THE DAILY BEE.

NEW ORLEANS:
FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 6.

SUBSCRIPTIONS BY THE WEEK

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.

Something About Stay Laws.

The question of a Stay Law is all its diversified aspects is now before the General Assembly, and may be expected to elicit some display of feeling, and a considerable amount of eloquent and learned discussion. A few weeks ago we took occasion to express, in rather a general way, our repugnance to all intervention by Legislative enactment between creditors and debtors. Further reflection has not shaken our conviction. We regard Stay Laws as unjust in principle, calculated to establish an improper and injurious preference for the debtor over his creditor, and tending directly to encourage tortuous and dishonest methods of evading the obligation of paying one's debts. So universal is this belief that certainly any Legislature would venture openly and boldly to pass a law suspending the collection of debts, the nearest approach to this has been done in Mississippi—a State which, gallant, brave and chivalrous as all admit her to be, has too frequently exhibited tolerance and laxity in the conduct of her pecuniary relations. The example, therefore, of Mississippi, in this respect, is not to be commended.

Our own General Assembly, we are glad to learn, will not suffer itself to be hurried by the clamors of interested parties into the enactment of any general and sweeping statute touching the suspension of the collection of debts. The members, we trust, will bear in mind that if debtors possess a claim upon their pity, creditors can make a potent appeal to their justice. If the object of a Stay Law were exclusively the protection of honest but unfortunate debtors, none would withstand the adoption more heartily than ourselves. It is perfectly true that in times like these, and especially in crowded communities, it is precisely this class which suffers most severely from the rapacity and cruelty of certain SHYLOCKS. If a man sets rashly well off owes money, and is threatened with a suit at law for its recovery, he can find an advocate, fight his antagonist before the courts, and in all probability delay final judgment or execution for many months. Such an individual needs no Stay Law to help him. He is fully capable of annoying, harassing and thwarting the unfortunate creditor for an indefinite period. But suppose a poor fellow, with a large and helpless family, menaced with a levy on his supply furniture for unpaid rent. Where are his means to obtain a merciful delay? He has not money to pay a lawyer. He cannot invoke the thousand subtleties and technicalities, the pleas in abatement, and the numberless devices which skillful members of the bar know how to use so as to starve off judgment, and give a breathing space to the stubborn debtor. He must pay up, or be distrained. The fate of such persons is truly pitiable. If legislation could so act as to shelter them from ruthless exaction, and not unfrequently hopeless ruin, it would be applauded by every upright and benevolent mind. But herein lies the difficulty. It is almost impossible to invent laws having this partial efficacy.

With regard to those pecuniary transactions which are of constant occurrence between different individuals, whether of a commercial or private character, they may for the most part be safely left to those general considerations of the times, circumstances, and ability to pay which are usually canvassed, and which govern both parties. Matters of this sort are daily settled in our midst without a thought of litigation. If A owes B a sum of money for which in ordinary times he is perfectly responsible, but which he is unwilling to raise at this time, as it would involve a heavy sacrifice, why B is content to receive part payment, or even to accept interest alone, and renew the obligation. This is an every-day event. When debtors are known to be intimately good, creditors adhere nearly universally to the wise and merciful policy pursued by our banking institutions. "Pay what you can" is the common declaration—"liquidate your indebtedness by degrees; and take further time. If your available means are too stinted to warrant so much, pay up the interest and renew your note." Such is the process constantly employed, and especially in New Orleans, noted as it is for the extreme liberality of its citizens, and their marked indisposition to press heavily on the unfortunate. A Stay Law applied to this extensive class would either prove a nullity, or would work mischief by tempting such debtors as are not rooted and grounded in honesty to resort to improper modes of defeating payment altogether.

Upon the whole we really think that the supposed virtues of a Stay Law have been vastly magnified. It might be a source of relief to a handful of deserving people—it would certainly prove a ready instrument of iniquity to all who are not guided by the canons of morality and the dictates of justice. If its operation can be limited to the class we have referred to, it will meet with little objection. Otherwise it is perhaps better that the General Assembly should leave well enough alone.

TEXAS.

Our dates from Texas are as late as the 29th ult. The news is of some interest. The telegraphic line between Galveston and Houston is in active progress, and the work will be completed in little more than a month.

The Weatherford *White Man* says that on the 1st instant a detachment of Captain Barry's company of rangers overhauled a party of twenty Indians near the head of Pecos river, when they immediately attacked, killing four, and wounding several others. Two of the whites were slightly wounded. Several horses were recovered which had been stolen by the red-skins.

