The Daily Bee.

E. F. WEBSTER & ROBERT, E. DUVERGE, Jr. Proprietors.

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THE DAILY BEE.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 14.

Subscriptions by the Week.

The carriers of the Bee are authorized to receive subscriptions by the week, at the rate of 25 cents.

To our friends in the North who are desirous of transmitting advertisements for publication in the *Bee*, we take pleasure in recommending the firm of S. M. PETTENGILL & Co., 119 Nassau street, New York, and 10 State street, Boston. These gentlemen will be found prompt and faithful in the performance of contracts.

THE NORTHERN MAIL came yesterday with the latest dates.

SUDDEN CONVERSION.

There is an invincible repugnance in many men—even among those whose intellect is far above the ordinary calibre—to Quad forever, or for a prolonged period, in a decided minority. It is a weakness of human nature to barter fixed principles for ephemeral advantages. The number of those who, amidst gloom and disaster, hold fast to their integrity, spurning the besetments of political ambition, and the temptations of office, and clinging resolutely and unchangeably to the creed of their convictions, is lamentably small. As nature is said to abhor a vacuum, so do public men detest and seclude a minority. The masses, who usually suffer their thinking to be done for them by others, and receive their principles at second hand from the leaders, follow readily enough in the footsteps path traced for them by their chiefs. Hence it is that when the signs of the times betoken the apparent progress and ultimate triumph of one party, we behold so many of the opposition gradually veering towards it, or boldly courting its embraces. Every renegade of this sort possesses his circle of influence, and attracts around him a hundred of feeble understandings, or imperfect and half-formed opinions.

Illustrations of this truth abound in every political canvass which has agitated the country. The Harrison tornado was a special and striking example, and the Presidential campaign of 1852 corroborated it still more fully. In the first, it was evident from the start that the Whigs were destined to triumph, and a few prominent politicians who had been Jackson men, hastened to sniff the spoils, and swear allegiance to their quondam adversaries. Thousands who had been accustomed to follow where they lead, united in swelling the ranks of the Whigs, and Mr. VAN BUREN sustained an awful defeat. In 1852, it was equally clear that the nomination of Gen. SCOTT was unpopular. Whig champions refused to support him, and Whig masses silently shrunk from his standard. It is only when party discipline is most rigorously enforced, and party attachments are at blazing heat, such for instance as in the memorable battle of 1844, that the deserters on either side are insignificant, and the struggle between closely allied parties is stiff.

In these days of loose party ties, and absence of sharply defined issues, this tendency to jump over to the strong side is particularly conspicuous. We see it manifested in the recent summersets of the *Journal*, the *Picayune*, the *Bee*, and a host of minor satellites, all of whom have been rank Whig worn out garments, and come forth in the new and glossy apparel of Democracy. Reasons for these changes are never lacking, for our self-esteem instinctively and unceasingly fabricates arguments to shield it from censure and humiliation. One will say, the Whig party is dead, and nothing but insignificant fragments of the Democratic, another will decorate that the Presidential election is to be decided upon sectional grounds, and every true Whig is bound to advocate that party which is most faithful to the Constitution, and most hostile to fanaticism in all its shapes; whilst a third will ground his apostasy on some other equally plausible pretext. Not one of these disinterested and lofty patriots will be found the smallest expectation of a reward present, contingent, or prospective. None of them go over to the democrats from motives of a personal and selfish character. All of them profess the deepest contempt for office-seekers, and would not dream of rendering the purity of their motives liable to suspicion by accepting honors and emoluments from their new associates.

We are fain to confess that we can not very apt to bestow on such a display of charitable credulity upon the professions of these neophytes. The time and place, the conditions preceding and succeeding these startling conversions demand consideration from their value and sincerity. It has been kept said that men change their opinions often, but their principles never, and the axiom is founded in strict philosophic truth. There is no difficulty in conceiving the existence of circumstances sufficiently potent to induce a man to support a party to which he may have been in opposition half his life. Anthropomorphic as we are, we can not conceive when, if compelled to make a choice between doctrines which are simply in some respects objectionable, and doctrines which are in every respect abhorrent, we should assuredly select the lesser evil of the two. But between a course such as this—the fruit of an overwhelming necessity—and that cool, easy, lazy and wholesale transfer of opinion and principle to which we refer, there is a gap which we at least could not summon the audacity to overleap. The chemical process by which, in a day or a week, the strong and steady convictions of years are cancelled and obliterated, and in their stead, convictions diametrically opposite are implanted, is one that our minds of our weak mental vision have failed to master. Changes so rapid and radical are usually considered uncertain. We should be inclined to question the sincerity of him who could thus whistle down the wind at a moment's warning the settled opinions he had been cherishing for years in his very heart of hearts. But there is the phenomenon—sensible, tangible. Enquirers into the mysteries of our nature may pursue the analysis if they please, though we fancy *is you se read pas le chapelle*.

