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Semi-Weekly Edition.
TERMS—PER YEAR.....$5

NEW ORLEANS:
THURSDAY MORNING, DEC. 9, 1869.

TRY GEORGE ALCES' CIGARS,
185.....Hampart Street.....185

Amusements This Evening.

OPERA HOUSE—Meyerbeer's grand opera "Robert le Diable."
ACADEMY OF MUSIC—"Camille, or the Fate of a Coquette."
VARIETIES THEATRE—"Solon Shingle" and the Varieties Troupe and Fanny.
St. CHARLES THEATRE—Mr. Chanfrau, "Kit," or the Arkansas Traveler.
CRESCENT CITY MUSEUM—Opposite the St. Charles Hotel.

THE TEMPER OF CONGRESS.

The indications so far, as to the temper of Congress, if we can rely upon the telegraphic reports, are not favorable to an early return of confidence and harmony between the North and South. It seems to be doubtful whether Virginia even, has qualified herself for admission to the Union to the satisfaction of the Radical leaders, and if Virginia be shut out, there is little probability of Mississippi and Texas being received. The people of the State first named were more than careful to conform to the minutest requirements imposed under the Reconstruction laws. They made their action hinge on these laws, construing them against themselves in the strictest manner, trusting to the future for the recognition of their full equality as a member of the Union. It is not a very encouraging sign of this recognition that the President's recommendation of Virginia should have been so coldly received by Congress as the telegraph reports, especially when taken in connection with the demonstration of approval given by Congress to the President's message in that Georgia be required to reconstitute her Legislature by admitting certain claimants to seats in that body, and to exclude others who have already been gutlified as members, and performed acts of legislation. In addition to these facts, it is manifestly to the interest of the Republican party to keep in a quasi territorial condition the States from which military rule has not been withdrawn. And this, notwithstanding the declaration in those States of officers whose political affiliations identify them with the dominant party. The Radical leaders doubtless sincerely of their own associates, and wish to see in Washington carpet-bag representatives of the South, as little as they wish to see genuine Southern men. Who then are they to trust? The negroes! Certainly not. Radical influence over the negroes becomes less and less every day, as the eyes of the latter become opened to the designs of those who sought to make use of them for selfish motives. Politicians have either to make up their minds to abandon their schemes and stop short in their career, and this at once, or to carry out the work they have attempted to wear, and declare it is a despotic government they intend to set up. A few months will show what is to be the character of the winter's legislation, and the kind of government we are to have for the future.

One of our exchanges draws this *lightening* picture of Congress.

It was are to recognize it as a truthful portrait, that there is not much comfort to be obtained from that quarter.

The majority in the present Congress is made up of the same men who have had control of the National Legislature since the commencement of our late civil war. Originally men of ethical capacity, inclined to seek rather than avoid temptation, they have grown more and more pliable in association with each other. Their experience as legislators may be have, in some degree, given them something of a knowledge of the wants of the country, and the direct benefits to them by their position; but whatever may have been gathered by the process of adsorption, by which men of such ethical, as well as intellectual attainments, have been more or less influenced by a growing disposition to turn the knowledge so acquired to selfish and political purposes.

That we that the present Congress is imbecile and corrupt, and incapable of dealing properly with the difficulties coming before it at this time, is merely to repeat what the press of the opposite party has repeatedly charged against it. The most prominent newspapers of that party have denounced it as imbecile, and criminal work that, were the indictment a fair statement of facts, the majority of men meeting in the Capitol building should have no more of respect than the inmates of a State Penitentiary.

They have been guilty of perjury. They have betrayed their trusts. They have passed laws which extract from the people to fill the pockets of the rich. They have legislated for themselves and their party. They have plundered the people. Their example has deadened the public morals. They have familiarized the people with the idea that the acceptance of corrupt legislation may be sanctioned by custom. They have worked steadily to make the whole country subject to classes of capitalists, and have assumed that their own will were the only rule to govern authority.

They have trampled the Constitution of the Union under foot in the dust, and, along with it, the rights of States, of Industry, and property, and property which made the law making power respected before they come into possession of Congress. They have perpetrated in the face of a people that there is a honesty in official life, has begotten an impression that corruption and venality is inevitable, and the people are apathetic to examining the qualifications of candidates. For this belief and this apathy, the example of the Congress which meets to-day is largely responsible, and for 1870 alone it should be an object of suspicion and abhorrence.