CRITICAL TRADE WITH MEXICO.—The Eagle *Confederacy* says:

A communication from San Marcos, dated November 9th, and published in the *State Gazette*, gets forth some very good suggestions relative to the cotton trade with Mexico. The writer suggests that the cotton planters in the different counties hold a county meeting and appoint delegates to a general convention to be held in Gregory (on the most central point) on the first Monday in December next. The object of the convention should be approved of by every one, and we would urge upon the cotton planters of Guadalupe and surrounding counties the importance of holding a county meeting immediately and appoint delegates to the convention.

The Austin correspondent of the Centreville *Times* says that there is no hope of the recovery of Judge Jewett, who is in the insane asylum in Austin. The writer says he is "much milder and ferocious in manner and deportment" than when he left home.

Several of the counties suffer severely from the blockade, and the people complain of the utter dearth of tobacco, sugar and coffee.

THE PONTCHARTRAIN RAILROAD.—We observe that another semi-annual dividend of four per cent has been declared by the Pontchartrain Railroad Company, which makes eight per cent. for the year. Considering the war, which has been felt so keenly by this road, it is principally patronized by pleasure seekers, this fact reflects great credit upon the administrative talents of Mr. J. H. Lapeyre, the President, and Mr. George Pandely, the Superintendent.

HAVEPEAR.—The Newburn (N. C.) *Progress* denies the report that the Pelaskis have abandoned Hatteras, and expresses the opinion that they have removed their main tribe two, three or four miles up the island, where they can get protection from Sumter, leaving a small force in charge of the batteries. The same paper also says that two or three thousand men could have taken Hatteras at almost any time since its surrender, or even now, with but little loss. Whether the place is worth the effort or not, is a matter for military authorities to decide.

NEW PAPER.—We have received the first number of a paper published at Bayo Peria, Louisiana, under the title of the *Confederate Motto*. The times are not particularly propitious to newspaper enterprise, but we hope our young contemporary will grow and prosper.

Gibson county, Tennessee, with an enrolled militia force, one year ago, of three thousand, has sent nineteen full companies to the field, numbering eighteen hundred men. This fact the *Memphis Avalanche* thinks will relieve that county from a draft, and it is urged should entitle it to the honorable distinction of being "the volunteer county of the Volunteer State."

WEST TENNESSEE.—Says the Memphis *Appeal* of Wednesday: A private dispatch from Knoxville, received in this city last evening, brings information that several skirmishes had occurred between the Lincolnites and Confederates near Morristown, with what results was not stated. General Carroll, with one thousand of his command, had left Knoxville for the interior district.

The New Orleans Bee.

Office, 73 Chartres street. NEW ORLEANS, FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 6, 1861. Vol. XVII—New Series. Vol. XXXIV.—Whole No. 12,252.

BY TELEGRAPH.

[TRANSMITTED TO THE NEW ORLEANS BEE.]

From Richmond.

Federal Horsemen Indicate an Early Battle on the Potomac.

Richmond, December 5.—The *Examiner* of this morning says a dispatch from a reliable source has been received in official quarters which states that the flotilla recently concentrated at Old Point has passed up the Potomac, and doubtless an attack on Evansport and Cockpit is contemplated.

From Savannah.

Confederate Boats the Light-Houses on Tybee.

Savannah, December 5.—The *Republican* of to-day says a party of Confederates visited Tybee on Wednesday night last, and burnt the light-house. The Federal vessels commenced a fierce shelling of the island, but the Confederates retreated safe.

From fifteen to eighteen vessels were in the Roads on Thursday afternoon. They are apparently old whalers.

From Richmond.

No Immediate Prospect of a Battle on the Potomac.

Richmond, December 5.—The correspondents of the New Orleans *Picayune*, *Delta* and Charleston *Courier* arrived in the city this afternoon from Manassas. They report there is no immediate prospect of an engagement at Manassas.

Congressional.

Congress met to-day at 10 o'clock, pursuant to adjournment, Hon. Howell Cobb in the chair as President.

W. M. Cook and Thos. W. Freeman, members from Missouri, and A. R. Bradford, in place of Judge Clayton, of Miss., took their seats.

All other business was transacted in secret session.

Lincolnites Burning Bridges.

Russelville, Ky., December 5.—The railroad bridge near this place was burned last night by the guerrillas. The bridge was guarded by 18 men. One of the guard escaped and says they were attacked by about 50 Lincolnites firing upon the guard. At one volley he saw five men fall at his side, and suppose the balance were taken prisoners. About sixty feet of the bridge was burned, but it will soon be repaired.

From Nashville.

Volunteers Flocking to Gen. Humphrey Marshall.

