THE DAILY BEE, WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED) AT THE OFFICE OF THE NEW ORLEANS BEE, ON CAMP STREET, BETWEEN ST. CHARLES AND CARONDELET. TERMS: DAILY PAPER, $10 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE; COUNTRY PAPER, SEMI-WEEKLY, $5 PER ANNUM; DAILY PAPER, FOR SIX MONTHS, $6; COUNTRY PAPER, SEMI-WEEKLY, FOR SIX MONTHS, $3. ADVERTISEMENTS INSERTED AT THE RATE OF $1 PER SQUARE FOR THE FIRST INSERTION, AND 50 CENTS FOR EVERY SUBSEQUENT INSERTION. ALL ADVERTISEMENTS INSERTED FOR LESS THAN ONE MONTH, TO BE PAID FOR IN ADVANCE.

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THE DAILY BEE,

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE STATE.

Wednesday Morning, Jan. 12, 1853.

For Representative—Fourth District,

F. A. LUMSDEN.

ELECTION SATURDAY 15th JANUARY.

THE NORTHERN MAIL came through yesterday with the latest dates.

HON. J. P. BENJAMIN.

If the intimations of a well-informed and usually correct journal—the *True Delta*—are to be credited—it is the intention of the Democratic majority in the coming Legislature, not merely to contest the right of the Hon. J. P. BENJAMIN to hold the office of United States Senator, but deliberately to evict that gentleman from his seat, upon one of the strangest, most monstrous and incredible pretexts that ever was assumed to justify an act of gross and manifest usurpation. Our readers are all aware that Mr. BENJAMIN was elected United States Senator to the last Legislature, for six years from the 4th of March, 1853, in succession to Gen. DAVIS, whose term will expire on that day. He was elected in strict conformity to the Constitution of the state, then in force, and to the laws enacted in pursuance thereof. Article 37 of that Constitution is in the following words:

"In the year in which a regular election for a Senator of the United States is to take place, the members of the General Assembly shall meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives, on the Monday following the meeting of the Legislature, and proceed to said election."

And the statute in reference to the same reads as follows:

"*Be it further enacted, &c.*, That on the first Monday following the meeting of the Legislature, in the session thereof, commencing in the year in which the term of office of any Senator or Senators chosen to represent the State in the Congress of the United States of America in the Hall of Representatives, or in case there is no session of the Legislature in such year, then in the next succeeding such year, the members shall meet in the Hall of the House of Representatives, and proceed to a choice of a Senator or Senators to represent the State in the Congress of the United States, in place of the Senator or Senators whose out of office; and the person or persons having the greater number of votes, shall be declared duly elected Senator or Senators: Provided such number be a majority of all the members present."

These extracts make it clear, positive and undeniable that Mr. BENJAMIN was properly and legally elected, by the Legislature under the Old Constitution, assembled biennially. As there would have been no session in 1853, the Legislature, in frigid obedience to the Act of 1846, of which the first section is quoted above, proceeded to perform its duty, and elected Mr. BENJAMIN. Upon what pretence then, is it proposed to set aside this election and to declare it null and void? If we rightly interpret the explanation given by our cotemporary, the New Legislature will assume the doctrine that as the Old Legislature was superseded by that adoption of the present Constitution, and did not serve out its entire term of two years, its act by which Mr. BENJAMIN was elected is a nullity and the New Legislature will claim and exercise the right of pronouncing it such, and of selecting another Senator in place of Gen. DAVIS.

To argue such a question is almost descending to puer ilities, and trifling with the understanding of an intelligent community. The act of the Legislature cannot be legal and binding, and illegal and void at the same time. If the election was legal at the time, it cannot be illegal now. If that particular act can be declared null and void, the whole body of legislation passed by the last General Assembly is equally stricken with illegality and invalidity. The consequence is null, the consolidated act is null, the annexation of Lafayette is null; the election by the citizens of New Orleans, of a Mayor and Common Council is a nullity, and we are all adrift again on a boundless ocean of doubt and uncertainty. Just observe to what a depth of absurdity the proposition inevitably leads. According to these casuists, the legality of Mr. BENJAMIN's election would have been incontestible, if the Convention which framed the new Constitution had declared that the term of the then existing legislature to meet in Baton Rouge on the third Monday in January, instead of dissolving that body and ordering a new election. By a parity of reasoning, all and singular of the doings of that Legislature must stand or fall together, and if the solemn act of State sovereignty in virtue of which Mr. BENJAMIN was duly chosen to represent the Commonwealth of Louisiana in the United States Senate could be nullified, the deed would necessarily carry with it the nullification of every law passed by the same General Assembly.

