New Orleans Bee.

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THE DAILY BEE
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All communications intended for the paper should be addressed to the Editor, and those relating to Subscription, or advertising, to the Publisher.
Any persons receiving the paper through error of the carrier, or otherwise, will be kindly requested to report the same at the office, and it will be promptly attended to.

NEW ORLEANS:
FRIDAY MORNING, DEC. 19, 1862.

Sales at Auction To-Day.

By R. B. Dykes, at half past 10 o'clock, at No. 32 Magazine street, corner of Julia, Furniture.

By D. E. Murphy, at 10 o'clock, at Nos. 36 and 38 Tchoupitoulas street, bacon, beef, mackerel, dried apples, &c.

By T. Keelar & Son, at 10 o'clock, at No. 73 Camp street, dry goods.

By R. T. Montgomery, at 12 o'clock, at No. 67 Camp street, fresh eggs, cocoanuts, grapes, schnapps, &c.

By J. B. Crozat, at 10 o'clock, at No. 144 Rampart street, furniture, watches, silverware, &c.

DEATH OF P. N. WOOD.—The *Picayune* of yesterday announces the decease of the gentleman whose name heads this notice. Mr. Wood died of pneumonia, after a short illness, at Canton, Mississippi, on the 10th instant. He had been a resident of this city for upwards of twenty years, and was a native of Baltimore. As a founder of high capabilities he enjoyed great reputation, and he filled positions of President of the New Orleans Gas Light Company, President of the Merchants' Bank, and Vice-President of the New Orleans and Great Northern Railroad Company, which office he held to the moment of his death. He leaves a large and honorable family, and many friends and admirers to mourn his untimely demise.

THE VARIETIES THEATRE.—Stirling Coyne's pleasant comedy, "Everybody's Friend," and the good old comedy "Uncle John" were repeated at the Varieties last night to a fair audience, who testified their delight by frequent applause. Our readers will remember that the comedy "Everybody's Friend" was brought out by Owens in his last season, and was one of his most taking "cards." As *Major Wellington DeBoots*, Owens was wont to be in his happiest vein; but we prefer, on the whole, Mr. Bowers's personation of that character. We regard Mr. Bowers's *Major DeBoots* as his best performance so far, as his acting was divested of that buffoonery which, although necessary at times to invest a weak character with interest, seldom improves a character which possesses in itself sufficient humor to render it laughable. *Major DeBoots*, in the hands of Mr. Bowers, became a speaking, moving reality, and Mr. Bowers well deserved the plaudits which greeted him at the end of the performance Wednesday night. Mr. Baker, as *Frank Featherly*, very body's friend, managed, by his good nature, to get himself into all manner of scrapes, (upon which hangs the interest of the play) and gave a very pleasing rendition throughout. Mr. Rand, as *Icebrook*, gave us an excellent personation of the character of a bashful, yearning lover who fears to declare his love and is continually balanced between hope and despair, and carried out the character with great spirit. The *Mrs. Featherly* of Mrs. Gladstane was marked by all that just appreciation of character and excellence of acting that so justly commend this lady to popular favor; and her personation last night assuredly drew us from the stage to the drawing room, so well did she "hold the mirror up to nature." Mrs. Baker, as *Mrs. Swansdown*, was graceful and captivating, and gave a pleasing rendition of the arch, society-loving widow. Mrs. Preston's *Mrs. Major DeBoots* was sufficiently henpecked to give an air of reality to the character, and presented a code of domestic bliss that husbands of tyrannic wives might study to advantage. On Wednesday night the principal performers were called before the curtain at the close of the piece, and were greeted with a round of applause. In the after piece "Uncle John," Mr. Ryer, as the *Uncle John* of the comedy, gave a fine personation of the bluff, hearty old country gentleman who is never too old to marry, and never too old to confess his faults, when he discovers that his intended bride loves another and a younger man. Miss Sefton made a most captivating *Eliza*: and we not marvel that *Uncle John* should have so forgotten himself as to throw himself (his sixty years included) and his fortune at her feet. Mrs. Chippendale acted well her part of *Alice Hawk*, but it was to be regretted that she did not get "that Cashmere shawl," after all her tact and management. Mrs. Gobay (who, by the way, *should* give more spirit to her acting) and Mr. Rand, as *Edward Easel* and *Nephew Hawk*, respectively, acquitted themselves with great credit. We are to have "Everybody's Friend" to-night again, to be followed by "My Neighbor's Wife." Everybody and his friend should go, and witness a pleasant comedy well-played.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—The Academy of Music still holds its own, under the attractions nightly offered by the Minstrels, under the management of Dupree & Green. An entire change of programme is offered to-night, in which the oddities of Sinte, the buffoonery of Campbell, and the pleasing songs of Green will be not the least of the attractions. The Minstrels will, of course, have a large house to-night.

