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A IS IMPORTENT AND PUBLIC JUSTICK BRITAIN.

NEW-ORLEANS:
THURSDAY MORNING, FEB 28, 1839.

FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

HENRY CLAY,
OF KENTUCKY.

Subject to the decision of a National Convention.

☞ MR. CLAY'S GREAT SPEECH AGAINST ABOLITION is published in a pamphlet form at the office of the BEE where it may be had on application.

We are highly gratified to be able to announce to our readers that a bill predicated on the suggestions of our correspondent "Bienville," by which one million four hundred thousand dollars of the bonds of the state will be advanced to the three municipalities of our city, was presented by Mr. Conrad on behalf of the entire delegation of Orleans, and was yesterday read for the first time.

We hear but one opinion expressed on the propriety of this measure, and we shall inform our readers of the progress of this important bill until it becomes a law.

The advantages it offers the State, as well as its importance to the best interests of this city, the capital of Louisiana—the emporium of the south and south west—are such that they cannot be disregarded by the legislature.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

That a relic of barbarous ages, so repulsive to humanity and the enlightened spirit of the times, as imprisonment for debt, should deface the jurisprudence of civilized nations, is truly astonishing. This ellious law yet lingers upon the statute books of some of the states, despite the almost universal opinion of mankind against its policy and justice. That the liberty of an unfortunate debtor should be sacrificed to appease the insatiable cupidity of money lenders, is a proposition too revolting to meet support from any quarter, and that indebtedness beyond the ability to pay, should be regarded as evidence of dishonesty, is alike repugnant to truth and the enterprise of the age. The life and the liberty of the citizen, are under the protection of the constitution and the laws, and should never be endangered except for some violence to that constitution, or infraction of those laws. Neither the life or liberty of the citizen should be surrendered to the mercy of a fellow citizen. The community should be brought to look to the government for protection in misfortune, and surely poverty is a misfortune, and it is no more proper that the liberty of an individual should be taken away upon civil process, than it would be to subject his life to the decision of a jury of death.

It is argued that a debtor can procure his release from prison by a surrender of his property, and by inducing proof of his integrity. This argument shows that the liberty of honest men, under the present system, is abridged—and that release can only be effected through a tardy process, to establish that which should be taken for granted, unless the contrary is shown—In all cases of a criminal nature, notwithstanding the grand jury may have found a true bill against the prisoner, when he is put upon his trial the law regards him as innocent and stainless as an infant, until his guilt is proven, and should a debtor, when indebtedness cannot be considered criminal, be put to greater strains than a felon? So jealous is the law of the liberty of the citizen, that the thief and murderer are not put to personal restraint, but upon the clearest proof and verdict found, or the information on oath of credible witnesses. Yet a debtor is shut up in a dungeon, and required to abide the determination of pleas at law before he can be enlarged, when the cause of his imprisonment is neither a crime or misdemeanor. When the worst is shown, he is a debtor—Should indebtedness beyond the ability to pay, be made evidence of fraud, there is not an individual in any way engaged in those enterprises which promote the prosperity of the country, who may not, from some unforeseen and consequently unavoidable contingency, find himself stript, not only of his fortune, but his fair name.

Surely, when a man gives up to his creditors all that he is worth, his body should not be made to answer the deficit. Let the law provide for the surrender of all the property and money, and causes of action of the debtor, and let him go free to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow—should he in this surrender, with half any thing from the claim of his creditors, and make a fine schedule of his effects, let him be punished, as severely as may be, but not before he has committed something that, either in law or morality, is considered an offence. Those states which have abolished imprisonment for debt, have never had occasion to regret that philanthropic measure. Credit is more difficult to obtain in such states; the holder of goods and the laborer, look more closely to the ability of the purchaser or employer to pay. Debts are contracted with reference to the industry, property and good report of the person contracting them, and not to the remedial severity of the law, as in states in which incarceration is one of the legitimate measures for coercive payment. There is less difficulty in collecting debts in proportion as there is greater difficulty in creating debts. And all parties are benefitted by the policy which limits the ability to create debts to the creditor's opinion of the integrity and property of those whom he trusts.