AMERICAN NOMINATIONS.—The American delegates of the Second District met last evening, and made the following nominations for said district:

J. L. FARRE, for Recorder.
AUGUSTUS MONTGOMERY and ADOLPHE DUPRE, for Alderman.
J. J. LEGARD and WM. M. FLEMMING, for Assistant Alderman of the 4th Ward.
VICTOR BENIT, for Assistant Alderman of the 5th Ward.

PROGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC.—We had yesterday an opportunity of examining portions of a new and splendid work now in preparation by Messrs. EMANUEL & DE BOW, at vast cost and with extraordinary pains, it is a statistical view of the United States, superbly illustrated, with steel engravings of the principal cities and towns, and a complete map on which are delineated the chief works of internal improvement, routes across the continent, &c. The whole is accompanied by historical and geographical descriptions of the States and Territories, by R. S. PEARCE, M. D. On alternate pages will be placed engravings, views and cards of colleges, commerce, manufacturing companies, &c. As this work will probably have an immense circulation, it may be regarded as one of the best advertising mediums ever offered. Mr. G. O. KAUFFER, No. 76 Poydras street, is the general agent.

Letter from Aspinwall, New Granada.

The brig *Ascendant*, Captain HARDER, says the Charleston *Courier*, arrived at this port yesterday morning, having sailed on the 24th of April. Captain HARDER brings no papers, but he informs us that everything was quiet at Panama and on the line of railroad when he left. The United States sloop of war *St. Marys* had reached Panama, and her commander had taken immediate steps to examine into the cause of the late unfortunate riot. It was reported that a warm correspondence had taken place between the commander of the *St. Marys* and the Governor of Panama, and that the latter had thought it prudent to remove his family from the place, and that he also was about leaving.

Captain HARDER states that it is thought at Aspinwall that the natives originated the disturbance for the purpose of plunder, many of them having been thrown out of employment by the completion of the railroad, who had formerly received considerable amounts for transporting passengers across the isthmus by canoes and mules, and many of which class are now mere beggarmen, who only await a suitable opportunity to plunder. This class can only be held in check by the fear of immediate punishment; and it is believed that it will be necessary for this government to station a naval or military force at Panama, to ensure safety to passengers on the route.

RUNNING OF THE RUN BOYS.—The officers of steamer *P. F. Kimball*, from Shreveport, support upper Red River, from Port Towson, rising rapidly. There had already been a rise of 15 feet at Fulton, and yet another heavy rise had taken place above.

The steamers *Belle, White Cloud, Pioneer, Gipsey and Magnolia* had left Shreveport with full cargoes for above the Raft.

By Telegraph.

Transmitted to the New Orleans Bee

[By the National Line.]

WILMINGTON, May 13.—The Matchez passed down at 13 o'clock noon, the David Gibson at 3, and the Republic at 5 this afternoon.

TEXAS.

By the arrival of the steamship *Mobile* we have received our files of Texas papers to the 11th inst. The *Galveston News* of the 10th says:

We have had, for nearly a week past, a succession of heavy rains, such as we have, with unusually cold weather for the season.

If as much rain has fallen in the country, it must be well nigh impassable, and the rivers and creeks must be full.

Gen. Sam Houston has put himself in the field for the Presidency. He is his own candidate, and not likely to become anybody else's.

A meeting of the friends of the Southern Pacific Railroad was held at Marshall a few weeks ago, at which Hon. T. Butler King, Gen. Green, and other gentlemen spoke. Nothing positive, however, seems to have been accomplished. After considerably disputing, a motion, this book to be opened for subscriptions to the Austin Convention, but it was afterwards postponed indefinitely, and the meeting adjourned.