Nashville, December 5.—Judge Moore, of Mount Sterling, Ky., and member elect of the Legislative Council, arrived here yesterday, direct from the headquarters of Gen. Humphrey Marshall. He says volunteers are flocking to Gen. Marshall in large numbers. Gen. Marshall has commenced an advance movement towards Lexington with a force amply sufficient for his purpose. Judge Moore reports that Col. John S. Williams a few days since went, with 300 of his command, on an expedition into Letcher county, where a Lincolnite, named Vermilion, was setting up provisions for the Lincoln army; Col. Williams captured Vermilion, and secured also the product of 500 hogs. Judge Moore fully confirms the reported severe rout sustained by Gen. Nelson at the battle of Piketon. Nelson, on the morning of Gen. Marshall's marching on him, retreated from Piketon in Ball Run style. So precipitate was their retreat that they lost two pieces of cannon and sixty wagons in crossing the river at Piketon.

A number of Yankee marauders from Paducah and Smithland came up to Cumberland a few days since and stole 400 hogs and 80 horses belonging to the Southern Rights men of Caldwell county, Ky.

From Missouri.

Rolla, November 26.—A reconnoitering party which left yesterday morning proceeded five miles west of Gasconade river, and returned last night, report a troop of 30 Texas rangers at Lebanon, destroying property generally. General McCulloch and his army is expected to be at Lebanon on Sunday, and prepared to give the Federals battle.

From Washington.

Washington, November 26.—Lord Lyons was indisposed enough to say in general conversation, soon after the seizure of Mason and Slidell, that of course they would be returned; but understanding the effect his words have had upon the country, has since preserved silence, saying he has nothing to say until he receives instructions from his Government.

General Bleaker has been induced to withdraw his resignation.

PUBLIC LANDS.

The Baton Rouge *Gazette and Comet* speaks in terms of high praise of the condition of the Public Land Department, now in charge of Gen. Wm. McCulloch, formerly under the, Federal Government, Surveyor-General of the State. When Louisiana seceded the voluminous records of the office were moved to Baton Rouge, and merged in the State Land Office, Gen. McCulloch receiving the appointment of Commissioner. His labors have been immense. Says the *Gazette and Comet*:

"By the act of secession, the State assumed possession of all unsold U. S. land within her territory, and the act of 1861, under which the entire machinery is now governed, provides for its sale, as well as the settlement of conflicting claims, conferring upon the Commissioner such powers as the Legislature have exercised by the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of the General Land Office at Washington. The district offices at Monroe, Natchitoches, Opelousas, Greensburg and New Orleans continue to exercise their functions, the officers in authority at the date of secession have been continued in authority. Entries of land are now made in the district offices where the land is located, and the patents issued here, signed by the Governor and the Commissioner. In order that the district offices might post their books and mark their maps, so as to know what lands had been disposed of under State laws, it was necessary to furnish each with abstracts of the sales, which had to be made here by carefully comparing the books and maps, a work which was thought at the time—as but two persons could work at it—it would take at least two years. Yet such has been the constant work since April, that the work is all finished, the district offices fully posted and now at work under the new system. In this labor many conflicts have been discovered, and instances where, in the hurry of transfer from the old system, two patents have been issued for the same land. In these cases Mr. McCulloch has, as far as possible, advised the parties and settled the claims by awarding to the party having the oldest patent, thus avoiding litigation, and what is better still, preventing conflicts among neighbors.

The report before us is the most complete and satisfactory document of the kind which has ever yet issued from the executive of any branch of the State Government. The records of the office are in better condition than ever before, and the Commissioner is by himself, or his deputy, during business hours, discharging the duties of his office with dispatch, and in such an affable and courteous manner as to make a friend of every one brought in business contact with him. So regular and systematic is his rule that his employés are more like the officers of an old and established Government of Europe than of this republic, and are managing and doing all his people. It is not our opinion only, (which no one cares for more than we do for public opinion) but the opinion universally expressed, that for once the State (by mere accident) has the right man in the right place for Commissioner of the General Land Office.

FROM MEXILLA.—The Mexilla *Times* of the 26th has been received at San Antonio. It contains the following article:

Four gentlemen, well known in this valley, who succeeded in running the Federal lines, arrived last night, bringing the information that two thousand Federals were about making an advance against the Confederate lines, in three divisions—one of cavalry, via Fort Stanton, to the valley of El Paso, Texas, and to the rear of the Confederate command; two divisions to the front, one by the valley of the Rio Grande, the other by the Jornado del Muerto. All the troops have been moved from Santa Fé and Albuquerque, for the expedition. The design being to cut off the Confederate command, to devastate the country, to prevent Sibley's Brigade from getting supplies, and then force a fight of their own making. Now is the time for all citizens to show their valor. There can be no excuse—every man should shoulder his musket. All should look at the difficulties which bound at nobody in the face, with the firm resolve of "victory or death."

In the meanwhile Col. Reilly and his command is moving rapidly toward the threatened line, and hopes to arrive in season to enable the Confederates to repulse the enemy.

