The New Orleans Bee.

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[COMMUNICATED.]

NEW ORLEANS, March 26, 1872.

To the Editors of the New Orleans Bee:

The *Picayune* asks the *Bee* if the Democratic leaders in this State meditate an eventual coalition with Governor Warmoth, and in this morning's issue it upbraids the *Bee* for its inability to give information concerning the silent meditations of the Democratic leaders. As an humble member of the Democratic party, I can say that no coalition, of any kind whatever, has been proposed by Gov. Warmoth to either the State Central or Parish Committee. They are properly regarded as the authorized and recognized Democratic leaders, and consequently, the question put by the *Picayune* must be answered in the negative.

And now, having gratified the curiosity of your inquisitive contemporary, I would respectfully suggest that journal as the organ of the Reform party, to answer the following interrogatories:

1. Do not the Reformers meditate a coalition with the Custom House faction of the Republican party?

2. Did not Mr. I. N. Marks, (who the *Picayune* styles the acknowledged champion and exponent of the Reform doctrines) when he declared his willingness to vote for Grant, echo the sentiments of his own party, and also those of the President's brother-in-law (Casey)

3. Have not propositions and overtures of compromise been exchanged between the Custom House faction and the Reformers.

Now, Mr. Editor, I do not put these questions in any malicious fault-finding spirit, but the motives which prompted some of the zealous reformers to desert the Democratic army while preparing for action have been seriously suspected by many of our most thoughtful and intelligent citizens. Indeed their ill-timed movement looks very much like a covert attempt to divide the Democratic party on the eve of a great national election, and betray their unsuspecting followers into the support of Grant and the Custom House faction. The declaration of principles put forward by the Reform Central Committee is susceptible of no other interpretation.

1. While the Reform party advocates the ignoring of Federal politics its acknowledged champions pledge themselves to the support of Grant.

2. The earnest solicitude and love for the colored man and brother, which has so suddenly taken possession of the hearts and souls of the Reformers.

3. The equal division of the offices between the white and colored Reformers.

4. The fact that all the colored men who have been invited to join in this movement belong exclusively to the Custom House faction, although a very large number of their race are the firm supporters of Gov. Warmoth.

The above reasons are sufficient to arouse our suspicions and create a violent presumption that the so called Reform movement is nothing more than a clandestine attempt by the friends of Packard, Casey and others to foster treason in the Democratic ranks and unload some of our merciless rascals among us into the support of Grant and *social purity*. I would be the appointed member of the Custom-House party, but a few days ago, that the Reformers were about to effect a union with them, and that at the next election all the members of the Reform party would vote their tickets from Grant down to Constable. Heretofore I had the semi-conscious impression that the semi-annual speech of Mr. Marks at the Third Ward Club was intended for harmony with the principles of the Republican party, and that they would certainly support Mr. Marks for office on their ticket. While a large majority of the Reformers are no doubt sincere in their convictions, I would caution them to watch the movements of some of their most earnest advocates.

Why was the day fixed for the assembling of their State Convention postponed? Was it not because they wished to see what the Republicans would do and shape their action accordingly. Other reasons may be assigned, but was not this the controlling motive.

Those who are familiar with the inside workings of political politics know that the more skillful and experienced politicians frequently form rings in their party, whose object is to control and direct the policy of their organization. We every day witness new evidences that such rings are now manipulating the affairs of the Reform party unknown to many of their active supporters. JUVENIS.

We acknowledge the courtesy of the author, Mr. Hubert Rolling, in presenting to us his test musical composition, entitled "Pio Pellicane," a hymn for four voices, composed for the St. Louis Cathedral.

INFANTS.—The most irritable and restless of these tender little household buds, are charmed as if were into quiet and sweet repose by using Mrs. Whitcomb's Syrup.

Right of Local Self-Government.

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONS UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

From the Philadelphia Public Ledger, Jan. 23.

