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TERMS OF THE BEE.
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First or Editorial Page, transient advertisements, each insertion, $2 50 per square.
A deduction from the above rates will be allowed to all new, each insertion.
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All transient advertisements must be paid for in advance.
All advertisements not marked for any number of insertions will be published six times.
All bills with regular advertisers shall be rendered monthly.

Weekly Edition.
TERMS—PER YEAR.....$5.
THURSDAY MORNING, DEC. 28, 1871.

The New Orleans Bee.

OFFICE 73 CHARTRES STREET. NEW ORLEANS, THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 28, 1871. 45th YEAR—Vol. XLV.—Whole—15,5053.

PROPOSED REFORMS IN ASSESSING AND COLLECTING STATE TAXES.

The reforms effected by the bill which has been prepared by the Custom-House wing of the Republican party upon the subject of the assessment and collection of taxes, a synopsis of which we published on Saturday last, as far as they go, are to be commended. If adopted by the Legislature they may be expected to work an improvement in this branch of the State administration. The framers of this new bill had in view the following principal objects:

1. To provide for a better and more correct assessment of taxable property.
2. To secure a more efficient collection of the taxes.
3. To reduce the cost of assessment and collection of the taxes.
4. To withdraw from the Governor of the State the power of appointment of Tax Collectors and to transfer same power to the Auditor and Treasurer of the State jointly, those officers being required to designate suitable persons to the Governor whose only duty in connection therewith is to nominate to the Senate the persons so designated.
5. To abolish the offices of assessors and collectors in the parish of Orleans and to devolve their duties upon the administrators of assessment and finance of the city of New Orleans.

The present cost to the State of assessment and collection is about five hundred thousand dollars. The authors of the new bill estimate that a saving can be effected under its provisions of about four hundred thousand dollars.

Undoubtedly such a saving is a high recommendation of the measure to which we have reference and we cannot say that the estimate is exaggerated. We know of no reason why the sum of one hundred thousand dollars should not cover all the expense attendant upon the realization of this portion of the receipts of the Treasury.

As to the withdrawal from the Governor of the patronage at present enjoyed by him in appointing the Collectors of taxes, we think experience has proved that the Executive Department can well bear to be shorn of a portion of its power. Under existing circumstances the patronage of the Governor is enormous and enables him to exercise almost absolute power, and, in fact, to perpetuate his rule. We cannot but approve a measure which contemplates stripping the Executive of an influence which is exerted or is capable of being exerted for the promotion of personal interests rather than for the benefit of the people of the State. Whether the power will be more beneficially wielded by the officers in whose hands it is proposed to place it, remains to be seen. We see no objection to the trial being made. The Auditor and Treasurer cannot make a worse use of the appointing power than the Governor has done, and we are willing to believe in the probability of its wise exercise by the former. But why should we not imitate the Federal Civil Service Reformers—those who advocate the one-term principle for the Presidency—and repeal that provision of our Constitution which renders the Governor eligible for re-election? Do the Republicans of the Custom-house wing not see how great a blunder they committed in incorporating that amendment in the Constitution which enables Warmoth to scheme for his re-election? Do they not see that reform to be complete must begin with the "one-term" principle, and that a step out that they propose to play "Hamlet with Hamlet left out," as Senator Sumner said in his criticism of Gen. Grant's civil service reform recommendations.

We suggest to Col. Carter that he and his friends should introduce a resolution in the Legislature which would effect a repeal of the amendment to the Constitution which temporarily enables the Governor to plot for a second term.

The name of the writer of the letter published in our issue of yesterday and headed "Modern Sons of Belial" was given by an error of the printer, as we understand, incorrectly. It should have been credited to Col. Napier Bartlett.

MAIL TO DONALDSONVILLE.—Col. Lowell, the postmaster of this city, informs us that on and after January 1st, 1872, the mail for Donaldsonville and such other offices as may be established on the route, will be dispatched daily via the New Orleans, Mobile and Texas Railroad, leaving New Orleans in the morning and returning in the evening.

In our advertising columns, on the French side, will be found the card of Madame May, 250 Common street, who professes to cure disease, read the past and present of her visitors, and foretell their future history, by means of communications with the Spirit World.

PERIODICAL LITERATURE.—There is always a rich treat at hand in C. G. D. Hoffe's Emporium, No. 61 Exchange Alley, for the readers of periodicals, reviews, illustrated newspapers and other work which constitute the chief ephemeral literature of Europe and America. From the specimens sent us last evening we infer that Hoffe's stock must be at this moment unusually large and attractive. He has received full files of the *Illustrated London News*, a sterling periodical; *Frank Leslie's Ladies' Journal* and *Illustrated Newspaper*; *Mme. Demorest's Holiday Journal*, the New York *Fireside Companion*; the New York *Ledger*, and the January numbers of *Harper's Magazine* and *Godey's Lady's Book*.

