The New Orleans Bee.

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The New-Orleans Daily Bee.

Official Journal of the State, General Council, First Municipality and Board of Liquidators.

Friday Morning, Dec. 5, 1851.

☞ The Northern Mail came through yesterday, with the latest dates.

THE MESSAGE.

We had the pleasure yesterday morning of laying before our readers, the message of President FILLMORE, submitted to Congress on Tuesday last. We have read this elaborate State paper with close attention, and consider it in all respects one of the ablest that has emanated from the Executive department of our Government.

The message is exceedingly voluminous, and yet it does not contain a superfluous word. It is written with conciseness, is free from all verbiage, and is perfectly clear and intelligible. It adverts necessarily to a vast number of topics of national concern, but they are treated briefly, without the slightest acerbity of tone, with singular absence of party feeling, and with not even an approach towards that puerile species of declamation that so often marks and mars our public documents. In point of style, we deem it unexceptionable; for it is just such a lucid, plain and faithful exposition of national affairs, as should be expected from the Chief Magistrate at the annual meeting of Congress. There is very little argument in the message, and none of that long train of abstract reasoning and *ad captandum* appeal which made the communications of Messrs. VAN BUREN and POLK to the National Legislature, wear rather the aspect of Congressional speeches, than of Presidential messages.

The first topic referred to is the ill fated Cuba expedition. The President condemns this movement in its origin, progress and melancholy catastrophe, as improper, criminal and in violation of our treaty stipulations and neutrality laws. At the same time, however, he declares the fixed purpose of the Government to resist at all hazards, the pretension of Great Britain or any other nation, to visit and search American vessels, under the pretext of preventing future expeditions. The doctrine that in every merchant vessel, the crew and passengers find their protection in their flag that is over them, is re-asserted, and its supremacy proclaimed.

The outrage upon the Spanish Consul in New Orleans, receives special notice. Further legislation for the protection of diplomatic agents is required, and the whole subject submitted to Congress.

The message recommends the reception of KOSSUTH and his companions to the consideration of Congress. It alludes to the importance of maintaining the independence of the Sandwich Islands, touches upon the revolutionary movements on the Rio Grande, promises the active agency of the Government in obtaining from Mexico the necessary authority for the speedy completion of the Tehuantepec route, and adverts to the Nicaragua and Panama route, as being in a state of more or less advanced progress.

In presenting a condensed statement of the fiscal affairs of the country, Mr. Fillmore demonstrates that under the tariff of 1846, the foreign demand for our breadstuffs as steadily declined, and that the exports have been apparently large, only in consequence of the price of cotton, which was double the present value of that article. A falling off in the value of our exports for this year, to the amount of $40,000,000, will be the result, if the price of cotton is not materially enhanced. This will necessitate an enormous drain of specie, estimated at over $53,000,000.

Two millions of stock have been procured, and are ready to be transmitted to the authorities of Texas. For the other five millions the releases required by law, have not been filed.

The modification of the tariff so as to substitute, when practicable, specific for ad valorem duties, is again recommended. The sales of the public lands have been uncommonly large. The message suggests that the mineral lands of California be left open to public enterprize for a while longer.

The acquisition of an Agricultural Bureau is strongly urged. The Indians have in most instances been tranquil, except recently in California, and on the Mexican frontier, additional force is needed to repress them on this side. The census returns have been received from all the States and Territories except California.

The improvements of our rivers and harbors is again recommended as constitutional and expedient. Brief summaries are given of the state of the Navy, Army and Postoffice Department, and extracts furnished of the appropriations that will be required for their maintenance. The further reduction of postage is deemed unadvisable; but a uniform rate on newspapers is recommended.

The Message urges the thorough revision of the Statutes of the United States, and the arrangement of them in a compendious and intelligible form.

The opposition by armed men to the execution of the Fugitive Slave Law receives particular notice. The Message speaks in strong terms of these lawless outrages, and adds that the President has, in all instances, given all legal aid to the enforcement of the laws, and shall continue to do so, wherever and wherever they may be resisted. In this connection the constitutionality of the Fugitive Slave Law is pointed out and explained clearly and forcibly.

The Message concludes by re-affirming the finality of the Compromise, and congratulating the country upon the general acquiescence in these measures of peace.

We have hastily glanced at a few of the more prominent topics embraced in this admirable State Paper, believing that every American citizen will give it careful perusal. It is national and catholic in tone, and as free from sectional bias, as it is destitute of political asperity.

ANOTHER APPOINTMENT.—D. C. Vandergriff, Esq., late pilot of the lucky craft *Independent*, was yesterday sworn in as Deputy Sheriff. Pilot VAN has tossed his vessel into a safe and snug harbor.

SUGAR-MAKING is going on finely in St. Martins, though the amount will not exceed that of last year.

NEW ORLEANS MONTHLY MEDICAL REGISTER.—We are indebted to Dr. AXSON for the December number of this excellent and valuable periodical.

☞ The New York *Journal of Commerce*, a thorough-going Compromise print, with decided democratic tendencies, speaks thus of the nomination of DANIEL WEBSTER:

Though we are not prepared at present to give our adhesion to Mr. Webster, or any other man, for the Presidency, we do most heartily concur in every expression of admiration and gratitude bestowed upon him in the Address, and feel the strongest conviction that if elected, his Administration will be safe and honorable to the country. No greater man, or more experienced statesman, is any where to be found among us. For intellectual strength, he is by common consent admitted to be unsurpassed in this or any other country. Should the Union men of the South accept his nomination, as possibly they may do, its chance for an election would be very good.

