New Orleans Bee

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NEW ORLEANS:
MONDAY MORNING, JANY. 4, 1864.

SALES TO-DAY.

By E. T. Montgomery, at 10½ o'clock, at auctioneer No. 65 Exchange place, 5 cases, hand sewed, boots, fall 11 o'clock. No. 97 Camp street, cabinet furniture. By Fleming & Amory, at 12 o'clock, at Claiborne Bridge, Old Basin, along lines, 2 s.

By Vincent, at 10½ o'clock, at the Levee Steam Cotton press, 1 steam cotton press.

By R. M. Jacks, at 10 o'clock, in Dumfries street between Chartres and Old Levee, the contents of a restaurant.

By the Sheriff, at 12 o'clock, at Auctioneers' Exchange, a lot of ground, with improvements.

By McCord & Landry, at 11 o'clock, at their auction room, Masonic Hall, furniture.

LARGE AND ELEGANT FOUR-STORY BRICK DWELLING HOUSE AT AUCTION.—We call public attention to the sale to be made this day, at noon, at the Merchants and Auctioneers' Exchange, Royal street, by the Sheriff of that large and elegant four-story brick dwelling house, No. 62 St. Peter street, Second District.

For particulars see advertisement.

FOR BAYOU SARA AND PORT HUDSON.—By reference to the advertisement of the packet Mattie Stephens it will be seen that this fine passenger steamer will leave for Bayou Sara on Monday evening, at 5 o'clock, and for Port Hudson on Friday morning, at 10 o'clock.

MESSRS. MCCOVEN & LANDRY will sell this day, at their mart, Masonic Hall, at 11 o'clock, A. M., a large assortment of furniture, several pianos, &c.

POTATOES, APPLES, PORK, &c.—Egan and King, 62 and 64 Tchoupitoulas street, advertise as just landing from two barks, 200 barrels of pure yellow pink eye potatoes, together with other desirable sundries, including teas, ginger wine, &c.

INHALATION TREATMENT.—All who are suffering with asthma, bronchitis, or any disease of the throat, lungs or heart, are referred to the notice of Dr. A. Follin that his office, No. 163 Canal street, is open to patients for consultation from 9 A. M. to 3 P. M. He may be consulted in English, French and Spanish.

MONTGOMERY & HOOE.—So large has been the increase in the business of these well-known auctioneers, that the old counting room, over the Armory Hall, and another large building, have not furnished room adequate to its demands, and to obtain the necessary accommodations they have leased the adjoining building, formerly occupied by John D. Bein & Sons, and have thus secured an establishment corresponding to the extensive range of their transactions. They invite consignments of every species of merchandise, and are ready, if required, to make liberal advances without additional charge. It is gratifying to observe the success of a firm at once enterprising and deserving.

NEW MILLINERY GOODS.—The attention of all who desire millinery goods, of the newest and most select description, especially the attention of millinery, is called to the advertisement of the valuable stock of Daniel Gorren, No. 27 Magazine street, which has just received a shipment of modern articles in the above line, and will continue receiving additions to the same by every steamer.

The sale of elegant rosewood and mahogany furniture postponed from 30th ult. in consequence of the inclement state of the weather, will take place positively on Monday, 4th inst., at 11 o'clock, on the spacious floor of Armory Hall, (up-stairs,) by E. T. Montgomery. The varied assortment will well repay an early inspection, comprising bronzelite parlor sets of the richest designs in rosewood and mahogany; black-walnut sofas to correspond, marble top sideboards, bureaus, book-cases, and in fact every article requisite for furnishing first-class dwellings. A very fine assortment of Brussell, velvet and medallion carpets, also a quantity of German and English cut glass-ware will also be sold. This will be the last opportunity for some time to procure rich goods at a low price. "A word to the wise," &c.

