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OFFICIAL.

☞ NOTICE is hereby given that a contract has been entered into between the undersigned and Messrs Magne & Weisse, Proprietors of the BEE Newspaper for the publication, during the ensuing calendar year (1846) of all the advertisements required by the act of March 16th, 1843, for the price of *ONE DOLLAR* for every hundred words for each publication and in each language.
WM. DEBUYS, State Treasurer.
ROB'T C. NICHOLAS, Sec'y of State
New Orleans, 27th Dec. 1845.

Thursday morning, March 5, 1846.

THE NORTHERN MAIL failed yesterday from beyond Augusta.

Annual Finance Report of the Second Municipality.

Our columns to-day contain the voluminous Report of the Finance Committee of the Second Municipality Council, submitted at the sitting of that body Tuesday evening last. Its great length should deter from perusal no citizen interested in the progress and prosperity of that important section of our city. The report is an able, comprehensive and luminous exposition of the past and present financial condition of the municipality—its liabilities, its resources, prospects for the future, and general improvement under the superintendence of the able and faithful guardians to whom, for many years, its interests have been entrusted.

As citizens of New Orleans, having a deep and abiding sympathy unconnected with and untrammelled by selfish or sectional considerations, we look with habitual pleasure at the results of the wise and skilful, though bold and adventurous policy, of the Second Municipality Council, by which, within a period of ten years, an almost impassable morass has been converted into an opulent, populous and thriving community. The report sets forth the leading principles upon which this policy has been established, and the mode in which it has been so signally successfully carried out.

We are sorry that we have neither space nor time to notice the magnificent performances of the Keans with the fullness of comment and criticism which they are entitled. Artists of such exalted and varied excellence, merit far more than passing encomiums. MRS KEAN's personation of Beatrice in "Much Ado about Nothing" on Tuesday evening, was one of the most perfect delineations of character we ever witnessed. The striking contrast which the elegant graceful, coy Beatrice exhibits to the mournful tenderness, subdued devotion and heart rending sorrows of Mrs Beverley, afforded an admirable illustration of the versatility of Mrs. KEAN's powers—demonstrating her capabilities in the most opposite fields for dramatic action—from the intensely tragic to the high comic. Nothing could be finer, more life like, truthful, vivid and natural than her representation of Beatrice. To say that she was ably seconded by her accomplished husband, is to render him but scant justice. We like MR KEAN better and better. He has histrionic talent of no common order. There is no break or gap in his performances. They prove that he conceives and studies a character as a whole, paying strict attention to all lights and shades and coloring carefully its details. His personations are therefore, finished specimens of style.

It is a source of great satisfaction to observe that the public is not insensible to the attraction nightly offered them at the St Charles. Crowded houses and brilliant assemblages attest the gratification of the audience, and prove unerringly that the taste for the legitimate drama has not yielded to the meretricious and gew-gaw charms of mere scenery and spectacle, but is readily and warmly enlisted in behalf of talent and genius.

Oregon and the Tariff.

Those locofoco journals who vent their coarse vituperation upon all who dare hint that the Administration is attempting to unite the two questions of Oregon and the Tariff while they are engaged in the congenial labor of abusing the whigs, might not unprofitably cast a casual glance at some of the organs of their own party. The Washington *Times*, which is believed to have been purchased by Senator ALLEN and his friends, for the express purpose of maintaining, and enforcing the views of the ultra Western men, and which is one of the most thorough-paced locofoco papers in the country, notices the proposed scheme in terms of the most indignant denunciation. We copy the following paragraphs from the number of the 23d ultimo.

"Since this arrival, the two questions of *Oregon* and *Tariff* have become like Texas and Oregon in the late Presidential canvass, "*twin sisters*"—and no one can help perceiving that the fate of the one at disposal of one is made to hinge the fate of the other; at least with some distinguished men, such a policy is advocated and will be preserved. The true friends of Oregon and the country should protest emphatically against this mixing up the honor of the country with the dollars and cents of *classes*—the soil and the liberty of the citizen of the Government with the interest of *individuals*, home or foreign. They should point themselves, in this great question, in its present interesting emergency, upon the noble, patriotic principle, "The country first, the country last, the country always," and suffer no intrigue or diplomacy or legislative trickery to mix with it any other; they should sternly refuse the settlement of any other issue till the representatives of the people have observed the instructions of their election, and disposed of this question of honor and soil and dominion on the ground which have been so emphatically and specifically prescribed by the public will.