If we had been bold and unblushing in the perpetration of its iniquities, and in its wilful and gross violations, it would not be so entirely republican. It has, however, sought to conceal its patriotism by hypocrisy. It has professed to be governed by "moral ideas" and to be "zealous in the interest of God and humanity." It has garnished illegal preamble with pabbles of the eternal principles of justice and free trade. Its worst work, and the one which was hideous in the public view was the white race of the country, and whom it contributed had not a better friend than the Southern States, and was the sum of all that is meanest and most vicious in legislation, was put forth as an act in behalf of liberty and patriotism.

Such is the character of the Congress which meets at Washington to-day.

The United States Circuit Judge for Louisiana.

The telegraph announces that William B. Woods, of Alabama, has been appointed as the resident Judge of the Courts in the Fifth Circuit of the United States, composed of the States of Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

This is the candidate indicated by a some weeks ago as the probable appointee to this position.

Our information respecting Judge Woods comes from an authentic source. He was a lawyer in Ohio before the war, of some ability, and was of good standing in that State, as we learn. Upon either we served in the Federal Army, and at the close of the war was Brigadier in General Sherman's Army. Since the war he has resided in Alabama and held office therein first of Chancellor, we believe, the conduct as a judge and as a citizen is said to have been unexceptionable. Has spoken of as having given satisfaction to the Bar, who endorsed the application of his friends for the Circuit Judgeship. He was also endorsed by Gen Sherman and the Ohio and Alabama delegations, which sufficiently accounts for his success over the numerous applicants for the position. Prominent members of the Mobile Bar say he is a lawyer of some learning and experience and a man entitled to respect. If this be so, we are fortunate in having escaped an appointment of a different character.

We believe the reported nomination of Judge Woods is correct, and that he will be confirmed by the Senate.

Throat Affections and Hoarseness—All suffering from irritation of the Throat and Bronchial Tubes will be agreeably surprised at the almost immediate relief afforded by the use of *Brown's Bronchial Troches*. The demulcent properties act upon any irritation, and, after using a few days, the throat becomes strong, when the throat is wearied and weakened by too much exercise, their use will give renewed strength to the vocal organs.

That excellent paper, the Brooklyn *Daily Eagle*, gets off the following pointed and telling hit upon General Butler: "It is a noticeable fact that while Ben Butler has never noticed any of the serious charges against him of appropriating other people's silverware, the moment he is accused of taking a couple of swords he finds the papers with denials by person and proxy. The magnificent pickpocket, George Barrington, when pinched himself on his skill in snatching watches and jewelry from the person of his victim, dared into tears on hearing himself accused of filching a pocket handkerchief—exclaiming with the touching pathos that I should live to be accused of stealing pocket handkerchiefs!" So, Butler, whose moral character is so questionable, can't stand the suspicion of larceny of swords. Even the wildest of Republicans cannot find apologies for such articles they have a taste or use for. Nobody suspects that Butler ever had any use for a sword. The only occasion on which he might have used a sword was when he cut stick from Fort Bidwell; but he was never known to put himself within gunshot, let alone sword's length of the enemy during the war. Hence his retreat and indignation at being accused of taking such a thing, useless articles as swords."

Greeley to Butler.

AN APPEAL AGAINST THE PROSCRIPTION OF THE EX-REBELS—THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT IN PERIL.

[From the N. Y. Tribune, 27 h ult.]

To Major General Benjamin F. Butler, M. C.

My Dear Sir—Your name, I think you will have remarked, is very often pronounced from one end of our country to the other,—travaling somewhat, observing a little, and reading newspapers considerably—quite often hear it mentioned, and (it may surprise you to learn) not always admiringly. And yet, while I have for many years heard and read all manner of evil said of you—some of it absurdly groundless and false—I cannot recollect that I ever heard or read a suggestion that you were a fool. Now, I come before the public to impeach—not yourself personally, but a policy whereunto your name is popularly and prominently identified, as lacking rational motives and at war with common sense. I allude to that policy which prolongs indefinitely the proscription and disfranchisement of a large portion of the men of the South for their part in the late rebellion.

Understand that I speak from the stand-point not of sentiment, but of business. I do not here impeach that policy as harsh or hateful, but as deficient in tact—in gumption. I impeach it as nursing and intensifying enmities certain to subvert, at no distant day, the party which is identified with it.