R. T. Montgomery will sell at auction on Monday, the 4th instant, at 10 o'clock, at the store, 65 Tchoupitoulas street, by order consignment, 80 dozen hams, a large lot of dried and smoked beef, pork hands and tongues, sausages cheese, cherries, mackerel, &c. See advertisement.

CHARITABLE BENEFIT AT THE ST. CHARLES THEATRE.—It will be seen that a dramatical representation is to be given at the St. Charles Theatre, by amateur and professional artists, for the benefit of the Shanghai Emigration. The first performance will take place on the 6th instant, and will consist of "The Officers in Congress, or the Loyers and the Loan of a Lover.

Officers in Congress.

It is contended that a motion would be made by Mr. Pendleton, of Ohio, for granting to Cabinet officers the privilege of discussing on the floor of Congress all questions relating to the affairs of the several departments. They are not to have a vote, nor can they participate in any debates which are not of a nature to call for explanation or defense of some executive act or measure. This, it has been said, would be after the ministerial practice in England. But the analogy between the two cases is by no means complete. There is a radical difference beneath the apparent resemblance.

The same attempt to reform the old Federal arrangement by an imperfect imitation of the English Parliamentary system was put in the form of a constitutional provision by the Montgomery convention of 1861; and that for it is not yet evident that its operation has established its right to be regarded as a great improvement. It may be doubted, indeed, whether the idea which underlies any project of the kind is not repugnant to the whole genius and framework of the Constitution of 1787. It would certainly require a fundamental revision of that document to assimilate it substantially to Parliamentary government as it exists in England. A Cabinet cannot exist hardly be four Parliamentary sessions in the English sense than the constitutional government of the United States.

The fact that an English Ministry is not elected for a term of years, that it is directly responsible to Parliament, whose approbation, except in rare and extreme instances where dissolution is resorted to, is to the extent and the limit of its existence and power—this fact affords a powerful reason why English Ministers should intimately participate in the debates and transactions of that body. Springing from the bosom of Parliament, they are, in effect, but the active embodiment, the executive agency, of an organized Parliamentary majority. The Throne, for all practical purposes, is outside of this arrangement, and must be content to play the ceremonial part of a central symbol of the Empire. Of its Executive authority, swallowed up by Ministerial responsibility to Parliament, there remains but the name, the shadow.

But quite different is the case with the Congress, the President and the Cabinet officers of the United States. These Cabinet officers were not sprung from Congress; they in no wise represent Congress; they owe no direct responsibility to that body. They are the creatures of Executive appointment; they are directly responsible to the President, and he is no shadow as the English sovereign, but an active and all representative power, owing responsibility to the country at large, while members of Congress owe it to the first instance to to their respective constituencies. This person, already clothed with a remarkable measure of control over legislation, through the constitutional veto, it was the obvious purpose of the framers of the Federal Constitution to jealously preserve from the blandishments and executive connection with the deliberations of Congress. Were such a connection established, if Congress did not absorb the Executive, the Executive would be pretty sure to absorb Congress. If the President did not lose his independence and dignity to a more sinister in the Government, Congress would scarcely escape from subserving him as a mere instrument for registering Presidential decrees. In any case, the whole theory of the Federal Constitution would fall to the ground.

In the meantime, the qualified admission of heads of departments to the floor of Congress on Mr. Pendleton's plan would be comparatively inconsequential. The relations of these officers to the President would not change: they would not be accountable to Congress any more than formerly; they would appear, when admitted to Congress, rather to supplement any remark these departments than as pulsators responsible to that body for their acts. The plan does not essentially involve the idea we have often advocated, that the new session would lend to destroy the responsibility of members of the Cabinet to the President, although such a result, in some degree, might flow from it. But, as we have already said, if responsibility to the President should result, it would be transferred to Congress, and this transfer would upset the entire theory of the Federal Constitution.