Oregon being thus disposed of—that is, the 'notice' given, jurisdiction of laws and authority extended, made established; forts erected; the right of the United States to the whole Territory from 42 deg. to 54 deg. 40 min. declared, and the pledge of the Government asserted to *maintain* to our people their right to these limits—the future policy of the Executive and his Secretary, in their treatment of the subject, as we claim, being already distinctly marked out, by their refusal of *arbitration*, in one essential; and in another, a solemn commitment against *compromise*; and in another, a bold avowal of our ownership of *the whole Territory*—then and not till then, if the friends of Oregon are true to their constituents and to their country, will they suffer other and minor questions to obtrude upon their attention and receive their action."

Among other epithets of contumely which it has pleased locofoco scurrility to lavish upon their opponents, is the term "British Whigs"—meaning thereby, that the whigs—who constitute one-half of the people of the Union—are always viewing British institutions and British policy with a friendly eye, and that in all disputes between that country and our own, they would be disposed to take the part of Great Britain. We apprehend that the scornful gibe might with more appropriateness be hurled back upon the calumniators, as peculiarly their own. Their Administration has recently put forth the project of a Tariff, so essentially British in its character, so conducive to the best interests of Great Britain, in contradistinction to the prosperity of the United States, that it has set all the politicians in England wild with delight. Their jubilation and rapture at the prospect of flooding the United States with the produce of their pauper labor, are boundless. In their joy at the certainty of enriching British manufacturers and crushing American industry, they have forgotten their wonted sneers and invectives at the pretensions of American statesmen. On the one hand, they present Messrs. CALHOUN and MCDUFFIE with splendidly bound copies of the "League," as a token of their gratitude for the ability with which these gentlemen defend the principles of Free Trade; and on the other, they order MR. WALKER's report on the Tariff to be spread before the members of both Houses of Parliament—an honor never before conferred on any American State paper.

Thus we see, that the American Tariff so denounced by English writers, because it effectually built up Home industry and precluded a ruinous competition with the cheap labor of Europe, is about to be repealed, and the *British* Tariff of MR. WALKER substituted in its place. No wonder the scheme is received with rounded favor across the water. No wonder the British press and the British people are in rapture at a report that exhibits such perfect and fraternal sympathy with their views, and so kindly and liberally prepares to promote them at the expense of the growing industry of our own country. Let locofoco slang-whangers sneer their disdain upon the whigs, take back their contemptuous epithets, and claim for themselves the title of the "British Party."

Mexican.

Letters from Vera Cruz, received in this city, by way of Pensacola, state that MR. SLIDELL had not been received, and was then at Jalapa, on his way to Washington. Our dates are to the 16th, and from Jalapa to the 20th. All was quiet at the former city.

We understand that private advices have been received from MR. SLIDELL, confirming previous reports of the refusal of the Government to receive his official character.

City Intelligence.

THE FIREMEN'S PROCESSION.—It has rarely been our good fortune to witness a more animating and interesting procession than the one which paraded our streets yesterday. Our firemen turned out in large numbers, there being no less than from 1,000 to 1,200 men in uniform. Their appearance was cleanly, neat, and appropriate. Their engines, the quality and powers of which, cannot be surpassed, were tastefully ornamented, and looked unexceptionably well. The banners were beautiful and devices appropriate. When to all this fascinating external show, we bring to mind the orderly conduct of our firemen, their indomitable energy, their well known and well tried courage, their alacrity to be present at the scene of danger, and their devotedness to their useful and arduous calling, we cannot refrain from stamping them as the most orderly and efficient corps to be found in this or any other country. In addition to our own companies, we were pleased to see in the line, those of Lafayette and of Gretna, whose appearance was exceedingly good. The procession moved at about ten o'clock, and extended fully one mile and a half. The streets through which it passed were thronged with spectators, so much so, indeed, as almost to block up a passage to pedestrians. The windows and balconies were filled with the beauty of our city. The day was warm and bright, and every thing appeared to combine favorably in order to add lustre, pleasure and satisfaction to the Anniversary of our Firemen. Governor Johnson and several of our authorities joined the procession on foot and in citizen's dress. On reaching Lafayette Square, the engines were left there, to await the return of the department who entered the American Theatre to listen to the eloquent and pertinent address delivered by J. W. Bryce, Esq. The presence of the engines in the square, the flaunting banners, the waving of variegated ribbands, the bright and varied colors of the flowers which adorned the engines, the flashing of the highly burnished ornaments, and the manly look and bearing of the companies, presented a sight at once grand and imposing. We trust the members of our fire department may long live to enjoy the esteem and confidence of our community both in their calling and as private citizens.