R. T. Montgomery will sell this day, (Friday) the 19th inst., at 12 o'clock, at the Old Auction Mart, a large lot of fresh eggs and fine Catawba grapes, of exquisite flavor, and a rare delicacy for the table, at in fine order, just arrived per steamer George Washington, and as a time very opportune, for the former will make a choice egg nogg for Christmas, and the latter will be a great delicacy as dessert. Taere will, also, be sold at the same hour, a large lot of cigars, ginger schnapps and matches. For particulars see advertisements.

The attention of the trade is called to the sale which will take place at 10 o'clock this day, by T. Keelar & Son, at their salesroom, 73 Camp street, which comprises fine ginghams, cotton and woolen flannels, satinets, hoop skirts, linen cambric handkerchiefs, hosiery, merino shirts and drawers, plaids, Kentucky jeans, &c. Buyers will find it to their interest to attend this sale, as the goods offered are fresh and well assorted. See advertisement under the head of auction sales.

BROTT, DAVIS & SHONS.—This firm have in store and offer for sale a carefully selected lot of prime old rye, pure Scotch and superior Bourbon whis ky, fine Otard brandy, in quarter casks, pure Jamaica rum, alcohol, and champagne cider, in barrels, to which we call the attention of our readers.

CHOICE TEAS AND OLD RYE WHISKY.—Messrs. Brott, Davis & Shons have received per late arrivals a choice invoice of teas, comprising extra imperial, fine young hyson, choice oolong, &c.: also, old rye whisky. See their advertisement in another column.

D. E. Morphy, auctioneer, calls the attention of buyers to the large sale of bacon, beef, mackerel, dried apples and table claret, which is advertised by him for this day, at 10 o'clock, at Nos. 33 and 35 Tchoupitoulas street.

GEN. BURNSIDE REINFORCED.—The Washington correspondent of the New York *World* says:

I am told that 30,000 troops are coming forward to reinforce the army, but it comes from a source not entitled to the highest credit. A *ruse* is being built upon the opposite side of the Potomac, and it is reported that troops are to be sent down from Annapolis and transported across the river.

A train of seven large siege guns are at this place, to be sent forward to the army. They are large 4½ inch pieces, larger than any at present with the army. The enemy have some of the same size in the fortifications at Fredericksburg.

The pontoon boats for two bridges have been sent down the river for two miles, and one still remains in the vicinity of Aquia creek. It is thought that they will be thrown over the river at once.

The pickets up the river are cultivating the most friendly relations with each other, and, standing a small trottle in between and softer Rebels come across the river freely, sit down upon the rocks, and talk kindly with our men, and our own pickets do the same. I am going up the river to-day to attempt to obtain some Mahomedan papers.

THE SYSTEM OF ARBITRARY ARRESTS.—The Washington correspondent of the New York *World* writes from that city under date of the 5th instant, giving the following account, of what he calls "inside glimpses at the system of arbitrary arrests."

Five citizens who have been released from confinement made affidavit to-day before Judge Advocate Turner that their release was procured by paying a well-known justice of this city various sums from seventy-five to one hundred dollars, and that one of them, who had become a clothing store, was accused for selling one of Baker's detectives, dressed as soldiers, clothier's suits of clothes, which they not only returned, but demanded the money back which they paid for them, and on being refused, was threatened by *Baker himself* with confinement. He did not complain of one or the other being retained by Baker, but not both, and did not know that it was owing to said clothier's clothes to soldiers; but with regard to manner of arrests parties charge this to collusion and swindling. Judge Turner promised them, if the facts were true as represented, all should be brought to justice, including Baker.

Latest Southern News.

The *Picayune* published last evening the following extracts of late Southern news, which we copy below:

We have the Jackson *Mississippian* of the 8th inst., which contains the annexed telegraphic dispatches:

MORE OF THE FIGHT AT COFFEEVILLE.

Grenada, December 8.—The affair at Coffeeville was a brilliant one. Gen. Lovell trapped, defeated and drove back the enemy's advance, killing and wounding one hundred and thirty-two, and took thirty-five prisoners. We lost eight killed and forty-five wounded. General Lovell afterwards safely brought his train to Grenada.

TENNESSEE RENEGADES AND BUSHWHACKERS CAPTURED.

