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TERMS OF THE REG.

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The New-Orleans Daily Reg.

Friday Morning, May 10, 1850.

☞ The Northern Mail came through yesterday with the latest dates.

VIRGINIA AND SOUTH CAROLINA.

Conventional reform appears to be the leading hobby of the day. We hardly know of any among the [illegible] States, unless we except [illegible] Massachusetts, that has not recently had its [illegible] and several [illegible] ... many such changes are [illegible] ... Louisiana has [illegible] ... pieces and [illegible] ... fied with [illegible] ... hardly [illegible] ... the experiment—her legislators and many of her citizens being thoroughly convinced that the work of repairing had been done in an extravagingly bungling and unartistlike fashion. Mississippi would alter her constitution to-morrow but for the objection that there is nothing left to alter. Her organic charter is so radically democratic that it would puzzle anybody but a Socialist or Icarian to render it more so. Kentucky has disjointed her constitution hammered and nailed, and planed, and dovetailed its pieces in every possible way, and still her people seem discontented, and will very likely reject the handiwork of their delegates. We think Wisconsin, and Iowa, and Texas will soon have to alter their constitutions—those instruments being already decrepid and antiquated. We suppose that California will, immediately after her admission, begin to discuss the expediency of conventional reform—as according to the best modern theories of the nature and scope of the fundamental law of a State, no constitution is worth having that is not regularly pulled to pieces and reshaped at least once in every lustre.

In the midst, however, of this rage for new Constitutions, and this yearning for changes two States—belonging to the old original thirteen—have, until lately, steadily and firmly resisted all attempts at reform. We allude to South Carolina and Virginia. Somewhat strangely, too, and as if in illustration of the proneness of mankind to reject the good, and to cling perseveringly to evil and error, these States are the only ones in the Union whose organic law is repugnant to our institutions, and should have been remodeled half a century ago. Virginia demands a property qualification from her sons before they can exercise the right of suffrage; while South Carolina, treating her children like serfs, refuses to concede to them the privilege of choosing Presidential Electors. And the most curious part of the whole is, that these States which are solitary exceptions to the rest of the Union—these States in which the aristocratic and selfish elements of political government still linger—are the Democratic commonwealths *par excellence*, more unchangeable than New Hampshire; more steadfast than Arkansas. A stranger contradiction was never witnessed than that which exists between the proposed policy of Virginia and South Carolina, and the unequal, narrow and slavish features of the Constitutions which govern them.

With respect to Virginia, however, the power of public opinion has at length reached her, and the petty scruples and wretched prejudices of her Democratic rulers have been compelled to give way to the will of her people. The last Legislature was forced to pass a bill to take the sense of her people on the propriety of calling a Convention to amend the Constitution. The returns of the late election at which the question was submitted to the voters, prove, that despite the opposition of the West growing out of an apprehension that it would be unjustly treated by the East, the Convention project will have a commanding majority. We hope that the first act of the Convention will be to break down the unnatural barrier that divides the rich and the poor, and to confer the right of suffrage upon every free white citizen of the Commonwealth, after a due term of residence. This, this will be done is more than probable. The people have succeeded in calling the Convention—they will be little likely to remain satisfied with the shadow of reform.

We are less confident of any change in South Carolina, unless the influence of the popular will succeeds in coercing the Legislature into a two-thirds vote, by which alone the people can attain their sovereign and indisputable right—a right now usurped by the General Assembly of the State, and exercised by a virtual infraction of the spirit of our free institutions. The effort has been made time and again to enlarge popular power, but during the life-time of Mr. CALHOUN, it was ever fruitless. Perhaps it may prevail now. South Carolina cannot always resist the influences which have proved so potent elsewhere in wresting from the Legislature that authority which should be manifestly confided to the people.

NEW BOOKS.—J. C. Morgan, of the Literary Depot, Exchange Place, has received a number of new and interesting publications. Among them we notice "Maud Lilly, or the Gipsy's Vengeance," a sequel to Gretna Green, by Reynolds; the second, a concluding volume of the "Bronze Statue," by the same author; volume first of "Rose Foster, or the Mysteries of the Court of London," a work of much merit, but of questionable morality. "Gewalla, or the Hungarian Maiden," by the author of the "Trapper's Bride;" "The Student of Paris," by Albert Smith; "The Petrel, or Love on the Ocean," by Admiral Fisher, of the British Navy; "Pasrpology, or the Science of the Soul," a work on Magnetism, by Jas. Haddock; the "Principles of the Human Mind," with a Lecture on Electro-Biology, by Dr. Alfred Smee. This last production is a re-publication of the famous article in the August number of the London Lancet.