Says the Pensacola *Observer*:

There were several burnings at Fort Pickens after the bombardment. From the manner of the funeral doings, it is thought that two officers were laid to rest.

Fifty or sixty of the Federal prisoners confined at New Orleans have taken the oath and joined the Confederate army for the war. There were 500 in all.

So says the Columbus (Ga.) *Sun*. It is the first time we have heard the news.

Mr. Bennett's last letter is dated the 23d October. It is very long and not very interesting. We shall therefore content ourselves by giving the headings of it, as published by the *New York Herald*:

"The Navy Critics. Mr. Stewart and his Lady good Samaritans Defeated Contrabands—The Pelican's Anxiety for a War with England—Contrabands as American Investigating Committee—Interview on the Potomac—Relief Party of the Army Unassisted—The Slaves Reply to be Published in their Masters—Brief Friendly Feeling between the Regular and Volunteers—Demoralizing Influences of War—Manassas Contrabands—What will be the Rumor of the Army when the War is Over—Conversation of McClellan's Reconnoiterers in Virginia—The General's Headquarters—The Appearance of Things There—The Telegraph—The Art of Invisibility as practiced by McClellan—His Staff at Gentlemen—The Blockade of the Potomac—Immorality of the Confederate Army—The Battle of Edward's Ferry, Gen. Baker's Death—Effect of it on the Public Mind—The Situation in Missouri—The Union Feeling in Missouri.

Conspiracy in Northern Arkansas.

The Little Rock *State Journal* of the 29th notices the arrival at that city of twenty-seven prisoners, members of a secret Lincoln organization from Van Buren county. They were lodged in jail for safe-keeping, until tried by the civil authorities. Forty others were said to be on the way, and the names of the whole clan known, also their secret signs and passwords, which were divulged by a young man who was ignorantly initiated in the order.

The same paper of the 30th, referring to the conspiracy, says:

It appears that information of this organization was given to General Borgevin by a citizen of Van Buren county, and a volunteer in the Confederate service. The names of the leaders are well known, and if those who are in hot pursuit of them ever succeed in overtaking them, it would do well to acquaint them with some of the peculiar uses of hemp.

We have been permitted to peruse the constitution of this organization. It is called a "Peace and Constitutional Society." They have 700 members in Searcy, Van Buren, Pope and Izard counties, and 1700 in the whole State. They have a regular system of signs and passwords, and are furnished with supplies of money from the Northern camps. The constitution makes it obligatory upon every member to hand his life in aid of another in distress, and the penalty of expressing any of the secrets of the organization is death. Gen. Borgevin, who was mustering in a regiment at Carrollton, as soon as he heard of the conspiracy, at once hurried down to the counties above named, to take such steps as might be necessary. At Clinton he saw Col. Jerome B. Lewis, who assured him of the correctness of the report. Col. Lewis had called on a guard of 100 men, and was at that time marching arrests, and Gen. Borgevin "being satisfied from his well known energy of character and fearless nature, that the matter was in good hands," left the control of the whole affair with that officer.

Col. Lewis reports that those already taken were well supplied with arms and ammunition, and infers that those still at large are equally well supplied. Gen. Borgevin's report further to the authorities in reference to the disaffection of the people of that section, and gives the names of certain individuals engaged in fomenting discontent among them.

Those who have been taken acknowledge their crime, plead nothing extenuating, but only beg for their lives. Our authorities, however, are fully informed upon the whole subject, and we hope, if necessary, the extreme punishment will be resorted to in order to suppress all treason, and secure to the people immunities from civil war in their midst.

The Yankees in Marion.

The *Marion* (S. C.) *Star* says: "There are nineteen Yanks caged in our jail, who came down South to aid and assist in determinating the rebels, but unfortunately for them they hang themselves on the gallows which they erected.

They seem to be delighted with the locality of Dixie, and imagine this a fine country, if they only had freedom. We had a conversation of considerable length with the mate, Mr. Briggs, and learned from him that he had made a livelihood for himself and family by trading in Charleston, Georgetown and Wilmington, for the last fifteen years. He says that he and his crew did not belong to the Lincoln armada, nor did they volunteer to come with the fleet, but on arriving at Hampton Roads, they left New York, with a cargo of merchandise, about the time the fleet was ready to sail, they were pressed into service. He further says that he was offered $150 per month for his services as one of the blockading vessels, but refused to aid in injuring those who had supported him for fifteen years. All this was a very pretty song to us, but did not excite our sympathies. They have been caught in bad company, and must suffer the consequences. They say they are willing and anxious to volunteer in the Confederate service and fight for the South, and we learn are getting up a petition to that effect to be sent to our Governor. In our opinion, it is all a big lie to regain their freedom, and such a petition, we trust, will be considered only as adding insult to injury. We hope there is not a man in Marion district rotten enough to put his signature to it."