SIGHT TOWN.—Stephen Peacock and Patrick Coleman, two notorious vagrants, were sent down to the Workhouse yesterday, by Recorder Genois, for 30 days each.

CRIMINAL COURT.—The Court opened according to adjournment yesterday. Mr Elmore, the Attorney General, filed several pleas, one of which goes to the jurisdiction of the Court, and asked leave to file them. Mr Wolfe objected upon the ground that pleas operating in abatement, which he contended were the quarter of those pleas, could not be filed at this stage, in support of which he cited several authorities. Mr Elmore then observed that he offered a protest to such proceedings as were filed by Mr. Wolfe. The Court decided that it knew of no law which recognized a protest. After considerable conversation from Mr. Elmore and Mr. Wolfe, the question arose whether the transcript of the Senate, as furnished by General Davis, as Clerk, was full proof of all the oaths that had been taken or whether parole evidence could be heard in reference to the question whether the oath as required by Congress in 1789 had been taken. The Court decided, after hearing arguments and authorities read, that it would hear General Davis, who was sworn, and said that the Senate did not take any other oath but that required by the new Constitution of the State. After which the Hon Transmond Landry, Lieutenant Governor, was sworn. Mr. Wolfe propounded a question to him, whether the oath as prescribed by act of Congress of 1789 was taken by the Senators, which Mr. Landry refused to answer. Mr. Wolfe insisted upon the rights secured to him by the Constitution and the laws, and quoted an authority from the Court of the United States, establishing his right to demand an answer to his question. He said, moreover, although he had the right to require an answer, he would dispense with insisting on it, inasmuch as the extracts from the Journal of the Senate, and the testimony of the Clerk were sufficient. Mr. Wolfe then opened his case, and spoke for about two hours in support of his position bringing forward several authorities from law books to sustain him. He insisted that he had the highest respect for the Governor and Legislature, and hoped they would weigh well what they had done, and recall their acts. The question before the Court was a great and serious one, and as such, should be rigidly investigated and decided. Mr. Sevier next followed in an argument of considerable force, insisting that the oath of 1789 could not be passed over. After he finished, Mr. Elmore rose and observed that he had nothing to say on the subject. The Judge took the case under advisement, and the Court was then adjourned.

ARRESTED.—Auguste Campan was arrested yesterday, accused of having stolen a pair of ear-rings from a lady, and offering them for sale.

Nathalie Balesteure and Patrick Walls were also arrested, accused of larceny.

INQUEST.—Coroner Spedden, had the first case of mortality before him yesterday, having held an inquest on the body of a white woman named Margaret Morford, who died in Circus street near Julia. Verdict "Died of Consumption."

☞ Capt. SPEDDEN, our new Coroner, has opened an office for the transaction of business at the corner of Camp and Common streets in the room occupied by the agency of the Sun Mutual Insurance Company. This office is intended for the filing of all reports of inquests occurring in the Second Municipality. In addition to this, he has also opened an office in the corner of St Peter Street and the Place d'Armes where reports will be filed of all cases occurring in the First and Third Municipality. We feel persuaded that the business of the Coroner will now be conducted with order and attention, and we feel obliged to Capt. Spedden and Dr. James Lewis, for the promise to give us, at all times, direct and full information.