Knoxville, December 6.—Three notorious leaders of bush whackers, of Cliff's renegades, were captured in Anderson county, and lodged in jail yesterday. Some of their band have been the terror of the mountains for years. Thirty-four Abolitionists and four negroes, in Federal uniforms, were captured by Col. Palmer at Big Creek Gap, and sent here.

PRISONERS ARRIVED AT RICHMOND.

Richmond, December 7.—Some twenty prisoners arrived from Lynchburg this morning, including the Tennessee and Kentucky renegades, bridge-burners, locomotive stealers, and six prisoners of war.

FIRE IN RICHMOND.

Richmond, December 11.—A large fire broke out at half past one o'clock to-day, and consumed a row of houses known as Tyler's, near the corner of Main and Water streets. Eleven tenements, embracing nearly a square, were consumed. The property was mostly owned by M. W. Tyler. The origin of the fire is unknown. The loss is estimated at twenty-five thousand dollars.

GUNBOAT ATTACK ON PORT ROYAL.

Richmond, December 6.—On Thursday afternoon the gunboats of the enemy made a demonstration in the vicinity of Port Royal, which brought on a brisk artillery duel between them and the batteries. The artillery firing lasted more than an hour, during which time the boats were sufficiently battered to deem it prudent to withdraw.

During the progress of the firing, two houses in the town of Port Royal were struck by the shots of the enemy, and were considerably damaged.

Richmond, December 6.—Federal gunboats proceeded up the Rappahannock river to-day, and when opposite Port Royal the batteries opened on them. The Federals returned the fire. No further particulars.

BURNSIDE DIGGING IN THE MUD.

Burnside seems to be following the occupation of his predecessors; he has taken to digging on the other side of the Rappahannock in the mud, and does not venture across for fear of falling on a Lee shove with a stonewall in the rear.

It has been raining incessantly, which renders the roads impassable, and consequently renders army movements impracticable for some days.

SUCCESSFUL CONFEDERATE RAID.

Additional particulars received show the Westmoreland affair to have been a decided success for the Confederates. Colonel Beal, commanding the Ninth Virginia cavalry, spent a detachment of forty-one men under Major Walker across the Rappahannock river to Lodan, in Westmoreland county—when on shore they surprised and captured the Federal pickets at that point; they then proceeded to the farm of Dr. Taylor, where the picket camp of the enemy existed, the latter surprised, capturing forty-eight men, including a captain, lieutenant and two non-commissioned officers of the Eighth Pennsylvania cavalry, with sabres, carbines, and as much sugar and coffee as the men could bring off conveniently.

The point at which this occurred is twenty miles below Port Royal, and about thirty-five from Fredericksburg. The next morning at daylight the expedition safely crossed with their captives to the Essex side of the river.

FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

Charleston, December 7.—A special scout just from Bull's Island, reports the enemy there in force. He was chased about two miles by a party of Federals and negroes in Federal uniforms. They afterwards shelled the Island for half an hour.

We learn from the *Mississippian* that the Mississippi Legislature was to assemble on the 15th instant. The *Mississippian* says:

The first business of the Legislature will be to provide for the immediate organization of the entire arme bearing population between sixteen and sixty years of age, for military service. We must roll back the vandal tide that is sweeping over or perish beneath it.

The *Mississippian* has the following:

FROM GRENADA.

We learn that the change of position of our army to the line of the Yallobusha has been completed. It would not be proper to state the dispositions of our forces, but the opinion is warranted that it is such as to hold the enemy in check in front and to prevent a flank movement in that quarter. We learn from undoubted authority that our army fell back to its new line of defence in good order, and is in excellent fighting condition. The best evidence that the rumors of its demoralization are utterly false is to be found in the cool, steady, but spirited manner in which our rear guard, under General Lovell, met and routed the advance force of the enemy at Coffeeville. If people would quit croaking, and cease a course of conduct which is calculated to foment discontent and defection, and do their duty, as our noble army is doing its duty, all would be well.

IRESIA SALT WORKS.

The Brandon *Republican* states that Mr. Robert Maxey, of that place, has returned from these works, and brings intelligence that we have now a sufficient Confederate force there to protect the mines, and that the hands have again gone to work. He put in an order for 10,000 pounds of salt and is going back in a few days to try and get it through.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL CHARLES CLARKE.

We were yesterday gratified by the announcement that the health of this distinguished and favorite Mississippi General is such that he will, in a very short time, be able to return to his home and report for duty. We are sure that this intelligence will be hailed with delight by our whole people.

FROM GRENADA.