A Singular Incident.

The Lynchburg *Republican* of the 26th inst. publishes the following incident, remarkable alike for its singularity as well as for its melancholy fulfillment to the brother of one of the parties concerned:

Just before the war broke out, and before Lincoln's proclamation was issued, a citizen of Virginia, named Summerfield, was visiting in the city of New York, where he made the acquaintance of two Misses Holmes, from Waterbury, Vermont. He became somewhat intimate with the young ladies, and the intercourse seemed to be mutually agreeable. The proclamation was issued, and the whole North thrown into a blaze of excitement. Upon visiting the ladies one evening, and at the hour of parting, they remarked to Summerfield that their present meeting would probably be the last, they must hurry home to aid in making up the overcoats and clothing for the volunteers from their town. Summerfield expressed his regret that they must leave, but at the same time especially requested them to see that the overcoats were well made, as it was his intention, if he ever met the regiment in battle, to kill one of them and take his coat. Now for the sequel. Virginia seceded. The Second Vermont Regiment, a portion of which were from the town of Waterbury, was sent to Virginia. The battle of Manassas was fought, in which they were engaged, and so was Summerfield. During the battle S. marked his man, not knowing to what State he belonged; the fatal ball was speed on its mission of death; the victim fell at the flash of the gun, and upon rushing up to secure the dead man's land are now made in the district offices where the land is located, and the patents are issued here, signed by the Governor and the Commissioner. In order that the district offices might post their books and mark their maps, so as to know what lands had been disposed of under State laws, it was necessary to furnish each with abstracts of the sales, which had to be made here by carefully comparing the books and maps, a work which was thought at the time—as but two persons could work at it—it would take at least two years. Yet such has been the constant work since April, that the work is all finished, the district offices fully posted and now at work under the new system. In this labor many conflicts have been discovered, and instances where, in the hurry of transfer from the old system, two patents have been issued for the same land. In these cases Mr. McCulloch has, as far as possible, advised the parties and settled the claims by awarding to the party having the oldest patent, thus avoiding litigation, and what is better still, preventing conflicts among neighbors.

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Movements of the Enemy.

HOW MANY SHOTS IT TAKES TO KILL A MAN.—At the battle of Belmont it may be safely assumed that 10,000 men were engaged. It is asserted that both armies continued to fire until the ammunition was exhausted. We suppose that there was an average of 20 rounds to the man. According to the statements of the respective commanders, there could not have been exceeding 500 killed; for we wish it understood that we do not credit the wild estimate of loss on the Northern side.) Now 10,000 men shot 20 times each, making 200,000 balls fired to kill 500 men, equal to 400 to kill one man.

{Confederate News.

HOW FAR CANNON MAY BE HEARD.—The that Kansas *Spirit of the South* claims that the cannon at Pensacola were distinctly heard in that place by several persons. In the county, surprise heard the reports, and called the attention of their masters to the sound. The distance from Kansas to Pensacola, as the crow flies, must be at least 130 miles.

Passengers from the South report that the guns at Fort Royal were heard at Jacksonville and Palatka, in Florida, the latter place being in an air line, about 200 miles distant.—*Savannah Republican.*

The Emperor and Empress of France were presented lately by a Lyons silk manufacturer, invented by M. Bevert. The dress is said to be both water-proof and fire-proof, and is cunningly stuffed with sponges sewn together. When a balloon like that of a diver, with an apparatus for supplying fresh air, and glasses to see through. At a signal from the Emperor, he ran fire to the temporary cottage, and when the flames had well got ahead, he went into the midst of them several times with perfect impunity. The Empress, greatly excited by the scene, cried out repeatedly, "Enough; oh, it's enough!" The experiment was considered to be entirely successful, and the Emperor warmly complimented M. Bevert upon his invention.

REMEDY FOR THE BITE OF MAD DOGS.—A Saxon forester, named Gessel, now of the twenty-couple age of 82, unwilling to take to the grave with him a secret of so much importance, has made public in the Leipsic *Journal* the means which he has used for fifty years, and wherewith he affirms he has rescued many human beings and cattle from the fearful death of hydrophobia. Take immediately warm vinegar or tepid water; wash the wound clean therewith, and then dry it; then pour upon the wound a few drops of hydrocloric acid, because mineral acids destroy the poison of the saliva, by which means the latter is neutralized.