☞ We perceive that a collision took place in the Post Office, at Portsmouth, Virginia, on Saturday last, in which W. Wallace Davis shot James Potter in the hand.

THE CENSUS TABLES.—The Washington Correspondent of the Charleston *Courier* says: In the Census bureau, though there are 140 clerks employed, it is found impossible to digest and arrange the mass of statistical returns before them, in time for presenting them to Congress early in the session. It has, therefore, been determined to arrange the details of all the returns from a single State—Maryland—and lay the work before Congress for their examination and approval. This work will embrace, first, the enumeration and statistics under the late census; second, the statistics of the State derived from the census of 1840; third, a history of the progress of the State in population and commerce, &c., from its origin; and fourth, a geological view of the State, with a view of its agricultural and mineral deposites. Much of all this is entirely extraneous to the objects provided for in the Census Act; but if Congress approve of the work and its execution, and go on to appropriate money enough, then all the States of the Union are to be presented in like manner. It will carry out work enough to employ many officers, clerks, geologists, &c., for some years. The work will not be complete without a topographical survey of each State, with a view to exhibit its capacities for internal improvements.

THE WEBSTER CONVENTION AT BOSTON.

The Boston papers contain a very full report of the proceedings of the Convention held in that city on the 25th ult., for the purpose of nominating DANIEL WEBSTER for the Presidency; as also, a copy of the address to the people of the United States, presented by the Hon. EDWARD EVERETT, Chairman of the Committee appointed to prepare it. The Hon. GEORGE ASHMUN presided over the Convention. There were about two thousand delegates present, and an immense concourse of spectators. Speeches were made by RUFUS CHOATE and other distinguished gentlemen, and were received with outbursts of enthusiastic applause.

The address is an able and eloquent document. It commences by an appeal to the country in behalf of the Union, and claims for the friends of Mr. WEBSTER the title of the party of the Union. To give strength and power to that great national party, the name of Mr. WEBSTER is proposed as a candidate for the Presidency. The Convention disclaims all sectional considerations, and advocates Mr WEBSTER solely on public and national grounds. We make the following extracts:

The South may well accept the nomination of Mr. Webster. Admitting that a candidate is to be sought beyond their own limits, to whom can they turn their thoughts, all things considered, with a firmer confidence that their constitutional rights and just expectations will be respected, and that the government will be administered in the spirit of conciliation, in which it was originally framed?

There is another portion of the country—the growing West—far too important to be overlooked in this reference to the different sections of the Union. Of all the leading statesmen of the day, who is there that has evinced a clearer perception than Mr. Webster of the important relations of the West to the rest of the Union? Who has more uniformly supported a line of policy favorable to its growth? Who has more resolutely combatted the error that the benefits of the constitution are limited to tide-water? Who has more strenuously demanded for the West a full participation in all its provisions for the protection, improvement and advantage of the whole country?

We feel warranted, fellow citizens, of every part of the country in proposing Mr. Webster as a candidate for the Presidency, on the score of merit. "Let it be given to the worthiest," is not only the great principle of moral justice, but one of the fundamental laws of republican government. In what is elective government superior as a system to hereditary government, if it be not in the application of this principle? Let not the highest office in the state (we are wont to say) be held by the accident of birth which is but another form of chance.

But why not be burdened by chance or birth, if it is to be given to any one but the worthiest? There is no other principle on which elective republican governments can be defended. Shake the public faith in the great idea that by virtue of the elective system the highest trusts in the state are sure to be conferred on the most worthy, and you open the door to intrigue, to fraud, and eventually to violence. There does not exist a grosser mockery of free popular government, than the employment of its great organic agencies, to confer the highest honors and trusts on any but those best qualified and most worthy.

Do we wish to convince the world that we are republicans in deed as well as by professions; that popular elections are what they claim to be, a system by which an intelligent people designate their wisest and best citizens to places of influence and power, let them be bestowed on merit so distinguished that all will feel the justice of the choice.

The address then goes on to recapitulate Mr. WEBSTER'S services. It recalls his exposition of the nullification heresy, the ex tempore philippic with which he filled in 1841 and '42 the chief place in the Executive Government, as Secretary of State, the settlement by him of the Boundary Question, the Ashburton Affair, and his agency in bringing about a Compromise of the Oregon difficulty. It then refers to his more recent agency in averting domestic convulsions, and alludes particularly to his great speech delivered in the Senate Chamber on the 7th March, 1850. We quote a long but highly interesting passage from the address:

Few persons, not at Washington at the time, are aware of the height to which excitement and alarm were had risen. To those who were present, and witnessed, as it were, at one glance, the whole array of interests and feelings, it is known that a condition of affairs of the most formidable nature existed. The dissolution of the Union was an event which stared men in the face. Had that session of Congress passed over, with no one done calculated to lay the foundation of the Southern States, and to check the progress of excitement in other parts of the country, it may be doubted whether another session of Congress could have been held.

In a word, a moment of imminent peril had arrived, and a man was needed for the crisis. It was necessary that he should be one of the highest standing and character, of acknowledged competence and ability, tried as a statesman, and trusted for his wisdom and patriotism as a citizen, and, indeed, nearly as much for his large and liberal views