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The New Orleans Bee.

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NEW ORLEANS, THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 3, 1853.

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THE DAILY BEE.

Thursday Morning March 3, 1853.

The NORTHERN MAIL failed yesterday from beyond Charleston. The mail boat did not arrive at 3 o'clock, P. M.

DRAINING THE SWAMP.

We published yesterday various extracts from an important message transmitted by Mayor CROMELIN to the City Council, relative to the draining of the swamps in the rear of the city. In this communication his Honor demonstrates at some length, the immense benefit that would accrue to New Orleans, from the completion of a project of such magnitude. He adverts to the Railroad enterprises which have been started, and to the necessity of preparing this season for the enlarged commerce and increased population which must result from their accomplishment. He refers to the influence of marsh malaria on the health of the city, and argues the extreme probability of the entire extinguishment of yellow fever, when once the swamps are effectually reclaimed. The message is ably written, and abounds in forcible arguments and useful suggestions.

In a supplementary communication, Mr. CROMELIN informs the Council that he had received a memorial from Messrs. EDWARD H. DURELL and PHILEAS C. WRIGHT, in which those gentlemen state, that having contracted with sundry parties for the draining of lands in the rear of the city, they are now prepared under certain guarantees to enter into a contract with the city of New Orleans for the draining of all that portion of the city, comprised between the Pontchartrain Rail Road, the New Canal, the River and the Lake. In view of the importance of the matter, the mayor recommends that the whole subject be referred to a select committee of the Common Council, and suggests early action. The whole subject was accordingly referred to the Committee on Streets and Landings, in whose hands we trust it will not linger. The Committee should give to the proposition of Messrs. DURELL and WRIGHT, and to the views of the Mayor, some timely and careful consideration, and should be ready to report thereon at an early period.

Whether the contract proposed by Messrs. DURELL and WRIGHT be such as the city authorities would be justified in regarding as the most advantageous and most economical plan for the attainment of the object contemplated, is a point on which we are unable to offer a positive opinion, as we are not fully apprised of the precise terms and conditions, proposed by them. But there can be no doubt whatever of the expediency of carrying into practical effect the recommendations embraced in the message of the mayor. The drainage of the swamps in the rear of our city is an undertaking of the very highest necessity. There is no difference of opinion in regard to it. For years this question has occupied at various times the public mind, and all the considerations bearing upon the propriety of the measure have been strongly urged by the observation of the results, which have followed even the partial and imperfect attempts that have been made. The progress of our city has brought about a gradual clearing of the timber and filling up of the marsh in the rear, and although this has been effected slowly and almost imperceptibly, inch by inch, as it were, having been redeemed from the domain of death and disease, yet the most superficial observer cannot fail to remark the improved condition of public health.—While New Orleans continued to extend exclusively in the direction of its length, and so long as no effort whatever was made to increase its width, seldom indeed did it escaped a visitation of that dreadful scourge which has been one of the greatest impediments to its growth and prosperity. Within a few years past, persons of small means and humble fortunes have begun to purchase swamp lots, to remove the brush wood and to fill up the depressed soil of that neglected portion of our city. Just in proportion as the habitable domain between the river and the swamps has extended, has the health of New Orleans improved. The Yellow Fever which was formerly an annual visitant, has almost ceased its epidemic ravages; nor can a doubt exist that it will totally disappear, when our city is no longer surrounded by masses of decaying vegetation imbedded in perpetual moisture.

The sanitary argument is conclusive proof of the expediency of draining the swamps. The first duty of a municipal corporation is to protect her citizens from all morbid influences which care, zeal, and vigilance may remove. But if such motives were insufficient, the public interest would supply irresistible reasons in favor of the scheme. The redemption of the marshes in the rear of our city would give to New Orleans a breadth commensurate with her length. At present she trails her vast extent like a serpent, stretching along from one extremity to the other, but with a slenderness of girth that is ridiculously disproportioned to her length. Instead of business finding a natural centre in some portion of the city, it is compelled to seek a location to accommodate the swelling tide of population, in its compulsory flow towards the upper extremity of the town. Instead of property maintaining a stable valuation, it is subjected by the same causes to the most marked mutations. As the centre of business changes, merchants must needs cluster around it. Real estate in that direction augments enormously in value; while every where else, it depreciates. This is an unhealthy and unnatural state of things, which can only exist in such a peculiarly shaped city as New Orleans. But let the swamp be reclaimed—let an open passage be effected from the river to the lake—let the tens of thousands of acres now submerged in water and covered with rank and luxuriant vegetation, be converted into dry land, and rendered fit for the erection of dwellings and other structures, and New Orleans will forthwith spread in proper directions. She will possess what she now lacks—pleasant and healthy suburbs—localities immediately around the heart of the city, where the poorest citizen can acquire cheap homes, and where the industry that seeks to supply the daily wants of a great city would be enabled to find an abundant field, and a certain recompense.

