NEW-ORLEANS BEE.

BY BULLITT, MAGNE & CO.

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A. M. S. t. Chef-intendant.

FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

HENRY CLAY.

NEW ORLEANS:

TUESDAY MORNING APRIL 4, 1843.

MEXICO.

By the schooner *James Francis*, arrived here yesterday, we have received our regular files of papers from Vera Cruz up to the 22d, and Mexico to the 19th ult.

A conducta had arrived in Vera Cruz on the 17th ult. with $700,000, of which, $500,000 for merchants in this city, had been forwarded by the United States courier Woodbury. The Falmouth sloop-of-war was to have left Vera Cruz for this place on the 25th ult.

A casual correspondent in the city of Mexico, informs us of the passage of a new law augmenting the export duty on silver from 3½ to 6 per cent.—In relation to the Texian prisoners taken at *Mier*, who made their escape and were subsequently recaptured, our informant adds, "Report says that Government has given orders for them all to be shot."

TEXAS.

By the steam-packet *Neptune*, Capt. Rollins, arrived yesterday afternoon we received Galveston papers to the 1st inst. They contain no news worth noticing, the intelligence having been anticipated by the New York which arrived on Sunday.

ANOTHER COMET.—We conversed, yesterday, with a gentleman lately from Laguyra, who informs us that another Comet, much more brilliant than the one visible in this latitude, was seen by him whilst at that port, and for several nights during the passage to New Orleans. The nucleus is of a fiery red appearance and was about 45 E. S. E. of the termination of the tail of what was called there the pale Comet. The tail was well defined and about thirty degrees in length. It rose about 1 o'clock, A. M.

He also informed us that at Laguyra and in the interior of Caracas, the greatest consternation prevailed amongst the inhabitant—the more so in consequence of the vast number of Parson MILLER's tracts, which have been translated into Spanish and circulated amongst the people.

COURT OF APPEALS IN CRIMINAL CASES.—We announce with great gratification, the passage of the bill, introduced into the Legislature by our Representative Mr. OGDEN, and ably supported by him throughout, creating a Court of Appeal in criminal cases, which passed both branches of the Legislature, and only awaits the signature of the Governor to become a law.

MOBILE ADVERTISER.—We perceive with great pleasure that by an arrangement to which the whigs of Mobile have become a party, Mr. C. C. LANGDON, will in future be the sole editor and proprietor of the *Advertiser*. There is not an abler or more unflinching and faithful advocate of whig principles in the South than the *Advertiser*, and right glad are we, that Mr. LANGDON has been placed in a position to give it the untrammelled energies of his intellect and spirit.

PENSACOLA.—The Mobile *Herald* says that a private letter to the editor informs him that the French ship of war *Brilliante* arrived at Pensacola on Thursday last. The *Brilliante* was off Campeachy, but owing to the rigor of the blockade, did not touch at that port. Consequently she brings nothing new from the seat of war. In the course of a week or ten days, this vessel will sail from Pensacola on the melancholy duty of ascertaining, if possible, the fate of the French brig of war *Danois*, supposed to have been lost, as nothing has been heard of her since October, when she left the West Indies for France.

The U. S. brig of war *Dolphin*, from Vera Cruz, via the Balize, also arrived in Pensacola Bay, on Thursday.

THE GREAT WESTERN.—The ship *Mercator*, of New Bedford, reports having passed the steam ship *Great Western*, bound from New York to Bristol, on the 18th ult.—the second day after leaving port. She was scudding under close reefed sails and steaming. Some slight apprehensions were entertained for the safety of this vessel, as she left New York only a few hours before the late destructive gale set in.

ANOTHER STEAMBOAT ACCIDENT.—On Friday evening last, about nine o'clock, the steamboat Gainesville, Capt. Lyle, was run into by the state car *Norfolk*, when nearly opposite Twenty-one Mile Bluff, and so badly damaged that she sunk immediately. The boat and cargo a total loss. The passengers were taken off by the steamer Alabama, and brought back to town. As both boats were bound up at the time, the cause of the accident yet remains to be explained.

[Mobile Herald.

SEARCHING THE ISLE OF PINES.—Arrival at New York last evening from intelligence of the 24th ult. The schooner Capt. Buchanan, proceeds to her arrival at Trinidad on the 21st ult., had touched off the "isle of Pines," and had a party of three boats, eight officers, and forty men, under the command of Lieut. J. R. Mitchell, accompanied by Lieut. Wainwright and Purser Hunt, were despatched to make a thorough examination of the Island of Pines, and of the adjacent Keys. They were fully armed, and provisioned for thirty days; and it is to be hoped they will succeed in breaking up the piratical haunts said to exist in those places.—*New York paper of the 23d.*

FURTHER FROM THE CONCORD.—Accounts, via England, from Table Bay, to the 23d December, mention the arrival at that port of the Portuguese brig *Caiza*, from Quillimane river, with the surviving officers and crew of the U. S. brig of war *Concord*, lost in Mozambique Channel.