I will not dwell upon the well known fact that the late Governor Andrew in his farewell message or address, put forth four years ago, strongly urged a policy antagonistic to this—a policy that contemplated the early and complete conciliation of the South, through the enfranchisement and magnanimous treatment of her natural leaders. Nor need I invite your attention to the fact that Gen. Sickles (a shrewd, thoroughly practical politician) officially remonstrated, more than three years ago, against the proscription of prominent ex-rebels, as depriving him of the services of the very men he urgently needed and could make most useful in governing South Carolina. Nor do I care to press home the fact, of which you cannot be ignorant, that the Southern men of education and property are by far more reasonable and less bitter than their poorer, more ignorant neighbors—are less implacable, more rational, and more ready to unite heartily in rebuilding the waste places of the land. Nor will I dwell upon the noble addition made, on motion of Gen. Carl Schurz, to the latest National Platform of the Republican party—that party which declares proscription a temporary expedient, rendered necessary by a grave public peril, and to be abandoned when that peril shall have vanished. I rest on the naked fact that the Republican party imminently needs the good will which this policy repels, and must go under if that good will be not so secured.

I assume that you realize the absolute necessity of the passage of the Fifteenth Amendment to the success of General Grant's administration, and that you must be aware that the fate of that amendment is yet doubtful. Ten adverse States (counting Connecticut as such)—New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, Tennessee, California and Oregon—are already beyond hope. The loss of Tennessee was at once a calamity and a blunder—one of those intense stupidities which a great party is seldom allowed to repeat. Have Rhode Island, Indiana, Georgia and Nebraska stand, I need not inform you. Suffice it that it will require the wisest counsels and the best efforts to avert the threatened failure of that great and wise measure of safety, dignity and peace.

The men now coming to Congress to demand that Tennessee be upset, and Virginia remanded, and Mississippi and Texas held as catspaws for an indefinite period, unless their votes are thus bidden, utterly fail to comprehend the situation. They evidently suppose that we have nothing at stake—that Grant may keep three or four States unreconstructed and unrepresented in Congress during pleasure. I hope you know better—at all events, I do. We do not merely need the 15th amendment ratified before 1872—we urgently need it now. If it be delayed one year longer, we shall have more than one State Legislature like that of New York assembling to withdraw the ratification already accorded; and, while you and I may rightly deny the legal validity of such withdrawal, neither of us will dispute its moral weight. Connecticut is to hold election next April, when the votes of her colored citizens will be about needlessly powerful if not absolutely needed. New Jersey and Pennsylvania have United States Senators depending on the result of their next State election respectively, and the like votes are absolutely needed in the former, and probably so in the latter. Several seats in the next Congress from Ohio and other States will be won or lost as the right to vote for members shall be exercised by their whole people or only by the white. Kentucky, Maryland and Delaware, will each be sturdy and hopefully contested next year if the amendment be meantime ratified, while we shall not elect one member from all three if these States if be not. To my apprehension, the control of the next House of Representatives will probably hinge on that event.

I ask you, then, to consider, as a practical man, whether we can afford to pick and choose from among those disposed to favor that amendment—whether it will not be suicidal folly to repel any proffered or possible support. I ask you whether any attempt to pay into the coffers of those who may favor it—to ascertain whether they were not rebels, and, if so, whether they by prayer and penitence have not in such a case abjured all fealty to the party been and "goeth before a fall." In short, I ask you to consider the whole question in the light of naked, hearty, homely, common sense, and act upon it as the exigency shall seem to require.

The importance of the case must excuse the freedom of this appeal. Rightly or wrongly the country regards you as the leader in Congress of those who have been most exacting in their requirements of the defeated South, and least inclined to treat them with confidence or generosity. The responsibility which I have incurred in this appeal is rather attach to myself and your addresses to the policy which the exigencies demands will never be attributed to weak or sentimentality. I do it, yet, therefore, to place yourself promptly and heartily at the head of a movement looking to the instant and complete removal of all political disabilities whatever from any and every one who favor, or shall favor the Fifteenth Amendment, and thereby restoration to all the privileges of citizenship. "Let us have peace."

Yours, &c.,
HORACE GREELEY.

New York, November 26, 1869.

A Pointed Retort.

