NEW-ORLEANS BEE.

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"Truth is omnipotent, and Public Justice certain."

WHIG

NOMINATION OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

FOR PRESIDENT.

WILLIAM H. HARRISON,

OF OHIO.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT.

JOHN TYLER,

OF VIRGINIA.

NEW-ORLEANS,

TUESDAY MORNING, FEB'Y. 11, 1840.

WHIG MEETING.

The WHIGS of New-Orleans are requested to meet in the spacious DINING ROOM of the ST. CHARLES HOTEL, on Thursday evening, at 7 o'clock.

The meeting will be addressed by Gen'l LESLIE COMBE, an officer in the revolutionary war, during the last war, and the GENERAL HARRISON, a warm friend of HENRY CLAY, and a distinguished member of the National Convention from Kentucky.

General COMBE will reflect the opinions of that venerable judge, the honorable JOHN ROWAN, and CASSADY and the business men from the country.

Gen'l HARRISON, and will enhance the most essential of the common blessings of civil Liberty—one of the glorious names of North Bend.

An opportunity so favorable will not be lost by the party, and we anticipate an overwhelming shewing of the friends of constitutional liberty and reform.

FIRE AT THE CITY EXCHANGE.

This morning about 4 o'clock that splendid building, the CITY EXCHANGE, was discovered on fire. The fire originated in one of the attick rooms on St. Louis street, and soon communicated itself to the roof.

O'clock.—Notwithstanding the efforts made to save this costly building, we fear it will become the prey of the devouring element—The flames are raging.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

When we apply the teachings of experience to the subject under consideration, they will be found to run us in the decided stand we have taken against the policy of making the body of the citizen answerable for the payment of debt. It has been demonstrated by the history of legislation upon this subject in other states, that the abolishment of imprisonment for debt has this effect: it makes the credible more cautious in allowing persons to become indebted. In other words: where the body is not liable for pay, credits are allowed with reference only to the honesty of character and his ability to pay. It cannot be denied that a great many credits are given with an eye to the legal remedy for collection. A man notoriously insolvent, but of wealthy connexion, can get credit in a state which sanctions imprisonment for debt. The creditor trusts him, knowing that his friends will come forward and pay, sooner than allow the person to be locked up in jail. Hence the fact becomes an element of credit; it enters into the consideration of a contract. Thus should not be. Property, honesty and industry should alone be a source of credit. Laws which are calculated to extend it, without adding anything of a solid nature to the resources of trade, give it an unhealthy stimulus.

An argument against imprisonment for debt may be drawn from the course pursued by those states that have abolish d it. In no single instance has the law been restored when abolished. Had the consequences of abolishment been hurtful, the legislature would have reinstated the law. But such benefits as have always followed liberal legislation upon this subject, that a proposition to restore the law would be hooted at. From no subject of legislation has such evident good flowed, as from a total and radical change in the ancient remedial statutes concerning debts.

The law, as established by the legislature of Kentucky, is perhaps the best of any of the states. In that commonwealth the statutes admit of no imprisonment except for some palpable violation of the penal code. Speaking of course is punishable by imprisonment, and it can be shown that a man has conveyed property by false pretences, he is then also amenable to punishment. But for indebtedness he cannot be touched in his person. His goods and chattles and lands choses in action are at the disposal of the law, but unless he attempts to conceal these, he cannot be imprisoned. The law goes upon the broad presumption which no legislator will deny:—*that indebtedness is not of itself a crime; and that non-payment is not of itself evidence of fraud; and that no person should be incarcerated, unless he commits silch a fraud or a fraud.* These propositions seem to be self-evident.—If they are correct it is certainly a most crying grievance that a person should be liable to imprisonment against whom neither crime nor fraud can be alleged.

We are told that it is an easy matter for a person to swear out of jail. We will refer to this part of the law at another opportunity.