Imprisonment for debt can only be justified upon the ground, that the inability to pay is evidence of the fraud and dishonesty of the debtor. If so, let the state put such inability amongst the penal offences. Make it a crime and punish it as such. Let the bankrupt be dealt with by the sovereign power. It would be a source of relief to feel that his sufferings were caused by the infraction of the laws of the state, and not, as is now the case, the result of persecution and the griping cupidity of some hard hearted money lender in whose power his evil stars had placed him. It would be difficult, however, to get any enlightened legislator to engraft indebtedness upon the penal code.

All the arguments which are urged to sustain the law as it now exists, belong to an age that has passed. They were used with some plausibility at a time when personal liberty was subordinate to money—when entailed wealth and title were the only sources of power and honor, and the sole objects of legislative care—But now more noble considerations engage the lawgiver's solicitude. The happiness, prosperity and well being of all come under his protection. His views are not restricted to the wants of the few. The feeble poor, no less than the princely rich, have claims upon him. And in taking a liberal and enlarged view of the rights of the general mass, the law under consideration we should think, would first force itself upon his notice. It is in direct conflict with the spirit of our institutions. It adds to the power of wealth, and to the wretchedness of poverty. It makes the strong stronger and the weak weaker. It gives vigor to the misnamed power of the giant, and takes away the crutch from decrepitude and infirmity.

In the nature of things, there can be no sufficient reason for retaining this feature of the law, unless it is wise to crowd the prison house with the victims of misfortune. The debtor can make no money in jail—in the metaphorical but impressive language of the untutored Indian, "the eagle catch no beaver there," wherewith to discharge his obligations. It is true that occasionally, some friend, moved by feelings of sensibility, may come forward and pay the debt and rather than the debtor should be immured amidst the vapors of a dungeon, but this is taking charity to feed avarice. Experience in other states has demonstrated the policy of relieving the body of a debtor from the claim of his creditors, and when humanity joins capital in urging the repeal of the present law, their united voice should be heeded.

It is with feelings of no ordinary gratification that we have witnessed the stand taken in favor of the oppressed debtor, by the Bulletin and other city journals, and we do hope that the legislature will not let the session pass by without amending the law as now in force.

The "Ship Vandalia, Uriah P. Levy, Esq. commander, arrived off the S. W. Pass on the 26th inst., from the coast of Mexico, last from off Matamoras, which place she sailed 21st Feb. She brings $120,076 specie, consigned as follows:

John Kelly	$24,186
P Ocampo	16,600
J Fisher	8,000
J Cordero	61,500
R O Blossman	2,184
J Cucharac & co.	3,000
Schmidt & Werner	4,600
	$120,076

For U. S. ship of war Lexington.

Hoop & co	$1,000
Uhlich	3,600
M de Lizardi & co	27,000
	$31,600

ERRATUM.—In the report of the proceedings of the Senate on Tuesday, published in yesterday's Bee, a verbal error occurred. Instead of saying "the substitute of Mr Winn *repeals*," &c., it should read "the substitute of Mr. Winn *revives*," &c. The error is the more important, as the sense of the sentence becomes altered by its rectification.

THE TWIN ILLUSTRATED.—A few copies of this admirable work with illustrations by Cruikshanks, may be obtained at Norman, Steel & Co's, No. 14 Camp street.

CINCINNATI RAILROAD BANK BILL.—The Louisville Courier of the 20th says "Just as our paper was going to press, we received information from Frankfort, that the railroad bank bill had passed the senate by a majority of one vote—the vote being 19 ayes to 18 nays. It will be returned to the house, by which time several members supposed to its adoption will be absent, and its eventual passage is hence considered extremely probable.

MISSISSIPPI.—The bill passed by the legislature of this state, authorizing the Union Bank to issue post notes, was vetoed by his locofoco excellency governor M Nutt. The attempt to persist notwithstanding the veto, has failed by a single vote,—one of the members friendly to the bill being absent.

NORTH EASTERN BOUNDARY.