THE TRINITY BRIDGE SUIT.—A gentleman just down from the Trinity, informs us that the river is still rising, and from the heavy rains which have fallen above, serious fears are entertained that there will be an overflow. The *Gropevine* was at Parker's Bluff, taking a load of cotton. This rise will probably float out the remainder of the crop.

Mrs. Blassingame, who was implicated in the murder of Capt. Callahan, after a full examination of the case, has been acquitted.

The Bagnio *Advocate* says, since the late rains the crops in that section are looking well, and promise a fine yield. As yet, we have heard no very serious complaint against the ravages of the grasshoppers.

Washington Gossip.

The correspondent of the *Herald* writes as follows:

I am told from pretty good authority that Gen. Pierce will decline to be a candidate at Cincinnati. In that event, his mantle will fall on the "Little Giant's" shoulders. Douglas cannot get all of Gen. Pierce's strength in the South. Georgia, Alabama, Florida and South Carolina, together with Virginia, Maryland and Delaware, which have already been instructed, would cast their votes in convention for Buchanan. The remaining Southern States, it is conceded, will throw their votes for Douglas.

Quite a number of leading New York delegates are now here. They represent three interests—the Hards, the Softs and the Softshells. Sickles and Hart arrived here yesterday, and we have thus the three interests well represented. Sickles, I understand, is anxious to find out which party will be admitted. But I am of opinion he will go home just as wise as he came, and no more so.

"Old Buck," I am informed, will arrive in this city on Thursday. His friends anticipate a gay time. Gen. Pierce will invite him to dine, together with a few personal friends, and a portion of the Cabinet. Marcy, I understand, is desirous of having an interview with him before he goes to the White House; and Gen. Pierce wants him to come to the White House before he sees old Buck himself. If he follows the rules of etiquette, he will go to the White House first. But if he was to follow his own inclination, I am sure he believe he would remain at Willard's, and let them call on him.

The Southern delegates, with, perhaps, some few from Virginia, have already decided upon giving the New York Softs their assent to the admission of the contesting Hards. By this position they can in hopes to effect the renomination of Pierce, or give to him the power of naming his successor. This question, however, will not be decided upon without bringing into action the worst passions of the Convention, and which will lead to the withdrawal of the Hards from that body, should the softs succeed in obtaining their point. This is no conjecture, for there are many men here, belonging to the Hard wing of the party, who are earnest in breaking up the Convention the moment the Softs are given the advantage. In fact, the Hards are the Chelmsford "harmonious" delegation proper, less resolute not unlike those which marked the closing scene of the Know-Nothings in Pennsylvania—division and discord.

CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, May 6.—In the Senate the subject of naval reform was postponed until to-day, in consequence of the indisposition of Mr. Bayard, who was entitled to the floor.

The Senate then proceeded to the consideration of the river and harbor bills on the calendar. One was for an appropriation of money for the improvement of the harbor at Ontonagon, on Lake Superior, in Michigan—The next, for the improvement of the harbor at Marquette, in Michigan, gave rise to an extended and somewhat amusing discussion. The measure was supported by Messrs. Cass, Stuart, Pugh, Mallory, and Weller. Mr. Bell, of Tennessee, and Mr. Crittenden desired information as to the necessity of the work and the estimates on which it was based. Messrs. Hunter, Butler, Brown, Thompson, of Kentucky, Biggs, Toombs and Adams opposed the bill, and favored its recommitment to the Committee on Commerce. During the discussion the problem as to what constituted a general system of internal improvements was considered, but not solved. In answer to one of the subtleties of constitutional construction, as to what is meant by "to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare," Mr. Cass said, "I am quite reasonably be no doubt that the power which is in the regulation of commerce, could build a lighthouse, and place upon it, with a light to keep remote off a rock, could rightfully appropriate money to remove the rock itself. With the exceptions, the discussion on this metaphysical question was confined to members of the Democratic party; and, although the debate was bitter and sometimes harmonious, the question was altogether of too grave a character to be settled at one sitting, and the Senate adjourned at near 4 o'clock.