THE JOHN ADAMS.—A postcript in the Portsmouth *Chronicle* of the 22d ult. states that the U. S. ship of war *John Adams* had just been telegraphed, and was making up the harbor with a light wind. This is the vessel upon which a mutiny is said to have broken out, in October last.

FIRE.—At Louisville, on the 25th March, about mid night, the Tobacco Warehouse belonging to N. W. Bullitt & Applegate, on the corner of Main and Seventh streets, was consumed by fire, with about 150 hhds. tobacco. The fire is said to have been the work of an incendiary.

☞The New York *Aurora* of the 23d ult. says that "arrangements have been made by one of our managers for bringing out, during the approaching summer, the young and celebrated dancseuse Mademoiselle CERITO."

THE CRESCENT CITY.—We are glad to see this lively paper on its legs once more. Its wit of a morning is as agreeable as the chirping of birds in spring time.

DEATH IN THE ARMY.—Major NELSON, of the 7th U. S. Regiment, died at Tampa Bay, Florida, on the 27th ult.

LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE,

OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE OF LOUISIANA.

Friday, March 31, 1843.

Mr. WARNER asked the Senate to take up the bill exempting the organ of the Church of St. Patrick from seizure, for the ordinary debts of the corporation of that church.

Mr. W. advocated the passage of the bill, and explained that the organ was purchased through the benevolent exertions of some ladies, who had held fairs for the purpose of raising the necessary means, and as there was no exception in favor of the manufacturer, he thought that the bill should be passed, and that this respectable and religious corporation should have the privilege of preserving that instrument, to be used in their pious devotions.

Mr. HOLT moved the bill to be laid upon the table for the present. He had understood that the organ was not that church had been charged with contracting several debts, and with endeavoring to avoid their payment.

Mr. BLANCHARD explained, on both sides—for and against this application—came from the most respectable sources, and such being the case he was in doubt how to act upon the matter. On the one hand, it was represented to him that the Sons of Erin had not paid for the ostensible object of purchasing this organ, but for general purposes, and that the amounts accruing had been squandered by the trustees. On the sacred property of the church could not be made amenable to the payments of its debts, but whether an organ was to be considered in that light was a question. He did not think it could. He felt very much inclined to favor additional laws to favor particular cases. He did not approve of that kind of legislation. He had every disposition to favor the observance of the ladies who had proposed this work of piety, and he felt like contributing in his power in aid of a religious corporation. But laws were designed to be useful to society, but the obedience that was paid to the law is just and proper regard for the principles of honor and good faith, and a repugnance to interpose special legislation, to interfere with the regular and sage provisions of the law, induced him to hesitate, and to require that all his scruples be first satisfied, before he could assent to the proposition which had been made. His feelings, he acknowledged, were warmly enlisted, and all that he wanted, was sufficient information to authorize his legislation to proceed. He expected to obtain this from a perusal of the law, and intimated himself in the matter. But under present circumstances, he should have the passage of the bill this session unnecessary. If the organ was not yet paid for, as he had understood, it was the property of the corporation, and of course was not liable to the seizure of the creditors of the church; and if it was paid for it, it was their property, and of course equally exempted. They might give the church the use of it, but the absolute property, by law, under the present impressions, he thought preferable to a law which would interpose between the rights of the creditors and the church. However, the information he might get might remove these objections, and in that case he would cheerfully yield his assent to the bill.

Mr. MONROE said, that he considered the exemption referred to by this bill to be just and right, and he could not hesitate in yielding to it his support. He recollected, and it was probably in the recollection of several Senators, that a number of ladies belonging to the congregation of that church, and others, he believed, who did not, united in furtherance of the meritorious design, of procuring an organ through their exertions, and donating it, and if his memory served him aright, this subject was announced in the notices for the first time last week. It was very evident that their pious intentions would be thwarted unless this bill was passed, for the very moment that the organ came into the possession of the church as its property, it would be seized and sold by the sheriff. By the bill, the manufacturer was very properly guaranteed, he could not see any reasonable ground for resisting the passage of the bill. It did not affect any of the rights of the creditors to property which was legitimately belonging to the church, but this instrument was donated for religious purposes, and of course would be retained by the donors, if the object they had in view was to be defeated. He hoped the bill would pass. He was prepared to vote upon it at the present moment.

