THE DAILY BEE

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NEW ORLEANS:
THURSDAY MORNING, FEBY 25, 1864.

Sales at auction Today.

By B. E. Murphy, at 10 o'clock, on the Levee, opposite Post M, Second District, potatoes. At 11 o'clock, at No. 41 Natchez street, lot of goods, sweetpeel, hams, &c. At 10 P. M., at No. 57 Magazine street, 15 bbls. rice, wines and liquors, tumblers, &c.

By McCerren & Landry, at 11 o'clock, at Masonic Hall, furniture.

By Falconer & Amery, at 12 o'clock, at 30 and 32 Old Levee street, the schooner Independence.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS are the only medicine for invigorating a debilitated constitution. Persons of sedentary habit, suffering from impaired digestive organs and indirection, should give these remedies an impartial trial. Coughs, colds and asthma are speedily relieved and radically cured by a steady course of these medicaments. Sold everywhere.

McCerren & Landry sell this day, furniture, &c., at 11 o'clock, at the Masonic Hall.

D. E. Murphy, auctioneer, will sell at No 41, Natchez street, this day at 11 o'clock A. M., sundry lot of goods to close invoices: also: at 10 o'clock A. M.; on the Levee Post No 36, Second District, 240 barrels potatoes. See auction advertisements.

The United States Senate in Executive session, on the 17th, confirmed the nomination of E. H Durell as Judge of the United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana.

Two hundred and sixty National Banks have been organized.

THE VARIETIES THEATRE.—*Benefit of Mr. Kingsland.*—The political distractions of a few weeks past had evidently attenuating effect upon the nightly attendance at most of our places of amusement. But since the election audiences have essentially improved, and the Varieties has enjoyed a liberal share of the increase.

To-night, as we have previously mentioned, is set apart for the benefit of Mr. C. Kingsland.

In point of incident of detail, in the carefulness of preparation marking his characterizations, and in the general smoothness of his acting, Mr. Kingsland may well claim to rank as only second to Mr. Lewis Baker in the Varieties company. He has sometimes been cast for parts poorly adapted to illustrate his peculiar artistic merits and has consequently, in such cases appeared to little advantage. His happiest line of personation is that of the genteel villain—a character deemed indispensable to a first-class modern drama. It was not unreasonable, then, that he should undertake to personate Iago, in the play of Othello, which is selected for his benefit performance. Hint the profundity and subtlety of Iago's villainy may be too much for Mr. Kingsland's powers, is quite possible. It would be difficult to name a single living actor who is fully competent to the reproduction on the stage of that extraordinary picture of satanic moral depravity combined with fearful powers of intellect and eloquence.

In attempting his delineation Mr. Kingsland will undergo a critical ordeal, but we trust that the result will justify the adventure. Anyway, with the assistance of the gifted young tragedian, Mr. Bertoli, as Othello, the performance challenges interest expectation, which, added to the claims of the beneficiary, will, doubtless, in sure a crowded house and triumphant benefit.

The City, Here; State Papers on the Situation.

The *Era*, the *Times* and the *True Delta* have expressed their opinions with regard to the result of the recent election.

The *Era* sums up its import as follows:

The results of the election already held, may we think, be fairly summed up as follows: The declaration that Louisiana is a free State; and that not a slave lives within her borders, has been sustained by an overwhelming majority. This majority is so large, as to make it certain that the friends of unconditional emancipation will carry the election for delegates to a Constitutional Convention, and that they will succeed in embodying their principles in the fundamental laws of the State.

The vote shows that there are enough citizens loyal to the Government to carry on a State Government; and there are very general readiness on the part of the people, to accept the actual situation of affairs, and to participate in the duties of citizenship. The election, then, gives us a loyal State, and a Free State beyond question. The wisdom of calling this election prior to calling one for delegates to a Constitutional Convention, is fully justified. It has shown that the people of Louisiana are *prepared* for such an election, and it has placed the result of that important measure beyond all doubt.

The *Times* says:

That there are a sufficient number of voters—not withstanding the fears of many to the contrary—to entitle us to the benefits of the President's proclamation, is sufficiently demonstrated by the returns, which already show about twice the required number.

