THE NEW ORLEANS DAILY BEE
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TERMS OF THE BEE

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Semi-Weekly Edition.

TERMS—PER YEAR.....$5

NEW ORLEANS:
THURSDAY MORNING, JAN. 13, 1870.

TRY GEORGE ALGER CIGARS,
185.....Rampart street.....189

Amusements This Evening.

OPERA HOUSE—Boyer-bee's grand opera "LA Sonnambula."
VARIETIES THEATRE—"Ely Van Winkle."
CHARLES THEATRE—Lydia Thompson Troupe "Robert the Soldier"
ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—Miss Ellen Hall and Burlesque Troupe.

THE DUTIES OF THE CORONER.

The Coroner or Deputy Coroner of the First District of this city has rendered the inquest into the murder of Mr. Jesse Mixon's child, in an irregular a manner as to elicit much comment on the part of the public, not favorable to that officer. The Coroner seems to think his duties very extensive and his discretionary power large. He seems to think he can postpone the inquest from day to day and otherwise regulate and legislate out a very simple inquiry. It is stated in the Picayune reports of the proceedings in this affair, to-day, that the Coroner, for the purpose of obtaining testimony, wished to adjourn the inquest from Monday morning until yesterday, and promised in the meantime to prepare written testimony which he would submit to them at that time.

Now this is all wrong, as the Coroner would understand if he comprehended the duties of his office, which we evidently question. Mr. Mixon was buried on Monday evening. There could be no legal inquiry on a dead body after burial, unless it be exhumed or unless the jury of inquest have examined it before burial, and ordinarily the inquest should be conducted at one sitting.

Before setting forth what the Coroner's duties are, we shall first say what is not his duty.

The Coroner is not a committing magistrate, and he is not called upon to make the same kind of inquiries into a homicide that a committing magistrate does when an accused party is brought before him. It is not in the contemplation of the law that the Coroner should postpone from hour to hour and day to day the inquest he is making. The law contemplates that when a man has come to his death by suspicious circumstances, that officers will be made by the guilty person and his friends to conceal or destroy the evidence of the crime which the dead body itself furnishes. It is the *corpus delicti*, that is, the substance or foundation of the offence which must first be laid—the fact of its commission. The proof of the fact, the dead body bears. It is this proof which it is the Coroner's duty to preserve. The moment the Coroner is notified of a suspicious death he should repair at once—the language of the law is "forthwith"—to the place where the corpse lies, and being satisfied, upon inquiry, that death was caused by violence, should summon his jury [illegible] and hold his inquest before the corpse has been buried. There was no reason why this should not have been done on Saturday night or Sunday morning if the Coroner had understood the duties of his office. Under the circumstances, as developed by the inquest, the two days' delay that took place before the Coroner's jury rendered their verdict was unnecessarily. There was no need for so much testimony as we find was heard by the jury.

So far as the present case is concerned no harm has been done, but that is because of the publicity of the facts independent of any inquest, and the attendant circumstances, which rendered an inquest simply unnecessary. It is that future inquests should be conducted in a more regular manner and that we direct the Coroner's attention to the law.

THE MECHANICS' AND AGRICULTURAL FAIR ASSOCIATION.—An announcement of this society elsewhere, heralding their annual fair, which will be held at the Fair Grounds in this city, on the 23d of April next, continuing for nine days, has been published.

The Directors are desirous of interesting our citizens with them in this enterprise to a greater extent and more directly than is now the case. They invite cooperation by the purchase of stock in the enterprise. Every citizen who desires the prosperity of New Orleans must look with favor upon the objects the association have in view. All classes of the community are interested in the advancement of those objects, because all are benefitted by it, directly or indirectly. We heartily commend the work to our readers, and hope the exhibition will be made to surpass in attractiveness all former displays.

THE HOME WASHER.—We invite attention to the advertisement in another column, announcing the opening of ware-rooms at No. 176 Canal street, by the New Orleans Home Manufacturing Company for the sale of the Home Washer. The public are invited to call and see it in practical operation. It is acknowledged by all who have seen it to be the most perfect of any of the many inventions designed for the lessening of human toil.

LECTURES BY REV. DR. WISE.—The attention of our readers is directed to the announcement in another column of three lectures by Rev Dr. Wise on the Gospel and Talmud, at the Dauenhe Company Hall, corner Bienville streets and Exchange Alley, on January 23, 26 and 30th.

Anthony A. Adams, the inventor of the Bronchial Tabs, which are compounded with a dry tenacious principle "*Brown's Bronchial Troches*", will in future have its immediate relief. For Coughs, Colds, and Throat Diseases, the Troches have proved their efficacy.

"Old Lady Friend having tried many remedies for Asthma with no benefit, found great relief from the Troches."—Rev. D. LEITZ, Frankfort, Ill.

From St. Landry Parish.

The Opelousas *Journal*, of the 8th inst., thus notices the death of Judge Porter:

Died on the 2d of January, 1870, Judge James H. Porter, a native of the parish of Vermillion, but for twenty-five years a resident of this parish.

Few life-records can boast so clean a sifting and investigation, without leaving a portion of their quality, as that of the honored citizen whose name heads this obituary.

Judge Porter's professional career, which embraced the whole period of his residence in St Landry, was a lawyer, then as judge of the Eighth Judicial District, was marked by ability and incorruptible integrity.

As a lawyer, he was faithful to his clients, to a degree which not unfrequently conflicted with his own private interests. The dignity of his judicial bearing, his well poised demeanor, his single-minded love of truth and justice, his conscientiousness, endeared his life as a reliable lawyer and a trustworthy friend. Many, we will venture to assert, was the poisoned arrow lost stained by adversary, want of courtesy, and corruption, as when it robbed him in its noblest attributes.

It is true of his public life that candor must come, as a whole generously to speak of Judge Porter. But what can we say of him as husband, father, friend, and citizen, which would not appear exaggerated to those who have never been brought within the circle of his influence?

Perfect amiability, charity of word and deed, that which never coalesces in harsh judgments or bitter invectives, eyes which only saw the good of fellowmen, a mind which had grasped and held fast to the truths of sovereign—all these made up a man whose we can as ill spare, as any other vital truth of Humanity.

We are less or for having known him. Like the spray of Evangreen, which his brother Masons have deposited to his grave, and he stood high in their noble Order; his memory will be green among us. There are "men, and men," and among this Judge Porter, we bury a very out of our sight, whose knowledge that the dead are more precious than the quick, the pain of his bereavement is found in Eternity.

From New York.

A late New York paper contains the following:

THE CHOICE OF THE SEASON.—Guinotte Benoist's Remedy.—The remainder of the season's gentlemen, ladies have been elected, of 8 more boys, and 10 more girls, to grace the next night's promenade, dancing and party to come, inaugural by the Ladies' Excelsior. The weather was cold that night in Oakland, and the promenade of a quadrille and thirteen couples to Mozart's grand march from the opera of "Don Giovanni" was a most delightful, refreshing event, which added to the general gaiety, and the [illegible] of the season of the festival.

A handsome collation was served between the officers appointed for the next festivities and the committee of the festivals, and the health of Guinotte Benoist was drunk in champagne. Whatever may be the [illegible] of Fu-Fu-ism, a tribute to Guinotte is so based on the principle of [illegible] and that every man, woman and child in the country should [illegible] to