IMPORTANT.—An express arrived at Augusta (Me) on the 15th, from the disputed territory, bringing intelligence that the land agent of Maine, Mr. Rufus McIntyre, who had gone into the territory with the concurrence of the New Brunswick authorities to drive off trespassers, had been arrested, with seven of his men, and committed to the jail in Fredrichston, N. B. It was reported that the governor of Maine had called the council together. Much excitement existed at Augusta; the rumor was current that the land agent's party had been fired upon, but only a horse killed.

We subjoin an extract from a letter addressed to the English Minister at Mexico, by the commander of the French blockading squadron at Vera Cruz. The source from which we obtain it vouches for its entire authenticity, and we hasten to lay it before the public, that the fortunes and treasonable policy pursued by the individuals at the head of the administration in Mexico may be correctly appreciated.

Our readers, no doubt, remember the letter from Admiral Baudain to General Urrea, which we published some time since. In this document indignant complaints were made of the foul calumnies levelled against its author by General Santa Ana. One would have thought that with facts so distinctly stated as they were in M. Baudin's letter, and established by the correspondence of Santa Ana himself, the slanderers directed against the French officer would be unheard beyond the miserable coteries from which they had emanated, and that above all, the government of Mexico would not employ the wretched pretext in order to vilify an officer whose generous treatment of the Mexicans after the fall of San Juan de Ulloa, should have shielded him from base invective.

This, however, has not been the case; and Bustamente with an effrontery perfectly astonishing, has become the vile traducer of these infamous charges, and has even invested them with the authority of official language in his message to the Mexican Congress. He has thus voluntarily discarded all delicacy and all faith towards the French commander.

Bustamente seems to have consigned the destinies of Mexico to the special custody of Santa Ana. Truly a sage representative and guardian of public liberty and republican equality!

Extract of a letter to Mr. Pakenham.

21th January, 1839.

It is not only of the ministers and their salaried writers that I have a right to complain—I have to demand of the Mexican government, reparation for an outrage of the most serious nature, by the solemnity of the circumstance under which it has been addressed, and by the elevated position of the personage from whom it emanated—no less a personage than the chief of the state himself.

In his speech at the opening of the general congress of the last inst, president Bustamente, speaking of the attack on Vera Cruz on the 5th December, has dared to say, that I had committed an act of disloyalty, violating the compromise which was pending." This is an infamous calumny.

One of two things—the president has repeated the accusation of disloyalty, only from the assertion of Santa Anna, without taking the trouble to read my correspondence with that general, and even without examining whether an accusation, coming from such a source, could have the character or semblance of veracity—in this case I could reproach president Bustamente with an act of inexcusable levity, as the chief of the state, whose words should bear the impress of dignanity, and particularly under circumstances, where he addressed to the chief of a nation, and may be published throughout the world—or the president has done what his duty obliged him to do—by compelling to be presented to him, the correspondence which took place between Santa Ana and myself—if so, he has unwittingly proof that nothing existed which bore the least semblance of a proposition of truce, or of a suspension of hostilities—nothing which obliged me in the least degree, to desist the attack upon Vera Cruz; and although arrived at this conviction, he had the boldness to associate himself with Santa Ana, in the crime of appearing in the face of the world, from his high station, first magistrate of the republic, an accusation which I know to be an infamous calumny.

Indeed, my dear sir, I cannot believe such a perversion on the part of president Bustamente, who has ever been regarded as a man of honor, but I have seen with astonishment, that part of Florida now overrun by marauding bands of hostile Indians.

Mr Morris expressed a wish that the bill should be allowed to lie over.

Mr. Benton objected, and insisted that the message should now be disposed of.

Mr Morris then rose and spoke at great length in opposition to the bill. A great portion of his remarks were devoted to abolition, and he charged the authors of the bill with a design to create another slave state with a view to its admission into the Union.

Mr Davis followed, also, in opposition to the bill, and went at some length into a review of the measures of the administration in regard to the war in Florida.

Mr. Benton replied, and the debate was continued by Messrs. Linn, Benton and Davis for some time.

The bill was passed ayes 25, nays 15.

The senate then took up the bill surrendering the reversionary interest of the United States in Indian reservations.

A long debate followed, and the result was the rejection of the measure.