Senator Kellogg, of Louisiana, submitted the following resolution in the U. S. Senate on the 19th instant:

TOURO HOSPITAL IN NEW ORLEANS.—Mr. Kellogg submitted the following resolution, which was considered by unanimous consent, and agreed to:

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be directed to transmit to the Senate any information that may be on file in his department, or in that of the Freedmen's Bureau, showing whether the building known as the Touro Hospital, in the city of New Orleans, was occupied by or under the control of the United States Government at the time of its destruction, and also any information showing who was responsible for its destruction.

RIVER FRONTAGE AT NEW ORLEANS.—I also offer the following resolution, and ask for it present consideration:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Navy be directed to transmit to the Senate any information on file in his department, or that he may be able to obtain, showing what portion, if any, of the wharf or river frontage at the port of New Orleans, is now claimed or occupied by the Government; and if so, upon what ground and for what purpose the same is so claimed or occupied.

Loss of the Florida Vessel and Cargo a Total Loss.

We are indebted to Capt. F. C. Pendleton, of the steamship Florida, for the following particulars of the loss of his vessel:

Crossed the bar at Pass-a-l'Outre on Friday, December 22, at sunrise, bound to Apalachicola, wind south-southeast, fresh; at 12 M. wind and sea increasing; at 1 P. M. found the water gaining rapidly on the pumps, in consequence of which headed the vessel for Mobile, that being the nearest port.

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At 8 A. M. found eight feet of water in the hold; the vessel in the trough of the sea and unmanageable; all hopes of getting her to land were abandoned. All hands then took to the boats, and landed that night twenty miles to the eastward of Mobile Point. In going through the surf, the second mate's boat was swamped, and John Reed, colored, the cook, was drowned.

The Florida was one of the New Orleans, Florida and Havana Steamship Company's steamers. She was a staunch ship, ably commanded. She was not insured. Her measurement was 298 tons.

ECONOMY.—By using Mrs. Whitcomb's Syrup for children many a doctor's bill can be saved and much suffering averted.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Early yesterday morning, Captain Marions, of the detectives, and some of his specials surrounded a house in the rear of the Third District, in which one Frank O'Brien, reported to be a daring burglar, was living secretly, and arrested him. He is said to have been one or the party who were committing a burglary in the grocery at the corner of St. Claude and St. Ann streets a few weeks ago, when Peterson was shot by the proprietor, and received the wound of which he died.

In a difficulty which took place between some colored men, and a white man named Michael Butler, late on Tuesday night, at No. 69 Washington st., in the Fourth District, James Williams, one of the colored men, was shot in the left arm by Butler, it is charged, who, with two of the colored men, were arrested.

Daniel Williams is under arrest in the Fourth District, accused of attempting to violate the person of Selina Davis, a girl but eleven years of age.

Charles Bacque, a police officer convicted of illegally arresting Mr. Charles Schmidt, a merchant, having been brought before the First Distrit Court yesterday, was sentenced to imprisonment for one day. That is the sort of punishment that encourages policemen to commit outrages upon citizens.

An application has been made to Judge Abell to admit to bail Guillaume Wattigny, accused of having murdered Gottfried Baas, who was killed at the corner of Rampart and Congress streets, on the night of the 7th October last.

Havana lottery tickets to the amount of $10,000, sent to Messrs. Desangles and Alsar, on the steamship Yazoo, were seized on board the vessel by the Sheriff, Tuesday morning, at the instance of the Louisiana Lottery Company, which instituted a suit for the purpose in the Sixth District Court, and which contends that the tickets can be forfeited, as the company has the exclusive right to sell lottery tickets in this State.

Albert Crosby and Charles C. Smith are in jail awaiting examination on a charge of having stolen a pocket-book containing a diamond ring valued at $175, and $47 in currency, the property of Catherine McDonnell.

The body of John Hampson, mate of the ship Success, who was drowned on Saturday last, was found yesterday at Post 19, First District.

At 11 o'clock yesterday morning the one-story frame building, at the corner of Peters and Hancock streets, owned by Mr. Robert, who kept a store there, was totally destroyed by fire, together with the stock. Insured for $300.

A man named Henry Johnson, who was stabbed in the abdomen on board the steamboat Frank Pargoud, near the Red Church, on Sunday last, was received in the Charity Hospital yesterday and is thought to be in a dangerous condition. Fabius Kenny, who is said to have given the wound, has been arrested.

A stranger in the city reports the police that he was robbed of $200 currency, a gold watch and chain and a ring, in a house of ill fame on Dryades street, last evening.

