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NEW ORLEANS, WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 18, 1854.

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THE DAILY BEE.

Wednesday Morning, Jan. 18, 1854.

THE NORTHERN MAIL failed yesterday from beyond Montgomery. In fourteen days we have had one mail as late as due. Pleasant truly!

AN ANTICIPATED CHANGE.

An approaching change in the Cabinet is currently rumored. GUTHRIE, the bungler, whom the "Hards" decorate with the additional and somewhat ferocious title of the "Bowie-knife," is to retire, and give place to CUSHING, whose present office will be filled by BRECKENRIDGE, of Kentucky. Every change is not necessarily an improvement; but in this case we imagine that any change will be for the better. If GUTHRIE resigns, his withdrawal will be a political sacrifice offered to the exigencies of faction. It may be doubted whether even this oblation will quiet the perturbed spirits of the outraged Democracy. GUTHRIE has given evidence of a rare talent for incorrigible blundering, and his career as a public man has been strikingly illustrative of the truism that talent and tact are two very different gifts, by no means generally united. Intrigue has raised a tempest among the friends of the Administration, but as he is not the man "to ride the whirlwind and direct the storm," the only resource left to him, is to abandon the helm and confide it to a more vigorous hand and more sagacious mind.

Will CASS CUSHING be able to repair all the evil perpetrated by his predecessor? We think not. The Massachusetts politician is not wanting in capacity. Every body concedes that. He has the plausibility of a demagogue, and the suppleness of a publican, and is perhaps the most intensely selfish intriguer that ever morphed patriotism, and made windy professions a cover for corrupt designs. Some of the Northern journals regard it as a trap laid out to Turkey. We can see nothing about it that smacks of trickery, and its acceptance by Ottoman Porte is purely an acknowledgement that he is willing to make peace. The result will be interesting to observe. We have no doubt that *it may not* be will be the immediate evacuation by the Russian forces, of the Danubian Principalities. Without this, an armistice would be a mockery.

OPELOUSAS RAILROAD.—ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.—The especial attention of the Stockholders of the New Orleans, Opelousas and Great Western Railroad is invited to the announcement of the election of eighteen Directors of the Company THIS DAY, between the hours of 10 A. M. and 2 P. M., at the office of the Company. It is to be hoped that the Stockholders will make it their business to attend on the occasion.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING

PICAYUNE VARIETIES.—We shall have to night the domestic drama "A Father's Love," to be succeeded by an Andalusian pas de deux, by Senorita SOTO and Mr. G. W. SMITH. The evening's entertainments will be concluded by the farce of the "Alpine Maid," in which Mrs. C. Howard and Mr. J. M. White will appear.

ST. CHARLES THEATRE.—This evening is the last of the engagement of Miss JULIA DEAN, who goes hence to Mobile. All who have neglected to witness the skill of this accomplished actress should avail themselves of this opportunity. That soul-stirring tragedy of Shakspeare, Romeo and Juliet, will be brought forward on the occasion. Miss Dean will doubtless do justice to the part of Juliet, as will Mr. Nagle to the character of Romeo. Mr. Jamison that of Mercutio. After the usual dancing, the entertainment of the evening will conclude with the musical interlude of "Jenny Lind"—but Romeo and Juliet with such a cast, is enough for any one night.

VAN AMBURG'S MENAGERIE.—The idea of exhibiting about upon the western hemisphere of wild animals from the diminutive, chattering, monkey, up to the majestic elephant, is, like many other new ideas, entirely of American origin; indeed we may well doubt if such a variety was ever before afloat in one vessel unless in that noted one, commanded by the first sea-faring man of whom we have any record. The Floating Palace continues to be at the foot of Canal street, and as might naturally be expected, is daily thronged by visitors. To many, the most interesting hour is 2 o'clock, when the wild beasts are fed; and it is only necessary to witness the progress of mastication to realize how small a chance one of us would stand if done within their clutches. Van Amburgh, however, sees them all at defiance, and as the glance of his "speaking eye" the most ferocious become as tame and submissive as wrapped bonds.

MECHANICS MUSEUM.—The lovers of the curious should visit this establishment if only to see Mr. Graham. While gazing upon such a "huge, unpalatable mass" of obesity, we were continually tempted to imagine

"That that poor lamb the cur has by the leg,
Should give a loud bah!"

But Mr. G. grunt as she is, is not, if the premium be any criterion, the only curiosity here. Our limited time will not allow us to do more than call the attention of the public to this collection every day for a week, with numerous and additional interest.

THE BEAUTIES OF NATURE.