In the house of representatives, the morning hour was occupied as usual with a discussion in relation to the public lands, on the report of the select committee.—No decision was come to.

The rules were suspended for the purpose of considering the following resolution offered by Mr. Mallory of Virginia:

Resolved, That for the more effectual execution of the ministerial duties of the navy department, the secretary of the navy be directed to report to the house, at the commencement of the next congress, a plan for the organization of this branch of the public service, adopting as the basis of his plan the division of the those duties now performed by the board of commissioners, and their assignment to separate bureaus.

The resolution was adopted.

The house then resolved itself into committee of the whole on the bill making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of the government; and the question being on striking out the items for the compensation to the board of navy commissioners,

Mr. Kennedy of Baltimore rose, and spoke at great length on the general policy of the past and present administration.

Mr Howard of Maryland, followed in reply.

Mr. Kennedy rejoined.

And without coming to any decision the house adjourned.

LIST OF OFFICERS

Of U. S. ship of war Vandalia.

Uriah P. Levy, Esq commander.
Lawrence Pennington, 1st lieut; Spencer C. Gist, 2d lieut; Henry C. Paul, 3d do.
Edmund Lanier, master.
J. Vaughan Smith, surgeon.
Wm. A. Green, asst. do.
James Brooks, purser.
Jno. S. Mallit, passed midshipman.
H Pons, sympathy clerk.
Saml Maxey, Wm. L. Blanton, Chas. Brindely, A Wood, Dand Ammon, H. R D verport, J. C. Nicholson, J. C. Watts, Lyman R. Law, midshipmen.
Wm. Dewey, gunner.
Geo Parker, armorer.
Danl C. Mallus, carpenter.

FROM KEY WEST.

The U. S mail schooner Hope, captain Griffiths, arrived here yesterday from Key West.

The brig Fabian, (of Savannah) Jones, from Savannah for Tampa bay, with a cargo of grain, for government was wrecked on Carysford reef, 20th ult—all but the lost—crew and part of the cargo, saved. The brig Lawyer, Wright, from Bath, (Me) for Havana, was wrecked on Great Guana Key, 18th ult—vessel is fully lost—crew and part of the cargo, either saved, and taken to Key West.

Notice to masters of vessels passing the Gulf of Florida—Captain Edward Griffiths, who has commanded the mail boat, the past year, from this place to Key West Florida, informs us, that the reported false light, shown by the wreckers, opposite Alligator reef, at the watch fire on Tea Table Key. The master of a crew of the revenue cutter Campbell, are in possession of this false key which is now called Fort Paulding, and when the guard at night replenish the fire, it has the appearance of a revolving light. Captain Griffiths is well acquainted with the coast, and says this light bears N. N. W. of Alligator reef, and is very near Indian Key. This information is given for the benefit of ministers of vessels, and captain Griffiths wishes the northern papers to notice the above

Charleston Mercury.

FURTHER EXTRACTS BY THE GREAT WESTERN.

The packet ship Oxford has been brought into dock Her hull is said to be so sound as before she was wrecked. The St Andrew and Pennsylvania, the Liverpool Albion hears, will be complete wrecks. The Lowoods has gone to pieces.

TO COMA STEAMS.—At a meeting of the committee who have the management of the funds raised for the relief of the sufferers and others in the late storm, voted £400 to the steam tug capacity for the use of their steamer Victoria, £100 to the captain, £10 to the mate, and £5 to each of the crew.

DISTRESS TO THE AMERICAN CITIZENS.—Sir E. Codrington, finding by the newspapers that it was intended to present a testimonial to the American captain and crew of the Eliza Ann, of Boston, for their humanity, wasted upon alderman Pirie with a subscription of 5l. and expressed in warm terms his admiration of the conduct of captain Boswell.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND AGAIN IN THE FIELD.

