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NEW ORLEANS, WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 14, 1855.

THE DAILY BEE.

Wednesday Morning, March 14, 1855.

THE NORTHERN MAIL failed yesterday from beyond Augusta.

THE COURT OF CLAIMS.

A very important act passed Congress during the late session, and received the signature of the President. It bears the title of "An act to establish a Court for the investigation of claims against the United States," and its object is to facilitate the ends of justice, and to relieve Congress of the vast and increasing responsibility involved in the consideration of private claims. The establishment of this Court may be regarded as a substantial boon to the host of needy applicants who annually importune the National Legislature to satisfy their well founded demands, and who, through want of time, or culpable remissness and neglect, are in most instances, ushered and unheeded. The provisions of this act are as follows:

Section 1 provides that the Court shall consist of three judges to be appointed by the President during good behavior, and empowers them to hear and determine all claims upon the Government. The claimant must set forth a full statement of the case, its history the parties interested, &c. The judges are to receive $4000 per annum each.

Section 2 creates the office of a Solicitor of the United States to be appointed by the President His duty is to represent the Government before the Court, to argue the cases, cause testimony to be taken, when necessary to secure the interests of the United States, and to perform such services as may from time to time be required of him. His compensation is fixed at $3,500 per annum.

Section 3 empowers the Court to establish rules for its government, appoint commissioners to take testimony, prescribe their fees, insure subpœnas, &c. The costs and fees are to be paid by claimants when testimony is taken for their account, and out of the contingent fund of the Court, when taken at the instance of the Government.

Section 4 provides that when it shall appear to the Court that the facts set forth by the claimant afford no ground for relief, the Court must not authorize the taking of testimony until the same shall have been reported to Congress Should Congress fail to confirm the opinion of the Court, testimony shall then be taken.

Section 5 declares that in taking testimony in support of any claim, or on behalf of the United States, opportunity shall be given to both parties to the interrogatories, or by attorney to examine witnesses.

Section 6 provides that any person swearing falsely before said Court, or giving false testimony before the Commissioners, shall be deemed guilty of purjury, and be subject to the pains and penalties prescribed by law for such offence.

Section 7 requires the Court to keep a record, and a report at the commencement of each Congressional Session, and in the beginning of each month during the session, the cases on which final action has been taken, with a statement of the material facts, the opinion of the Court and the reasons on which it is founded. A Judge dissenting from the majority shall append his reasons for such dissent. The report shall be printed. The Court shall prepare bills in proper form for such cases as have received a favorable decision. The testimony on each case must be transmitted with the report.

Section 8 sets forth that if the report and bill reported not finally acted upon during one session, they shall be continued from session to session, and from Congress to Congress, and their consideration shall be renewed de novo, by each subsequent session, or Congress, unless finally determined.

Section 9 prescribes that claims reported upon adversely shall be printed upon the calendar—if so ordered by Congress, the decision shall be conclusive, and the claims shall not again be considered by the Court, unless such reasons shall be prescribed, as in other suits, would furnish sufficient ground for a new trial.

Section 10 makes it the duty of the Speaker of the House to appropriate rooms in the Capitol for the use of the Court, or in default of such accommodation, the Court is empowered to procure convenient rooms in the city of Washington.

Section 11 gives the Court power to call on the departments at Washington for necessary information or papers, to appoint a chief clerk, at a salary of $2,000, an assistant clerk at $1,500, and a messenger at $900.

THE WEATHER for the last week or so has been decidedly summerish, with a thermometer ranking what midday. March is nevertheless a treacherous month, and we should not be greatly surprised at another sudden and severe cold snap, before the spring is fairly inaugurated.

MME. DE VRIES FAREWELL CONCERT.—At the request of many parties, this accomplished artist has consented to give a Grand Farewell Concert on Friday evening, on which occasion she will sing gems from Rossini's Stabat Mater, Semiramide, Ernani, Jerusalem, and L'Etoile du Nord. We invite attention to her attractive programme in another column, which we shall notice more particularly hereafter.

☞ The Harpers have in press a volume of sick stanzas, from Mr Bancroft's pen, written from time to time within the last thirty years and in the compilation of which he has been chiefly occupied since the completion of his History of the United States.

NATIVE AMERICAN REVIEW.—We have received from the publisher, J. C. Sprague, Peoria, Illinois, the first number of the Native American Review. It is a pretty substantial octavo of about 72 pages, and is occupied with the discussion of subjects bearing upon the question of nationality. Some of the articles evince decided ability.

Our thanks are due Senator Benjamin for the second volume of Lieut. Herndon's interesting Exploration of the Amazon.

HIRAM POWERS.—Among the appropriations inserted in the Civil and Diplomatic bill by the Senate and agreed to by the House, we are very glad to learn that there is one of $25,000 to enable the President to give a commission to our distinguished countryman, Hiram Powers, for the execution of some suitable work of statuary for the Capitol.

