The New Orleans Bee.

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NEW ORLEANS, SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 20, 1855.

THE DAILY BEE.

Saturday Morning, January 20, 1855.

THE NORTHERN MAIL failed yesterday from beyond Charleston.

SPAIN AND CUBA.

Among the items of intelligence by the *Baltic* was a statement that the question of the transfer by sale of Cuba by the United States had undergone discussion in the Spanish Cortes, when Mr. SOULE being present. A theme of so much interest to Europe as well as America, could hardly have escaped attention, yet the English press does little more than repeat the meagre report in the form in which it was transmitted here. After some diligent search, however, we succeeded in discovering among our French files some details of this important debate. The Madrid correspondent of *Le Presse*—one of the best informed and ablest of the newspapers of Paris—gives the annexed account of the discussion, which took place on the 19th November. We translate literally:

"Let us come now to the Cuban question.

"A deputy from the Basque provinces, Mr. Maristeguy, started the question with marked power, and placed it in its real aspect.

"Mr. Maristeguy required in formal terms, first, what was the present state of negotiations between Spain and the Cabinet at Washington, touching the late controversy maintained by the latter with the ex-Ministry of the Count of St. Louis; secondly, whether the slightest credit was to be ascribed to a report which had already extended over the whole of Europe, viz: that under certain contingencies, a Spanish Ministry would have the sorrowful courage to sell Cuba.

"Mr. Luzuriaga rose, and his remarks soon converted emotion into enthusiasm. 'I will consult,' said he, 'reveal the secrets of diplomatic negotiations; but what I proclaim aloud in the name of the President of the Council, the Duke of Victoria, and of the entire Cabinet, is that the pride of the Island of Cuba should be the sole of Spanish honor itself. We will never consent to it.'

"The Minister resumed his seat in the midst of a triple salvo of applause from the benches of the deputies, and the public tribunes. I believe that at the moment there was but a single spectator who did not applaud. It was Mr. SOULE himself, who was on the front bench in the seats reserved for the diplomatic corps, and whose countenance bore the impress of marked embarrassment.

"But the Minister from the United States had not yet reached the end of his trials. Scarcely had the applause ceased, when Mr. Olozaga, who was on the front bench of the left, arose and addressed the Minister in the following terms:

"The Marquis of Albaida had long been suspected of entertaining certain sympathies for American ideas, in consequence of his relations of intimacy with Mr. BUCHANAN.

"Mr. de Albaida ascended the tribune, and announced his absolute, personal repugnance, as well as that of the entire party, to any idea of the policy of a slave-holding republic, which was only desirous of acquiring the Island of Cuba, to render the servitude of the blacks still more oppressive. 'Do you wish,' said he, 'to put an end to the designs of America? Abolish slavery in our colonies.'

"This idea proclaimed with so much energy, met with a sympathetic echo from the Assembly. Messrs de la Saxa and Olozaga offered some prudent advice, while declaring that they unanimously they embraced the views which had been laid before the Cortes.

"Mr. Olozaga proposed the order of the day with a preamble, expressing the lively and profound satisfaction with which all the representatives of the Spanish nation had welcomed the noble and patriotic declarations of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and in which they entirely participated.

"The Assembly voted amidst a spontaneous and universal movement of enthusiasm.

"The unanimity of the vote was hailed by a second torrent of applause from the crowded benches—Mr SOULE, as before, forming an isolated exception.'

This statement, making every possible allowance for the party bias of the writer, tells us plain a story to justify a lingering doubt of the disposition of the Spanish Government upon the question of the sale of Cuba. For ourselves, no attentive reader of this journal can imagine that we ever have dreamt of the possible realization of this chimerical project. On the contrary, we have labored on many occasions to show, that to expect Spain voluntarily to part with Cuba, was as great a folly as ever was hatched in the simmering brain of a political enthusiast—that such a step was opposed to her policy, her traditions, her national character for pride, her tenacity of purpose, the predominant feelings of her population, and the whole political influence of Europe. We only wonder that the Spanish Ministers have been induced to consider the subject, and resume that which was brought formally before the Cortes, simply for the purpose of giving it an effectual quietus.

It is more than likely that Mr. SOULE's resignation was an immediate consequence of this crushing blow to the diplomacy of the Pierce Administration. His occupation was gone. A further residence at the Court of Madrid could not possibly be productive of either satisfaction to himself, or benefit to his country. Hereafter, it may be supposed, we shall cease to hear the shallow gossip of a mission to Spain, to negotiate the purchase of the Queen of the Asturias.

NOTES ON DUELS AND DUELLING, with a preliminary historical essay, by Lorenzo Sabine. The publishers, Crosby, Nichols & Co., have sent us, through R. M. DEVILLE, 13 Camp street, a copy of this interesting volume. It traces the deal from the chivalry of the middle ages, beginning with the tournament and joust, and coming down to the field of honor of modern times. Next it contains, alphabetically arranged, an account of all the remarkable duels which have been fought, and particular notices being given of those contests in which eminent personages were engaged. In the appendix will be found the argument against dueling, anecdotes, trials, essays &c., all bearing upon the subject. The work is both curious and instructive, and is a monument of industry.