(From the London Morning Herald)

It is not generally known that a considerable part of the business in dry goods of British manufacture for the New York market has, for some time past, been carried on by means of credit bills drawn on London houses. To render our general readers more familiar with the nature of this operation, it will be necessary to explain that some of the firms in the commercial metropolis are in the custom of granting credits against securities lodged with their correspondents in New York and other American cities, to American agents or dealers who buy our manufactures by drafts on these London houses. Our commercial readers will at once see that this mode of dealing is neither conducive of the custom adopted by American merchants prior to the year 1837, and a practice which the Bank of England fostered by the ready discount or a description of paper almost analogous to accommodation bills, and which in fact, was what discount brokers call paper in lieu of bills. Of course they will remember that this system brought into life a crop of many mushroom firms, and that at last, when the Bank of England became frightened at the phantoms of their own creation, they knock them down as though they were nine pins, and at the same time, hurried some of the oldest houses in the third into the vortex of the panic. Several instances have occurred, in which bills of the nature to which we have referred, and which in fact are similar to those in use prior to 1837, have been rejected, not only by the Bank of England, but by some of the leading brokers and others of our monetary, on being presented for discount, although from firms known and pronounced to be of great wealth. Some paper has been rejected because it was drawn against cotton and stock speculations, and it is well known that there has lately been as much gambling in the former as the latter, whilst we believe some bills have been thrown out which were drawn in the north or Europe against speculations in foreign corn.

We should stand that the bills which have been unfavorably rejected have been accepted by firms that have more lately entered into this mode of transacting business, and to those acquainted with the commercial history of New-York it will not be necessary to point out that, while those of the other houses are yet unpaid, some of the drawers have failed.

We have referred to these very important circumstances because there are symptoms that the speculations in foreign and British stocks are shaping, in not a distant future, an Aye which, we fear, will be as lamentably ruinous to the dupes of the Bank of England as the way for a crisis should there be unfortunately be a break down in any of those favorite branches of speculation.

We have some solid reason to believe that this expression of rejecting bills of the nature to which we have referred, when presented at the bank or elsewhere from time to time, is a result of one of those trends with which the bank directors have been frequently charged, but that it is the result of mature deliberation, having for its object a check of that dangerous system of traffic by which foreign resident houses obtain the credit on British capital, or rather credit bills. The leading members of the money market who are usually consulted by the bank direction are understood to have fully accorded in the views taken by the directors, and, in several instances, have rigidly followed their example. Thus a new principle has arisen in our money market, which promises to become custom, and, indeed, will render all commercial transactions more stable.

IMPORTANT FROM INDIA

Great Britain seems here to be preparing to steal empires, and all the while crying out against Russian ship thief.

The supreme (British) government had declared war, and already taken active measures for the prosecution of hostilities against the Burmese empire, never at such having been taken up at Calcutta.

In the meanwhile a expedition is to be prosecuted to Cabul notwithstanding the recent change in the policy of the court of Persia, of which the Indian government had received official information.

London is being the imperial House of the Eastern princes, it is stated there are now in London, where they have been for a considerable time, the representatives of native Indian princes to the number of about half a dozen, urging with more of less vehemence claims which they believe to be just, or complaints which they believe to be well founded, and that in fact there is not any of these cases has sir John Hobhouse thought fit to yet the least attention to the application for satisfaction or redress.

There has been a severe hurricane at Brindy, which did great deal of damage.

FRANCE.

The Moniteur publishes a Royal ordinance dated 22d inst, promoting Rear Admiral Charles Baudin to the rank of Vice-Admiral as recompense for his gallant and skillful conduct at the capture of the fortress of San Juan Ulloa.

The French government has ordered the formation of the army of observation to consist of 36,000 men, on the frontier of Belgium.

The Corvette Marne was preparing to leave Toulon for Havanna, to take on board whatever articles might be saved from the wreck of the Hermione frigate, which was lately lost in the Bahama Channel.

HOLLAND AND BELGIUM

The settlement of the Belgian question begins to excite serious alarm in France. It is clear that before the protecting powers can interfere, hostilities will break out between the armies of William and Leopold. Military operations, on a most extensive scale, are carried on both sides. Holland has 17,000 infantry three regiments of cavalry, and eight batteries of artillery in the field—a force not superior to the number in the armament of Belgium, whose fortitude is not less remarkable.

[REPRINTED FOR THE BEE.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Wednesday, Feb. 27.

Leave of absence was granted to Messrs. Holmes and Gunn.

