St. Louis dates of the 7th; Memphis of the 9th.

Situation of the Army of the Potomac.

GEN. GRANT GONE TO THE FRONT.

GEN. LEE FORTIFYING THE RAPIDAN.

Gen. Sickles and his Mission to the Southern Governors in the South.

THE FEDERAL CONGRESS AND THE NEW MEXICAN EMPIRE.

LATEST EUROPEAN NEWS.

Gold in New York on the 6th to 5th—Cotton 76.

We have, by the arrival of the steamer John Capt. McCoy, papers from St. Louis of the 7th and from Memphis of the 8th, containing two days later intelligence than previously received via the West.

From Washington.

[Special to the Tribune.]

Washington, April 5.—The Ways and Means Committee, it is understood, will report a new revenue bill Thursday next.

Gen. Sickles, accompanied by his personal staff, left here this morning for Baltimore. He is charged with special orders from the President, under which he will make a complete tour of the various southern States. He goes, with a view of observing the temper and disposition of the people towards the United States Government, investigating the practical workings of the policy adopted in the premises, with a view to appointing the purposes of the Administration, and endeavoring to reconcile them to the Government. The General will make such suggestions to the President from time to time for a modification or change of policy as may occur to him from the observations. The steamer Spaulding, from Admiral Porter's fleet, has been placed at the disposal of the General, by which he will be conveyed to the principal points in the Southern States. He will return via Fortress Monroe, calling at all the points of the federal occupation, for which purpose an armed naval vessel will be assigned to him by Admiral Farragut. The President is a exceedingly sanguine that the effect will be to restore the people to a hearty allegiance; opening their eyes, who have been so long blinded by political animosities, and conveying to them the desire of the Government, while strongly demanding their return to loyalty, to deal with them in kindness and all forbearance.

Gen. Lee has taken it for granted that the middle Virginia route to Richmond has not been abandoned, and strong fortifications are being thrown up on the south side of the Rapidan and points opposite Mitchell's Station, on which is known as Clark's Mountain. The new works are plainly in view from our signal stations.

General Grant went to the front to-day and at the Wilderness Tavern established his headquarters. He accompanied Long of Mississippi, proprietor of the hotel, and his son of two thousand bales. The gross receipts were \$200,000.

Gen. Sickles and his Mission to the Southern Governors in the South.

[From the New York Times.]

We have received, within a few days, certain documents which entitle the matter to public notice. It seems that a Mr. John T. Chichester, of the city of Camden, county of Anachita, in the State of Arkansas, applied to the rebel Government at Richmond, for a pass into Arkansas as member of Congress, for authority to enter into such a trade—representing that he had special facilities for carrying it on within the United States. In regard to the application, the rebel Secretary of War, a year ago, wrote the following letter to General Kirby Smith, giving him full authority to act upon the above application.

Confederate States of America,
War Department,
Richmond, Va., March 12, 1863.

Gen. E. K. Smith, Commanding &c.

Application has been made to me, sustained by several of the members of Congress from Arkansas, for the early late arrangements, or contracts, with a Mr. John J. Chichester, of that State, by which provisions and supplies for the army of Louisiana and Arkansas may be obtained from the United States, in exchange for cotton.

It is of course, not desirable to resort to such a trade with the United States, which, under the laws of Congress, has been carried on by citizens, in illicit, and the greatest part, by private arrangements; and any overt act of government would produce the resort to such trade, rather than to carry our armies to suffer, or the people to be plundered by the withdrawal of their necessary supplies for the support of the armies. I am not, however, felt myself sufficiently advised of your circumstances to form any opinion of the expediency or propriety of the necessities of our armies, and therefore I have preferred referring the matter to you, and to your discretion and better knowledge of the circumstances and exigencies. If the wants of your armies require it, even for the enhanced relief of the people from serious pressure, I see no hesitation in both authorizing and advising the making of your contracts. The terms and conditions I must therefore leave to your judgment.