☞ In St Petersburg, the hard frost which has set in is back with joy, as the old saying runs, a joy of 1812 comes once in a century. The sufferings of the French and English are represented as unvarying in the greatest misery before Sebastopol, and the populace are taught that the ice and snow and devouting blast are sent from God to answer to the prayers of the orthodox, for the total annihilation of the enemies of the holy cause.

☞ JAMES MONTGOMERY, the poet, who died last year, left an estate, worth, it has just been sworn under £9 000. This has changed since Jerusalem examined on hearing that the poet died £3,000 in debt. "was ever testament proved before?" SOUTHEY died worth about £7,000 and WORDSWORTH as much, while BURNS is a millionaire.

☞ At the date of the latest advices from England, Miss Martineau was so dangerously ill as to leave no hope for her recovery. Her disease is enlargement of the heart.

THE BANKS OF THE UNITED STATES.—A report communicated to Congress by the Secretary of the Treasury, in relation to the condition of the Banks of the United States at the close of the last year, includes returns from 13,307 banks and branches, with a reported capital of $532,197,389, showing an increase during the year of ninety-nine in the number of banks, and of $39,909,907 in the amount of capital paid in. Though there has been an increase in the number of banks and in the capital paid in, it appears that their specie has been reduced between five and six millions, or from $59,600,953 to $53,944,546, and their circulation nearly eighteen millions, or from $204,689,926 to $186,482,983. If the banks had made all their returns on the last day of January, 1854, and the last day of January, 1855, the reduction of circulation would have been found to be much greater than is exhibited in general tables. The times for making the returns from the banks in some of the States was that time of year in which their issues were greatest.

☞ OLE BULL'S Academy of Music in New York, has proved a failure and is closed. Any body might have safely predicted this subject. London and Paris each support with difficulty one Italian opera company. The idea that New York could or would patronize two was absurd. It seems that OLE BULL has treated his artists and employees rather shabbily. They held an indignation meeting at the Academy on the 5th, about one hundred persons being present, and passed a preamble and resolutions, in which Mr. BULL is boldly taken by the horns. After nine "whereases," they adopted the following resolutions:

1. That Mr. Ole Bull has acted against all principles of faith, honor and gentlemanly integrity, courses.

2. That Mr. Ole Bull, in taking, or causing to be taken, the receipts, and not paying over the amount of said receipts, has cheated us of our well-earned earnings.

3. That Mr. Ole Bull, in closing the house abruptly, without any necessity for doing so, and charging others with having created said impossible difficulties, has published a base-faced falsehood to the public.

4. That, as the greatest number of ourselves are dependent on our weekly salary for the support of our families, and are too poor to seek redress in the law courts, we deliver Ole Bull to the judgment of the American people.

☞ Washington Irving has nearly completed a life of General Washington, upon which he has been long engaged.

HAVANA.

The *Philadelphia* brings Havana papers to her day of sailing. They contain but little local news of interest. The Island still echoes to the dun of military preparations, and an immense amount of glorification is displayed by the papers at the martial aspect of affairs. The *Diario de la Marina* yet believes in a projected expedition, and publishes tremendously long articles about it. In due time, it is to be hoped it will discover its error.

We find nothing worth extracting in our files.

ARRIVAL OF THE PHILADELPHIA.

Later from California and Havana.

The United States Mail Steamship Philadelphia, Captain Schenck, left New York at 2 o'clock, P. M., on the 1st, in company with the steamship United States. Entered Havana at 6½ o'clock, A. M., of the 9th, about half an hour ahead of the United States, and sailed again the same evening in company with the United States, and sailed again the same evening in company with the United States. The Philadelphia was off the mouth of the river early Monday afternoon, and was prevented from entering by fog until yesterday morning at 6 o'clock.

Left at Havana the United States and Isabel, both to leave next day respectively, for Mobile and Key West. Also the United States steamer Princeton, Capt. Eagle, all well.

The following is a list of Passengers by the Philadelphia:

Miss Schenck Mrs Invalls, J R Duncan, A Michel, P Gibbs, jr, H Marti, L Meyer, J Rios, T Asscecio, Paulino Rey, Ede Escalon, R W Tucker, W F Poinsett, E Westphalen, A L Lowe, C D Tome, J F Pinion, wife and nephew; Miss Turner, Rev R Pollock and lady, A C Hutchinson, Dr Geo Jones, J E Wynn, J L Wilcox, G Lamb, G A Reynolds, W Sloan, L B Martin, R Martin, S Goff, L E Stout, J F Thornton, Purser Powers, G Hanson, J Hinds and lady, M H Moore and lady, S R Guffy, W F Hull and lady, R M Hunter and lady, S R Guffy, W F Hull and lady, R M Hunter and lady, S R Guffy, W F Hull and lady, R M Hunter