The French paper in New York, the *Courrier des États Unis*, whose editor wields a really and treacherous pen, and cannot suffer to pass unrebuked the frequent and bitter assaults of the New York papers upon the moral depravity and political degeneracy of France. Recently the New York *Times* made the return of Mr. Jefferson Davis to this country the text of a "timely lesson" upon the morals of France, and of superlative eulogy of the magnanimity of the federal authorities, as contrasted with the alleged political vindictiveness of the French emperor. In the course of its presentation it observed:

"Jefferson Davis is henceforth free of all public prosecution and private molestation. The fact is especially noteworthy, as it happens just at the moment when the revolutionary chiefs of Western Europe (meaning France) are encountering new obstacles to political rehabilitation, and are subjected to fresh persecutions by ruling powers. This difference does honor to our people and to our institutions—to our people, in that it shows that their resentments are guided by the elevated principle of Christianity rather than by the vile and vindictive instincts of the savage; to our institutions, in that it shows that they repose so largely on the moral foundations which uphold them, without the aid of the harsh penalties and intimidation which alone sustain the throne of the Old World."

The opening which the *Times* unguardedly left for the writer was too fortunate to come to it was promptly availed of. The *Courrier* thus replies to the *Times*:

"Of such declamations, we say frankly and firmly that they are purely and simply calumnies on the French people and their institutions. To say that the revolutionary chiefs of Western Europe (read France) encounter new obstacles and are subjected to fresh persecutions," at the very moment when the largest amnesty ever proclaimed places with one scratch of the pen all political indemnations, and opens the frontiers to all exiles, is an abuse of the right which certain writers arrogate to themselves of trifling with the truth. As to the vile and vindictive instincts of the savage, we do not know if the writer is contrast with the sentiments of the American people and the elevated principle of Christianity which guide them, we can scarce believe that such expressions, even from a pen so thoughtless, could be applied to the French people. Truth and we have not, as a people, to take lessons of generosity from the American people, and we limit ourselves at present to reminding the *Times* that the manner in which, after five years pacification, the vanquished of the South are still treated, has no example in contemporary history, except in the case of the subjugation of Poland."

Centralization.

THE TALE OF A LEADING NEW YORK DRY GOODS MERCHANT.

[From the New York World Reporter's Interview.]

Reporter—Do you think that there is a tendency toward a monopolizing business in the hands of large houses?

Mr. Z—Yes, I think there is. We seem to be more in danger of centralization than when they are in Europe. The wealthy firms exert a tremendous power on account of their large capital, and it is almost impossible to compete with them. A man must have a much larger capital than would have been sufficient to start him in business twenty five or thirty years ago. A. T. Stewart couldn't get along with the capital he started with originally, and twenty or thirty thousand dollars don't amount to anything now. It is just as well with young horses who expect, with a capital of $200,000, to do a business of eight or ten millions.

Reporter—Then, you can young men who haven't got rich friends to back them ever become business; must they remain clerks all their lives?

Mr Z—I suppose so, unless they can get so be junior partners.

Reporter—Is there any likelihood that the large business houses will become industrial partners?

Mr. Z—I do not think that much will be the case, unless there is a man gets too old to attend to his business himself. These houses are now divided into departments, each in charge of an independent manager, who has an interest in the profits of his department, which often yields them incomes of $30,000 per annum. This is better for them than a partnership, as they take no risk, and do not require any capital.

MACON VS. BOSTON.—We have had Forney's testimony as to the marvelous sobriety and morality of Georgians assembled at Macon. Here is Wendell Phillips' tremendous bill of indictment against Boston and Massachusetts: "Boston is a city in which every tenth person is a criminal and seventy in every hundred are the quarters of our farms are mortgaged for drink, two-thirds of the pulpits are filled with drunkards, and the bench of justice is nearly vacant because one-half of the judges have died drunkards."

"I came near selling my boots the other day," said Sentile to his friend.

"How so?"

"Well, I had them half soled."

The New Orleans Bee.

OFFICE 73 CHARTRES STREET. NEW ORLEANS, THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 9, 1869. 43d YEAR—Vol. XLIII.—Whole—14,925

AMUSEMENTS.

For once during the theatrical season the attractions at the several places of amusements, including the Opera House, are all of the most superb character.

To-night at the Opera House we are to have Meyerbeer's splendid grand opera, "Robert le Diable," in which Mr. Mishot will appear as *Robert*, Depassio as *Bertram*, Ketten as *Raimbaut*, Miss Arnal as *Alice*, Miss Mineur as *Isabelle*, and the new *danseuse*, Miss Billon, will make her first appearance in the rôle of *Helena*.

At the St. Charles Mr. Chanfrau will again appear this evening as *Kit Redding*, in "Kit; or the Arkansas Traveler," which notwithstanding its back woods' title, is a play of the most absorbing interest, involving a story of humor and intense dramatic effect, full of life-like pictures of Western frontier life. The scenery is almost realistic, and we can assure our readers that they will not fail to be deeply interested in the play, especially as Mr. Chanfrau is admirably supported by several of the artists in the cast.