But the most conclusive and overwhelming objection to the contemplated scheme is yet to be stated. The legislature has no power to undo the act of its predecessors in such a matter. A United States Senator is not a State officer. He is indeed chosen by a State legislature, but he is *de facto* a Federal Officer. His case comes exclusively within the arbitrament and control of the United States Senate. The Legislature cannot declare his election illegal. The U. S. Senate is the sole judge of the qualifications of its members and of the validity of their election. To that tribunal alone can a contest be brought—for the election of Mr. BENJAMIN can be contested, by the State, but cannot be overthrown, save by a decision of the body of which he has become a member by the fact of his election. The Legislature has therefore simply a faculty not inherent in it, and for which it has no earthly warrant, were it to make the attempt.

We hope indeed that we are fighting shadows. Our respect for Democratic majorities is bound to be sore, but we would by both to admit the possibility of an act of such utter and indefensible atrocity, as that which we have essayed by the next General Assembly. Mr. BENJAMIN, armed with his credentials, and with the Constitution and law of Louisiana, will on the 4th of March, present himself before the U. S. Senate, and we venture the assertion, will take his seat as a member of that exalted and enlightened body. Whether all rights are to be a subject of future contest is another matter.

STEAMBOAT EXPLOSIONS.

A question of great importance will come up for decision to-day before Judge Kennedy, of the Third District Court.

It will be remembered that in 1837, in view of the immense destruction of life and property by the explosion of steamboats, Mr. Webster issued himself to frame a law, which it was hoped might correct the evil. That act of Congress made the owners of steamboats responsible for all damages arising from any "injurious or *improper* manner" and *prevaricating* the same to have resulted from negligence.

The steamboat *Brilliant* left here in September last, and exploded the day after her departure. A lady, whose steward was killed, brings suit for his value.

Under the act of Congress alluded to, suits have frequently been brought on the Ohio, but none we believe in any of our Courts. Now Orleans being native deeply interested in steamboat navigation takes any part in the world, given the question vast importance, and the high character of the Judiciary of our State will command for its decision great respect abroad.

We understand the suit is instituted not so much with reference to the value of property destroyed in this particular instance, as to ascertain a question to which the whole Valley of the Mississippi has an interest.

From the character of the counsel engaged we anticipate that full justice will be done to the subject.—For plaintiff, Olcott, Ogden and Green.—For defendants Benjamin and Minor.

☞ Our thanks are due Mr. J. HARSHALL BURNS, of "Wells and Fargo's" Express for files of late California papers.

MEMOIRS, JOURNALS AND CORRESPONDENCE of Thomas Moore.—Edited by the Right Hon. Lord John Russell, M. P., we are informed by D. APPLETON & Co., publishers, Cortlandt P. S. STREET, No. 60 Camp street, for this beautiful edition. It has been got up precisely in the English style, and in point of typographical execution is unsurpassed. This edition is to be published in parts, and the volumes before us entitled Part I. It contains a copiously written introduction by Lord John Russell, and the correspondence of the Memoirs. The latter, as far as we have been enabled to glance at them, is written in an unassuming, pleasant, chaste style, that possesses an indescribable charm. We wish both publications for the entertainment of the work.

CAPT. HERBERT.—We learn with infinite pain that advices received yesterday from this city represent the condition of Col. HERBERT, as most critical and alarming, and leave but faint hope of his final recovery. Let us hope that these accounts are exaggerated.

☞ The Congressional summary in our columns to day will be found interesting. The resolutions in relation to the Mexican decision introduced into the Senate by Gen. CASS, will probably elicit elaborate discussion. They may not pass in their present form, but we think they ought to.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE WORKS.—From a tabular statement of the railroads of Pennsylvania we perceived that that enterprising commonwealth possesses 710 miles of railroad road, and 214 miles of canal and roads. The amount of those profits is $2,000,000.

We are requested to call special notice to a sale of very valuable Lime Stone at auction which will take place THIS EVENING, at 6 o'clock, by H. VIGER, at the corner of Canal and Bourbon alley.

From Texas.

By the steamship *Louisiana*, sailed yesterday, we have received the *Civilian* of the 7th instant.

There was some heat, the first of the season, in Galveston, on Monday and Tuesday nights. The frost appears to have done but little damage to the peaches.

Chief Justice Hemphill having arrived, the Supreme Court commenced the hearing of causes in Galveston, on Wednesday last.

A new military post has been established, by Gen. Harney, on the Chenes, at the crossing of the road from San Antonio to Port Lavaca.

J. M. Devine has been re-elected Mayor of San Antonio, by a large majority.

The *Telegraph* has information that the old town of Springfield have subscribed $30,000 to the Galveston and Red River railroad, and the citizens of Corsicana have subscribed about twenty thousand.