We rejoice that this momentous topic has been authoritatively urged upon the attention of the Council, and especially that the potentate chosen by fate and public suffrage to undertake the labor in less than three years Messrs. Messrs. DURELL & WRIGHT promise to complete this comprehensive project of public improvement. If their terms are at all reasonable, and they are prepared to furnish the requisite guarantees for the accomplishment of the work, we are decidedly in favor of accepting them.

BEAUTIFUL NEEDLE WORK.—We had the pleasure yesterday of examining a piece of needlework, completed a few days since by Mrs KAISER, No. 80 Chartres street, and upon which she had been working steadily for some eighteen months. It is a representation of a Spanish scene, and is called the "Fortune Teller." There is a group of half a dozen figures, several dogs, a house, a landscape in the distance, and all the accompaniments of a picture of rustic life. Nothing more beautiful can be imagined than the blended tints of the coloring; the light and shade, the bold relief of the principal figures, the admirable perspective, and the softness and harmony of the whole. At the distance of a few feet, this wonderful product of industry and taste resembles a painting so closely as to deceive the most practised eye. Approaching it closely, we discover that it is altogether the work of the needle.

Mr. KAISER, we understand, intends sending it to the New York exhibition, to be held in May, as a sample of New Orleans taste and skill. Meanwhile, though the "Fortune Teller" is not thrown open to public exhibition, he will be happy to show it to the ladies and gentlemen who may feel desirous of inspecting this rare and splendid object.

OUR SHIPPING LIST.—We publish to day our semi-monthly list of vessels which have sailed, or are bowling in foreign or domestic ports, and bound to New Orleans. We have taken great pains to render the list accurate and complete.

STEAMER ECHO SUNK.—The steamer Echo, Captain WITHERSBURG, from Jefferson for this port with a cargo of 800 bales cotton, sunk in Fog Lake on Saturday about a half mile from shore in nine feet water. The boat will be a total loss. About 500 bales will be saved in good condition, the balance will be lost.

☞ The *North Louisianian* of the 19th ult., learns that a few days ago, a negro man belonging to Mr. CROZIER, of Morehouse Parish, was killed by his overseer. The particulars are promised in the next number.

☞ We learn from a creditable source, says the *Natch Lonisanian*, that a negro woman belonging to the Rev. T. D. Armstrong of this Parish, made an attempt to poison her master a few days since.

BROKE JAIL.—Robert C. Webb, accused of murdering his wife, escaped from the jail of Monroe, in the Parish of Ouachita, a few days ago.

☞ The City Councils of Buffalo have adopted resolutions congratulating President FILLMORE upon his approaching release from the duties of office, and expressing the hope that he is about to come among them again, to mingle in the more congenial occupations of unofficial life.—They also express the hope that on his return he may be accompanied by the distinguished statesmen who have participated in the compromise and shared in the glory of his administration.

☞ The premium candidly of day and country distinct in Hy Gould is equal to any other in the remarkable gardens known. Nos. 22 and 24 Moreleft street, at Hy Gould's.

☞ Fresh Cologne and Lavender Water, Rose and Violet Water, Hair Oil, Pomatum, Tooth Powder, Tooth Brushes, Hair Brushes, Shaving Brushes, Shaving Soap, Cologne Soap, Fancy Soaps, Perfumery, Jewelry, Razors, Knives, Scissors, Combs, Pocket Books, Pocket Knives, Spectacles, Thermometers, Gold Pens, Pencils, Pocket Rules, Dominoes, Cards, Chessmen, Fancy Boxes, Toys, Dolls, Cutlery, Hardware, Fancy Goods