At the Academy of Music Mrs. D P. Bowers, a most eminent actress, and, in the opinion of many, superior to Mrs. Siddons, is attracting crowded houses every night. She is a magnificent artiste in every sense of the word. Whatever the character she assumes, "gay or grave, gentle or severe," she pictures it with realistic beauty and the most charming ornateness.

To-night Mrs. Bowers will appear in one of her matchless performances, in the character of *Camille*, in Dumas' live act play of that title, picturing the life and fate of a coquette. She will be supported in the principal assisting role, that of *Armand Duval*, by Mr. J. C. McCollum, who is a fine artist and a gentleman of the most pleasing address on the stage.

To-morrow (Friday) evening, Mrs. Bowers has a benefit, when she will appear as *Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots*. She appears again as *Camille* at the Academy's matinée, Saturday noon.

In noticing the Academy we regret to have to record the continued severe illness of Manager Bidwell, but are pleased to notice that Treasurer Kittredge is in the meantime conducting the management with creditable care and ability. We trust that Mr. Bidwell will soon be restored to health.

At the Varieties Theatre the eminent comedian, Mr. John E. Owens, is nightly drawing crowded houses and has proved such an attraction, we notice, that both box offices of the theatre have been opened for the accommodation of the public Mr. Owens' specialties, though differing in role from Jefferson's, are comparatively but little inferior in conception and execution.

At the Skating Rink at the Mechanics' Institute, on Dryades street—especially on assembly evenings—Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays—may be witnessed an exhibition of rare grace in the movements of the many gentlemen and ladies who there perform their skillful evolutions under the direction of Prof. St. Clair.

From Washington.

The correspondent of the Baltimore *Gazette* says:

It is rumored that Mr. Sumner is engaged in preparing a sixteenth amendment to the Constitution, which shall place the educational interests of the country wholly in the hands of Congress. It is not probable such an amendment can be adopted. The object of it is obvious. It is proposed to educate the youth of the country up to Radical ideas, and to give Radical pilferers the fingering of the school funds. This is a very pretty programme, but it won't do.

The correspondent of the Cincinnati *Enquirer* writes:

CAUSES OF THE DECAY OF SHIP-BUILDING.

Washington, Dec 3.—The Special Congressional Committee appointed by the House to inquire into the cause of the decay of American ship-building have completed their labors, and have arrived in this city.

A large amount of evidence has been taken, most of which has appeared in print. The tenor of which shows that the cheap labor in Europe, and the American tariff, enable shipbuilders on the Clyde to build vessels from 20 to 30 per cent. cheaper than in this country.

THE STATISTICS

Compiled for the committee show that American ship-building has steadily fallen off in the United States for the last eight years, growing less every year, until the carrying trade has almost disappeared from American bottoms. The commerce has not yet fully settled on their report, but the conclusions will include, among other, the following.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. The passage of a law allowing foreign steamers to enter and receive American registers when purchased by citizens of the United States.

2. A drawback of duty on all materials entering into the construction of ship-building.

3. Subsidies to American steamship lines carrying certain mails.

The Financial Editor of the Chicago *Times* says:

While everybody is speculating as to what Congress will do with the currency, all the dispatches from Washington bearing upon financial matters are eagerly read by business men who are striving to forecast, from the opinions of individuals, what the general conclusion or result will be. The following telegram from Washington probably gives an intelligent and comprehensive idea of what Secretary Boutwell's opinions are, and, as his opinions, from his official position, must be of great importance, we hasten to lay them before our readers:

"Members from the South and West are bringing a pressure to bear on the Secretary of the Treasury to get him to recommend an additional issue of currency for those sections. Mr. Boutwell is opposed to inflating currency, but he is disposed to grant inter ased banking facilities, which will relieve the pressure for money in those localities. The Secretary being an Eastern man, will favor a plan which will continue rather than take from the New England States their present quota of banking capital.

In other words, Secretary Boutwell is decidedly opposed to increasing the volume of the currency, and also opposed to taking away any of the currency now owned by the East, in order to give it to the West and South. He is also in favor of giving the West and South more currency, and if any plan could be invented for giving the West and South the currency, without taking anything from the East or increasing the general volume of the currency, it will meet with his most cordial approval. This is a very fair statement of his position, and we think it means that the South and West" are gratified with the position of the autocrat of the treasury upon the currency question.