Mr. DAWES was in favor of the passage of the bill. He had conversed that it would be setting a bad precedent, inasmuch as it would appear to him to have a retroactive effect, but upon consideration he was convinced it was only prospective. The benevolent intentions of the donors would be defeated if the exemption asked for was refused; and there would be no liability in that case upon the property, as it would not be given for the purpose of being seized and sold for debts with which the party donating had nothing to do, and for which it could not be expected they would render themselves responsible. The only guarantee which they would have, would be in the preservation of the organ to its destination, and as it was their property, he could see no objection in granting them that assurance in delivering it for the service of the church.

Mr. BERNARD said, that if the subject was pressed and the vote was now taken, he would feel himself obliged to vote against the bill. The request appeared to him but reasonable, one which he was very willing to accord, but he should like to be in possession of further information before it could receive his approbation. He hoped it could be postponed for the present.

Mr. SPARROW was ready to vote in favor of the bill. He saw no objections to it, but as delay was asked for, he thought it was but reasonable to accord it. It was possible that the religious corporation should have other property that every senator should be fully satisfied upon the subject.

The message of the governor received yesterday, relative to the finances of the state, and touching her interest in the Bankville and Red River railroad companies, was, on motion of Mr. DUNN, referred to the finance committee.

Mr. MORSE, on behalf of the committee of conference on the districting bill, made a report and submitted the minutes of the proceedings of said committee. It appeared from the minutes that several propositions of compromise were offered on behalf of the different of which were voted down, and that the committee had finally recommended the adoption of the bill of the senate, in place of that of the house. Messrs. Armant, Morse and Wadsworth voting in favor of that proposition, and Messrs. Hunt and Brashear against it.

Mr. MORSE stated that as the fate of the bill was now with the house, he wished all the facts to be distinctly understood so that the responsibility might rest where it properly belonged.

On motion the report was laid upon the table for the present.

Mr. CARTER asked for the consideration of the bill requiring the general elections in the parish of East Feliciana; and he should not, therefore, in this hurried manner, and at the close of the session, evict him from his office. He had been informed, that the receipts from auction sales had been progressively increasing ever since the appointment of the present incumbent, and this was in a great measure attributed to his zeal and capacity.

Dr. BRASHEAR said if we could save the State a heavy expense, and create a sufficient fund to help out the finances, we should not hesitate to do so, because our legislation might injure an office holder. He did not know the Auditor of Public Accounts even by name.—He was legislating for the State, not for individuals.

Mr. CLAIBORNE said, that to abolish the Auditor of Auction Sales, and at the same time to allow the Secretary of State to appoint a Clerk for the purpose of filling those duties, was clearly legislating for individuals. He would vote to retain the office of Auditor, and would vote not to give a Clerk to the Secretary of State.

Mr. Benjamin concurred fully in these views. He was not satisfied with the first section, and offered a substitute, declaring that the Secretary of State should be ex-officio, Comptroller of Accounts.

Mr. BROWER said, his proposition was one of economy. The Auditor of Auction Sales, at present, had a salary of $2,200, and it was proposed to give the Secretary of State $1,000 per annum, by the abolition of the latter office, and the Auditor of Auction Accounts would be abolished, which would clearly save $1,000 to the State.

Mr. MOUTON asked the object of the bill. A Comptroller already existed, whose duty it was to supervise the Treasurer. This was unnecessary. The Auditor was the real security. This was sufficient. If we were to have a Comptroller, let him control the finances of the country—supervise the accounts, and adjust the expenses of the State. For such a Comptroller, he would vote with all his heart. But he was opposed to the bill as it stood.

Dr. BRASHEAR said, that every thing relative to the finances of the State, had been brought within the bill, and amendments could be proposed in order to perfect it as much as possible.

A desultory debate here followed on points of order.

Mr. RUTLIFF was unprepared to support the bill. He had looked into it, and found that it embraced nearly all the duties of the Treasurer, leaving to the latter a merely negative function. As he understood the office of Comptroller, there should be a mutual check between that officer and the Treasurer, but as the bill was framed, the Comptroller was to be appointed by the Treasurer and handed down to a deputy. Besides, the remuneration required of the Comptroller by the bill, would create a large item in the public list. The number of these plans, maps, and surveys, and there was no telling what the Legislature would have to pay.—It was a bad one in the present state of the finances, and demanded great care and deliberation. Of all things, he deprecated hasty legislation, more especially in reference to subjects affecting the pecuniary interests of the country.

Mr. CLAIBORNE had no doubt that the bill might be so simplified that the Secretary of State would be glad to accept the office with the additional salary of $1000.—The principal object of the bill should be to create a control over the receipts. The expenditure it was easy to ascertain, because they were guaranteed by proper vouchers—but at present there was no control over the receipts.

Mr. WORCESTER was satisfied the bill had not been sufficiently matured. We were now within four days of the close of the session, and if the bill was passed hastily, it might be a long period. He moved to refer the bill to a special committee, to report at the next session.