In the contracts I have made in less contraband localities, I have endeavored either to secure the conversion of the value of the cotton into the use of both articles of barter, or the return per pounds of meat for three of cotton—the latter not the exclusive rate at most points of such trade; it may very probably be altered per year, and would be satisfactory if better terms cannot be agreed upon. I have always, also, contended positively that the cotton should not be delivered except in payment and after the provisions were received. That these should be no trading or buying the cotton, but that the cotton should be bought and paid for by our officers. That the cotton should not in any be shipped otherwise than by our Quartermaster, and if the shipments would be rendered more safe by the cotton being passed to the United States vessels, passing through it, to be shipped abroad. All of them, except the last, should I think, be insisted on.

With high esteem, most truly yours,
(Signed,) JAMES A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

A true copy. (Signed,) H. P. PRATT, A. A. G.
A true copy. (Signed,) W. H. HAYNES, Major and Q. M. C. S. A., Chief Clothing Bureau, Department Trans-Mississippi.

Gen. Banks at once gave the matter his approval, and on the 12th of June Major Haynes, the Quartermaster of that Department, entered into an agreement with Mr. Chichester.

[The] agreement specifies a long list of articles of army clothing, camp utensils, and Quarter master's equipage, which Mr. Chichester or his agents were to deliver at stated points in exchange for cotton at 25 cents per pound; and it also stipulates that Mr. Chichester or his agents shall not be hindered in the transportation of cotton thus received and shall have the requisite military assistance for protecting his property from guerrillas while on its way to points of delivery.

We have resume the extract from the *Times*:

Further orders were given to Mr. Chichester from time to time for other articles needed by the army, and by him handed over to his agent to be filled. But the military operations of the summer interfered with the practical execution of these orders, and in September the Secretary of War made the following indorsement on his original letter of authority to Gen. Banks:

On the representation of Mr. Chichester of the difficulties interposed by the fall of Vicksburg, and other movements of war in the Trans-Mississippi Department, to the delivery of the goods contracted by him to be delivered at points on the Arkansas and White rivers, under an engagement made by him with the Quartermaster and other officers of the Trans Mississippi Department, with the approval of Gen Smith, I refer the matter again to the discretion of Gen. Smith, with the recommendation that the privilege be accorded of delivering and receiving pay based in action as soon or more of the ports on the coast of Texas or at points on the White and Arkansas rivers.

JAMES A. SEDDON, Secretary of War.

21 September, 1863

How much has been actually done in the execution of these agreements we have, of course, no means of knowing; but there is little room to doubt that immense quantities of such articles as the rebel army has needed must have been smuggled out from the United States, and payment received in cotton, very large quantities of which are known to have been received within our lines in the Southwest, in accordance with his arrangements.

Whether our Government, or its agents and Generals, have had any connection with this traffic, we have no means of knowing. It is scarcely possible that they should have remained ignorant of its existence, and it is not easy to see how it could have been carried on in defiance of their wishes. The system of trade thus carried out into that region by the Secretary of the Treasury, undoubtedly had very large powers confided to them in regard to the trade with the Southern States; but it can hardly be supposed that they were authorized to supply the rebel army with clothing, provisions, hardware, and other articles of war, in exchange for cotton. If they have any such authority, it should either be revoked, or the war should be stopped. It is scarcely worth while to maintain an army of soldiers to fight the rebels, if an army of officers remains in also in the field with authority to feed them.

The Apprehended Invasion of Kentucky.

[From the Louisville Journal, 26 April.]