We have, then, a voting population of ten thousand, four fifths of whom are in favor of organizing a Free State government at once. We have, or we shall have in the 5th of March, a Governor unexceptionally pledged to use what influence he may possess to effect that object.

How a civil exercise of the executive martial law which is the fundamental law of Louisiana under the present regime, need not be discussed. It is the desire of the General Government to complete the work already begun, by surrendering to the people as much of military power as may be consistent with the success of military operations; and in that view the election of Monday can only be regarded as a progressive step. Our duty, if not the most important object of which, was to meet the public mind.

Too important also for the election which is to give us a fundamental law, which is civil, not martial—to be held on the first Monday in April. To this election we look for the work of regeneration and restoration.

The *True Delta* remarks:

The vote elected yesterday was a full and emphatic response to and endorsement of the president's plan of reinstating civil government in the re-seceded States, as it has been faithfully followed and carried out by Gen. Banks. The success of the election, the fullness of the vote, and the general alacrity of the people in casting their suffrages for the respective tickets, is a fresh with pain in person to the future of the States of the Gulf, and Gen. Banks has accomplished more in the civilization, than would be effected by a new military victory added to the laurels of his fame.

The same paper, referring to the Conservative Union ticket, admits that on "the score of patriotism and loyalism, their names and their views wereboth fully entitled to respect and support as either of the two other tickets running before the people," and attributes their defeat to their "sullen silence on the subject of slavery."

Additional by the Steamer Luminary.

Siege of Chattanooga.

CINCINNATI, February 17.—The Gazette's Chattanooga (Ga.) letter says: Information from the rebel army is contradictory; some officers represent the entire force stationed Dalton; others that a large force, including artillery, at Kingston, have gone to reinforce Longstreet. John Morgan is said to have been in the vicinity of Dalton, with a large cavalry force, preparing for a raid.

General Wheat, of Alabama, telegraphed the citizens of Selma to prepare to receive the non-combatants from Mobile, as that place would soon be sighted by the Federals.

Mobile papers admit that Sherman's plan is to proceed to Grand Gulf in Alabama, compelling the evacuation of Mobile.

There is no confirmation in the new reports that General Grant is preparing for active operations.

News and Rumors from West Virginia.

Headquarters Department Western Virginia, Feb. 17.—A correspondent of the New York *Herald*, at Gallipolis, informs us that he has had an interview with Mr. Wyhart, a fugitive and reliable citizen from near Jefferson, W. C., and that Mr. Wyhart gives him important information as follows: About three weeks ago, thirty men long, narrow and open boxes, caulked and tarred, were sent to Wytheville, in Wythe county, Western Virginia. These boxes were orders upon one. Officers had arrived and sent out men to collect strong light wagons and good horses from farmers of the neighborhood.

It was whispered among military men that there would soon be a raid into Ohio, and that the positions referred to would be drawn over-land to either the New or Kanawha river, and worked or floated down to the Ohio, and that the same would be crossed at two points—one column going by way of Barboursville and Guyandotte. It was rumored and expected that troops would arrive for concentration from both the Eastern and Western rebel armies. In regard to the above report I can only say this, that rumors have been in circulation for some time past of mysterious movements on the line of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad.

From Washington.

THE ENROLLMENT BILL.

Washington, February 17.—The Committee of Conference on the Enrollment Bill have agreed to exempt non-residents subject to call, usually for one year, upon payment of $300. The Committee have not agreed to the amendment of the House proposing the enrollment of persons of African descent, and the payment of $300 to the loyal owner of any slave who may be drafted.

The Committee struck out the clause exempting the Vice President, heads of departments, Judges and Governors. The only persons exempt are those who are physically and mentally unfit, and those actually in the military or naval service, or discharged therefrom after two years' honorable service.

The report of the Committee will be made in both Houses to-morrow, and will undoubtedly be adopted.

GOV. BRAMLETTE ON NEGRO ENLISTMENT IN KENTUCKY.

A letter quite recently addressed to him has been received on the War Department from Governor Bramlette, requesting the raising of negro troops in Kentucky. It is not probable that any change of Government policy will be effected thereby.

Governor Bramlette, in the course of his letter, says, if the Government will not consent to the raising of negro troops in Kentucky, he shall consent to take Kentucky by force, having raised 70 local regiments for that purpose.