Admitting that the law may afford the citizen some relief, how is it with strangers? What is its effect upon persons who reside in other states, and who come to this upon business? It is certain imprisonment. He is arrested at the suit of any body, and unless he can procure bail, which it is difficult for a stranger to get, he is put in jail, *and that before his indebtedness is proved.* In the greater number of cases, these arrests of strangers are at the suit of strangers; now what reason is there that the laws of Louisiana should be subservient to the petty tyranny of citizens of other states? Why should debts contracted in Kentucky, by Kentuckians with reference to the Kentucky mode of judicial redress, subject the accidental visitor or business man to the hard measure of our code. There is no reason, nor policy, nor justice in the law. The iniquitous proceedings of non-residents against their debtors whom they may catch in this place, has aided in giving to New-Orleans a desperate character abroad.

The remedy in Kentucky is this: The stranger is served with legal process,—if it is sworn that he is about to abscond from the state and *fraudulently* remove his goods out of the state. This is all that a non-resident should be required to do. It is not to be supposed that his means are in a different state from that he resides in. If he have means with him, he should be compelled to give them up. If he have none such improper that he should be dragged from his home and friends.

VIRGINIA.

The recent vote in the Virginia legislature on the case of Mr. RIVES' mission to the U. S. senate, added to a great many indications of disintegration of the once proud Old Dominion. When it is remembered that Mr. RIVES has publicly and unless strongly solicited on one occasion, raised opposition to MARTIN VAN BUREN and has declared his determination to support GEN'L HARRISON, the fact that on the very first ballot he received 53 votes—exactly one half the number of members in both houses—is a potent evidence of the desire of triumph of whig principles. It proves that the conservative party in Virginia are not by assuming the position of the N. Y. York conservatives; that they will act with the whigs as their friends and to the great struggle for the overthrow of the locofocos; and that if he whole party they will send a delegation to the National Convention to support those who advocate that nomination.

We had feared that the nearly equal division of parties on Mr. RIVES would not only have defeated him for re-election to the senate, but would have left him in a minority to ballot by ballot on express grounds that he was the choice of the whigs. But no—he was re-nominated by every member of the whig party in both houses, with the exception of three or four, and by a majority of the democratic party, with the three exceptions just mentioned. The democratic party are identified, and will move in accordance with the support of Gen'l HARRISON'S nomination.

GEN. HARRISON'S ABOLITIONISM.

A writer in the *Courier* with an article copied from the *Globe*, wherein that contemptible paper had extracted from the *Cincinnati Advertiser*, having Gen'l HARRISON in charge in an editorial on his locality. We are pronounced the charge a calumny. We are happy in being able to confront the front of our remark, the best of all possible testimony—that of a political opponent—the *Globe* editor, from which we quote the following extract, conclusive evidence of the utter falsehood of the charge:

HARRISON'S ABOLITIONISM.

The Cincinnati Advertiser copying Gen. Harrison's anti-abolition speech, says: "The whigs of the North, of every shade of opinion, have no reason to be ashamed of the sentiments contained in the above speech. Never was there a more explicit declaration of the principles of the Whig party, than is contained in the following extract, published in the Cincinnati Republican, and endorsed as the sentiments of the party by the organ of the Harrison party in Ohio, but its notoriety enough to be noticed. We have been requested, both by our friends and by those opposed to the forthcoming article from the Statesman, to give it to General Harrison, *to not only redress, but the shadow of foundation in fact.*

The Boston Queen had not arrived at 3 o'clock, P. M. of the 30th ult. It is supposed she could not have sailed on the first of January.

A Mrs. Darrell Powell, recently committed suicide in New York, through jealousy of her paramour. Gustave Hill, a native of England, and mate of the ship Archibald Gracie. She shot herself with a pocket horse pistol.

The Banks of Pennsylvania, have applied to the Philadelphia banks to take the loan for $750,000, recently authorized by the legislature.

The whole of the stock of the Philadelphia Opera House has been taken. It is believed the building will be completed and thrown open to the public by the 1st of next month.

The Weather.—In Franconia, N. H., the mercury on the thermometer fell about two weeks since, to 40 degrees below zero. This is perhaps the coldest weather ever felt within the limits of the United States.

A disastrous fire has nearly ruined the village of Binghamton, N. Y. Forty thousand dollars worth of property were consumed, of which insurance had been effected on little more than one half.

VIRGINIA U. S. SENATOR.