A recent decision by the Supreme Court of the State of Michigan, on the right of local self-government and the unconstitutionality of commissions *appointed by a Legislature*, has the case of Philadelphia so completely that we republish the following extracts from it as important for public information on a vital subject:

SECURITY FOR GOVERNMENT—SUPREME COURT—*People vs. Hurlbert*.—This was a *quo warranto* against the members of the Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, appointed by the State Legislature, in which the Court held that the Legislature had no constitutional power to alter or modify the office of this kind, the duties and authority of which are purely local. The members of the Court unanimously delivered judgments at length on the 29th of November last. The opinion of Cooley, J., a portion of which we print, and in which Campbell, C. J., and Christiancy, J., concurred, sufficiently shows the facts and the reasons for the decision in this important case:

We have to do in this legislative act creating a new board, which is to exercise a considerable share of the authority usually possessed by officers locally chosen, to have general charge of the city buildings, property and local conveniences, to make contracts for public works on behalf of the city, and to do many things of a legislative character which generally the Common Councils of cities alone are authorized to do. The Legislature has created this board, and it has appointed its members, and both the one and the other have been done under a claim of right which, unless I misunderstand it, would justify that body in taking to itself the entire and exclusive government of the city and the appointment of all its officers, excepting only the judicial for which by the constitution other provision is expressly made. And the question, broadly and nakedly stated, can be nothing short of this: Whether local self-government in this State is or is not a secure privilege conceded by the Legislature in its discretion, and which may be withdrawn at any time at pleasure? I state the question thus broadly, because, notwithstanding the able arguments made in this case, I feel that the nature of the issue has not been adequately presented. Nevertheless, when the State reaches out and draws to itself and appropriates the powers which belong to municipal, have been locally possessed and exercised, and introduces into its legalization the centralizing ideas of Continental Europe, under which despotism, whether of monarchs or nobles, alone has flourished, we seemed forced back and compelled to take up and defend the plainest and most primary rights of free government, as if even in Anglican liberty, which has been gained step by step, through extorted charters and bills of rights, the punishment of kings and the overthrow of dynasties, nothing was settled and nothing established.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Mr. James Reid, of Bayou Sara, who entered a suit the other day against the Louisiana Lottery Company for a prize of $15,000, the ticket for which the company never was franchised by obtaining the admission with one of its agents, has just filed another suit in the Fourth District Court, for a prize of $5,000 which he alleges he drew on a ticket, which he subsequently purchased.

A rule has been taken upon General Longstreet in the Fourth District Court, returnable next Wednesday, to show why he should not be punished for a contempt for not producing the sum of Capt. Scott, ordered to be sequestered, or stating where it is to be found.

The Supreme Court having, in a case in which the city was interested, decided that there is no law to authorize a tax of one dollar a suit by orders of courts, it is understood they will refuse to go for attorneys when their cases are called hereafter.

Judge Theard, Fourth District Court, has, in the case of the City vs. Lucien Adams et als., members of a late corporation known as the Stock Landing Company, decided in favor of plaintiff. Defendants, in 1866, leased from the City of New Orleans a stock landing, for which they then used 412,000 for six years, for forty notes of $3 by each save twelve from which were paid but the last one. All the notes refused to pay the last, because the Legislature had compelled the removal of the stock landing. It was not a condition of the contract that the slaughter house should remain and plaintiff would have prevented the removal. Hence the suit for plaintiff.

The suit of Vandemar Bills against F. Smith, C. Beard, F. Fredericksen and others, in the Seventh District Court, for $30,000 damages, for chaffering the public against making contracts with plaintiff, for Scandinavian emigrants, business he was not transacting, has been decided against defendants, judgment for defendants having been entered, as in case of non suit.

Judge Dibble, Eighth District Court, has issued a writ to A. E. Billings, Recorder and Assessor of the Fourth District, to call William Weber, original plaintiff, and give judgment of the Court against him in favor of Billings in possession. The ground taken that the writ of mandamus is not the proper remedy, which a citizen has to take a claim to public office can be sustained.

The house of Mr. Samuel Davis, on Bonny street, Algiers, was struck by lightning on Monday. Nobody hurt, damage to property slight.

Two men, named Wylett Drawin and Miles, quarrelled about a trifling matter, on the levee, at the head of Bienville street, yesterday, when the latter shot the former with a pistol loaded with bird shot. The shot struck about the right eye, but the wound is not dangerous. Miles is under arrest.

City Council.—At the meeting yesterday a full board was present. Messrs. Lewis and Bonzano excepted, the former of whom is absent from the city, and the latter is sick.

The offer of Mr. John Clark, $2460, for the iron building at the head of Canal street, was rejected, and the building was ordered to be advertised again for sale.

Mr. Shaw introduced a resolution, agreeable to a suggestion made in a report of the Surveyor read at the last meeting, that the levees on both sides of the Canal Carondelet, "about one mile from Claiborne street, out past Broad street," be raised and strengthened. Mr. Shaw stated that the work of the estimates. The work, according to the estimate of the Surveyor, would cost about $11,000. That sum, however, was just a trifle in comparison with the loss the people would suffer from an overflow. The late storm was an admonition to the Council to provide against overflow.