BLOCKADE OF BROWNSVILLE.

Washington, Feb. 18.—President Lincoln has issued a proclamation declaring that the ports of Brownsville, Texas, is released from blockade and from all other blockade.

ATTEMPT OF PRISONERS AT POINT LOOKOUT TO ESCAPE.

Washington, February 17.—The evening's *Star* has the following:

The King Philip, Acting Master Frank, arrived at the Navy-yard yesterday afternoon from the Lower Potomac, bringing as prisoners officers at the camp of rebel prisoners of war, at Point Lookout, discovered that some of the prisoners were making arrangements to escape.

By some means some of the prisoners had procured some lumber, with which they had built two boats, in which it was supposed they were to embark for the Virginia shore. Fortunately, they were detected before they had reached the beach. They had collected some seventy old muskets and a lot of swords, &c., which must have been brought some distance.—It is thought, however, that but few of the prisoners were to attempt to escape, unless, indeed, more boats were to be built, as the two built could not carry more than fifty.

PARTICULARS OF THE ESCAPE OF UNION PRISONERS FROM RICHMOND.

Baltimore, February 17.—The escaped Union officers reached here this morning, and go to Washington this afternoon. The account of their escape is full of exciting interest, but for prudential reasons many particulars are withheld from publication at present. They were fifty one days in making a tunnel. Having managed to find a means of concealment, they remained in the tunnel, working by night, relieving one another as opportunity offered. Their instruments were case-knives, pocket-knives, chisels and files. Twice they had to abandon their work and commence anew, on account of obstructions which they could not pass. They had hoped to avail themselves of a culvert, but found it impracticable after getting through the wall. They disposed of the excavated earth by dumping it up in a cellar, which they attached to a room. This would be filled by the party at work in the tunnel, and pulled out into the cellar by their companions, who disposed of it by spreading it in thin layers over the floor, concealing it beneath the straw.

The work was, necessarily, very slow. So close was the atmosphere in the tunnel that they could remain in it but a few minutes at a time, and their candles would go out.

At one time they got so near the head of the street that they could hear the guard pass in stove-pipe, broke through, but, fortunately, was not discovered by the guard, and was a great service in admitting air and enabling them to prosecute their work more rapidly.

The tunnel, when completed, was about sixty feet long, and opened into an old tobacco shed beyond the line of guards. As soon as they found the way clear they emerged slowly, in couple squads of two or three, and sauntered off until they got clear of the guards, making their way toward the Williamsburg Road by the shortest routes. The darkness favored them and the fact that the rebel soldiers whom they met were hoisted in the army coats of Uncle Sam.

In order to elude the pursuers, who they knew would soon be on their track, they scattered as much as possible. Many were their hardships and sufferings, and frequent their narrow escapes from the rebel cavalry, who the next morning were busy hunting in every direction for them.

Latest New York Markets.

New York, February 18.—Money easy at 6; sterling dull at 174@; gold dull, opening at 80¼, and closing at 80¾ to 80¾. Government stocks very firm; 6's of '81 coupons 110¾ to 111, 7 30's 105⅞ to 106

Cotton dull, heavy and drooping at 60c. for mixed uplands.

Cincinnati, February 18.—A dull and heavy market for flour, and quotations are nominal; superfine is offered at $5 50 to 5 65; extra $5 75 to 6, and family $6 50 to 6 50.

Corn firm at $1 for new ear and $1 05 for new shelled in bulk.

Whisky closed buoyant at 86c.

Sugar held 4c. higher. Coffee firm at 34¾ to 36c. New Orleans Molasses 67 to 70c.

New York quiet at $22 to 22 50, one year old advanced to $18 50 to 19. Bulk meats quiet but firm, at 7¾ to 8¼c. for shoulders and 9¾ to 10c. for rib sides; 10½ to 11c. for clear sides and 11½ to 12c. for hams; 1000 boxes short clear middles sold at 11¾.

Lard cold and not saleable at over 12½ to 12¾c. but 8c. higher is asked.

St. Louis, February 18, 4 P. M.—The river being closed above, operations were light and receipts small.

