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The New Orleans Bee

NEW ORLEANS, MONDAY MORNING, APRIL 17, 1854.

THE DAILY BEE.

Monday Morning, April, 17, 1854.

☞ For STEAMBOAT DEPARTURES see FRESCHSIDE.

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

LETTER FROM SENATOR DOUGLAS

We perceive by the Washington papers that Senator Douglas has written an elaborate letter, occupying eight columns of the Union, in reply to the resolutions of the meeting of twenty-five clergymen at Chicago, and deducing the course pursued by him in the debate in the Senate, upon the protest from the clergymen of New England. He retraverses the ground pursued at the time the protest was presented, renews the charge of outrage upon the privileges of a large body of citizens, and quotes a portion of the remarks made in opposition to the protest.

He contends that the principle in the Nebraska bill is identical with that contended for in the resolution, involving only the right of the people in the States to frame their own government, and that the transfer of slaves from Kentucky to Nebraska would be a benefit to the slaves, and not alter the political complexion of the country, simply relieving the number of slaves in one State, where the land is exhausted, and increasing in another where it is rich. He denies that clergymen, as such have the right to interfere in all matters embracing moral and religious truths, and intimates that the recognition of such power would prove subversive of the principles of free government, and destroy one of all guarantees of civil and religious liberty.

The sovereign right of the people to manage their own affairs in conformity with the constitution of their own making, reverses and disappears when placed in subordination to the authority of a body of men, claiming by virtue of their office as Ministers, to be a divinely appointed tribunal for the declaration and enforcement of God's will on earth. He argues that it is necessary to annul the 8th section of the Missouri Compromise as inimical to free government, and denies that a proposal to do so is a breach of faith.

The letter is argumentative rather than denunciatory, and is of that kind which might be expected from Mr. Douglas, but is still yet sarcastic in many points. It is designed as a vindication of his character and covers all his positions in regard to his opposition to the protest of the clergymen of New England. It shows much gore, and is calculated to create much interest.

Whatever may be the opinions entertained of the expediency of repealing the Missouri Compromise, there can be little doubt of the perfect propriety of this rebuke addressed by Senator Douglas to the officious clergymen of Chicago. We hold with him that the Ministers of the Gospel transcend their mission, when they attempt to employ their influence for the overthrow of political measures which may not accord with their particular tastes. Such a course is unchristian and injudicious. Let them preach the sublime doctrines of their faith, and teach the love of God, hatred of vice, good will to men, and leave politics to the constituted representatives of the people. The church is not a power in the state, as it is in Great Britain, and those who inculcate its doctrines would better observe the great cause of religion, which we believe to be indissolubly connected with brotherly love, harmony and all the gentle feelings of human nature, by abstaining from all effort to sway the councils of the nation by spiritual exhortation. As citizens, the clergy possess and indeed, right to petition and remonstrate, in all cases when the action of Congress on topics of national importance is opposed to their political views. As preachers of the Gospel, they abuse their influence, when they wield it for such purposes.

RAILROAD MEETING.

A meeting will take place to-night at the St. Charles Theatre for the purpose of discussing the question of the proposed subscription by the city of the stock of the Great Northern and Pontchartrain Railroads. We trust to see a crowd fully attended, for whilst we are disinclined to entertain a doubt of the result of a large majority on Friday next approving of the subscription, yet it is desirable that the wishes of the people should be thoroughly ascertained on the hen-fix which will accrue to the city and to the roads by the substitution of bonds in lieu of the old tax. Not only or more than one occasion although we rely to repeat the hope that the people will be such a crowd to express in an emphatic manner the opinion of the people of this city on the subject. The Great Northern Railroad Management to her great railroad enterprise.

Mr. Mason.—We are pained to hear of the loss of life and property attendant upon the late storm. We could not well spare any of those men who leave a void which large and useful as which he has in the West and South. We have lost his family but the large circle of which he has in the West and South. We have lost his family but the large circle of friends which he has in the West and South. We have lost his family but the large circle of friends which he has in the West and South. We have lost his family but the large circle of friends