New Orleans Bee.

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THE DAILY BEE

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NEW ORLEANS:

TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 3, 1863.

Sales at Auction To-Day.

By R. B. Sykes, at 10 o'clock, at 61 Magazine street, beef, navy bread, shoulders, &c.

By D. F. Morphy, at 10 o'clock, at 47 Magazine street, hams and shoulders.

By McCerren & Landry, at 10½ o'clock, at No. 82 St. Charles street, furniture, glass mirrors, &c.

By R. T. Montgomery, at 11½ o'clock, at No. 5 Poydras street, hides and cheese, at 12 o'clock, at No. 4 Camp street, 5 bbls whisky, brandy, apothecary and perfumery corks, &c., at 11 o'clock, at the old Auction Mart, 47 Camp street, furniture.

By the sheriff, at 12 o'clock, at the Merchants and Auctioneers' Exchange, property in the Third District.

VARIETIES THEATRE.—This evening's entertainment at the Varieties will be devoted to the Shakespearean muse. The performance begins with the "Merchant of Venice," and concludes with "The Taming of the Shrew." The eminent success of Mr Ryer in the first piece, and of Mr. Baker and Mrs Gladstone in the latter, should warrant a large and appreciative audience and such a one we predict for to-night.

SHERIFF'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE IN THE THIRD D STRICT.—We call public attention to the sale to be made this day, at noon, at the Merchants and Auctioneers' Exchange, Royal street, of one three-story brick dwelling house, situate on Chartres street, and two story brick do. at the corner of Chartres and Mandeville streets, and a two-story brick do on Mandeville street. Third District. For particulars see advertisement.

CHEWING TOBACCO.—Maurice Abrams, of No. 39 Natchez Alley, offers for sale this morning a choice stock of Virginia Chewing Tobacco, comprising the most favorite brands. See advertisement.

MESS PORK.—E. S. Keep, of 62 Poydras street, has on hand and offers for sale 500 barrels choice mess pork. Call and examine his stock.

EXCHANGE ON NEW YORK.—Brott, Davis & Sibons, 24, 26 and 28 New Levee street, will sell sight exchange on New York, in sums to suit purchasers.

Our readers are invited to notice R. T. Montgomery's sale for this day, (Tuesday) the 3d inst. At 11½ o'clock, at No. 5 Poydras street, corner of Levee street, will be peremptorily sold 250 hides and 25 boxes cheese, at 12 o'clock, at sales room 93 Camp street, hams, sides, lard oil, soap, starch, whisky, brandy, and a large lot of apothecary and perfumery corks, at 11 o'clock, at the old Auction Mart, 47 Camp street, the usual sale of furniture, carpets, oil cloth, bedding, and sundry other goods.

The attention of speculators and others is called by D E Morphy, auctioneer, to the sale of 100 casks shoulders and 50 barres hams, which he will sell this day, at No. 47 Magazine street.

Elegant furniture of club room No. 82 St Charles street at auction this day, at 10½ o'clock, by McCerren & Landry. See their advertisement.

Highly Important Movements and Rumors.

Under this heading the Washington correspondent of the New York *Herald*, writing under date of the 18th ult., communicates the following:

There are some very important movements on foot in this city. The present deplorable inability of the army and the administrative policy of Congress are indicative of the fact that a change in political circles, which is kept in confidence fully as possible, in regard to what is going to be done after Congress adjourns, at the 4th of March next—that is within three weeks from the present time. In one week more very little question has been shown in Congress to the finances and military measures of the Government. The only positive business given them their support; and no conference on what the new congress will do when it comes to order a law, as well as the financial measures for the maintenance of the Government.

Some people have not failed to express surprise and astonishment at the above remarks and results. But from what I have heard I think they will scarcely surprise you. Among the rumors in circulation which pointed to these results is one to the effect that the President intends to restore General McClellan to the chief command of the army some time next month, and that he intends to reorganize the Cabinet on a conservative basis. Assuming Mr Seward in his present position, for the masterly and dignified manner in which he has discharged the duties of his department. It is said that he has promised several members of Congress, who, though belonging to the party, are conservative in their politics, that he will certainly make these changes. It is understood that he feels that the present General in Chief is not equal to the emergency, and that he is now satisfied that General McClellan was fully equal to it, and that if he had been left alone he would long since have accomplished all that the nation so anxiously desire; that he is now firmly of opinion that McClellan is the only man in the country capable of filling that position, and that his military mind is the only one in the country adequate to the occasion, control the movements of all the armies of the republic throughout the Union, and preserve their unity of action and efficiency for the suppression of the rebellion. With these ideas in view he has unhesitatingly made the promises alluded to; and the conservatives therefore think, in consideration of these facts, that it is best to strengthen the hands of the Administration in every possible way, so that the spring campaign shall be one of the greatest vigor and unity.