EXTENSIVE SALE OF SLAVES.—It will be perceived under the head of our auction sales, that Mr N VIGNIE announces for Tuesday, the 30th inst, a large sale of sixty six valuable slaves belonging to the plantation of the late Greenville & Mississippi Railroad. The sale will take place at the St Louis Exchange, and will be without reserve. Sugar planters and others requiring slave property would find it to their advantage to attend the sale, not only on account of the value of the property offered, but because the terms of payment are easy and accommodating.

Persons desirous of more ample information respecting the gang, which comprises field hands, ploughmen, engineers, draymen, shingle makers, wood cutters, &c., are requested to apply to Mr. VIGNIE, corner Conti street and Exchange Passage.

THE BALL AT THE ORLEANS LAST NIGHT.—The first of the series of grand mask and fancy dress balls at the Orleans Theatre, came off last night, and was a most magnificent affair. The stage and parquette were thrown together, and floored over, forming a spacious hall, which was gorgeously decorated and illuminated, and presented a truly brilliant spectacle. The attendance was very large. These balls are to be given every Friday evening.

MR. GODARD'S FOURTH ASCENSION.—Mr. Eugene Godard will make his fourth balloon ascension from this city, from the Place d'Armes to-morrow afternoon, at 1½ o'clock. He will be accompanied in his trip by several gentlemen, as on former occasions.

NEW ORLEANS HIPPODERIAN.—There will be a grand daylight performance at the Hippodrian in Baronne street, near Poydras, to-day, to commence at 12 o'clock, for the special accommodation of ladies and gentlemen who might find it inconvenient to attend in the evening, on which occasion Mr. and Mme Franconi and their great troupe are to appear, and also that great New Orleans favorite, the incomparable jester—Dan Rice.

"LA VESTALE."—This great opera is announced to be performed for the fourth time at the Orleans Theatre to-night.

☞ The Louisville Courier has published a list of disasters on the Western rivers in 1854—and in this a steamer, which follows will be found the amount and nature of these disasters: Total steamboats sunk, 1854, 74; loss by same $754,000. Loss by ice to steamers and flats, $320,000. Total steamboats burned, 23; loss by same, $1,304,806. Total steamboats destroyed by collision, 9; loss by same, $124,000 Total steamboats exploded, 10. Total loss of property by disasters on Western rivers during 1855, $2,570,600. Total loss of life by same calamities, 335.

NEW MUSIC.—We are indebted to PH. P. WERNERS, No. 5 Camp street, for the following new music.

Blue Violets, a popular melody of the Camp hall Minstrels, arrangedby Miner. The music and poetry are extremely pleasing.

Nocturne for the Piano, by Gutzmer. A graceful and tender composition, well modulated, and with a rich harmony.

Contrabandt's Etudes Caractéristiques.—These exercises are intended for pupils who have attained a certain degree of proficiency on the Piano. They combine very many of ancient time, but are considered useful, and display perfect grammatical knowledge, and complete mastery of the instrument.

Merry Little Sprite. This is a light, lively ballad, suited to a voice of ordinary capacity.

L'Esperance, a Nocturne by J. Ascher.—There is considerable merit in this composition, but it must be played with taste and feeling. Beginners need not touch it.

The Only Waltz, by Beaudevert. The author of this spirited and original morceau ought not to pause here. He has decided talent.

Grand March, composed for the National Guard by T. Von Le Henke. Like all Mr Le Henke's compositions, rich, stirring, and well sustained.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Transmitted to the New Orleans Bee.

(By the National Line.)

Senate Legislature.

BATON ROUGE, Friday, Jan. 19, 1855.

SENATE.—Mr. Moore introduced a resolution, for the appointment of a joint committee of three members of the Senate, and members of the House, to examine into the affairs of the several Railroad Companies in which the State is a Stockholder and has a direct interest.

Mr. Lockhart, according to previous notice, introduced a bill to incorporate the Mississippi and Lafourche Railroad Company, which was appropriately referred.

The session then adjourned.

HOUSE.—The business of importance was transacted in the House to day.

Our Ministry to France.

PARIS, Jan. 19.—The ensuing Caudle from Liverpool, via Halifax, has arrived at this port. The English papers received by her say nothing in regard to the health of Mr MASON, the American Minister to France, who was recently reported to be in a critical state from an attack of paralysis.

Know-Nothing Convention in Kentucky.

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 18.—A Know Nothing State Convention is in session in this city. Among the delegates are Humphries Marshall late Commissioner to China, and Colonel of the Kentucky regiment at Sebastopol. Mr. Williams and numerous other political aspirants.