There are many unexplained indications, amounting, we think, to well established evidence that there is an extensive, well devised, and thoroughly-matured plan for a general and most formidable movement of the rebel forces during the present spring. We have already spoken of these indications repeatedly, but we can hardly urge them too strongly upon the consideration of our people. We have just published a long patch of last Thursday from Knoxville, stating to the opinion there that the rebels intend to make a raid into Kentucky. Gen. John C. Breckinridge has got himself ordered at the head of a large force to Western Virginia for the purpose of co-operating with the projected movement of Longstreet from Richmond. Gen. Buckner is said to be in command in East Tennessee, and Gen. Polk in Georgia. Longstreet is said to be now on the way to Dalton, Georgia, with a large rebel force, to near Cumberland Gap, and it is believed that his movements will be intended to co-operate with the movement of such troops as may enter Kentucky in that direction; Gen. Longstreet's fierces, withdrawn from Kentucky from Bull's Gap, are believed to be turning their attention toward Kentucky; General John H. Morgan has been released from prison, and is very busy force of cavalry, and Kentucky has always been and is unquestionably destined to be the chief theatre of his operations; we hear from various quarters that a force is being organized in Arkansas and near Pound Gap under the command of Major General Buckner to make an incursion into Kentucky, and that troops are being drawn from other quarters; and to all these we may add that the rebels and rebel sympathizers every where in Kentucky are more evidently at this time full of expectations and joy, and that guerrilla bands, some of them numerous and well armed, are now sweeping Bagtownies, Greenvilles, and dangerously through our State. We believe, which, it would seem, could be inspired only by the expectation or knowledge that they will be operated with, when occasion necessary, by the converging rebel armies. The prospect would seem to us far darker than it does if we had a force in the field to meet Gen. Grant is at the head of military affairs, and that he appreciates the momentous importance of keeping Kentucky out of rebel clutches. It is true, that his attention may, at the present, be chiefly absorbed by the Army of the Potomac, which he is to lead in person, but he will not for a single day be without the means of knowing and Kentuckians themselves must rally with mighty and sublime energy in this crisis. It is a solemn mortality that presents to a true why above our heads than that our State is in danger, and, if we do not make her historical soil black with rebel blood, we shall prove ourselves the rapresent sons of glorious fathers.

Grant and the Potomac Army.

[From the Chicago Tribune, April14.]

The Copperhead papers are already predicting the overthrow of Grant and the breaking out of civil war in the North as consequence thereof. The wish is father to the thought. The *Herald*, for example, says:

"Greeley will be the candidate if *Gen. Grant should fail in the coming campaign, and over on the North cause*, Greeley will be the man violating liberties of the country, very large quantities of which are known to have been received within our lines in the Southwest, in accordance with his arrangements.

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The Rebel Army Drawing Supplies from the United States—Important Revelations.

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CITY INTELLIGENCE.

First District Recorder's Court—H. T. Vennard Presiding.—Mr. Wilkon, the alias of Joseph Individual who was probably justly prided himself with being quite a gentleman in rags and flighty from, came up before the Recorder yesterday on the charge of having over heated his brain by too persuading more substantial than the rending of his own works. He was let off on condition we suspect, that he shall read and study the striking language of his poetry.

Bridget Burke, drunk, squib, has the choice to pay \$10 or to go for 60 days to the Work house. George Beachmeyer was fined \$5 for violating the health ordinance.

Chamber of Commerce.

April 13, 1864.

At a special meeting of the Chamber, held this evening at 6 P. M., the following preamble and resolutions were submitted and unanimously adopted:

ARTHUR G. WAUGH,
Secretary and Treasurer.

Whereas, as some difficulty has been experienced, within the last week, in making pecuniary notes of the city of New Orleans for all the purposes of a currency, thus interfering with commercial transactions; and

Whereas, it is a matter of the first importance that this difficulty should be promptly removed, and the general confidence of the people remain undisturbed in this circulation; and

Whereas, these issues are ultimately provided for by direct guarantees—the entire bonded debt of the city and all the taxable property of the inhabitants—and are convertable to payment of all State and city taxes, and are commercially amply secured: Be it, therefore,

Resolved, That the present Treasury notes circulation of the city of New Orleans, being adequately guaranteed by unquestionable security, and for the redemption of which the entire taxable property of the city is liable, is in the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce, equal in value and security to any issue of paper money in this country.

By a report made by the Quartermaster, dated February 16, 1864, to Capt. Stephen Hoyt, D. S. A., during May 63, it appears that the city notes in circulation were issued as follows:

Issued by the Common Council for the payment of debts		$1,000,000
Issued by the mayor for the redemption of the Confederate loan		3,913,018
Issued by the mayor for current expenses	101,104—	458,104
Issued by order of Gen. Butler for Finances on a pledge of the tax collected	418,000	
Less amount redeemed	4,000—	414,000
Issued by order of the mayor on pledge of corporate property	700,000	
Less amount redeemed	130,000	570,000
Total issue of city notes now in circulation, less amount redeemed		$6,355,104
Issued by the mayor for the redemption of the bonds of the city		5,000,000
Issued by the mayor for the redemption of the bonds of the city		6,000,000
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