THE OPINION THEORY.—We regret to learn that certain apprehensions have taken this step, the enrapt rebels in Louisiana would be killed by the prompt spell of cold weather. The trust that these fears are groundless, and that the history of Louisiana contains instances of the disinfection of the swamp town by frost, which may justify them for their safety whatever an unusually cold season is experienced. Five times, it is said, yellow fever has made such a dreadful ravage in this State, as to destroy one-fifth of the whole population. The first time was in 1796, when the ravages were more destructive than the third time, when the mortality was again destroyed in 1822. On this occasion the fever was a heavy blow to the pecuniary interests of the people, a number of persons who derived a considerable revenue from the subsistence of emigrants died many of whom depended upon their emigrant wage for subsistence. The last instance, in which the orange trees were generally killed by frost in Louisiana was in 1835. But in these cases the frosts must have been largely and more lingering than that recently experienced here, severe and untimely as that has been. We need that on these former occasions the cold was so intense that the river froze along its margin. This statement may be open to question, but it is hardly to be disputed that the whitening in those days were generally more severe than they have since been, and we may hope that the orange culture, which was rapidly becoming a most important item in the productive resources of the State, will be spared the calamity that so seriously checked its development in other years.

A Night in London.

PICTURES OF WORKHOUSE SCENES—SUFFERINGS OF WOMEN CLASSES OF ENGLISH SOCIETY.

We find in the London *Times* the following account of some night-scenes in London curiously illustrative of some of the statements made by Mr. Kay, in his work on the "Social Condition of the English People:"

A few evenings ago, a little before six o'clock, when the darkness was heavy and damp with that chilly, piercing November rain which seems to sweep under any shelter and to spread itself beneath every part of the body, my unwilling companion and I had to pass at the back of the National Gallery would have noticed a close crowd of more than forty persons pressing round one of the doors of St. Martin's Workhouse. He would have found that they were waiting for the opening of the internal ward, in the hope of obtaining a night's shelter and a little food. If he went up to them he would have seen them huddled together perhaps for warmth and the consolatory press of fellow-suffering. They would have taken little notice of him except that perhaps a man on the outside of the circle might glance uneasily at him, and edge away as if he did not like to be seen; and then, as though the qualm of a sense of suspicion overpowered the humiliation of degradation, he would move uneasily towards the entrance, and half whisper in a sort of despondency tone, "I never did this in my life before." In the coming cold, evidently ashamed to press that that shivering circle; but perhaps it is better than a night spent on those damp and muddy stones and under that close and misty fog, and he must take his chance of admission even into the casual ward of a workhouse. The rest talk freely and in a half-frightened way about the conditions.

RECEIVING THE APPLICANTS.

"The workhouse only admits, as a rule, twelve men and twelve women, and some of them have been there and again and again. The door soon opens, and all their eyes fasten on a burly, well-dressed, well-combed, well-brushed official, the greatest possible contrast to the ring of paleness, squalor and dirt outside. He is well accustomed to the sort of sight, and there is a quiet, business like coolness about his manner, in strange contrast with the anger, imploring care of the helpless faces below him. His survey is the group carefully, first to see if there are any who have been there before, for it will not do to allow the casual ward to become a refuge for those who have not been there before. It is too great a luxury to be enjoyed by any one who can help remaining.

At last he makes a sign, and one woman comes in, and another, and another, up to a dozen in all. There is a weary, hopeless old woman, with young features, but aged-looking hair, is pushed on one side, not roughly, but irresistibly; by his manner the head drops itself and her eyes close despairingly as she falls away into the rain and fog. Then he looks round at the men and admits a few of them, passing over the rest in the same way with a touch of recognition he hardly showed to the woman. "Don't tell me to-day," he says sharply to one who seems to plead, "I won't have that sight, sir," in a tone which seems to imply that he knows why a number of men are admitted than of women. Fewer of them are admitted than of the women, but there are still about a dozen and half men and women outside. "It is very fine, sir," says a piteous woman's voice. "I know it is not," he says, as though the speaker had questioned his candor, "but I have no room for all of you." After a word with the authorities behind he admits one or two more, and then the door is shut quietly, but decidedly, and it is no good for those who remain to look up any more at the light above the door and hope for the warmth within, and they turn their faces away to the night.