The Case of Thomas, the "French Lady."

The following Washington dispatch gives the particulars with regard to the case of Richard Thomas:

Washington, February 16.—The report made by Mr. Wilson, of Massachusetts, in the Senate to-day, from the Military Committee, in response to the resolution of that body, instructing inquiry into the case of Richard Thomas, of Maryland, a prisoner of war in Fort Lafayette, embraces communications from the commanding officer and surgeon at that fort, showing the treatment, health and mental condition of the prisoner, and also a report from the Adjutant General, giving the reason for subjecting Thomas to close confinement after the 3d of March last. In regard to the latter fact, First Lieutenant Charles Wood, commanding the post, says:

"Richard Thomas Zarvona was committed to this fort on the 3d of December, 1861, and was allowed the same privileges as the other prisoners until the 3d of March, 1862, at which date he was placed in close confinement by order of the Secretary of War, dated 25th day of February, 1862. After that date he was not allowed to leave his room except to go to the water closet, (which is situated on the sea wall,) in charge of a member of the guard, or when the privilege he took advantage on the night of the 31st of April, 1862, and attempted to escape by jumping overboard and swimming to the Long Island shore. Since that time he has not been out of his room except to see his mother, who visits him in October last, by permission of the Secretary of War. The room in which he is confined is one of those intended for quarters, twenty five feet long and fifteen feet wide, with nine windows, one of which is closed because it opens upon the court where the other prisoners exercise. The others are open. The room in the same building occupied while confined here.

"He is permitted to supply himself through the commanding officer of the post with anything he may wish, in the way of food in addition to the regular rations which issued to him; and clothing, which is not permitted the use of paper or books, as he has taken advantage of those privileges to communicate with parties outside."

As regards Thomas's health, Acting Assistant Surgeon C W Hine, duly of the fort under date of February 24 says: "I have this day examined (for the second time) Richard Thomas Zarvona, C S A, and find that his health is generally good, according to his own statement—that it is better than when it was entered in the books of the medical department. His mental condition is somewhat excited in some of his ideas, and yet not more so than in thousands who may be said to be born with certain turn of character; therefore in my opinion, he will bear the penitentiary perfectly consistent with safety of mind."

The report of Assistant Adjutant General E D Townsend to the Secretary of War, dated February 19th, says: Colonel Richard Thomas, *alias* Richard Thomas Zarvona, was captured on board the steamer Mary Washington, near Aquia Creek, June 7th, 1861, and confined at Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Md. He was recognized on board the steamer as a man who headed a party which captured the steamer St. Nicholas, plying between Baltimore and the Potomac, and was indicted by a Grand Jury of Maryland for the murder and for treason.

When search was made for him on the Mary Washington, he was found dressed in female apparel and concealed in a bureau in one of the state rooms. (General Butler, in the report of February 20th, 1862, thinks he should be treated as a "pirate and a spy." There are four witnesses against him as to the first crime, who were at Fort McHenry the last of September. The crime of treason is a second charge consequent upon his having taken up arms as a female, with a commission taken in disguise as an active volunteer forces" of Virginia upon his person at the time. In consequence of the report made in his case he has not been placed in the list of prisoners of war, but is held confined at Fort Lafayette.

A BRUSH IN LOUISIANA.—The Northern papers of the 18th contains the following telegram:

Chicago, February 17.—A Cairo special dispatch says that on Wednesday last a scouting party was a body of the enemy five miles back of Lake Providence, where a warm engagement ensued, in which the United States forces lost a few men, while many rebels were killed, and thirty-two taken prisoners. Ninety horses

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CONNECTICUT DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.—The papers of the 19th publish the following proceedings of the Connecticut Democratic Convention held at Hartford:

Connecticut Democratic State Convention—Hartford, Connecticut, February 18, 1863.—The Democratic State Convention assembled in this city to-day, and is very largely attended.