Mr. BRASHEAR opposed the motion as giving the bill the go-by. He did not see the bill as a necessary guard to the officers of the State, creating an officer which were it mean to every State in the Union. The bill might be tried until the next session, and then receive the action of the legislature.

Mr. RATLIFF could not find a single reason alleged why the revenue would be improved by the bill. The proposition of Mr. WORCESTER was an excellent one. The committee would have time to investigate the subject, and collect information, reappear at the next session, and then—the effect of which would be salutary. He again deprecated hasty action in the most emphatic terms.

The yeas and nays were called for on the motion to refer, stood—yeas 24; nays 16.

Mr. H. insisted upon the advantages possessed by New Orleans, as another reason for delay. He could say that the Legislature should know the wants of every closet of the community and as I was sometimes had occasion to visit the capitol at Baton Rouge, he felt that an opportunity of investigating and of becoming more intimately acquainted with those subjects than any other part of the State. He combined this request in an essential degree. A delay of a few days would be a study of intricate questions of law to have access to numerous authors, and where could the information be more readily obtained as in the city? For himself, as his constituents were content with his course, and he should not be at a great loss if he had to depend alone on the state library. Was it not better for the State that it should obtain a voluminous and well selected library before this measure was resolved upon? If the seat of government was to be removed, let such measures be taken as shall render it for a season, as for as practicable, permanent, and not expose the State to the evils of a change again which will be as much money positively thrown away to gratify a taste or caprice.

Mr. H. argued, that the degraded rational amusements, the city it was admitted, was far preferable to any point in the country. It was necessary to suspend the rival, have it figured for exertion, by some creation, and the consequence was that the seat of Government would become unprofitable and better able to discharge their functions. As to the oft repeated accusation of the corruptions of the legislature, he was prepared to join the country, he remarked, that unfortunately there was there an exemption from the follies and practices that were contemplated, and there was an equality as to them throughout the State. He was for the bill, and that the age in its advancement towards knowledge and sciences should have made a corresponding advance in the legislative sessions of the State, such as seemed to be the fact. We were not in the golden age, and the idea of ploughs and rural groves and sylvan simplicity no longer carried with them the notions they were originally intended to convey. Now, but not as romantic and immoral, the country was not behind it, and the change of locality would not make any change in respect to the prevailing infirmities that exist, and which every good man must deplore.

In reply to another point of objection, which was urged, as to the predominating influence of the city, Mr. HOLT would appeal to the House to put that charge down. What had been the character of the legislature of the session towards the city of New Orleans? Has it not been of the most fatal and ominous kind? Have even the solemn appeals of a delegation been brought to bear or its financial position for one moment committed?—No, first as regarded the wharves—those wharves which had cost so much money, and which were reconstructed for the interest of the planter, now lies not as only condemned to destruction, by withholding the means to keep them in repair, merely because, forsooth, it would be an advantage to the city. At one session, the bill throwing the burthen of maintaining and prosecuting criminals upon the Parish of Orleans, although the prisoners are drawn from every part of the State, and their conviction and punishment a matter of interest for the country. The predominating influence of the city upon the legislature indeed was truly wonderful. It had been the case from the first session of the territorial legislature, and it was to be hoped they will succeed in breaking up the fatal charm.

Mr. H. insisted upon the propriety of the bill requiring the general elections in the parish of East Feliciana to be held at the court house. Why was it taken up, and after explanations from Mr. C., was passed.

Mr. DOWNS called for the special order of the day.

THE BILL TO REMOVE THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

Mr. BARTLEY hoped that the senators of the Opelousas would suffer the bill to lay on the table until the question of the contested election was disposed of, which was under consideration by the senate. The senate adjourned, and it was desirable to have it adjudicated one way or the other. He apprehended that the proposition to remove the seat of government would produce discussion and occupy the attention of the House to the exclusion of business which had already been begun, and which could very soon be terminated, after which that measure could be taken up and decided.

Mr. DOWNS could see no necessity for the delay. The proposition hardly admitted of it, and it was to be presumed that every member had formed a settled opinion upon it. He did not mean to discuss it, unless there were arguments urged adversely to it, and then he would briefly reply to them.

Mr. SPARROW said, that as to the question of the removal of the seat of government, it was, as stated by the Senator from Ouachita, a simple proposition and he was ready to vote in favor of it. But the detailed of the bill might produce debate. However, he had no objection to the consideration of the bill, as that it did not occupy at the present moment, but much time of the Senate.

The bill being under consideration.