WHAT THE POOR EAT.

They do not grumble; the cases of them hardly make one excuse; they know their fate and that it is inevitable, and they submit in passive despair. Only one Irishwoman begins to raise a wail of complaint, and seems, alone of them all, inclined to relieve herself by hard words against the workhouse authorities. They brisk the circle and begin to shrink away, but, as the Irishwoman turns and sees a gentleman waiting, she begins to whine out her woes to him and direct those complaint, and then the others, who seemed to want even spirit enough to beg, follow their lead and find assistance example, and gathering a doubtful and puzzled circle round the stranger; and then, when he can get the Irishwoman to be quiet, he may hear in dull, impassive tones where the helpless creatures around him come from and what they have been doing. It is always the same story: "No work, sir;" "I've been ailing;" "It has been a dull time for trade," though "have had no work since the summer." Another "hopes for work in the spring." One woman, a single woman, has only had a few weeks' work all the spring and summer." She has no home and no friends in London, and she answers all questions with a quiet, hopeless manner, as if she had spoken more painfully to listen to their sharp suffering. If they are asked what they will do, they shrug themselves despairingly, they suppose they must depend on the relief they can get a lodging in St. Giles' for threepence. That half hopeless hint is the only approach they make to begging.

(From the Cleveland (Ohio) Journal.)

A GLORIOUS DISCOVERY.—*An Irish Giant.*—On Wednesday last as two laborers, in the employment of Mr. D. Garry, Dromsilury, were digging potatoes they came in contact with a man's bowlder, which required their united exertions to remove, having been artificially set over four others, which formed an enclosure two feet square. The well repaid them for their labors, for having displaced it, they found the contents to be a copper kettle filled with silver pieces, each being about one penny, and some of them bearing the date of 1510. The discovery, as might be expected created quite a sensation in the neighborhood, and some of Mr. Garry's friends having arrived allowed him to hire a number of men to dig the hill, in which they speculated, from the systematic arrangement of the pieces a few feet below the surface, there would be found more hidden treasure. After having spent two weary days at the work, and on the evening of the third, as they were beginning to despond, they perceived some bones set in mason work, which they uprooted with most energy, and succeeded in bringing to light a vault, in which, to their surprise and discovery, contained nothing but a leaden coffin about ten feet in length. On taking off the lid, (which by the way, was considered very daring of them by the peasantry,) they beheld a human skeleton, of massive proportions, the thigh alone measuring 2 feet 11 inches, and the cranium half an inch in thickness. Having expressed their surprise in wild ejaculations, and gratified their curiosity by exhuming the fallen chieftain miserably, they quietly put on the lid, and "Let him sleep in the grave where his fathers had laid him," taking care to cover up the passage, so that all visitors may see the coffin, but only the favored few his remains. It is supposed by the inhabitants of the locality that the giant was Shuff, who, we are told by tradition, lived thereabouts, and was the terror of his enemies, and was the idol of his friends.

"STRANGE WORDS" IN WASHINGTON.—The number of white prostitutes housed in the various wards of Washington City is set down at the following figures by the Washington *Star*:

First Ward 580, Second Ward 518, Third Ward 105, Fourth Ward 360, Fifth Ward 400, Sixth Ward 200, Seventh Ward 450. Total 2613. The number of these residents in Washington before the war was about 356. The colored prostitutes now in Washington are said to be about as great as 1562, and of this number a liberal estimate places the former slaves of the war prats one. At least a third of the whole number, white and black, are street-walkers of a class of women combining indecency never before known, in this country, with an assimilation from New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and some few of the Western cities. The whole number of public prostitutes of every grade and color in Washington will not exceed five thousand, of whom not more than a tenth reside in the District of Columbia previous to the war. There are a number of females living under false colors about here, and who, until they are found out, frequently manage to quarter themselves in the respectable boarding houses and hotels.