☞ In a most scathing and ably written article on the "Wandering Jew," in the January number of the Southern Quarterly, the following passage occurs:

"The insidious nature of the disguised poison may be estimated from the fact that scarcely a single press in the whole country, (we do not except the locofocos) has yet expressed any condemnation of the work."

The statement in the above paragraph is not correct. This paper was one of the first in the Union to expose the character and tendency of the Wanderer, and in terms of fitting reprobation. We spoke of it as one of the most demoralizing and licentious works of the day. While we take pleasure in recommending to our readers the article in the Review as a most excoriating and powerful criticism on that much-be-praised romance, in justice to ourselves, we must remark that the Southern Quarterly is not the only medium through which the infamous sentiments and obscene details of the "Wandering Jew," have been held up to public condemnation.

PRESENTIMENT OF DEATH.—The Philadelphia papers relate a strong example of this. Lieutenant JOHN C. HENRY, who died in that city week before last, had, three weeks prior to his death, a presentiment that he would be called hence on his birth day, and at that time made it known to his mother, who tried in vain to drive the idea from his mind. On the 18th, she said to him: "Well, John, this is your birth-day, and you are still in the land of the living." "Yes," he replied, "but before it is over I shall be numbered with the dead." This remark proved prophetical, for during the evening of the same day he calmly breathed his last while seated on a chair before the fire in his chamber.

☞ The Cincinnati papers mention several cases of insanity caused by attendance on the Millerite meeting of that city. One woman cut off and burnt her hair, destroyed her dresses and sat waiting to be taken to glory in her *chemise*. Others, without being quite so sure of bliss, have been equally wild and fanatical.

Report of the Finance Committee of the Second Municipality of New Orleans, and resolutions presented by MR. PETERS, Chairman of said committee, on the 3d March, 1846, and made the order of the day for next meeting:

The Finance Committee beg leave to submit their tenth Annual Report on the financial condition of the Municipality, and with such suggestions as they deem worthy the consideration of the Council, as well as of its constituents.

The indebtedness of the Municipality is as follows:

In bonds bearing 6 per cent. Interest, in 40 years	$1,735,180 00
Do do 7 do do	246,000 00
Notes payable,	681,936 66
Outstanding Municipal note circulation, supposed to be destroyed,	29,188 00
Treasury notes and certificates due to sinking fund, No 1,	54,475 97
	$2,746,470 63
The sinking funds created for the extinguishment of the bonds, contain the following amounts, which, being applicable to the payment of the debt, and composing as above a part of the debt, may, with propriety, be deducted from the above sum:	
Sinking fund No 1,	$657,047 66
Sinking fund No 2,	84,158 95
	$741,205 95
	$2,005,265 68

There is now due the Treasury, and in progress of collection, as follows:

Notes receivable,	$30,911 75
Paying reimbursement,	55,940 50
Opening streets,	8,746 50
Arrear taxes 1836 to 1844 inclusive,	73,816 11
Feeding reimbursement,	3,594 00
Mortgage on McNair's cotton press,	48,500 00
Third Municipality for levee dues,	6,653 50
Capital of ground rent property gradually being paid,	47,938 95
Parish of Orleans,	2,400 00
Heatmen's association,	4,120 50
Balance of special tax of 1843, pledged to sinking fund No 1, (in litigation,)	71,361 91
	$307,123 18

If these sums be considered as also applicable to the payment of the debt, the indebtedness of the Municipality, (less the amount thus applicable to the sinking funds, and in the sinking funds is $3,061,153 95) would stand in the opinion of the citizens of the city of New Orleans, recognized within the limits of this Municipality, as a portion of the debt, and the administration of its affairs, the economy practised in the administration of its public funds, and the improvements of its city, would be fairly appreciated from the following statement of its assets:

Public buildings,	$[illegible]
Public squares,	[illegible]
Public markets,	[illegible]
Public levees,	[illegible]
Public wharves,	[illegible]
Public cisterns,	[illegible]
Public fire engines,	[illegible]
Public fire cisterns,	[illegible]
Public fire hydrants,	[illegible]
Public fire alarm bell,	[illegible]
Public fire hose,	[illegible]
Public fire hose carriages,	[illegible]
Public fire hose reels