SERFDOM AND EMANCIPATION IN RUSSIA.—There are among the Russian nobility some who have from 70,000 to upwards of 100,000 serfs. Count Schermetyeff is considered the richest nobleman in Russia. He possesses 120,000 serfs, among whom are several whose wealth amounts to millions. His annual income is estimated at a million and a half of silver roubles, (£250,000.) Every serf pays to his master from 10 to 15 roubles annually, so that the annual income of the possessor of 100,000 serfs cannot be less than £40,000, independent of the income he derives from forests, mills, fisheries, &c. The total number of serfs now is upwards of 23,000,000, and taking the value of each serf as only 300 roubles, (£50) the loss sustained by the owners by the emancipation is certainly not less than £1,150,000,000, or half as much again as the national debt of this country. Taking the interest at 5 per cent, the loss of annual income of the serfs to the nobility cannot be less than £67,000,000, or more than double the interest we pay for the national debt.—*Cave a Werk.*

A MILITARY EXECUTION.—A gentleman from Wittenberg gives the information that a soldier named Miller, a private in Captain Henderson's guerrilla company, was executed a few days since near that place, for shooting his commanding officer, with intent to kill. The unfortunate man was led forth from his cabin about 12 o'clock, accompanied by clergymen, and conducted to a hill in the neighborhood, where the sentence of the court-martial was read to him. He was then blindfolded and made to sit upon his coffin; directly after which, the signal was given, and the squad detailed for the purpose fired upon him. Two bullets pierced his heart, and he died without a struggle. Throughout the trying scene he exhibited the utmost fortitude, and met his fate bravely. This is one of the painful incidents of war, which we have thus far been called upon to record but seldom.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Mrs. Fanny Sweet.—We have ascertained that this personage, of whom we spoke yesterday, managed, by some dexterousness or artifice, to obtain a little money on the visit Marion, under the name of Mrs. Fanny Sweet, and to have the same sent to her by telegraph. Gen. Bragg, we learn, reports further to the authorities in reference to the disaffection of the people of that section, and gives the names of certain individuals engaged in fomenting discontent among them.

Those who have been taken acknowledge their crime, plead nothing extenuating, but only beg for their lives. Our authorities, however, are fully informed upon the whole subject, and we hope, if necessary, the extreme punishment will be resorted to in order to suppress all treason, and secure to the people immunities from civil war in their midst.

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The Lynchburg *Republican* of the 26th inst. publishes the following incident, remarkable alike for its singularity as well as for its melancholy fulfillment to the brother of one of the parties concerned:

Just before the war broke out, and before Lincoln's proclamation was issued, a citizen of Virginia, named Summerfield, was visiting in the city of New York, where he made the acquaintance of two Misses Holmes, from Waterbury, Vermont. He became somewhat intimate with the young ladies, and the intercourse seemed to be mutually agreeable. The proclamation was issued, and the whole North thrown into a blaze of excitement. Upon visiting the ladies one evening, and at the hour of parting, they remarked to Summerfield that their present meeting would probably be the last, they must hurry home to aid in making up the overcoats and clothing for the volunteers from their town. Summerfield expressed his regret that they must leave, but at the same time especially requested them to see that the overcoats were well made, as it was his intention, if he ever met the regiment in battle, to kill one of them and take his coat. Now for the sequel. Virginia seceded. The Second Vermont Regiment, a portion of which were from the town of Waterbury, was sent to Virginia. The battle of Manassas was fought, in which they were engaged, and so was Summerfield. During the battle S. marked his man, not knowing to what State he belonged; the fatal ball was speed on its mission of death; the victim fell at the flash of the gun, and upon rushing up to secure the dead man's land are now made in the district offices where the land is located, and the patents are issued here, signed by the Governor and the Commissioner. In order that the district offices might post their books and mark their maps, so as to know what lands had been disposed of under State laws, it was necessary to furnish each with abstracts of the sales, which had to be made here by carefully comparing the books and maps, a work which was thought at the time—as but two persons could work at it—it would take at least two years. Yet such has been the constant work since April, that the work is all finished, the district offices fully posted and now at work under the new system. In this labor many conflicts have been discovered, and instances where, in the hurry of transfer from the old system, two patents have been issued for the same land. In these cases Mr. McCulloch has, as far as possible, advised the parties and settled the claims by awarding to the party having the oldest patent, thus avoiding litigation, and what is better still, preventing conflicts among neighbors.

The report before us is the most complete and satisfactory document of the kind which has ever yet issued from the executive of any branch of the State Government. The records of the office are in better condition than ever before, and the Commissioner is by himself, or his deputy during business hours, discharging the duties of his office with dispatch, and in such an affable and courteous manner as to make a friend of every one brought in business contact with him. So regular and systematic is his rule that his employés are more like the officers of an old and established Government of Europe than of this republic, and are managing and doing all his people. It is not our opinion only, (which no one cares for more than we do for public opinion) but the opinion universally expressed, that for once the State (by mere accident) has the right man in the right place for Commissioner of the General Land Office.