NEGRO STEALING ON A LARGE SCALE.—The *American* states that a gentleman passed through Austin, a few days since, in pursuit of a man, who had stolen seventeen negroes from him. The man, with a portion of the negroes crossed the river three days before, traveling in the direction of San Antonio. The negroes were said to belong to a planter from the North who had settled in this State and planted on a farm near the Trinity. He sold some of the negroes in this State, and was taking the rest to Texas. There were two or three white persons in his possession.

ARRIVAL OF RAILROAD IRON.—The English bark *Stanly*, Collin, master, with 330 tons railroad iron, from Newport, Wales; the American ship Lochnevar, Loftin, from Bristol, England, with 800 tons and the American ship Redmond, Hill, master, from the latter port, have arrived at Galveston, and are discharging; this iron is intended for the Harrisburg Railroad, and with that already there, will be sufficient to lay nearly twenty-two miles of the track.

FROM EL PASSO.—The mail from Santa Fe and El Paso has arrived at San Antonio, but without news of interest. The Santa Fe *Gazette* states that some traders who had been among the Apaches, had returned with quite an amount of gold, obtained from those Indians. It was believed it had been obtained by them from California wayfarers, as there was one fifty dollar gold piece with the chief. Blanco D'Ana had returned from the States, bringing three sisters of Charity with him.

A LETTER from El Paso, published in the *Western Texan*, complains bitterly of the want of protection against the Indians. The writer says that there is no protection from the Las Moras to Meguillalla, opposite El Paso, a distance of over five hundred miles. And in the valley of El Paso, comprising a population of about fifteen thousand persons, there is a small Mexican composed of twenty Dragoons, and but half of them fit for immediate service." He adds that not only on the roads, but even in the settlements, the Indians kill people with impunity. Animals taken in one part of the country are not unfrequently sold in another place to the very troops intended for their protection. This extensive country, including several of the Northern States of Mexico, is rapidly declining in wealth and importance, and instead of keeping with Bucks and herds and happy inhabitants, it is fast sinking into the lowest degree of poverty, and returning to its former wilderness state. Since the occupation of the country by the Americans, the depredations of the Indians have been much greater than during any former period.

CRIME AND DISSIPATION IN LONDON.—We find in the *National Temperance Chronicle*, the following statistics of vice in London, and add in a second column, an estimate for New York city:

	London.	N. York
Children trained to crime	16,000	3,000
Receivers of stolen goods	5,000	1,000
Gamblers by profession	15,000	2,000
Beggars	25,000	2,000
Drunkards	30,000	10,000
Habitual Drunkards	180,000	4,000
Persons subsisting on prodigacy	150,000	50,000
Thieves	50,000	5,000
Total	471,000	151,000

ELECTION IN THE FOURTH DISTRICT.—On Saturday next the citizens of the Fourth District will be required to elect a Representative to the Legislature, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the tie vote between several of the candidates at the late election. The Whigs have chosen Mr. A. LEVERGE as their candidate, and we trust that the numerous friends of that popular and estimable gentleman will turn out on the occasion, and exert themselves in his behalf. The District is Whig by a decided majority and can only be lost by the most culpable apathy and indifference.

FIRES IN JACKSON, MISS.—During the past week three fires occurred in the town of Jackson. The dwelling house of Mrs. DICKSON, and one of two buildings of similar character were consumed. Mrs. DICKSON, an aged lady, and a widow, and has lost her all. The generous citizens Jackson have raised a considerable sum for her relief.

MADAME BAROZZI.—This learned and accomplished lady pronounced a discourse at Lyceum Hall, on Thursday evening, upon "Modern French Literature." We were unable to attend, but understand from those who enjoyed that pleasure, that it was a felicitous and discriminating review of all the prominent writers of the present age—prolific as it is in authorship. The style and literary merits of Victor Hugo, Alfred de Musset, Lamartine, Barbier, Méry, Barthelemy, Brizeux, Alphonse Karr, and a host of others, were rapidly but skillfully analyzed; and the lecturer evinced not only vast research, but rare powers of critical acumen, and a logical and well trained intellect, enriched by study and strengthened by habits of original thought. We understand that Mme. Barozzi is friends are trying to prevail upon her to deliver a second lecture. We hope that she will grant them their wish.

ABSTRACTION OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.—On the 4th inst., the President communicated to the Senate a message in reply to Mr. CASS's resolution calling for information relative to the establishment by Great Britain, of a new colony in Central America, in violation of the treaty of Washington. We are informed, says the *Republic*, that the message and accompanying documents were temporarily and unaccountably placed by a Senator in the hands of a person connected with the New York *Herald* and up to dark last evening, when the office of the Secretary of the Senate was closed, they had not been returned to that office. Of course no copies of the papers could be obtained for publication to-day; and it may be presumed that opportunities will not hereafter be given to the party or parties concerned to repeat a proceeding which is too reprehensible to pass without rebuke. It may not amount to a post office peculation, but it is certainly an abuse of confidence, which is at once unfair to other journals and insulting to the Senate.