Flour—Market dull, but feeling seems to be somewhat better, with sales of 225 bbls. including 27 unbranded at $5 50 do. super at $5 20 delivered; 90 do super at $5 30 delivered; 50 do super at $5 50 delivered.

Corn—In firmer, closing with upward tendency; sales consist of 1200 sks, in various lots, mostly new, at $1 05, $1 06, $1 08 and $1 10.

Oats—In demand, with sales of 151 sks, in lots, at 92 to 93c.

Hay—Is lower, with sales of 277 bales, in lots, at $1 40 on Levee to $1 50 delivered.

Lard—We quote sales, as follows: 105 tcs choice steam rendered and 80 pks., kettle rendered, in bbls, at 9c.

Pork—The feeling continues firm, and a sale of bulk meat for April delivery comprised the packers of 1000 hogs at 7¾c. for shoulders and 10c. for hams and sides of the former.

Whisky—In demand, and sales of 100 bbls. at 85c.

Beans—$2 95 to 2 90. Dried Peaches $1 to 1 10. Apples $1 75 to 2.

A Refugee's Account of the Situation in Mississippi and Alabama.

THE APPROACHES AND DEFENSES OF MOBILE

The Memphis *Bulletin* of the 21st publishes the following account of affairs in Mississippi and Alabama, given by a refugee, a Northern man, but, long a resident of the South, who arrived at Huntsville, Ala., on the 10th inst.:

At Meridian, 90 miles east of Jackson, the enemy had no fortifications.

At Macon, Miss., still south of West Point, on the Mobile and Ohio road, there is a long bridge below the depot which is protected by stockades.

At Lowndesville were the main or principal hospitals of Johnston's army. Here were two bridges, one above and one below the depot.

At Chunkey, with stockade between Newton and Chunkey, and one on a small stream near Chunkey.

At Chunkey, a few miles from Meridian, they have two large stockades on the river side.

At Okolona, Miss., the rebels have two bat teries, Oregon, 8 pounder battery and Buckner's of 2 pounders—at a distance 800 to 1000 yards the latter is effective.

At Columbus, Miss., were stationed Rice's and Terrill's batteries, about sixty men to each, a company of cavalry detached from Pillow's force (now at or near Jackson,) 4th Mississippi cavalry. Columbus is fortified with some twenty miles of substantial earthworks, with appropriate forts and ditches. But it would take 50,000 men to garrison the place against any formidable assault. No smaller force could do much good for the Confederates.

Columbus is situated on the east side of the Tombigbee river, and is provided with a splendid bridge connecting the two shores. Near the western end of the bridge are located two stockades, but they are very small and rudely constructed, not capable of holding more than twenty men. One hundred cavalrymen could garrison it. On the west or further end of the bridge there are also two stockades.

Two fording places are also fortified or protected, one at the end of Main street and one below the town. The town itself is not fortified at all. It is recommended that our forces, when they visit Columbus, should cross the Tombigbee between the Columbus and Aberdeen. Columbus is a very important point on account of the millions of dollars worth of the most valuable goods, that are located some extensive Jundries, machine shops, and clothing and other manufactories for clothing for General Joe. Johnston's army were manufactured here. There are extensive depots of Quartermasters' supplies at Columbus. The place was in August commanded by Brig. Gen.

At West Point, west of Columbus about twenty miles, there is an immense region of open country or prairie of fertile soil, from which the rebels gain their supplies of corn and other grain. He tells me that there were millions of bushels of corn stored in this region last summer.

At Meridian is located an extensive manufactory of small arms, and several factories of other descriptions. There are also camps of paroled prisoners, cotton carding mills, and two gunboats were being built.

In the rear of Mobile, and as much as five miles from the city, are three heavy lines of earth works. Fort No. 1 is on the southeast side of the city. Fort No. 2 is on the east side of the river, opposite St. Michael street. As you go down the river, turning to the left you come to the landing of the Mobile and Ohio railroad. Here is located battery No. 3, consisting of three rifled 32 pound guns, and one 10 inch gun. This is called the Spanish battery. Further down the bay, to the left, is battery No 6, called Pizzo's battery. Between the and Fort Morgan, are batteries Cheatham, Cedar Plain, Grand Gulf and Lieutenant—in all, six, consisting each of six 32-pound rifled cannon.