STRAKOSCH AND WALLACE'S CONCERT.—Our readers will bear in mind that these distinguished artists give their first concert to-night at the [illegible] hall. The programme is particularly rich—WALLACE will play two of his celebrated compositions; while STRAKOSCH executes several of his most admired and popular pieces. The Concert ends with the Grand Overture to Zampa, executed by SIXTEEN of the most eminent gentlemen and lady Pianists of New Orleans. We look for an overflowing audience.

THE STORM AT [illegible].—The officers of the [illegible] Taylor, which arrived last [illegible] Donaldsonville, informs us that on Tuesday morning, the [illegible] V. Mucal, in the parish of St. [illegible] blown down. Nothing left standing but the [illegible]. That of Mr. Bowdry, on the adjoining plantation, was unroofed. Evidences of the severity of the storm were seen at many points along the Coast. Large trees being uprooted or lashing to and near the ground.

☞ The "Dukes' Wager" is the title of a new play written by Mrs. FANNY KEMBLE, and for the first time performed in New York on Tuesday last. The critics approve the work as a most artistic production.

SALE OF THE STATE HOUSE.—We call attention to the sale of the property of the State, in Canal street advertised to take place on the 16th instant. The terms of the sale require that the property shall bring at least enough to cover the debt due upon it, and payable on the 31st March, 1852, [illegible] $125,000, and from private offers already made, we entertain no doubts that it will command a considerably larger sum. The property lies eligibly in point of centre and location, as any in the city.

☞ Would the creditors of the [illegible] of PUBLICATIONS [illegible] with the plans thereof, [illegible] Lane, [illegible]

MEXICO.

By an arrival from Mexico, we have received copies of the *True Union* and other journals of the city of Mexico to the 20th ult., inclusive.

Congress is busily engaged with financial affairs. A tax of $20,000 imposed on the commerce of the capital had excited great discontent and energetic protests. The Senate has not yet sanctioned the law. The tax of 5 per cent. on foreign merchandise is maintained, and that on foreign liquors is increased to 10 per cent. Rigorous measures have been adopted with a view to prevent smuggling, &c.

The Prussian Minister at Mexico is about to return to Europe.

Mr. Rene Masson, of the Trait d Union, has received authority from the Government to establish a fire insurance company at Mexico.

A steamboat has been placed upon lake Chalco. It is called *La Esperanza*.

A horrible fire occurred at the Isle de Carman, the most important commercial place in Yucatan, on the 18th March. "Hand-bills had been placarded for some days previous, announcing that the town would be fired. In the principal street 120 houses and the parochial church were destroyed. The loss is estimated at three millions of dollars. A large number of families have constantly left for Campeachy. This is the largest fire which has recently disturbed Yucatan."

M. Masson, appointed to the Government of Mexico, to establish a railroad from Matamoras to the Rio Grande.

The cholera still [illegible] the departments of San Luis, [illegible] and Queretaro.

A NEW PROPOSITION.—Mr. VINTON, of Ohio, as we learn from the Charleston *Courier* has brought forward an important proposition in reference to the apportionment of Representatives under the new Census. He proposes that the number of Representatives shall be limited to two hundred, and the Secretary of the Interior shall fix the ratio accordingly. However, the ratio has been fixed by Congress, and there has always been a struggle between the States with small and nearly stationary population, with the more populous and rapidly growing States. The ratio, now seventy-six thousand, will, under Mr. Vinton's plan, be bought up to nearly one hundred and twenty thousand. The present number of Representatives is two hundred and thirty, to which are soon to be added, two or more from California, and two more from each of the North Western Territories, soon to become States. Mr. Vinton's plan will fix the whole number of Representatives, from all States that may be in the Union after the next apportionment at two hundred, which will be a considerable, and as some suppose, a desirable reduction. The House will become a more manageable body with a reduced number, and the members elected will be perhaps, men of more weight of character. The Southern States, which continue their efficient members in the House for a number of years in succession, while the Northern and Western States change their's every two or four years, will gain in influence, rather than lose, by the proposed reduction.

FROM TAMPA BAY.—By the arrival of the U. S schooner *Arispe*, Capt. RYAN, from Tampa Bay, having left that port on the 4th instant. We learn from Captain RYAN that the Government steamer *Planter*, Capt. STONE, had arrived at Fort Brooke from Fort Myers, on the Caloosahatchie river. Capt Stone states that *Billy Bow Legs* was at the Camp accompanied by some thirty warriors, but up to that time they had not decided to leave their hunting grounds for the West, nor is there much prospect of their doing so at present. They have, in short, declined making any more hostile demonstrations or moving from their native glades. Gopher Twiggs was to leave Fort Brooke in a few days for the Caloosahatchie river.