An unoccupied two-story frame house, on Esplanade street, between Goodchildren and Moralez streets, owned by Mr. Smith, was damaged by fire last night to the amount of $400. The fire is attributed to incendiarism. The loss is covered by insurance.

The clothing store of Henry Heig, No. 65 Tchoupitoulas street, was entered last evening and robbed of goods of the value of $100, and the police report that Dan Eagan is the owner of the party who committed the larceny.

The Latest Outrage by the Police.—Some years ago the City Council had ordinances fixing the rates that should be charged for riding in cabs or hacks and the proprietors of public vehicles were required to have printed cards, in public view, in their carriages, showing the tariff of fares fixed by the Council. This law was abrogated and, for several years, it has not existed. It was done away with for the same reason that a tariff of rates for dray men was done away with and that the bread ordinance, providing that a certain quantity of bread should be sold for a certain price has become a dead letter. The reason for it is the impossibility of attempting, by law, to fix the price or value of any service or commodity. For instance, how can the price of bread be fixed justly, when flour, labor, feed for horses, horses themselves and wagons, and household expenses are varying, the value or amount every day? Likewise how can the compensation of a drayman or a hackman be justly fixed, when vehicles, horses and mules, harness, feed, and domestic expenses vary from day to day? If the Council or any other law-making body undertakes to regulate the price of one service or one commodity, which is a general necessity, why not regulate the compensation of all classes and the price of all services or commodities whose services or whose goods are either universally or partially required by the public? Why not fix the rates of freight on steamboats and on ships, as well as the rates of carriage on cabs or drays? Why not fix the price of flour and of feed and the price of bakers as well as the price of bread? To do one involves the necessity of doing the other, if the lawmaker aims to be just.

So much for the history of the cab and hack tariff and the erroneous principle upon which the ordinance was based. About six o'clock on Tuesday evening detachments of Metropolitans appeared at the principal cabstands formidably equipped, as usual, with clubs and revolvers. The drivers, peaceably and patiently standing by their carriages, waiting for fares, were ordered to move, their horses and their carriages and horses were seized and taken to the public pounds. Upon being asked what they were arrested for, why their property was taken out of their possession, they were told that it was for violating the cab tariff publicly exposed in their vehicles—the tariff which has not existed for several years. This was the charge against which they were taken to jail and their property seized! After remaining in prison about two hours Mr. Administrator Lewis, of the Police Department, visited the lock-up at Lafayette Square, where the prisoners were confined, and had them admitted to bail and released the carriages and horses to be released by the pound keepers. Everyone, however, was required to pay a dollar for his horse before he would be discharged and some paid poundage also. It is stated, before they could get possession of their carriages and horses. The condition of the bondsmen is that the prisoners were to appear before the Recorder of the First District yesterday morning. They appeared accordingly, when there being no law authorizing the extraordinary proceeding against them, they were discharged.

Here are three distinct violations of law: First, the arrest and imprisonment of the drivers or owners; second, the seizure of their properties, and third, the charge of one dollar for poundage, which, even if the parties were culpable, no law allows, and therefore it was a theft. The original design seems to have been to extort money from the people arrested. The hackmen can obtain no redress, in the way of damages, for the outrage upon their rights as peaceable citizens engaged in a respectable avocation, for a license to follow which they are compelled to pay a heavy tax. The vexatious fines which they have imposed upon them by the City Council, and the exactions of the police, in public view, in their carriages, showing the tariff of fares fixed by the Council. This law was abrogated and, for several years, it has not existed. It was done away with for the same reason that a tariff of rates for dray men was done away with and that the bread ordinance, providing that a certain quantity of bread should be sold for a certain price has become a dead letter. The reason for it is the impossibility of attempting, by law, to fix the price or value of any service or commodity. For instance, how can the price of bread be fixed justly, when flour, labor, feed for horses, horses themselves and wagons, and household expenses are varying, the value or amount every day? Likewise how can the compensation of a drayman or a hackman be justly fixed, when vehicles, horses and mules, harness, feed, and domestic expenses vary from day to day? If the Council or any other law-making body undertakes to regulate the price of one service or one commodity, which is a general necessity, why not regulate the compensation of all classes and the price of all services or commodities whose services or whose goods are either universally or partially required by the public? Why not fix the rates of freight on steamboats and on ships, as well as the rates of carriage on cabs or drays? Why not fix the price of flour and of feed and the price of bakers as well as the price of bread? To do one involves the necessity of doing the other, if the lawmaker aims to be just.

Grant's Appointment to Office.