THE TRIPARTITE TREATY.—The Washington correspondent of the New York *Tribune*, writes as follows, under date of the 3d inst:

By an arrangement made between Messrs Mason and Soulé, the latter will be finished debate in the Senate on Cuba till after the reception of Mr. Everett's letter declining to enter into the proposed tripartite treaty with France and England on Cuba. In compliance with Mr. Mason's resolution calling for it, this letter will be sent to the Senate immediately, probably to-morrow. Relying on that event, Mr. Soulé intends to take the floor on Wednesday, and make his long expected speech on the whole subject.

The latter in question is a long and elaborate document, written with all the care and ability for which the Secretary is distinguished. It gives in full the reasons of the Administration for declining to join France and England in a mutual pledge never to take Cuba. It reviews the history and circumstances of our territorial acquisitions of Louisiana, Florida, Texas and California; declares that it is in the power of the American Union to enlarge itself by the exercise of its Constitution over new territory; and brushes the lamp of Manifest Destiny, while it is mild and courteous in spirit and couched in language of great dignity and propriety.

Neither France nor England have made any reply to this manifesto.

ILLINOIS.—The Legislature of Illinois meets Springfield on the 10th ult. JOHN REYNOLDS, of St. Clair, was chosen Speaker of the House, by acclamation. In the Senate, Lieut. Governor McMURTRY took the chair. All the clerks elected in both branches, are Democrats, of course.

Among the petitions presented to the House of Representatives on the 4th inst., we notice one by Hon. JOHN MOORE of La., from Daniel Newton and one hundred and fifty-one other settlers on the public lands known as the "Bee tree district," praying for relief.

THE SEARCH FOR SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—By the return of the *Amphitrite* to her station, in the Pacific, from Behring Strait, despatches and letters have been received from the Plover despatch ship. An exchange of officers has also taken place, and Commander Maguire is entrusted with the command, vice Captain Moore, who took the *Plover* out.

In consequence of the Admiralty despatches, we will now merely state that the private letter from Captain Moore to his wife brings the gratifying assertion that it has become the general opinion among the officers of the squadron that the search to ascertain the fate of Sir John Franklin and his crew, must be confined to the north-west passage, and that the search in Behring Strait, and the Arctic Ocean, must be abandoned. The Plover will winter at Point Barrow, in latitude 71, and in case of her not getting out of the ice in time, she will be ready for another season. Captain Moore will return at Point Barrow, in latitude 71, and in case of her not getting out of the ice in time, she will be ready for another season. Captain Moore will return at Point Barrow, in latitude 71, and in case of her not getting out of the ice in time, she will be ready for another season. Captain Moore will return at Point Barrow, in latitude 71, and in case of her not getting out of the ice in time, she will be ready for another season.

MORTALITY IN NEW YORK IN 1852.—The total number of deaths in the City and County of New York during the year 1852 was 21,102. Males, 11,800; Females, 9,302. The principal diseases were as follows:

Consumption, 3,403; Cholera Infantum, 1,049; Apoplexy, 627; Bowel Complaints, 1,015; Cholera, 1,078; Croup, 406; Child-bed, 258; Dysentery, 1,000; Fits, 1,000; Scarlet Fever, 1,000; Diphtheria, 1,000; Drowning, 1,000; Dropsy, 1,000; Disease of the Heart, 1,000; Disease of the Liver, 1,000; Disease of the Kidneys, 1,000; Disease of the Brain, 1,000; Disease of the Lungs, 1,000; Disease of the Stomach, 1,000; Disease of the Bowels, 1,000; Disease of the Skin, 1,000; Disease of the Eyes, 1,000; Disease of the Ears, 1,000; Disease of the Nose, 1,000; Disease of the Throat, 1,000; Disease of the Mouth, 1,000; Disease of the Teeth, 1,000; Disease of the Hair, 1,000; Disease of the Nails, 1,000; Disease of the Feet, 1,000; Disease of the Hands, 1,000; Disease of the Arms, 1,000; Disease of the Legs, 1,000; Disease of the Body, 1,000; Disease of the Soul, 1,000; Disease of the Spirit, 1,000; Disease of the Mind, 1,000; Disease of the Memory, 1,000; Disease of the Will, 1,000; Disease of the Conscience, 1,000; Disease of the Judgment, 1,000; Disease of the Reason, 1,000; Disease of the Understanding, 1,000; Disease of the Imagination, 1,000; Disease of the Fancy, 1,000; Disease of the Taste, 1,000; Disease of the Smell, 1,000; Disease of the Hearing, 1,000; Disease of the Sight, 1,000; Disease of the Touch, 1,000; Disease of the Feeling, 1,000; Disease of the Sense