Mr. DOWNS said, that it might be well be supposed that the proposition to dissolve the connection which had heretofore, and for a series of years existed between the city and the legislature, and the honor of representing the delegates, from the country, by having to have business with the distinction it had enjoyed of being the seat of government, and the focus of legislative and executive wisdom, would excite some remark from him. He could not consent to part with all the associations and old reminiscences connected with their presence in the city, without attempting to detain them, by placing before their eyes some of the very numerous objections that presented themselves against so unfortunate a decision. From time immemorial the city had been selected as the most appropriate place for the seat of government.—This selection was not done rashly, but after mature deliberation and judgment, as has been fully tested by experience. The great facility of communication to it, and numerous other advantages which it possessed, have been so great, that notwithstanding all the efforts that had been made so far from being beneficial, that it could not deserve from gross injustice and unmixed wrong. It was very evident that the object of the bill was to destroy the influence of the city, but predominating influence of the country. The latter had the majority, and the former could not expect success to sustain her, and these were the reasons why he was sorry to say were not often influenced by, especially in this body, when she was involved. He should propose a fair question, showing the boasted and envied influence of the city, by which they had undertook in the table, immediately after his colleagues should have expressed their views upon the subject.

(To be continued.)

LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE.

OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, April 3, 1843.

The House met pursuant to adjournment. The roll being called—all members answered to their names.

Leave of absence for the balance of the session was granted to Messrs. Perkins and Nicholls.

The House resumed the consideration of the Bank Bill at the third reading.

The bill as amended, was read a third time and passed.

Mr. CHURCHILL reported having submitted to the Governor, for his signature, a number of bills and resolutions.

Mr. Brashear moved to take up the bill to create a Comptroller of Public Accounts. The motion prevailed.

The Speaker laid before the House, a communication from the Governor, informing the Legislature that the Governor had received the returns of the election of the third Municipality, and returned the bonds issued in its favor, by the State in 1839.

Also, a report from the Orleans Navigation Company transmitting a statement of its affairs, for the year 1842.

Also, a report from the Police Jury of the Parish of Jefferson, paying the reminding of a certain sum paid into the State Treasury through error. Referred to the Committee on Claims.

Also, a communication from Count Sobiraki, announcing his desire to give a lecture on the late Polish Revolution; and asking the use of the Representative Hall, for this evening.

Mr. Brashear offered a resolution, appointing a Joint Committee, to ____ the bonds of the State issued in behalf of the 1st Municipality, to be burned in presence of the Governor and Secretary of State, which was adopted. The Speaker appointed Messrs. Brashear, Claiborne, Boudousquié, Robertson and Voorhies, on the part of the House.

Mr. Philips, on leave, introduced a resolution, appointing a Joint Committee to examine the accounts of Messrs. Dunbar, Cryl Engineer of the State, from the 1st January, 1841, to the present time.

The Speaker appointed Messrs. Philips, Stille and Blanchard, on the Committee.

Mr. Winchester, on leave, reported from the Joint Committee, that they had carefully examined the accounts of the late Treasurer, and found them correct. They had introduced a resolution, providing for the annulling and cancellation of the bonds given by Mr. Gardere. Read twice and adopted.

Mr. Brewer wished to present a petition from the former State Treasurer, requesting the value of the books entrusted to his care, and asking the countenance of the office. Referred to a Committee of three, consisting of Messrs. Brewer, Wilson and Gunthem.

Mr. Blanchard, agreeably to notice, offered a bill relative to Justices of the Peace, in and for the Parish of Rapides. The bill requires suits to be instituted before the nearest Justice of the Peace, in the ward in which the domicile of the defendant is placed.

Mr. Brewer stated, that the object of the bill was to obviate the inconvenience of suits being brought before Justices many miles distant from the domicile of the defendant, even while there were other Magistrates in the same ward, within a few hundred yards from the house of the defendant. Mr. Philips offered a proviso, "that there be no Justices of Peace, in the ward in which the defendant resides."

The amendment was laid on the table, and the bill was adopted, read a third time and passed.

The House then resumed the consideration of the act creating a Comptroller General. The bill had been reported by the Committee, with several amendments.—It provides that the Secretary of State shall hold the office; that he shall give bond and security, that he shall keep all accounts between the State and other States, or the United States; that he shall liquidate and prosecute for all debts due the State, that he shall superintend the accounts of the sales of public lands, &c; that the office of the auditor of auction sales shall be abolished.

Mr. Delacroix moved to lay the bill upon the table.—The yeas and nays being taken, resulted as follows:—yeas 15—nays 21. So the motion was lost.

The bill was taken up by sections. Mr. Sparrow offered an amendment, giving a salary of $1500 to the Clerk of the Comptroller instead $1,000. This clerk would in a great measure discharge the duties of the auditor of auction sales.