The House of Representatives passed the bill making appropriations for the consular and diplomatic expenses of the ensuing fiscal year. A test question was presented by Mr. Bennett, of New York, on a bill reported by him from the Committee on Public Lands, granting land to the State of Iowa, in alternate sections, to aid in the construction of certain railroads. The vote was decisive of the fate of other bills of a similar character pending before the committee. The question on the engrossment was carried, indicating a majority in favor the passage of the appropriations, but before a vote was taken on the passage of the bill the House adjourned.

A PARIS NEWSPAPER—The *Presse*, the journal of Emile de Girardin, publishes, by way of advertisement, a statement of its circulation in each year of its existence. In 1836, six months after it was started, it reached a sale of 9331, and in 1837 attained the figure of 13,206. The next year, in a struggle with the coalition which united Thiers, Guizot, Berryer, and Lodre Rollin, it came near receiving its death-blow; its circulation fell to 2500. Still, under the ban of this coalition, it rose in 1839 to 9500, and from that time steadily increased to 16,896 in 1844. The enlargement of the sheet the next year raised its circulation to 22,971. There was no increase of nearly 3000 the next year, and the popularity of its opposition to Guizot the year after gave it 30,000 more. But it was not till after the Revolution of February, with the reduction of the stamp tax, and the great increase in the circulation of all the journals which followed, that the *Presse* reached its maximum; the number of subscribers and purchasers then rose from 22,389 in 1847 to 43,989. In 1849, when Cavaignac surpassed it for a time, it declined again to 34,779; and in 1850 it fell to 21,479. The *coup d'état* reduced it in 1851 to 21,236, and in 1852 to less than 10,000. The revival of commercial prosperity in France raised it in 1853 to 27,782, and the excitement consequent on the war in the East and the Paris Exhibition increased it in 1854 to 41,713. During that year the whole paper was daily set up five times, and printed in two hours on five four-cylinder presses. During the year 1855 its circulation was 42,868, and the whole number of sheets printed was 15,357,496, on which a duty of 1,236,000 francs was paid.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

THE COUNCIL.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.—This body proceeded to business last evening about 7 o'clock.

A communication from the Mayor was read, stating the Board that he had appointed F. M. Cronin Warden of the Workhouse, in the place of J. A. Scopes, resigned.

A resolution from the lower Board was concurred in, to the effect that the contract for printing by the Chief of Police be given to the newly appointed City Printer.

Numerous communications for allowing small appropriations were read and referred to the Finance Committee, among the number a petition from the "Courier" newspaper for printing a brief in a recent suit, to which the city was a party.

The Finance Committee reported against the remuneration of the City Attorney, Mr. Cole, of a certain area with respect to the business of the Municipality Attorney, in the per centum which he receives for obtaining judgments and making collections. Upon the question being put by the yeas and nays, the vote stood 4 to 1, (one of the members being excused from voting) and the amendment was lost. An amendment fixing the rate at 7 per cent. was then, and it was finally referred to the Judiciary Committee with instructions to report at the next meeting.

A resolution on the subject from the Lower Board was offered, to the effect that the mayor, City Attorney furnish a tableau of outstanding taxes for 1854-'55; that he be authorized to collect the same, and receive therefor 50 per cent. of the amount so bound, to be pay any costs for which the city may be liable. Referred to the Judiciary Committee, with instructions to report at the next meeting.

The Board then concurred in an invitation from the Lower Board to meet them in joint convention for the election of Directors of the Jackson and Opelousas Railroads, which was accordingly done.

Upon examining a communication of the Lower Board for having the proceedings of the Sunday visitation of the Council published, the following Resolution of the City Council, was concurred in:

Resolved, that the Lower Board be informed, that the Bright as published, which by the Clerk of the Council of the Court, was referred to the Police Committee.

Several communications and petitions of Individuals were read and referred to appropriate committees.

All other business of importance was tabulated, and the Board adjourned.

BOARD OF ASSISTANT ALDERMEN.—Members of this Board assembled in accordance from the Mayor's call, and the following communication from the Mayor was read, and referred to the Finance Committee, to be reported:

To the Common Council and Lawfully reported to the Board of Assistant Aldermen:

The Committee on Streets and Landings reported in favor of the contract for keeping the Levee repaired, and the Mayor and Assistant Aldermen, in the city officers and their official responsibilities, which was unanimously adopted.

The Mayor and Assistant Aldermen, in the city officers and their official responsibilities, which was unanimously adopted.

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