FROM MEXILLA.—The Mexilla *Times* of the 26th has been received at San Antonio. It contains the following article:

Four gentlemen, well known in this valley, who succeeded in running the Federal lines, arrived last night, bringing the information that two thousand Federals were about making an advance against the Confederate lines, in three divisions—one of cavalry, via Fort Stanton, to the valley of El Paso, Texas, and to the rear of the Confederate command; two divisions to the front, one by the valley of the Rio Grande, the other by the Jornado del Muerto. All the troops have been moved from Santa Fé and Albuquerque, for the expedition. The design being to cut off the Confederate command, to devastate the country, to prevent Sibley's Brigade from getting supplies, and then force a fight of their own making. Now is the time for all citizens to show their valor. There can be no excuse—every man should shoulder his musket. All should look at the difficulties which bound at nobody in the face, with the firm resolve of "victory or death."

In the meanwhile Col. Reilly and his command is moving rapidly toward the threatened line, and hopes to arrive in season to enable the Confederates to repulse the enemy.

Says the Pensacola *Observer*:

There were several burnings at Fort Pickens after the bombardment. From the manner of the funeral doings, it is thought that two officers were laid to rest.

Fifty or sixty of the Federal prisoners confined at New Orleans have taken the oath and joined the Confederate army for the war. There were 500 in all.

So says the Columbus (Ga.) *Sun*. It is the first time we have heard the news.

Mr. Bennett's last letter is dated the 23d October. It is very long and not very interesting. We shall therefore content ourselves by giving the headings of it, as published by the *New York Herald*:

"The Navy Critics. Mr. Stewart and his Lady good Samaritans Defeated Contrabands—The Pelican's Anxiety for a War with England—Contrabands as American Investigating Committee—Interview on the Potomac—Relief Party of the Army Unassisted—The Slaves Reply to be Published in their Masters—Brief Friendly Feeling between the Regular and Volunteers—Demoralizing Influences of War—Manassas Contrabands—What will be the Rumor of the Army when the War is Over—Conversation of McClellan's Reconnoiterers in Virginia—The General's Headquarters—The Appearance of Things There—The Telegraph—The Art of Invisibility as practiced by McClellan—His Staff at Gentlemen—The Blockade of the Potomac—Immorality of the Confederate Army—The Battle of Edward's Ferry, Gen. Baker's Death—Effect of it on the Public Mind—The Situation in Missouri—The Union Feeling in Missouri.

LITERCOURSE WITH THE ENEMY.—We are sorry to have to tell on our friend Carmichil, but if a certain piece of cast iron, now lying and being on the bar of the Southern Exchange, does not lie in more than one sense there has been some communication between Old Brown and our friend afore-said; the chunk we speak of is distinctly labeled "Dispatched from Fort Pickens, via Pensacola," in the unmistakable "hand of write" of Tom Atkinson, of the Continentals. A letter from the latter to Carmichil explains that it was forwarded on the 23d of November by gunpowder express, and being found by him lying about loose, with a quantity more of the same kind of dry goods, he took it in charge, and, as it is an article of a soldier's creed that every bullet has its billet, he billeted this for the Southern Exchange, which has a character at least as good as a depository of out-of-the-way queerosities. This one is a 64-pound shell of the James pattern, such as is fired from a 32-pounder rifled gun, and when picked up contained a charge of powder, but like most of his fellow messengers of mischief it missed its errand, and did no harm, owing to the simple circumstance that nobody happened to be standing under it when it fell! If there had been, that would have made a difference, for the mere dropping of the article from breast height upon one's toes would be sure to mash them, and its descent from the vertex of its trajectory upon any thing less than a bomb-proof would be far from innocuous, even setting aside its projectile force and the chances of explosion.

{Mobile Advertiser and Register.

HOW MANY SHOTS IT TAKES TO KILL A MAN.—At the battle of Belmont is may be safely assumed that 10,000 men were engaged. It is asserted that both armies continued to fire until the ammunition was exhausted. We suppose that there was an average of 20 rounds to the man. According to the statements of the respective commanders, there could not have been exceeding 500 killed (yet wish it understood that we do not credit the wild estimate of loss on the Northern side.) Now 10,000 men shot 20 times each, making 200,000 balls fired to kill 500 men, equal to 400 to kill one man.

{Confederate News.

HOW FAR CANNON MAY BE HEARD.—The that Kansas *Spirit of the South* claims that the cannon at Pensacola were distinctly heard in that place by several persons. In the county, surprise heard the reports, and called the attention of their masters to the sound. The distance from Kansas to Pensacola, as the crow flies, must be at least 130 miles.