After many ineffectual ballottings continued during three days, and until a late hour of the night of the 31st ultimo, a resolution was adopted by both houses, postponing the election indefinitely. Thus Virginia has been a second time deprived of her just representation in the United States senate. Mr. Rives comes reputedly within a single vote of success, but the three unprincipled, Messrs. Bayly, Smith and Crawford, persisted in throwing away their votes. Upon them rests the responsibility of his defeat.

CONGRESS—JANUARY 29.

But little was done in the senate to-day. A communication was presented from the war department, shewing the number of persons mustered and the amount of property destroyed by the late Indian war. Further correspondence on the boundary question, was sent in by the president, and ordered to be printed. Mr. Webster called up his resolution on the steamboat disasters, and, after some remarks on the fate of Lexington, consented to lay it on the table, to receive such amendments to the law as the deemed requisite.

In the lower house, the printing was again under consideration. Points of order were raised, and appeals taken from the decision of the chair, which caused much desultory conversation. The house sustained the chair, but came to no final decision on the main question.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN NEW YORK.

New York has again been visited by a calamitous fire. It broke out at 7 p. m. on the morning of the 27th inst. in a 4th street, was partially extinguished, but again broke out at 3 o'clock in the morning of the 28th, in Thomas H. Smith's large tea store, which was destroyed, with all its valuable contents, consisting of teas, silks, &c. &c. In this building alone, the loss is estimated at a *million and a half of dollars.*

The flames then spread in the vicinity, consuming two large brick stores, and property to the amount of *two million of dollars.* The following is the whole number of buildings destroyed:

J. Judah's store, corner of South and Dover streets, used as a ship chandler's store. The *store adjoining* was 163. This was occupied by Goldsmith, as grocery.

No. 161 was a junk and canvass store. In this building the fire originated.

Nos. 165 and 166 was the large tea store, known as Thomas H. Smith's.

The following comprises the extent of building burnt in Front street:

The store corner of Front and Dover, No. 231, occupied as an iron store, by Ingersol Buttel.

No. 233, occupied as a forage store by Smith.

No. 235, was used as a public store.

The next building was Thomas J. Smith's tea store, which extended from South to Front street. Here the progress of the flames was arrested. The building, however, with its contents, was entirely destroyed.

Thomas & Coffins hardware store, No. 167, was slight ly damaged.

Insurance had been effected on about $350,000 worth of the property destroyed.

William Johnston, the so called pirate of the lakes, has been tried and convicted of a breach of the neutrality laws of the United States, and sentenced by the United States court held at Albany, to one year's confinement in the Albany jail, and to pay a fine of five dollars.

Augustus S. Porter (whig) has been elected U. S. senator from Michigan.

APPEAL OF THE AMISTAD CASE.

Hartford, January 25, 1840.

At an adjourned term of the United States district court, held in this city yesterday, on a further demand on the part of the minister of Spain, for the surrender and the detention of the court, in the Amistad case, was received, removing it to the circuit court. The Spanish minister is dissatisfied with the decision, because the Africans were not surrendered, under the treaty, to the authorities of Spain, and because salvage was allowed on the vessel and goods.—*State Reg.*

FROM BATAVIA.

[Correspondence of the Commercial Express.]

BATAVIA, Oct. 9, 1839.

Since we last had the pleasure of addressing you, there have been no operations of consequence undertaken against the insurgents, except the one mentioned in my letter of the 1st inst. when Gen'l Van Ingen and a force of 1200 men left Samarang for Kendal, with such as is supposed to be the object of the expedition to punish the Chinese residents at Kendal. Whether such is the case or not, I cannot say, but from all that I can learn, the Chinese have brought large quantities, and now have no inducement to import goods from Europe, have brought large quantities, and now have no inducement to import goods from Europe, have brought large quantities, and now have no inducement to import goods until our stocks are somewhat reduced. Rice is now selling at four and a half dollars per picul, and the crop will be good, but is 14 days later than usual. Good white 16s at which price the supply to be had in Batavia is small. The Samarang coffee now here is selling at 29 1-2 and 30 cents per pound. Sugar has declined one half per cent, and European goods generally from the large quantities sent from Europe