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NEW ORLEANS:
THURSDAY MORNING, JANY 26, 1860.

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The carriers of the BEE are authorized to receive subscriptions to our paper, at the rate of 25 cents a week, payable in all cases to the carriers themselves.

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By E. Rogan & Co. at 10 o'clock, at 49 and 47 Old Levee street, boots shoes, hats, ready made clothing and cutlery.

By N. Vignie, at 2 o'clock, P. M., at the Old Basin, the steam Flirt.

By D. E. Murphy, at 10 o'clock, at No. 49 Magazine street, brandy and whisky.

OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT.

A pamphlet, comprising the annual reports of the officers and committees of the Fire Department to the Firemen's Charitable Association, has been laid upon our table and we find it a document of much local interest. The communication of the President, Mr. I. N. Marks, referring to the fact that during the present year the contract with the city for the extinguishment of fires has to be settled, and, if compatible with the interests of the Department, a new one has to be secured, proceeds as follows concerning an important point.

There can be no doubt that in the construction of a new contract, public opinion will demand the introduction of several steam engines. Their usefulness and adaptability for the extinguishment of fires cannot be questioned. The Association must be prepared to purchase a new one when if they do not mean to purchase with the superior charge. I am aware that an opinion prevails among many persons in our city that there is a decided opposition throughout the entire Department to the introduction of steam engines. *This is an error.* I am satisfied that many of our companies are ready and willing to have a large of steam engines, if *proper ones* were chosen, and adapted to our peculiar city. With a proper supply of water, four or five steam engines would be used with great advantage, but with the present supply, or rather deficiency, which is every day, to the Department. They should be light in weight, simple in construction, and not too expensive in value. Such a piece of machinery would soon become an object of pride to a company as a hand engine. The men being relieved from working at the brakes, would at a fire be enabled to exhaust their energies of their usefulness in their philanthropic efforts to protect life and property. In a climate like ours, where steam engines can be used to great advantage in the Summer—not an injury, I trust that the question of the introduction of steam engines will be met by the Association of a spirit of liberality and justice.

In the concise paragraph we think Mr. Marks has treated the subject in a correct and liberal manner. His remarks are the suggestions of experience, unbiassed by prejudice. We are aware that a majority of the opinion that a number of the firemen are in favor of the introduction of steam fire engines of proper construction, and to a judicious extent, as a powerful arm of the service and an available resource at every large fire. In connection with this subject we find the following in the appendix of the pamphlet. "The Board of Commissioners are clearly of the opinion that neither of the present steam engines is adapted to our city. The amount of money invested in them would, if it had been properly appropriated, have purchased four light, manageable and very usable engines".

The Commissioners have not, however, made mention of the new steam engine built at the Novelty Works, New York, and now exhibiting at the foot of Canal street; which weighs but 4,000 pounds, and has thrown two streams to a great distance as was ever thrown by a hand engine in the city. The remarks of the Commissioners are no doubt correct in a relative sense, which compared to "Long Antony in Old Madrid" with such improved machines as that of Mr. Cook, though when the fact is taken into consideration that the "John Adams" was built in a New Orleans workshop by two of our resident machinists, who possessed neither the capital nor mechanical facilities commanded by the Novelty Works, not that it involves offensive comparisons, but that it involves offensive comparisons, but that it involves offensive comparisons, but