Mr. Kenner presented the petition of Mary F. Conway, which was referred to a select committee of three members.

A petition was presented from three citizens of the parish of St James, praying for remuneration for sugar slaves executed under the laws of the state.

On motion of Mr. Lewis, the house reconsidered the vote on the bill incorporating the Plaquemine Academy, and then the bill was laid on the table.

Read the third time and passed the bill creating two additional notaries public in the parish of St Landry.

On motion of Mr. Lockett, the bill to amend the charter of the Union Bank, was laid on the table subject to the call of the house.

Mr. Gaiennie presented a petition from a portion of the inhabitants of the parish of New Orleans, remonstrating against the division of the parish to create a new parish.

The house took into consideration the amendments made in the senate in the bill changing the time of holding the courts in the 7th judicial district and concurred in the same.

Mr. Kenner gave notice that he should soon introduce a bill to prevent gambling.

Mr. C. M. Conrad introduced a bill to grant the city of New Orleans the use of the bonds of the state for a certain amount.

Mr. Brashear introduced a bill for the relief of the sheriff of St. Mary's, which was read the first and second time.

Mr. Morse presented a bill to change the time of holding the district court in the parish of Caddo.

On motion of Mr. Morse, the rules of the house were suspended in order to take up the bill for the relief of Dominique Gassal, by granting him a divorce from his wife. The bill was passed by a vote of 18 to 18.

The house then took a recess of ten minutes.

Mr. Lewis, from the committee of conference on the resolutions relative to the unsettled land claims of Louisiana, made a report in which the house concurred, and the resolutions were passed.

On motion of Mr. Thomas, the house took up the bill supplementary to an act authorizing the governor to purchase arms for the use of the state and for other purposes. After passing some amendments and and considerable discussion, the bill was adopted.

Mr. Phelps, from the committee to examine into the affairs of the Exchange Banking Co. made a report which was ordered to be printed. He also, in behalf of an especial committee, made a report upon the division of the parish of Catawba, which was laid upon the table.

Mr. Thomas made a motion that the house take up the Nashville and New Orleans rail road bill, but objection being made, the

ORDER OF THE DAY

was called for and after reading several bills the first time by their titles, on motion of Mr Gaiennie, the rules were suspended in order to pass the bill for the relief of "the society for the relief of destitute orphan boys." Mr. Lewis explained the object of the bill and it was passed.

The bill creating a new parish in the parish of Orleans, was made the order of the day for Wednesday next.

The bill granting a certain sum of money to the parish of Lafayette, for the purpose of erecting a school house, was taken up, on motion of Mr. Mouton, and passed.

On motion of Mr. Conrad, the rules were suspended in order to take up the New Orleans Canal and Banking Company bill, and then the house adjourned until to-morrow at ten o'clock.

DIED—Yesterday morning at three quarters after 5, Madame widow LAVIGNE, born Victoire Courcelle—Her friends and acquaintances and those of the family, will attend her funeral this afternoon, at half past 4 o'clock, from her late residence, corner of Rampart and St. St. Louis streets.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

EXPORTS.

Havre—Per ship Pauline—580 bales cotton, 28 tons logwood, 10 packages.
Marseilles—Per ship Congress—1270 bales cotton.
Liverpool—Per ship Glasgow—1,273 bales cotton.
Prince Edward's Island—Per schr Cecilia—
Hole—Per schr Fair Trial, for Prince Edward Island—24 bales cotton, 192 tons staves, 30 do staves, 60 logs mahogany, 20 packs paper, wax and shoes.
New York—Per brig Hope—36 packs cordwood.
Philadelphia—Per schr Sarah—237 lbs pork, 4 kegs lard, 4 hds hams, 5 bales cotton.
Philadelphia—Per schr Caledonia—10 hds lard, 98 bbls molasses.
Savannah—Per schr Gladiator—2 bbls flour, 180 bushels corn.
Mobile—Per schr Mechanic—30 bunds and 6 bundles staves.

IMPORTS

Per schr Pauline—Mr Lewis—Mr Cuvillier—Mr Dufour—Mr Dufour—Mr Dufour