"The members from the West and South" generally appreciate the necessity of providing for an increase in the volume of the currency. The interests of their constituents demand an increase, and a large increase. But they will accomplish nothing by bringing at the feet of Secretary Boutwell, who represents the Shylocks of the East in the Treasury Department. Instead of supplicating favors from this Secretary, let them join hands and demand from Congress such legislation as the current matters as the people whom they represent desire."The members from the West and South" possess the numerical strength to secure whatever they wish, and there is enough harmony of ideas among them to make their numerical strength efficient, if they could only get over the practice of playing into the hands of Secretary Boutwell, and for 1874 alone it should be an object of suspicion and abhorrence.

If we had been bold and unblushing in the perpetration of its iniquities, and in its wilful and gross violations, it would not be so entirely republican. It has, however, sought to conceal its patriotism by hypocrisy. It has professed to be governed by "moral ideas" and to be "zealous in the interest of God and humanity." It has garnished illegal preamble with pabbles of the eternal principles of justice and free trade. Its worst work, and the one which was hideous in the public view was the white race of the country, and whom it contributed had not a better friend than the Southern States, and was the sum of all that is meanest and most vicious in legislation, was put forth as an act in behalf of liberty and patriotism.

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CITY INTELLIGENCE.

The Fair at the Blaffer Building.—The Fair being held at the Blaffer Building, on Canal street, is for the benefit of the orphans of the Asylum of the Immaculate Conception, and is under the direction of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, assisted by numerous worthy ladies—Mrs. Bierman, Simpson, Salomon, Beard, Choppin, Gaff, and Misses Simpson, Cooley, Trudeau and others, whose names do not recur to us at this moment, but all apparently equally devoted to the good cause. It is being attended and patronized, we notice, as such things should be, by all denominations, and those who attend will, we are sure, be gratified at having done so, not only on account of the innumerable attractions presented for their admiration, but the gratification which every noble-minded person must experience in contributing as a philanthropist, however much or little to the success of so commendable an enterprise. The curious are specially commended to the novelties of the art gallery, conducted by Misses M & J and friends, and the firemen to the raffle at Mr. Williams' table for the superb engine horse, "Wide Awake," said to be superior even to "Orphan Boy."

Consecration of a Church.—The new church recently completed on Esplanade, between Chartres and Villeré streets, is to be consecrated at 11 o'clock this morning, Bishop Wilmer officiating. The church has been built mainly through the munificence of our worthy fellow citizen Dr. W. N. Mercer, and is to be named St. Anne's Chapel. The consecration sermon will be preached by Rev. Dr. Crane of St. Louis. The church is for the use of the congregation of Rev. J. F. Girault.

Calico Party.—The Dauiache Company will give a calico ball and soiree at their Hall, on Exchange Alley, Saturday night. Ladies will be requested to attend in calico and gentlemen in full evening dress. These soirees are usually among the most entertaining character. We acknowledge the courtesy of an invitation to be present Saturday night.

The Italian Society's Ball.—The ball of this society including the *Teva al Decanolo* given at Odd Fellow's Hall last night was finely attended, and as usual with the festivals of our Italian friends was a brilliant affair.

We shall take occasion to allude to it more fully in our next.

Crescent Steam Fire Company No. 24.—Our reporter has to apologize to our friends of this company for his inability to attend the ceremonies of the christening of their new engine, last night. He will endeavor to do them justice next week, if he can get a report.

Fourth District Court—Judge Theard.—Judge Theard yesterday rendered his decision in the case of Mr. Lewis against the Merchants' Insurance Co. We give a brief abstract of the decision as follows:

Plaintiff sues for the amount of insurance effected by W. S. Pike on the 16th of March, 1867, on the steamer Tabor, from Galveston to New York, in the sum of $20,000. The captain caused the vessel to run on the rocks on her voyage in the vicinity of Key West, and the vessel was got off by salvers, among whom were the wreckers with whom the captain had colluded for the destruction of the vessel. The vessel was sold in New York under process of the Admiralty Court of the United States.

It is claimed by the plaintiff that as barratry is one of the perils insured against, and as the sale of the vessel by the United States Marshal was due entirely to the fraudulent conduct of the captain and those in his employ, that the Insurance Companies are liable for a total loss in the sum of $20,000.