The Monetary Panic Subsided at St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, Jan 18.—The Republican says the monetary panic has subsided, and that there has been more money deposited in banking houses than was recently withdrawn.

The banking houses that suspended payment will shortly resume business.

New York Market.

NEW YORK, Jan. 18.—Our Cotton market is dull and unchanged. Ohio Flour sold to day at $8 75@ $9 12 ½ bbl. Corn and Lard are dull, with declining tendencies. Money is in active demand at unchanged rates.

NEW YORK, Jan. 19.—Cotton and Flour are unchanged. Corn is lower, sales of Western mixed having been made to-day at 80 @ 82c ₰ bushel. Pork remains firm, with sales of Mess at $18 ₰ bbl. Lard, 10@10½c.

River Intelligence.

VICKSBURG, Jan. 18.—The Natchez and Tensas, Tourist, Bowie and Pearce, passed down at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

COLUMBUS, Jan. 18.—The river is about at a stage, with six feet five inches water in the Canal. The steamers Sultana and L. M. Kennett have left for New Orleans.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 18.—The river is about at a stage, with six feet five inches water in the Canal. The steamers Sultana and L. M. Kennett have left for New Orleans.

MOBILE, Jan. 18.—The market for Cotton on sale in our market restricts operations. The sales of the week have however been 20,000 bales, of which 7000 were taken by the trade, and 13,000 firm at previous rates. The decreased receipts at this port, as compared with last week, are now 11,000 bales, while our stock consists of 42,500 bales.—Freights and Exchange are unaltered.

NEW BOOKS.—Our thanks are due the publishers, Harper & Brothers, through J. B STEEL, No. 60 Camp street, for the following new works:

Harper's Gazetteer of the World, No 8. This admirable work maintains its high reputation. It will be concluded in three or four more numbers.

Hard Times by Dickens. The Harpers have republished Dickens' last story in a neat and handsome volume. "Hard Times" is not the finest or the most pleasing of the author's productions, but it contains many original characters, a number of striking scenes, and evinces throughout that minute research into human nature, which distinguishes Mr. Dickens.

The Row and the Rung; or the History of Prince Giglio and Prince Bulbo—a Christmas story, by Thackeray. The publishers have brought out this little volume in their usual style.

Harper's Magazine for February is full of illustrations. The story with a capital one, and abounds in quaint humor and delicate wit.

CONGRESS.

In the SENATE on the 12th, Mr. Toucey announced the death of Senator Norris, of New Hampshire. A few minutes before he expired, he was walking about his room. The usual resolutions were offered, the Senate and adjourned.

In the House Mr. Morrison announced the death of Mr. Morris, and passed an eulogy upon the deceased. The Hon Thomas H. Bayley, of Accomac, also eulogized the dead, after which the House adjourned until Monday.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.—The extensive Cotton Factory in Dorchester, belonging to the Dorchester Manufacturing Company, and giving employment to 200 operatives, was burnt on the morning of the 12th inst. The walls falling, crushed two buildings and injured several firemen. The loss is estimated at $150,000, only one third of which is covered by insurance.

☞ The French Government, it is stated, continues to purchase largely in the New York market, of late, and to ship to France.

Since a vessel sailed for Brest with 3000 bbls. pork on board, and another vessel is now loading for France with a like amount.

KEY WEST.

By the *Isabel* at Charleston, dates from Key West to the 11th inst. have been received.

KEY WEST, Jan 11.

We report to day the arrival of a fleet of coasters yesterday with a full cargo of wood. We had this pleasure. Over thirty sail have entered the harbor the past fortnight, most had freights for this city, and several in the trade since. The weather has been terribly severe, such a constant succession of downright heavy gales were never known at this season before. Many vessels have been driven back, strong winds having been from the East and North-east. In the Gulf there is an awful sea, and vessels passing in sight appear to be hard beaten. The cold is present in nothing to the East ward, but is either stationary or moving West.

We have gathered from a friend some interesting statistics concerning the wrecking business of the past year, which We are at liberty to give you.

There are twenty-two vessels of two thousand tons burden, manned by three hundred able bodied seamen, engaged in the business of saving lives and property upon the Florida Reefs.

In the year 1854, sixty vessels were wrecked or arrived at Key West in distress.

Of this fleet, ten were wholly lost, with the greater portion of their cargo, seven succeeded in getting off more or less damaged, thereby obliged to call upon the wreckers. Fifteen could not get afloat with their own appliances, and received assistance from the Key West vessels, were saved from loss, and brought safely into the harbor.

The value of the property lost, brought in by the wreckers, and seeking this port for safety, exceed considerably $2,000,000

The wreckers saved by their well directed endeavors property to the value of $2,750,000. Upon this they claimed a salvage. Every case but one (settled by the Captain) was brought into the Admiralty Court, and every vessel libelled before, while our stock consists of 42,500 bales.—Freights and Exchange are unaltered.

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