Mr. Ogden was opposed to the abolition of the office of auditor of auction sales. The office was an important one. He was the superintendent of sales that produced $60,000 or $70,000 into the treasury, and he could be compelled to vote against the bill unless the office was retained. It was unjust and improper to take away the office from the present incumbent. He was opposed to legislate persons in or out of office. The present auditor was a highly meritorious and competent officer, man, who had discharged his duties to the highest satisfaction; and he should not, therefore, in this hurried manner, and at the close of the session, evict him from his office. He had been informed, that the receipts from auction sales had been progressively increasing ever since the appointment of the present incumbent, and this was in a great measure attributed to his zeal and capacity.

Dr. Brashear said if we could save the State a heavy expense, and create a sufficient fund to help out the finances, we should not hesitate to do so, because our legislation might injure an office holder. He did not know the Auditor of Public Accounts even by name.—He was legislating for the State, not for individuals.

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A desultory debate here followed on points of order.

Mr. Ratliff was unprepared to support the bill. He had looked into it, and found that it embraced nearly all the duties of the Treasurer, leaving to the latter a merely negative function. As he understood the office of Comptroller, there should be a mutual check between that officer and the Treasurer, but as the bill was framed, the Comptroller was to be appointed by the Treasurer and handed down to a deputy. Besides, the remuneration required of the Comptroller by the bill, would create a large item in the public list. The number of these plans, maps, and surveys, and there was no telling what the Legislature would have to pay.—It was a bad one in the present state of the finances, and demanded great care and deliberation. Of all things, he deprecated hasty legislation, more especially in reference to subjects affecting the pecuniary interests of the country.

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Mr. Worcester was satisfied the bill had not been sufficiently matured. We were now within four days of the close of the session, and if the bill was passed hastily, it might be a long period. He moved to refer the bill to a special committee, to report at the next session.

Mr. Brashear opposed the motion as giving the bill the go-by. He did not see the bill as a necessary guard to the officers of the State, creating an officer which were it mean to every State in the Union. The bill might be tried until the next session, and then receive the action of the legislature.

Mr. Ratliff could not find a single reason alleged why the revenue would be improved by the bill. The proposition of Mr. Worcester was an excellent one. The committee would then have time to investigate the subject, collect information, reappear at the next session, and then—the effect of which would be salutary. He again deprecated hasty action in the most emphatic terms.

The yeas and nays were called for on the motion to refer, stood—yeas 24; nays 16.

Mr. H. insisted upon the advantages possessed by New Orleans, as another reason for delay. He could say that the Legislature should know the wants of every closet of the community and as I was sometimes had occasion to visit the capitol at Baton Rouge, he felt that an opportunity of investigating and of becoming more intimately acquainted with those subjects than any other part of the State. He combined this request in an essential degree. A delay of a few days would be a study of intricate questions of law to have access to numerous authors, and where could the information be more readily obtained as in the city? For himself, as his constituents were content with his course, and he should not be at a great loss if he had to depend alone on the state library. Was it not better for the State that it should obtain a voluminous and well selected library before this measure was resolved upon? If the seat of government was to be removed, let such measures be taken as shall render it for a season, as far as practicable, permanent, and not expose the State to the evils of a change again which will be as much money positively thrown away to gratify a taste or caprice.

Mr. H. argued, that the degraded rational amusements, the city it was admitted, was far preferable to any point in the country. It was necessary to suspend the rival, have it figured for exertion, by some creation, and the consequence was that the seat of Government would become unprofitable and better able to discharge their functions. As to the oft repeated accusation of the corruptions of the legislature, he was prepared to join the country, he remarked, that unfortunately there was there an exemption from the follies and practices that were contemplated, and there was an equality as to them throughout the State. He was for the bill, and that the age in its advancement towards knowledge and sciences should have made a corresponding advance in the legislative sessions of the State, such as seemed to be the fact. We were not in the golden age, and the idea of ploughs and rural groves and sylvan simplicity no longer carried with them the notions they were originally intended to convey. Now, but not as romantic and immoral, the country was not behind it, and the change of locality would not make any change in respect to the prevailing infirmities that exist, and which every good man must deplore.

In reply to another point of objection, which was urged, as to the predominating influence of the city, Mr. Holt would appeal to the House to put that charge down. What had been the character of the legislature of the session towards the city of New Orleans? Has it not been of the most fatal and ominous kind? Have even the solemn appeals of a delegation been brought to bear or its financial position for one moment committed?—No, first as regarded the wharves—those wharves which had cost so much money, and which were reconstructed for the interest of the planter, now lies not as only condemned to destruction, by withholding the means to keep them in repair, merely because, forsooth, it would be an advantage to the city. At one session, the bill throwing the burthen of maintaining and prosecuting criminals upon the Parish of Orleans, although the prisoners are drawn from every part of the State, and their conviction and punishment a matter of interest for the country. The predominating influence of the city upon the legislature indeed was truly wonderful. It had been the case from the first session of the territorial legislature, and it was to be hoped they will succeed in breaking up the fatal charm.