Among the pleas of the defense is the following: "Barratry of the master, where the insured is owner of the ship, is a peril under the general clause of the policy." If plaintiff is an owner of the vessel he cannot recover for a loss occasioned by the act of the owner. In the statement of facts there is an admission by the parties that the title to the ship is in plaintiff alone, and, as a policy of insurance on account of whom it may concern. The title of plaintiff is admitted to be correct by all parties. H W S Pike acted as agent he cannot recover, in which view light the case is considered, W. S. Pike, when applying for insurance for account of whom it may concern, was evidently acting for the owner, was still retained by Hawes & Bowen, or conveyed to their creditors. It was not sufficiently an agent of the owners that Pike acted, and hence he is barred by the terms of the policy itself. Plaintiff's claim is therefore dismissed.

Alleged Robbery.—A young man named H. Lambert, living at the mouth of Red River, complains that he was robbed of quite a sum of money while indulgent in some other night, on St. Charles street, for some minor offense.

First District Court—Judge Abell.—Joseph Wilson was tried yesterday and found guilty of wounding less than mayhem. The party wounded was Mark Murphy.

Robert Smith was convicted of larceny. Nicholas Sandoz, a Frenchman, was pardoned. Rob. Washington, Hy. Green and E. Perendel, charged with mule stealing, were released by *nol pros*.

The Lesson of the Mississippi Election.

[From the Mobile Tribune.]

The result of the election in Mississippi, as far as heard from, shows in the Senatorial twenty five mongrels, among whom are some half dozen full blooded negroes, and in the Lower House sixty-nine mongrels, among whom one-fifth are full blooded negroes. Not more than six or eight white men have been elected. Reports have been received from about four-fifths of the counties in the State.

Several of our Mississippi exchanges have, since the election, discussed at length out white man's party. Only under that can we hope for decisive victory. Dent and Walker represent the party, giving temporary relief, but never permanent cure. Dent, in some sense the most contemptible and fruitless of all efforts to attempt the Walker-Dent tactics under the Democratic banner. Nine-tenths of the Southern Press stand convicted of that folly even by the records they have made since last Presidential election. In fact, which ignorance is no excuse, nor fidelity to party a palliation.

The crisis is too serious for *ante bellum* party formulas, misnamed morals. The war, as Carlyle, the greatest of living statesmen, would say, has swallowed all formulas. We have outlived, we pray, the days when the quack medicine of office seeking politicians is of value to us, in which the personal experience of no living man is of any value. With us of the South it is not a question of party but one of race. The result of the late election has sunbled the people of Mississippi to see the question in its true light, and we some good from it. To learn to distinguish the true from the false is an advance in the right direction.

BEAUTIFUL PIECE OF WORK.—A passenger engine, designed for the Pontchartrain Railroad, which extends from New Orleans to Lake Pontchartrain, was shipped South lately, by the Tennessee Railroad. This engine was from the Baldwin Locomotive Works, at Philadelphia, and though a small one, is pronounced by experts to be one of the finest, most finished and beautiful piece of workmanship ever seen in this city. The cab is constructed of cherry wood, highly polished, and the tender is glazed and painted beautifully. The entire work of the engine are of the most beautiful style and finish.—*Lynchburg (Va.) Republican.*

A member of a church in Vermont, desiring "a man from the Lord," prayed in this wise: "Send us not an old man in his dotage, nor a young man in his goslinghood, but a man with all the modern improvements."

BY TELEGRAPH.

[To the New Orleans Bee.]

FROM WASHINGTON.

Congressional Proceedings.

Nominations of Belknap and Robeson Confirmed.

No Nomination for the Supreme Bench Vacancy.

Five Hundred Political Disabilities Removed.

Surrender of the Spanish Gunboats.

Butler Interviewed by the Virginia Legislative Committee.

The Alabama Legislature.

FROM EUROPE.

Miscellaneous Intelligence.

WASHINGTON ITEMS.

Washington, Dec. 8.—Internal Revenue receipts to-day $350,000.

The Senate confirmed to-day General Belknap as Secretary of War, and Robeson as Secretary of the Navy.

A number of nominations were referred to the various committees including those for the Circuit Judgeships, as follows: Geo F Shepley, of Maine, for the first; Lewis B Woodruff, of New York, the second; William B McKennan, of Pennsylvania, the third, Geo A Pearre, of Maryland, the fourth, Wm H Woods, of Alabama, the fifth; Geo. A Yeadman, of Kentucky, the sixth; Thos A Drum mond, of Illinois, the seventh, and Lorenzo Sawyer, of California, the eighth. No nomination has yet been made for the eight circuit. The nomination of Charles Clinton for Assistant Treasurer at New Orleans was also referred.

