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The New Orleans Bee.

NEW ORLEANS, THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 16, 1854.

ADVERTISING.
One Dollar for every TEN ... in the first insertion, and SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS for each one. No advertisement inserted for less than ten lines in each language.
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THE DAILY BEE.

Thursday Morning March 16, 1854.

☞ For STEAMBOAT DEPARTURES see FRENCH SIDE.

THE MAIL failed yesterday as usual. When it comes through we shall be particularly careful to inform our readers.

DEATH OF THOMAS BANKS.

This aged, well known, and once prominent citizen has been gathered to his fathers. Had such an event occurred twenty years ago, it would have created a wide-spread and profound sensation. Now, it will pass almost unnoticed, save by those who knew the deceased in the palmy days of his fortune, when thousands would have considered themselves favored by a nod of his head, flattered by a smile, and honored by a grasp of his hand. Such are the vicissitudes that attend the career of those who aim at nothing higher than the attainment of enormous wealth.

THOMAS BANKS was, we believe, a native of England. He came to New Orleans fully forty years ago, poor and friendless. After some years of hard labor, he established a saloon, boarding house, and managed to save some money. Being naturally shrewd and calculating, as well as adventurous and enterprising, he began to employ his little capital in speculation. He purchased real estate for comparatively small outlays, which by the rapid progress of the city, speedily augmented in value, realizing four-fold and even ten-fold the sums invested. After some years BANKS began to be considered rich, snug—then opulent—and finally one of the wealthiest citizens in Louisiana. He owned an immense amount of property, much of it situated in and highly prized by the commercial world. He erected and kept for years the City Hotel, at the corner of Camp and Common streets. A year or two after he purchased the entire property between Macarine, Theophilous, Gravier, and Natchez streets, on which he erected the imposing structure known even now as Banks Arcade. His speculations were pushed forward on a gigantic scale, and though barely and intrepid on occasions, they frequently involved Mr BANKS in temporary difficulties, yet he might have worked out of them, and continued in the possession of almost countless wealth, but for the financial revulsions of 1837 successively the removal of the deposits, the veto, and the creation of the pet bank system.

When this occurred Mr. BANKS saw himself overwhelmed with liabilities which he was unable to meet in consequence of the utter prostration of credit. His property, vast as it was, at which he had been estimated but a short time previous as exceeding by hundreds of thousands the amount of his debts, sank far below its nominal value, and proved insufficient to liquidate them. He struggled on in unavailing attempts to retrieve his position, until finally in 1842 he took the benefit of the bankrupt law, surrendered every thing, was stripped of his property, sequestered in the hands of assignees, and retired from active business. For the last few years we understand that the deceased lived upon the interest of a moderate capital which had been providentially secured to him in the days of his prosperity.

THOMAS BANKS was a kind hearted man, and we have no doubt, honest and right minded man. His morals for speculation ultimately ruined him, as it has thousands of others. At any time for twenty years, Mr. BANKS might, by a mere