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NEW ORLEANS SATURDAY MORNING MARCH 29, 1851.

TERMS OF THE REE.

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The New-Orleans Daily Pic.

Official Journal of the Parish Corporation, City Council, First Municipality, and Board of Legislators.

Saturday Morning, March 29, 1851.

THE NORTHERN MAIL failed yesterday from beyond Charleston.

THE NEW CUSTOM HOUSE.

Some time ago we took occasion to refer to the plan for the construction of the new Custom House, submitted by Mr. Woon, the original architect, and to the suggestions made by Mr. DAKIN, his successor, by which a number of material changes were proposed. In an elaborate pamphlet on the subject, Mr. DAKIN pointed out the numerous defects in Mr. WOON's plan, and especially the absence of proper contrivances for ensuring free and abundant ventilation, in so vast an edifice. The master, at the time, gave rise to considerable discussion, but we believe that the public, after hearing both sides, were nearly unanimous in giving the preference to the modifications contemplated by Mr. DAKIN. Unfortunately, however, in the amendments attached to the appropriation of $200,000 for the new Custom House made by the late Congress, there are several provisos, one of which expressly prohibits any material departure from the original adopted plan. The consequence is, that the building will be erected in conformity with the views of Mr. WOON, and that the most obvious and manifest improvements, intended to provide a proper supply of light and air, are distinctly prohibited. Whatever may be the errors and defects of the original plan, they must, under the proviso in question, be maintained, to the detriment of the structure, paradventure at the cost of the health of the inmates, and certainly at an increased expenditure.

This is very greatly to be regretted—and the more so, as it appears that the opinions of Mr. DAKIN derive strong confirmation from the approval of one of the most distinguished architects in the country—JOSIAH ROGERS, Esq.—This gentlemen, whose name is connected with the construction of a number of spacious and tasteful public edifices in the North, has written the following letter to the Commissioners of the Custom House, in which he recognizes the faults in the original plan, and expresses in the strain, a favorable opinion of the suggestions of Mr. DAKIN:

CINCINNATI, January 25, 1851.

To the Commissioners for the Erection of a new Custom-house in New Orleans—

MESSRS—Having been requested to give my opinion of the plan and suggested improvements of Mr. DAKIN, Architect, and having examined the original plan and perused the pamphlet containing these suggestions, I take the opportunity to say, that I concur with most of his views. His arrangements for the large court are certainly much better than the original plan: and the court yard opening in the centre, is, in my estimation, indispensable for so large a building, both for light and ventilation. I am only surprised that any person should have consented to of an arrangement for a building of the magnitude of the New Orleans Customhouse, divided into so many apartments—many of them not opening on the streets, but depending on other apartments, themselves not too well lighted and ventilated, for light and air—and all this, I am informed, by a professed architect.

With the humble position I occupy as an architect, I feel regret and mortification that any one should make so sad a mistake for a building of that magnitude, as is too evident, from an examination of the plans. It certainly reflects severely on the architects of this country, if we cannot get public buildings designed with more fitness for their use, than that of the new Customhouse of New Orleans. The public business room, as suggested by Mr. DAKIN, may be made a splendid affair, both as to comfortable arrangement, business and appearance. The approach should be to [illegible] public accommodation crossed the stair-case in the centre. I think this is one of Mr. DAKIN's plans for entering the large room.

As regards Mr. DAKIN's suggestions in reference to a cellar under the building, it would be, in most places, indispensable; but in New Orleans, it can only be done in one way, that I can suggest, and that is, to make a coulter vault for all the partitions and walls to rest upon, which, if done, I think, would render the building much more secure from settling. As the foundation is now, I should have misgivings of its sufficient strength to support the great weight of those massive walls, and any alteration as the city of New Orleans appears to be.

There are many things, perhaps, which I might suggest, if my time had permitted me to make a more thorough investigation of the plans. It appears to me that the more a person examines the plans, the more he feels the necessity of remodelling the whole plan, to insure a building calculated to give the most convenient arrangement for the purposes it is intended for. Very respectfully, yours, etc.,

JOSIAH ROGERS.

We can hardly understand why the Louisiana Senators should have insisted so pertinaciously upon an adherence to Mr. WOON's ideas, unless it be that they were anxious to keep the main entrance to the building, on Front Levee, instead of removing it to Canal street, as proposed by Mr. DAKIN. But this change was but a minor feature in the suggestions made by the latter, and might have been readily obviated by a proviso to that effect. The gist of the improvements contemplated, embraced the indispensable adjuncts of light and air, without a copious supply of which, the transaction of business in so extensive a building would be both difficult and unhealthy. We are not very well posted up in architectural science, but it must be clear enough to the most unscientific mind, plan in the construction of so costly and imposing an edifice as the new Custom is intended to be, nothing would have been lost by giving due attention to the views and opinions of the most eminent architects in this country. The object of Congress should have been to obtain a building of living dimensions which should combine the highest constructive skill with all the necessary provisions for the comfort of the inmates, and the security and solidity of the structure itself. In seeking to attain this, no regard whatever should have been paid to petty political squabbles or absurd sectional jealousies. These, or kindred influences seem, nevertheless, to have momentously swayed the minds and controlled the action of our Senators. *Tant pis.*

PRESENTATION OF PLATE TO CAPT. D. D. PORTER U. S. NAVY.—A most pleasing incident took place on Sunday evening at the St. Louis Hotel, the occasion being the presentation of a magnificent silver chased pitcher and salver to Captain D. D. Porter, of the Corvette, from several passengers who came out in the last trip of this noble vessel.

Senator CLEMENS, [of Alabama,] was elected as the spokesman of the occasion. He addressed Capt. Porter briefly and pertinently, and in complimentary terms to the Corvette, as a navigator, and his subsequent as a commander.

The latter replied in a few appropriate words. He rejoiced in having the opportunity of returning thanks to the [illegible] for the present. It [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]