SENATE—The bill relieving some 500 persons from political disabilities, which had passed in the House, passed the Senate and goes to the President for his signature. Among those relieved are Stanton Duncan, of Kentucky, and Judge Ackerman, of Georgia.

The Judiciary Committee have been directed to inquire whether, on the borders of the United States, there are any violations of treaty stipulations or the Fifteenth Amendment were denied to any person.

The House is engaged on the census bill.

No appointment has yet been made for the vacancy on the Supreme Bench. The choice is confined to the State Department that the Warrington, in the Navy Department, has filed against Perry, and in consequence of the Persian Minister being satisfied, and no fresh complaint has been made, the Secretary of State has therefore directed Attorney General Pierrepont to enter a *nolle prosequi* in court to the latter. Several seats in the next Congress from Ohio and other States will be won or lost as the right to vote for members shall be exercised by their whole people or only by the white. Kentucky, Maryland and Delaware, will each be sturdy and hopefully contested next year if the amendment be meantime ratified, while we shall not elect one member from all three if these States if be not. To my apprehension, the control of the next House of Representatives will probably hinge on that event.

I ask you, then, to consider, as a practical man, whether we can afford to pick and choose from among those disposed to favor that amendment—whether it will not be suicidal folly to repel any proffered or possible support. I ask you whether any attempt to pay into the coffers of those who may favor it—to ascertain whether they were not rebels, and, if so, whether they by prayer and penitence have not in such a case abjured all fealty to the party been and "goeth before a fall." In short, I ask you to consider the whole question in the light of naked, hearty, homely, common sense, and act upon it as the exigency shall seem to require.

The importance of the case must excuse the freedom of this appeal. Rightly or wrongly the country regards you as the leader in Congress of those who have been most exacting in their requirements of the defeated South, and least inclined to treat them with confidence or generosity. The responsibility which I have incurred in this appeal rather attach to myself and your addresses to the policy which the exigencies demands will never be attributed to weak or sentimentality. I do it, yet, therefore, to place yourself promptly and heartily at the head of a movement looking to the instant and complete removal of all political disabilities whatever from any and every one who favor, or shall favor the Fifteenth Amendment, and thereby restoration to all the privileges of citizenship. "Let us have peace."

Yours, &c.,
HORACE GREELEY.

New York, November 26, 1869.

A Pointed Retort.

The French paper in New York, the *Courrier des États Unis*, whose editor wields a really and treacherous pen, and cannot suffer to pass unrebuked the frequent and bitter assaults of the New York papers upon the moral depravity and political degeneracy of France. Recently the New York *Times* made the return of Mr. Jefferson Davis to this country the text of a "timely lesson" upon the morals of France, and of superlative eulogy of the magnanimity of the federal authorities, as contrasted with the alleged political vindictiveness of the French emperor. In the course of its presentation it observed:

"Jefferson Davis is henceforth free of all public prosecution and private molestation. The fact is especially noteworthy, as it happens just at the moment when the revolutionary chiefs of Western Europe (meaning France) are encountering new obstacles to political rehabilitation, and are subjected to fresh persecutions by ruling powers. This difference does honor to our people and to our institutions—to our people, in that it shows that their resentments are guided by the elevated principle of Christianity rather than by the vile and vindictive instincts of the savage; to our institutions, in that it shows that they repose so largely on the moral foundations which uphold them, without the aid of the harsh penalties and intimidation which alone sustain the throne of the Old World."

The opening which the *Times* unguardedly left for the writer was too fortunate to come to it was promptly availed of. The *Courrier* thus replies to the *Times*:

"Of such declamations, we say frankly and firmly that they are purely and simply calumnies on the French people and their institutions. To say that the revolutionary chiefs of Western Europe (read France) encounter new obstacles and are subjected to fresh persecutions," at the very moment when the largest amnesty ever proclaimed places with one scratch of the pen all political indemnations, and opens the frontiers to all exiles, is an abuse of the right which certain writers arrogate to themselves of trifling with the truth. As to the vile and vindictive instincts of the savage, which are put by the writer in contrast with the sentiments of the American people and the elevated principle of Christianity which guide them, we can scarce believe that such expressions, even from a pen so thoughtless, could be applied to the French people. Truth and we have not, as a people, to take lessons of generosity from the American people, and we limit ourselves at present to reminding the *Times* that the manner in which, after five years pacification, the vanquished of the South are still treated, has no example in contemporary history, except in the case of the subjugation of Poland."

Centralization.

THE TALE OF A LEADING NEW YORK DRY GOODS M