What are Gunny Bags?

In answer to this inquiry, which is often made, we give the following explanation:

Gunny bags are made from the coarse cloth or sheeting of a plant which grows in India, of which there are many varieties. On the Coromandel coast this plant is called corchorus, the "gunny" is a corruption of this name. The Bengalese call it the *pat*, *jude* or "gunny," and have carried on for centuries in Bengal, and give employment to some of thousands of inhabitants. "Men, women and children," says Mr. Wise, "are all employed in it. The cultivators, boat-men and handicraftsmen seem to a race apart. A London company has established a manufactory in Calcutta at an expense of £300,000.

The gunny bag is used for a great variety of purposes. Rice, cotton, cotton, cotton, grain, linseed almost every article which we pack in dry goods and in boxes, is, in the East, packed in gunny bags. It is also made into bale, carpets, rugs and various other articles.

It is related that the old gunny bags which accumulate in India are sold to boat-makers, who manufacture them into paper, and out of the rags and bits and them to the mat-makers.

Some six or ten millions of gunnies were exported to this country from India, during the North American, besides some four or five times the number of the rope and new cloth. There are not a few of these cloth in this country, though it is hard to distinguish them from the new. When used for purposes of defense the bags are filled with earth. They are no better than sandy or dust bags, but are much cheaper.

Miscellaneous Items.

Why are the silver like swollen wrists? Because they rate-all-bate to the eight.

Round is the "belle of the evening," during the room out of her hair after the ball is over.

A man who had throughout all his life fought against temperance principles was brought to about a sudden shipwreck.

One of the Lord Dundonny's of the Tay Bank says the only parting that ever troubled him was the parting of his hair.

(From our Sunday Edition.)

Additional News via the River.

FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Headquarters Army of the Potomac, Dec. 21.—At the present time the Army of the Potomac is in the same position it has been since it recrossed the Rapidan. An order to move for winter quarters is expected, especially as the roads, which a few days ago were rendered almost impassable, are now frozen hard. As far as we can judge, the rebels have not changed their position.

Guerrillas and small squads of rebel cavalry still infest the country beyond Manassas, and depredations upon Government property be-yond that point and the Rappahannock are of frequent occurrence.

It is stated in a dispatch of Saturday that the rebel cavalry destroyed two bridges over Bull Run. This is not exactly so. They appeared in some force, attacked our guards and set fire to one of the bridges; but the fire was extinguished, and the rebels left without doing any material damage.

Washington, December 22.—The rebels attempted last night to destroy a bridge near Beckner's Station, on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, with a view to interrupt Meade's communications with Washington, but failed.

From Chattanooga.

Chattanooga, December 21.—Two boats from Bridgeport arrived last night loaded with provisions.

All the citizens here from the North are being enrolled, with a view of arresting the draft.—The order causes some stir. Great improvement.

THE OBSTRUCTIONS IN CHARLESTON HARBOR.

Washington, December 21.—A letter was received at the Navy Department to-day from officers belonging to the fleet of Charleston, which says: "So far as is visible, the only obstructions in Charleston harbor are a double line of piles across the channel, from Fort Pinckney to the middle ground, and from there to Fort Johnson there is an opening of about two hundred feet.

The writer thinks the obstructions can be removed by the monitors.

THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

Washington, December 21.—The arrangement by which all persons captured with the exception of prisoners have been turned over to Major-General Butler, will be permanent Gen. Hoffman, who has charge of admiralty prisoners, will receive and forward to Fort Monroe all persons captured by the navy. Major-General Butler will receive and forward to Washington all persons captured by the army. Any persons captured by the navy, one of which is a surgeon, will be sent to Major-General Butler