Passengers from the South report that the guns at Fort Royal were heard at Jacksonville and Palatka, in Florida, the latter place being in an air line, about 200 miles distant.—*Savannah Republican.*

The Emperor and Empress of France were presented lately by a Lyons silk manufacturer, invented by M. Bevert. The dress is said to be both water-proof and fire-proof, and is cunningly stuffed with sponges sewn together. When a balloon like that of a diver, with an apparatus for supplying fresh air, and glasses to see through. At a signal from the Emperor, he ran fire to the temporary cottage, and when the flames had well got ahead, he went into the midst of them several times with perfect impunity. The Empress, greatly excited by the scene, cried out repeatedly, "Enough; oh, it's enough!" The experiment was considered to be entirely successful, and the Emperor warmly complimented M. Bevert upon his invention.

REMEDY FOR THE BITE OF MAD DOGS.—A Saxon forester, named Gessel, now of the twenty-couple age of 82, unwilling to take to the grave with him a secret of so much importance, has made public in the Leipsic *Journal* the means which he has used for fifty years, and wherewith he affirms he has rescued many human beings and cattle from the fearful death of hydrophobia. Take immediately warm vinegar or tepid water; wash the wound clean therewith, and then dry it; then pour upon the wound a few drops of hydrocloric acid, because mineral acids destroy the poison of the saliva, by which means the latter is neutralized.

STATE OF LOUISIANA, PARISH OF ORLEANS.

BE it known that the undersigned, S. G. Fabisch, M. Popovich, G. Morse, G. Sever, T. Ciotkovich, A. Chlopecki, G. Radovich, G. Ulrich, M. Vucovich, C. Morgan, C. Gluvich, G. Rosica, A. Grusich, M. Milovich, G. Popovich, G. Gluvich, &c., &c., wishing to form a corporation and body politic for the charitable purpose hereinafter stated, severally to and by virtue of the act of the Legislature approved the 14th of March, 1856, entitled "An act providing for the organization of corporations for literary, scientific, religious and charitable purposes," do hereby make and publish the following Articles:

ARTICLE 1.—The corporation will be known as the SLAVONIAN MUTUAL BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION OF NEW ORLEANS. It will have a seal which it will destroy, alter or change at pleasure; will make all regular and useful rules and regulations for its administration; will have the right to sue, and be liable to be sued. It will have the right to own to commodious immovable and immovable property; to have a common treasury; receive donations and legacies; make contracts in its own name; buy, sell, alienate and mortgage—the whole in conformity to the provisions and intention of the act of the Legislature approved March 14th, 1856.

ART. II.—The object of the Association is the practice of philanthropic principles and the promotion of charitable and brotherly feelings among its members, which cannot interfere with politics.

ART. III.—The legal domicile of the Corporation will be in the city of New Orleans.

ART. IV.—The duration of the Corporation will consist in a President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary, which will be elected in accordance to the political regulations of the society.

ART. V.—The sum subscribed to the Corporation shall be twenty five years.

ART. VI.—The legal existence of the Corporation will be twenty five years.

New Orleans, December 2, 1861.

STATE OF LOUISIANA, PARISH AND CITY OF NEW ORLEANS.

I, Mortimer M. Reynolds, District Attorney pro tem. do hereby certify that I have examined the foregoing act of incorporation, which is conformable to the requirements and prescriptions of the act of the Legislature, entitled "An act providing for the organization of corporations for literary, scientific, religious and charitable purposes," in this State, approved 14th March, 1856, and I do approve of the object, articles and conditions therein contained.

M. M. REYNOLDS, District Attorney pro tem.

Acting in the absence of C. M. Bradford.

Headquarters Orleans Fire Battalion,

NEW ORLEANS, December 5th, 1861.

ATTENTION!—The election of Field Officers of this Battalion will take place SATURDAY NIGHT, December 7, at 7½ o'clock.

Every Commissioned Officer of the Battalion is requested to be present at the above place and hour promptly at the hour.

ERNEST J. GUERBOIS, Secretary.

Home Guard of the Veterans of 1814-'15.

A MEETING of the above company will be held on SUNDAY next, 8th inst., at 10 o'clock, A. M., at the Captain's residence, No. 76 Ursulines street.

Persons already in the ranks will be entitled to vote, and those who have not been introduced by a member of the Company will be required to vote by ballot, and be admitted on being introduced by a member of the Company.

By order of the Captain.

SIMON BRANDAO, 2d Sergeant.

Headquarters Lafayette Legion,

NEW ORLEANS, December 1, 1861.

SPECIAL ORDERS, NO. 18.—I. In pursuance of Special Orders, No. 17, from Division Headquarters, all commanders of companies in this brigade, organized and composed of foreign subjects and citizens, will immediately report to the undersigned, all who may have joined said corps to be forthwith dischar