We perceive, says the New York *Tribune*, that some of the Court journals are busy defending the President for his appointment of numerous relatives (their accounts range from thirteen to thirty) to lucrative offices. It seems to us small business. The appointments should be defended, if at all, on the score of their fitness, in accordance with the principles of the City Service Reform, so much professed, years ago, and so little practiced. The question of relationship appears rather petty. And yet James Parton has just been bringing to light, in his pretty little volume of Washington's sayings, a letter from our new President to his nephew, Samuel Washington, which, it must be sorrowfully breathes an air of austere virtue we should be glad to think not also wholly antique:

"You cannot doubt my wishes to see you appointed to any office of power or emolument in this new government, to the duties of which you are competent; but, however deserving you may be of the one you have suggested, your standing as the lar would not justify my nomination of you as Attorney to the Federal District Court in preference to some of the oldest and most esteemed general court lawyers in your own State, who are witnesses of this appointment. My political conduct in nominations, even if I were uninfluenced by principle, must be exceedingly circumspect and proof against just criticism; for the eyes of argus are upon me, and no slip will pass unnoticed that can be improved into a supposed partiality for friends or relations."

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BY TELEGRAPH.

To the New Orleans Bee.

FOREIGN NEWS.

General Income Tax Rejected.

More Troops for Cuba.

General Valmaseda Last Proclamation.

HOME NEWS.

Disappearance of Tweed Confirmed.

All Quiet in Chicot County, Ark.

Miscellaneous Intelligence.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Paris, Dec. 27.—In the National Assembly to-day the proposition for levying a general income tax was rejected by a large majority.

Paris Dec. 27.—M. de Goulard, the new French Minister to Italy, will leave for Rome on the 10th of January.

The ladies of Strasburg have organized a committee to receive subscriptions towards payment of French indemnity to Germany.

London, Dec. 27.—A mail steamer from the Cape of Good Hope has arrived and brings accounts of the manner in which the announcement of the annexation of African territories to the British Dominions was received by the inhabitants.

The intelligence that the treaty had been finally concluded produced much excitement.

Mr. Brand, President of the Free State, has issued a formal protest against the transfer of the diamond fields to Great Britain.

Discoveries of gold in considerable quantities had been made in Transvaal Republic, the reports of which have attracted many adventurers to that quarter. Diamond seekers were abandoning their districts for the newly discovered gold country.

Cape Town continued thronged with arriving and returning fortune hunters. The business of the colony was making great strides.

London, Dec. 27.—The Queen has returned to Sandringham.

Halifax, Dec. 27.—It is reported on good authority that all the British troops, except a few artillery, will be withdrawn from Halifax in the spring, which is now the only garrisoned city in the Dominion.

Madrid, Dec. 27.—A regiment of chasseurs sailed to-day for Cuba. King Amadeus was present and made the farewell speech to the troops, causing immense enthusiasm.

Rome, Dec. 27.—The Bishop of Palestine and Vice Chancellor of the Roman Church, died, aged 78 years. He was elevated to the Cardinalate in 1857.

King Victor Emmanuel congratulates Queen Victoria upon the recovery of the Prince of Wales.

Vienna, Dec. 27.—The Prince Karl Auersperg has been appointed President of the Upper House of the Reichsrath.

Vienna, Dec. 27.—The session of the Reichstag opened to-day, but the Emperor's speech will not be delivered until tomorrow. The Budgets of the Minister of Finance for the fiscal year have been submitted, and give the probable expenditure at 259,000,000 florins, against a revenue of 288,000,000.

Shanghai, Dec. 27.—The Chinese are imitating the Japanese in sending youths to England and America to be educated.

FROM HAVANA.

Havana, Dec. 27.—General Valmaseda has issued a proclamation in which he says the pacific offers of insurgents cannot last forever. He now proclaims that every insurgent captured after the 15th of January will be shot. Those surrendering after that date will be sentenced to perpetual imprisonment. Negroes are to be treated the same as whites. All negro women captured will be delivered to their owners and be compelled to wear a chain for four years. All white women captured in the woods after the 15th of January will be banished from the country.

Chiefs of insurgent bands will be allowed to surrender till the 15th of January, under the condition hitherto granted.

Havana, Dec. 27.—In a recent engagement near Jiguani, a Spanish Colonel, Obergeron, was killed.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The President will have a reception as usual on New Year's day.

Secretary Robeson has returned.

There is but little doing at the departments.

The commission investigating Treasurer Spinner's office and, so far, no further defalcations.

Washington, Dec. 27.—On and after the first proximo, defaced or mutilated United States notes and fractional currency, instead of being redeemable as now only by the United States Treasury, subject to discount for mutilation, will be redeemed at their full face value in new notes or currency. The bond required be discharged and some paid poundage also, it is stated, before they could get possession of their carriages and horses. The condition of the bondsmen is that the prisoners were to appear before the Recorder of the First District yesterday morning. They appeared accordingly, when there being no law authorizing the extraordinary proceeding against them, they were discharged.

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