At the time my informant was there, Fort Morgan had 300 men in it, of the First Confederate regiment and Fort Gaines was garrisoned by about an equal number.

Upon the walls and within the embrasures of Fort Gaines are 60 guns, or 32 guns and the rest heavy mortars to throw shells at vessels. Fort Morgan has 100 guns and a number of howitzers. Two of the guns from Fort Sumter, used in the bombardment of Charleston, have been removed to Fort Morgan, and are now there, prepared to do more of the same kind of work.

About the harbor of Mobile the rebels have two gunboats—the Morgan and the Gaines—each having on deck some ten guns, but the propelling power of these boats is defective. They move very slowly.

There is a third gunboat, called the Selma, made like a barge, after the monitor pattern, carrying eight guns, but she cannot be of much effect, from the same cause—defective motive power. In addition to these, the Confederates have two very small iron-clad monitors, but they also are clumsy steamers in the water. They have a bowitzer in front and five port guns each.

With the exceptions named, my informant says the entire defenses from Meridian to within five miles of Mobile was unfortified, and unprotected by Confederate soldiers. Excepting the railroad, in case up or seriously destroyed, there is nothing to prevent a force from moving direct by that route. At the same time, cavalry troops might co-operate by moving them south from Jackson as far as, say, Brookhaven, and then sending across to comply cutting the road in a south westerly course in the rear of Mobile.

The country five miles back of Mobile, which has been fortified, is described low and flat and full of swamps of cedars, even when thus fortified, the way of the land being an almost natural line of defense. We have not been to hear that the rebels have reinforced Vicksburg and Memphis. The country is low and level, and at the same time wet and boggy.

The United States mail steamship YAZOO, Gen. W. Cosch, commanding, left her wharf at 5 o'clock last evening, for New York direct, with a full freight, the United States mails and the following passengers:

Mrs S Asmy and three children, Mr W K Gruber, lady and child, Mrs Von Schoellhausen and two children, A W Gardner and lady, Miss Gardner, Ed Wilson, Lieutenant, A G Fiveat, Jos Peak, F Buntzel, Jos Randel, F B Hollingsworth, F D Meyer, F V D Stocker, and 56 in the steerage.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Provost Court—Judge Abeles presiding.—D. Johnson, who filled his canteen on the Levee with molasses, was sent to the Workhouse for 60 days.

J. E. Aggerson, of the First N. H. cavalry, who struck Asa Rose so that she complained about it, (some one month's pay) and is to stay in the guardhouse a whole week.

E. W. Tabor of the N. O volunteers, who used seditious language, was sentenced to loose one month's pay.

John Collins, who slisted two months ago as a substitute, turned out to be a thief. He was convicted of having stolen an overcoat and a revolver. He was sent to Tortugas for the term of his enlistment.

The Late Carrollton Homicide.—Ch. Thorm was tried yesterday, before Judge Abeles, on the charge of having feloniously shot and killed Lieut. Randolph and wounded a private in his company, some weeks back, in a grocery near Camp Parapet, on the Shell Landing. The evidence showed that the deceased, with three soldiers, had a carriage ride, and in the evening, after seven o'clock, came before the grocery, which was closed, as was the custom for Sunday, and after eleven o'clock, A. M., till Monday morning. The wife of the grocery keeper happened to be alone in the house, and was putting her child to bed, when the party knocked at the door. She told them she was alone, and that the grocery would not be opened until next morning. Her husband then, with Mr. Shafer, returned from a walk, and came in the back way. She called on her husband, and Shafer informed the knocking party that they could not come in the door was then burst open by the men who rushed in and knocked Shafer down, who fell against the bar, the proprietor of the house was struck over the head with some dull cutting instrument, inflicting a wound which laid the top of the skull bare, leaving its mark on the bone. At this time the deceased came in from hunting, and was also severely handled, as was the lady of the house, who received a black eye and was shocked in so severe that the marks of the fingers on her neck could be seen several days afterwards. As soon as accomplished that fire was kindled in the stove and it was ordered to be thrown on the floor. As the flames burst forth the party left the house, dragging the deceased with them, and when