A letter to the *Mississippian*, dated Grenada, December 6th, says:

* * * *

In my last postscript your readers were informed that our forces were engaging the enemy near Coffeeville. The affair was a brilliant one, and very creditable to our arms. A party of Tilghman's Division, composed of the Fourteenth, Thirty-third and Thirty-second Mississippi Regiments, and some Arkansas and Texas troops, engaged the enemy within two miles of Coffeeville, and after an obstinate resistance, succeeded in driving him back four miles, killing 71 outright, and capturing and wounding over 100. Our own war trifling in killed, 7 were found among the enemy's dead, and ten died of their wounds in the hospital in Coffeeville last night. Among the troops engaged were many reported prisoners of Fort Donelson, and they fought with a spirit that plainly evinced their appreciation of the dastard foe who treated them so vilely while in Camp Morton and other Northern "black holes" last summer. These men take no prisoners.

A squad of ten from Corinth voluntarily came into our lines to-day. They are a youthful group and though well clad and comfortable, profess to be thoroughly disgusted with the war. They desire to be paroled and sent back to their homes. Of course they'll go.

We have rumors of another fight near Coffeeville to-night, but they are too intangible to reach. It is quite amusing to contemplate the fertility of the imaginations of people in and around a great army, one can hear any and every kind of news, from the recognition of the Confederacy down to the capture of Grant or Sherman. *Apropos* of Sherman, we conversed with a gentleman who left Memphis on Monday last, who told us that Sherman was reported as having left that city with 30,000 men; that Grant had 10,000, and that somebody else, the successor of Curtis, perhaps, 20,000. These figures would give the invaders 60,000 men. A great many of those we are to have, and drafted men, whose hearts are not in the war.

Gen. Van Dorn and staff are here, having arrived this evening. That the army will make a stand here is beyond doubt. That they can "fix" the invader if they do give him battle here, every man, rank and file, heartily believes. Faith is a good thing in war, but fighting is better.

The following communication appeared in the *Delta* of yesterday:

MEXICAN CONSULATE IN NEW ORLEANS,
December 17, 1862.

Sir—The official dispatches, received by me from Mexico, establish the amount of interest the Mexican Government attaches to the strict and honorable observance of the laws of neutrality, during the present invasion of the Mexican Republic by the French expeditionary corps. In compliance with orders, I have solicited the United States local authority to enforce such neutrality; and in performing my duty, I know that a full or satisfactory answer is made in the British Consulate here, of laborers to be sent from here to undertake the work on the proposed French railroad between Vera Cruz and Orizaba.

From this it cannot but find that you consider the territory and the lands between Vera Cruz and Orizaba a French possession, and the absence of war forcefully secured in favor of their conquest.

The interest of the English people seems to me to be at variance with French politics; therefore, I think it would be prudent to direct attention to your orders now in consignment on the invasion of the Mexican Republic, which still is thankful for the conduct of English and French forces in March last, and has been always friendly to us and to all visitors of the English people. I have the honor to be, with respect,

Your most obedient servant,

FELICIANO RUIZ.

To Her Britannic Majesty's Consulate in New Orleans.

We copy the following paragraph from yesterday's *Picayune*:

We feel justified in stating that if any of our citizens desire to have an interview with Gen. Banks, the new Commanding General of the Department of the Gulf, they will be accommodated, and even if they have complaints to make, they will be certain of a patient and attentive hearing.

The Condition at Vicksburg.

A special correspondent of the Philadelphia *Inquirer* writes as follows from Cairo:

From an officer of the Maria Denning I learn the following regarding the situation at Vicksburg:

The rebels have for some weeks been making extensive preparations for the descent of the Federal fleet and land forces, of which movement it has been they were advised even before those indefatigable correspondents of the daily papers. They have a large force upon the point which obstructs the view of the ship upon the approach from the north, coming off the timber in such a manner as to give the signal officer a fair view of all crafts coming within several miles of the place. Of course this is no fair for us for the rebels. It is to be presumed that when the advance is commenced Vicksburg will be made accustomed with the fast from more sources than one.

The officers who came upon the flag of truce boat, to take off their prisoners and return some fifty Federal prisoners they had in charge, carried in their statements of the Confederate force then occupying Vicksburg. Some said they had 300,000 men, others said but about 200,000. Some went as far as to set off the additional orphan, and place it as low as 300. One thing, at least, was evinced to the officers of the Denning. The rebels were either short of help or desired them to be understood as being so, such days, and they were there days engaged in the duty —the same identical squads of men were sent down to take charge of their returned comrades. Among these were noticed women wearing artillery, cavalry and infantry uniforms, and yet others who were no uniforms at all. It is understood, generally, that there is a large force quartered somewhere in the vicinity, but the town itself shows but few signs of being garrisoned.