THE CAMBRIA'S NEWS.—Nearly every line of the accounts by the *Cambria* published in the New York and Baltimore papers, has been anticipated. The following, of general intelligence alone, contains one or two novel items:

GENERAL NEWS.—The English Ministry having been defeated in Parliament on two or three minor questions, has given rise to a general belief that they will be forced to resign. D'Israeli the leader of the Opposition, having recovered his health, the Protectionists have been re-inspired with renewed courage.

From the Continent the political news, on the surface, is unusually quiet. Order prevails throughout France. The violence of the factions, and the near approach of the election, give rise to fears for the continuance of the present calm.

The Greek question has not been adjusted, and in the event of the failure of the friendly offices of France, there is every reason to apprehend more difficulties between England and Russia, as the former, in the event stated, has given Admiral Parker orders to re-enforce a complete blockade of the coast of Greece; and he should do so, the Emperor has given positive assurance of his intention to advance to the assistance of King Otho.

No authentic advices of a later date than the 28th March have been received from Athens, which the result of the meeting held three days previously, between Baron Gros and Mr. Wyse, had not transpired. The meeting, however, is said to have been a very amicable one; but if a Greek paper of despatch, under date of Athens, 22d, and published in the *Breslau Zeitung*, can be relied on, the good office of France has failed to effect a satisfactory settlement of the difficulty.

NEW ORLEANS STEAMSHIPS.—We take great pleasure in copying the following from the New York *Herald*. It is the first effort of New Orleans enterprise we have witnessed for many a year:

"NEW STEAMSHIP LINE.—No sooner do we announce the launching of one sea steamer, than we are called upon to herald the laying down of the keel of another. We are indeed in the mark, by hearing that our sister city, New Orleans, is awaking from her supineness, and having conceived the idea of a steam marine essentially her own, has sent to this city for two splendid steamships, such as our builders know so well how to build. To particularize, we would observe, that Messrs. Harris & Morgan, citizens of New Orleans, have made contracts for two steamships, of 1200 tons each, to be finished up in the most approved style, with diagonal iron braces, and wheel guards on upper deck; to be employed between New Orleans and some port in the Gulf. We congratulate the citizens of New Orleans upon this, their maiden effort, and for having the energetic and enterprising firm of Harris & Morgan, as pioneers in their effort to have a steamship marine peculiarly southern."

☞ The rivers at the North are at the present time very full, and much damage is anticipated in consequence. The Sandy Spring, the New York Herald says that, on Sunday the booms at [illegible] above Glen's Falls, on the Hudson, gave [illegible], carrying with them about 100,000 logs, mainly the property of the citizens of Glen's Falls. At Albany, on Tuesday, large quantities of lumber were floating down the river. The Connecticut river is also very high, and covers all the low lands in the valley. The sheet of water coming over the dam at Holyoke on Tuesday was eight and a half feet in depth.

PROFESSOR WEBSTER'S CASE.—The Boston Post, in addition to its statement that Dr. Webster's counsel have inherited a writ of error, has also a letter professing to come from Terre Haute, (Ind.,) which avers that Dr. Parkman came to that place [illegible] 18th of April, was recognized and [illegible] (R. W. Dillinghamer) [illegible] ready to swear to the identity of [illegible] the said stage for St. Louis. The tone of the following paragraph will satisfy any one of the real character and object of said letter:

Hoping that this statement may be of some effect in at least mourning the too hasty execution of the most conspicuous under which Professor Webster is now lying,

I remain, gentlemen,
Yours, respectfully,
JOHN A. ATWOOD.

☞ Two hundred citizens of Richmond, Va., have signed a petition to Governor Bigler, praying for the pardon of Professor Webster.

☞ The Senate of Pennsylvania has passed the Revenue Bill, authorizing a law establishing a system of banking, &c.

POLICE ITEMS.—In the First Municipality two cases of assault and battery, and a petty larceny were disposed of yesterday before Recorder Genois, the particulars of which are not worth detailing. Geo. F. Harris was arrested yesterday before Recorder Bullitt, on the charge of having stolen a gold watch and chain from L. Griffith. The evidence failed to establish the [illegible], and Harris was [illegible] discharged. H. Berry was [illegible] ... [illegible] ... [illegible] ...