While we were yesterday somewhat enthusiastically descanting upon the beauties of the new country about to be disclosed to our view by the Opelousas Railroad, a young friend who was present, interrupted us in the following strain of mistaken rebuke:

"There are many of you," said he, "who believe that the works of the Creator can only be witnessed in perfection in the lordly forest, the foaming cataract, the snow-capped mountain, tinged with the rays of the setting sun, the spreading prairie, bespangled with the flowers of every hue and redolent of fragrance, or the ocean bounding in sullen, undisputed majesty. To those whose occupations restrain them within the circumscribed limits of city life, the charms of Nature, you imagine, are altogether denied. I was more especially led to these reflections," continued he, "while threading my way amidst the throng of female loveliness which daily adorns our most fashionable part of commerce. I envy not the man whose heart is unmoved with gratitude to the "giver of every good and perfect gift," while witnessing such a spectacle. For myself I freely acknowledge that I feel my devotion quickened, and the overflowing towards all that is my soul filled to overflowing towards all that is most pure, while gazing, as I delight to do, upon the handiwork of the Creator of all things; for the natural current of my thoughts leads me to

"Look through Nature up to Nature's God."

And why should it not be so? You gaze with admiration, even upon the *chef d'œuvre* of the sculptor; but how much more honor is due to Him who can breathe into a clayey model the breath of life! I believe it is Shakspeare who says there may be found "sermons in stones." Now for my own part the most touching admonitions, to purity of thought and of life have sprung from rosy lips and blushing cheeks; and no eloquence ever so took captive my heart as that which flashes from the eye of youth and beauty."

Here our young friend drew to a close, and we confess we had little to offer in reply. He added: "If any visitor of our city should think my sentiments the offspring of an over-excited imagination, let him stroll along Chartres street, on a fine day, between the hours of eleven and two, and I venture my reputation for sanity upon the result of his observations."

Just at that moment it began to rain, and we parted; but on our way homeward we could not help thinking of Bishop DOANE, who exclaimed on a somewhat similar occasion, "I should never have thought that the sight of a beautiful woman would have inspired a young man with such profound meditations."

HOMICIDE.—The Savannah *Republican* learns by a letter from Darien, that a negro man belonging to Col. Chas. H. Hopkins, was killed on the 24th December, by J. H. Bozeman and Wm. T. Padget, two white men from North Carolina, and that Col. Hopkins had forwarded the necessary evidence to Gov. Johnson for the purpose of prevailing upon him to issue a reward for the apprehension of Bozeman and Padgett.

JUDGE LIGON of the Supreme Court of Alabama, is dangerously ill at Montgomery. His disease is Pneumonia.

"Great News from Washington—Discovery of Fourteen Mines—The Diggers rich and Happy."

Such is the title of a long article in the New York *Herald*, in relation to the schemes and plans of the Spoils Cabinet and its friends. It says it has information from Washington which amounts to nothing more nor less than the development of the richest "placers" in the world, and the disclosure of the various combinations of diggers and their plans for getting out the precious gold. "In other words" says our contemporary, "the spoils and the schemes of the spoilsmen at Washington, for this session of Congress, exhibit a state of things the most extraordinary and astounding that has been brought to light in the history of this country."

We have all heard of the rich mines in California and Australia; but in the opinion of the *Herald*, they are not to be compared with the placers just discovered at Washington. Here is a list of some of these placers, upon which operations have been or are commenced, upon a large scale, during the present session of Congress. Says the *Herald*:

"We find these placers in the following

PLANS AND PROJECTS.

Renewal of ten, fifteen or twenty patents, for ten, fifteen or twenty years, estimated aggregate value, say,	$25 000,000
Pacific Railroad, and other Railroads, (in public lands and loans,)	150,000,000
Steamship lines and contracts,	15,000,000
Army and Navy,	20,000,000
Civil list, public debts, &c.,	55,000,000
Individual claims,	5,000,000
French spoliations,	5,000,000
Total,	$280,000,000

To that amount there will be an offset in the receipts of the Treasury and surplus, say, $80,000,000
In public lands, loans and liabilities, 175,000,000
In individual patent rights, 25,000,000
Total, $280,000,000

"Thus striking an even balance if the whole schedule is carried through, and cleaning out the Treasury, cleaning off the available public lands, and saddling the country with a debt, the blessing of a national debt, in addition to a reduction of the tariff and possibly a war with Mexico or Spain, or both, with England and France to back them.

"But these patent rights are individual properties. The most conspicuous among them are Woodworth's planing machine, Hoe's printing machine, and Morse's telegraph. Some of the patents have already benefited their owners but none have made them as rich as they desire to be. Hence, failing before the Patent Office, after the Commissioner concludes there is no law for their relief, they have to apply to Congress for an act or relief, in the shape of a further extension for ten, fifteen, or twenty years, as the case may be. This is the *modus operandi*: John Jones desires an extension of his patent for ten, fifteen, or twenty years, as the case may be. Jones sets up apply to Congress for an act or relief, in the shape of a further extension for ten, fifteen, or twenty years, as the case may be. This is the *modus operandi*: John Jones desires an extension of his patent for ten, fifteen, or twenty years, as the case may be. Jones sets up a claim to the invention of the steam engine, or the cotton gin, or the power loom, or the sewing machine, or the India rubber invention, Colt's revolvers, Hoe's printing machine, and Morse's telegraph. Some of the patents have already benefited their owners but none have made them as rich as they desire to be. Hence, failing before the Patent Office, after the Commissioner concludes there is no law for their relief, they have to