The Maria Denning made a successful trip, exchanged her prisoners, and returned to Cairo last evening, bringing a number of Federal prisoners, late inmates of Southern prisons.

First Voyage of the "Passaic"—Steering an Iron-clad with a Looking-Glass.

[Correspondence of the New York Times.]

On Board the "Passaic," Fortress Monroe, Sunday, November 30, 1862.—We have arrived here safely, and I hasten to transmit an account of the first voyage of the "Passaic" monitor." I have already telegraphed, about the two bolts starting in our boiler. It made it necessary to shut off steam, and we were towed up. But the trial was over—the experiment fairly tested. I suppose you know that, beside the apparatus for firing our great gun, and the small hole in the turret, there were other principles involved in this ship which needed application to show their value. They were:

First—The water-tight nature of the turret.

Second—The arrangement for using the compass.

Third—The sea-going qualities of the ship.

In regard to the first named principle, it will be remembered that the leakage of the original Monitor's turret was found to be a serious inconvenience. Water forced itself under the huge "castle of iron," and many times, when those low crafts are almost "buried in the deep," it was thought that this feature would be fatal to their success. A new invention was devised to remedy this defect, and it has worked, and now the turret is water proof. There is even no use for the little channel made to carry off the "inevitable leakage," as there is no leakage at all.

The second principle is a grand one. It enables a sailor to steer the heaviest iron-clad *through a looking-glass*. You know that no compass can perform its functions within such an iron prison as a turret, but they are surprised, capricious, sluggishly and lifeless, pointing never correctly. There was another difficulty to be overcome. It has been removed in a beautiful manner. The selection of the compass has been carefully secured to the helmsman through a mirror, the compass itself being raised far above the deadening influence of the iron mass. In battle the compass is removed. The next morning at daylight the expedition safely crossed with their captives to the Essex side of the river.

The third principle tried is the general sea-going qualities of the new Monitor. Being water tight, where alone water could always come, they are safe. If waves reach the top of the turret, they may wash over, but cannot drown anybody. The steadiness of the craft is wonderful. Moving through the roughest tide, she is as free from rolling and pitching as one could well imagine. With fine engines she might steam round the world.

We are ordered to Washington. What is the business on hand for us it is not for me to say, if I know. But Monitor No. 2 is successful, and that is good news enough for one letter.

Mr. Lincoln's Emancipation Plan and the Proposed Proclamation of January 1st.

The *National Intelligencer* of December 4th, making Mr. Lincoln's message the text of its commentaries, thus argues upon the profound plan of emancipation therein contained. After summing the exception of the plan the *Intelligencer* passes over to the consideration of its practicability and expresses as follows:

If the President builds such high hopes on the adoption of the proposed plan, and if at the same time he does not intend to "stay proceedings" under the "proclamation of freedom," but purposes on the first of January next to issue a decree proclaiming that "all persons held as slaves within any State, or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free," then one of two things must be the condition of such a line of conduct: Either that proclamation must be held and considered by him to be null and void, and that therefore it offers no inducement to the subsequent adoption of his plan, or else the President has mocked himself and the country by projecting a great plan of reconcilement, and at the same time attaching the conditions which give to that plan its grandeur and its usefulness as a means of pacification. If the slaves in all the insurgent States are to be proclaimed free on the 1st of January next, and if, in consequence of such proclamation they are to be held and treated as "then, thenceforward, and forever free," what room remains for the application of that plan which requires the assent of seven slaveholding States? Either the President's proclamation is a confessed nullity or his plan is a delusion and a snare.

And this we say in ample statement of what seems to us the fatal logic of the political situation that must result from the conjunction of a plan which requires time for its establishment, and the foreshadowed edict which, if carried out, is destined to defeat that plan with regard to the very States in which the President says emancipation immediate emancipation. For he says that gradual emancipation commends itself to the special approval of his friends, and says, "because it saves them [the slaves] from the vagrant destitution which must largely attend immediate emancipation in *localities where their numbers are great*." And we cannot see how the President can consistently say, as he does in the body of his message, that "the plan leaves to each State choosing to act under it, abolish slavery now or at the end of the century," if he purposes to abolish slavery in all insurgent States on the 1st of January next. Such an edict, if regarded by him as valid, would not leave seven slaveholding States to concur in the plan, as he contemplates and unconcur in the plan, as he contemplates and unconcur in the plan, as he contemplates and unconc