Mr. H. insisted upon the propriety of the bill requiring the general elections in the parish of East Feliciana to be held at the court house. Why was it taken up, and after explanations from Mr. C., was passed.

Mr. DOWNS called for the special order of the day.

THE BILL TO REMOVE THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

Mr. BARTLEY hoped that the senators of the Opelousas would suffer the bill to lay on the table until the question of the contested election was disposed of, which was under consideration by the senate. The senate adjourned, and it was desirable to have it adjudicated one way or the other. He apprehended that the proposition to remove the seat of government would produce discussion and occupy the attention of the House to the exclusion of business which had already been begun, and which could very soon be terminated, after which that measure could be taken up and decided.

Mr. DOWNS could see no necessity for the delay. The proposition hardly admitted of it, and it was to be presumed that every member had formed a settled opinion upon it. He did not mean to discuss it, unless there were arguments urged adversely to it, and then he would briefly reply to them.

Mr. SPARROW said, that as to the question of the removal of the seat of government, it was, as stated by the Senator from Ouachita, a simple proposition and he was ready to vote in favor of it. But the detailed of the bill might produce debate. However, he had no objection to the consideration of the bill, as that it did not occupy at the present moment, but much time of the Senate.

The bill being under consideration.

Mr. DOWNS said, that it might be well be supposed that the proposition to dissolve the connection which had heretofore, and for a series of years existed between the city and the legislature, and the honor of representing the delegates, from the country, by having to have business with the distinction it had enjoyed of being the seat of government, and the focus of legislative and executive wisdom, would excite some remark from him. He could not consent to part with all the associations and old reminiscences connected with their presence in the city, without attempting to detain them, by placing before their eyes some of the very numerous objections that presented themselves against so unfortunate a decision. From time immemorial the city had been selected as the most appropriate place for the seat of government.—This selection was not done rashly, but after mature deliberation and judgment, as has been fully tested by experience. The great facility of communication to it, and numerous other advantages which it possessed, have been so great, that notwithstanding all the efforts that had been made so far from being beneficial, that it could not deserve from gross injustice and unmixed wrong. It was very evident that the object of the bill was to destroy the influence of the city, but predominating influence of the country. The latter had the majority, and the former could not expect success to sustain her, and these were the reasons why he was sorry to say were not often influenced by, especially in this body, when she was involved. He should propose a fair question, showing the boasted and envied influence of the city, by which they had undertook in the table, immediately after his colleagues should have expressed their views upon the subject.

(To be continued.)

LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE.

OFFICIAL REPORT

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, April 3, 1843.

The House met pursuant to adjournment. The roll being called—all members answered to their names.

Leave of absence for the balance of the session was granted to Messrs. Perkins and Nicholls.

The House resumed the consideration of the Bank Bill at the third reading.

The bill as amended, was read a third time and passed.

Mr. CHURCHILL reported having submitted to the Governor, for his signature, a number of bills and resolutions.

Mr. Brashear moved to take up the bill to create a Comptroller of Public Accounts. The motion prevailed.

The Speaker laid before the House, a communication from the Governor, informing the Legislature that the Governor had received the returns of the election of the third Municipality, and returned the bonds issued in its favor, by the State in 1839.

Also, a report from the Orleans Navigation Company transmitting a statement of its affairs, for the year 1842.

Also, a report from the Police Jury of the Parish of Jefferson, paying the reminding of a certain sum paid into the State Treasury through error. Referred to the Committee on Claims.

Also, a communication from Count Sobiraki, announcing his desire to give a lecture on the late Polish Revolution; and asking the use of the Representative Hall, for this evening.

Mr. Brashear offered a resolution, appointing a Joint Committee, to ____ the bonds of the State issued in behalf of the 1st Municipality, to be burned in presence of the Governor and Secretary of State, which was adopted. The Speaker appointed Messrs. Brashear, Claiborne, Boudousquié, Robertson and Voorhies, on the part of the House.

Mr. Philips, on leave, introduced a resolution, appointing a Joint Committee to examine the accounts of Messrs. Dunbar, Cryl Engineer of the State, from the 1st January, 1841, to the present time.

The Speaker appointed Messrs. Philips, Stille and Blanchard, on the Committee.

Mr. Winchester, on leave, reported from the Joint Committee, that they had carefully examined the accounts of the late Treasurer, and found them correct. They had introduced a resolution, providing for the annulling and cancellation of the bonds given by Mr. Gardere. Read twice and adopted.

Mr. Brewer wished to present a petition from the former State Treasurer, requesting the value of the books entrusted to his care, and asking the countenance of the office. Referred to a Committee of three, consisting of Messrs. Brewer, Wilson and Gunthem.

Mr. Blanchard, agreeably to notice, offered a bill relative to Justices of the Peace, in and for the Parish of Rapides. The bill requires suits to be instituted before the nearest Justice of the Peace, in the ward in which the domicile of the defendant is placed.