Mr. Walton's only objection was that the City Charter required works involving an expenditure of over five hundred dollars to be given out to the lowest bidder.

Mr. Shaw thought that the urgency of this matter warranted a disregard of the charter.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

A resolution passed to put in the centre of Lafayette Square Powers' statue of Franklin, presented to the city by Mr. Wood, of the *Times*.

In regard to the claims of Mrs. Comes and others for damages caused by the firing of cannon on Mardi Gras, the Mayor, to whom they were referred, reported that the city ordered no salute on that day; that it is not, therefore, responsible for any damages caused by the firing of guns. The report was adopted.

Mr. Cockrem reported that having investigated the claim of Mr. Mulligan he was convinced that $24,467 was due to Mr. M. A resolution authorizing a settlement with Mr. Mulligan upon the payment of that sum was read twice and laid over.

An ordinance introduced to levy a tax of five-sixteenths of one per cent. for school purposes, and an ordinance to levy a tax of one-half of one per cent. for the Metropolitan Police, were introduced, and lay over.

Facetiæ in the Supreme Court.—In the case of Babcock & Kernochan vs. A. C. Watson, appealed from the District Court of the parish of Tensas, the Supreme Court has affirmed the decision of the lower court, which was for plaintiffs. Defendant, who raised the battery of artillery known as the Watson battery, which was first commanded by Colonel Richardson, purchased some goods from plaintiffs, in 1861, about half of them in January and February of that year and, in 1862 he paid for the balance, the money in payment of which the suit was instituted. The plea set up was that the goods were furnished for the battery and that the court was to add "the sum of a billion," an unlawful object, plaintiffs could not recover. The proof showed that half of the goods had been delivered before the war began—January and February—and there was nothing to show that plaintiffs knew what disposition he to be made of that half or of the remainder of the goods; but that they were purchased through defendant's factor, in New Orleans. The supreme court, in its decision, says:

The defendant had the benefit of his own testimony before the jury; that the plaintiffs were represented only by a written deposition of one of them; and to begin his testimony with a statement damaging admission that he would not swear that the account presented was the one on which the note was based. He confesses that the entries in his own handkerchiefs and the loose half cotton hose set forth in the account were probably for the use of the Confederacy, and it is likely the same may be said of "six pieces of brown cotton," also mentioned in the bill.

The court facetiously closes:

"The testimony for plaintiffs goes to disprove any acknowledgment of the debt, and to show that the defendant is a man of credible enough. Why should dry goods merchants, supplying plantation goods to the factor of a planter, engaged in what was about to beat his ploughshare into a sword, and use such innocent and boodle phrases as "cotton," "socks," "jeans" and "linseys" to equip a company of artillerymen?"

Gambling.—The authorities proceeded to S. A. Lafontaine's gambling house in the Marrero squatted in Jackson square, Charles street, by prayer who gave the keeper of the house, Mr. Lafontaine, a ticket with such a purpose, if he be a person man, in the position of the cabin, for if it had been tried to win, we would have found an example for the other. The prizes are laws to punish gambling, and if these laws were enforced the temptation to the keeper of a gambling house, the Attorney General, to execute the law, but it never will be executed, so long as the keeper of the house can derive a great part of their income from the tax secretly levied upon gambling houses. Any day they may, the Mayor, misdemeanor, the Chief, or the Captains could cause every gambling house in the city in one week if they wanted to do it. Yet they permit it to go on, and the Mayor, Chief and Captains get a "golden cap." The thing is very easily done by any one is sufficiently willing to take the trouble. The Mayor, Chief and Captains are the only officers, could do it if he, we was so inclined. The manner of operating the suppression (twenty years ago by the Chief Justice Lemon, in the Second Recorder's Court, "It is necessary, said the Judge, "for the conviction of gamblers that I must have the testimony of one of the keepers of the betting. The gaming houses are too well guarded for my officers to get in." The testimony of the keeper of the gaming house they retain, the gaining room every day of gambling will have been put out of fight. Yes, I know I can do it, I may say, but I'll get how I can do it. The result of a thing honest in the city. The people of a city are entitled to a police, and a respectable one. Why should they derived from gambling? Why should the people of a city elected president; that he has shown a disposition to do his duty, and then give the facts being admitted by Mr. Cockrem.

Parts of the States of Sonora, Sinaloa, Guerrero, Vera Cruz, Oaxaca, Jalisco and Michoacan are the great part of Thursday, between with the revolutionists;