Gen. Pierpont, of Colebrook, presides.

An informal ballot was taken this afternoon, when four hundred and fifty-five votes were cast.

Hon. Thomas H Seymour received a majority over all the candidates, and then was unanimously nominated for Governor.

The nomination was received with wild enthusiasm.

FROM BATON ROUGE.—In its evening edition of yesterday the *Era* announces that a torpedo had been discovered and safely taken out of the water above Baton Rouge. There was a rumor in the vicinity of Baton Rouge that the gunboat Conestoga had been captured above Port Hudson. The report, says the *Era*, lacks confirmation. A letter from Bonnet Carré, dated 28th ultimo, states that the Confederate cavalry scouting the country between Port Vincent and Pontchatoula. The name of the post few days had made the roads almost impassable.

VALUE OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL.—The Commissioners in Philadelphia, appointed to appraise the prize steamer Princess Royal, have valued her at $112,000, but $8,000 less than the appraised value of the steamer Bermuda. The Government was willing to take the Princess Royal at the sum named, but there being a legal obstacle in the way, Judge Cadwalder has ordered a sale, which will take place as soon as the necessary publication can be made. Should the vessel be bought by the Government, she will at once fitted up as a gunboat, as she is very fast, she will be valuable for blockading purposes.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

The Sacrifice.—We mentioned yesterday the fact that the silver cross had been stolen from the St Louis Cathedral early in the morning. The further particulars of the sacrilegious act are as follows: It is customary to open the church at 5 o'clock in the morning. Soon after a lady entered the church to pay her morning devotions, when, on raising her eyes, she discovered that the symbol of her faith was not in its accustomed place, on the small altar, when she arose and apprised the sacristan of the circumstance. He of course went at once in search, and finally found the pedestal of the cross on the steps of the door leading into the alley next to the Courthouse, with the remnant of the iron rod which had fastened the silver cross. The cross is of pure silver, valued at over $2000, highly prized as a gift by Ramon Pontalba, the father of the Countess Pontalba, who owns the Pontalba Buildings, and is now residing in Paris.

Probably Drowned.—A gentleman who was across the Lake Saturday before last, informs us that there was found then, near the mouth of the Tchefuncta river, a skiff adrift containing New Orleans papers of the 20th ultimo, a revolver, and a small quantity of powder, in the locker. It is supposed that the skiff had been occupied by persons who were attempting to cross and that they were drowned during the heavy gales on the Lake of the 21st ult.

Major Prados.—The Coroner yesterday held a post-mortem examination on the body of Major Prados, preliminary to its interment, and it was concluded to hold the usual inquest at 12 o'clock next Thursday.

Funeral of Major Prados.—A very large concourse attended the remains of Maj Prados in their last resting place yesterday afternoon. The beautiful letter over the coffin bore the following inscription: "Sacrificium." Besides the numerous friends and relatives, the funeral assisted dead, made a long and general *cortege*.

U. S. Preliminary Court—Judge Peabody—Monday.—Durnford vs. Berger & Brown—Van Benschoten, intervener. Mr Mills moved for a rule to show cause on Tuesday next why intervenor should not be allowed to bond. Mr Durant's previous motion on the same point was overruled by the Court this day.

T. B. Fay vs. Jacob F. Mc Durant for arrest—Mr Durant filed a rule on plaintiff to show cause why the action in arrest should not be sued.

In the case of Wm. Mc Gee vs. Mc Bride, Mr Durant moved that the bond be fixed upon the petitioner's security, which had been given by the Court. Mr Mc Gee opposed the motion, on the ground that the bond was fixed at $2,000. Mr Mc Bride, on the contrary, thought it was not sufficient. The Court overruled the motion.

Mr Mc Gee filed a rule on Mc Bride, to show cause why the bond should not be fixed at $2,000.

Mr Leonard moved that the bond be fixed upon the petitioner's security, which had been given by the Court. Mr Mc Gee opposed the motion, on the ground that the bond was fixed at $2,000. Mr Mc Bride, on the contrary, thought it was not sufficient. The Court overruled the motion.

Mr Mc Gee filed a rule on Mc Bride, to show cause why the bond should not be fixed at $2,000.

Mr Leonard moved that the bond be fixed upon the petitioner's security.

Mr Leonard said, that the case of Durling was the first case of the kind that had been brought before the Court