Mr. Brewer stated, that the object of the bill was to obviate the inconvenience of suits being brought before Justices many miles distant from the domicile of the defendant, even while there were other Magistrates in the same ward, within a few hundred yards from the house of the defendant. Mr. Philips offered a proviso, "that there be no Justices of Peace, in the ward in which the defendant resides."

The amendment was laid on the table, and the bill was adopted, read a third time and passed.

The House then resumed the consideration of the act creating a Comptroller General. The bill had been reported by the Committee, with several amendments.—It provides that the Secretary of State shall hold the office; that he shall give bond and security, that he shall keep all accounts between the State and other States, or the United States; that he shall liquidate and prosecute for all debts due the State, that he shall superintend the accounts of the sales of public lands, &c; that the office of the auditor of auction sales shall be abolished.

Mr. Delacroix moved to lay the bill upon the table.—The yeas and nays being taken, resulted as follows:—yeas 15—nays 21. So the motion was lost.

The bill was taken up by sections. Mr. Sparrow offered an amendment, giving a salary of $1500 to the Clerk of the Comptroller instead $1,000. This clerk would in a great measure discharge the duties of the auditor of auction sales.

Mr. Ogden was opposed to the abolition of the office of auditor of auction sales. The office was an important one. He was the superintendent of sales that produced $60,000 or $70,000 into the treasury, and he could be compelled to vote against the bill unless the office was retained. It was unjust and improper to take away the office from the present incumbent. He was opposed to legislate persons in or out of office. The present auditor was a highly meritorious and competent officer, man, who had discharged his duties to the highest satisfaction; and he should not, therefore, in this hurried manner, and at the close of the session, evict him from his office. He had been informed, that the receipts from auction sales had been progressively increasing ever since the appointment of the present incumbent, and this was in a great measure attributed to his zeal and capacity.

Dr. Brashear said if we could save the State a heavy expense, and create a sufficient fund to help out the finances, we should not hesitate to do so, because our legislation might injure an office holder. He did not know the Auditor of Public Accounts even by name.—He was legislating for the State, not for individuals.

Mr. Claiborne said, that to abolish the Auditor of Auction Sales, and at the same time to allow the Secretary of State to appoint a Clerk for the purpose of filling those duties, was clearly legislating for individuals. He would vote to retain the office of Auditor, and would vote not to give a Clerk to the Secretary of State.

Mr. Benjamin concurred fully in these views. He was not satisfied with the first section, and offered a substitute, declaring that the Secretary of State should be ex-officio, Comptroller of Accounts.

Mr. Brewer said, his proposition was one of economy. The Auditor of Auction Sales, at present, had a salary of $2,200, and it was proposed to give the Secretary of State $1,000 per annum, by the abolition of the latter office, and the Auditor of Auction Accounts would be abolished, which would clearly save $1,000 to the State.

Mr. Mouton asked the object of the bill. A Comptroller already existed, whose duty it was to supervise the Treasurer. This was unnecessary. The Auditor was the real security. This was sufficient. If we were to have a Comptroller, let him control the finances of the country—supervise the accounts, and adjust the expenses of the State. For such a Comptroller, he would vote with all his heart. But he was opposed to the bill as it stood.

Dr. Brashear said, that every thing relative to the finances of the State, had been brought within the bill, and amendments could be proposed in order to perfect it as much as possible.

A desultory debate here followed on points of order.

Mr. Ratliff was unprepared to support the bill. He had looked into it, and found that it embraced nearly all the duties of the Treasurer, leaving to the latter a merely negative function. As he understood the office of Comptroller, there should be a mutual check between that officer and the Treasurer, but as the bill was framed, the Comptroller was to be appointed by the Treasurer and handed down to a deputy. Besides, the remuneration required of the Comptroller by the bill, would create a large item in the public list. The number of these plans, maps, and surveys, and there was no telling what the Legislature would have to pay.—It was a bad one in the present state of the finances, and demanded great care and deliberation. Of all things, he deprecated hasty legislation, more especially in reference to subjects affecting the pecuniary interests of the country.

Mr. Claiborne had no doubt that the bill might be so simplified that the Secretary of State would be glad to accept the office with the additional salary of $1000.—The principal object of the bill should be to create a control over the receipts. The expenditure it was easy to ascertain, because they were guaranteed by proper vouchers—but at present there was no control over the receipts.

Mr. Worcester was satisfied the bill had not been sufficiently matured. We were now within four days of the close of the session, and if the bill was passed hastily, it might be a long period. He moved to refer the bill to a special committee, to report at the next session.

Mr. Brashear opposed the motion as giving the bill the go-by. He did not see the bill as a necessary guard to the officers of the State,