New Orleans Bee.

NEW ORLEANS, FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 13, 1863. Vol. XVI[—New Series. Vol. XXXVI—Whole No. 12,634.

Office, 73 Chartres street.

THE DAILY BEE

NEW ORLEANS: FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 13, 1863.

Sales at Auction To-Day.

By Phinney & Amory, at 10¼ o'clock, at No. 128 Canal street, Sugar, Molasses, &c.

By B. T. Montgomery, at 12 o'clock, M., at No. 91 Camp street, choice beef, tobacco, tea and oats.

By Phinney & Amory, at 11 o'clock, on the levee, sugar and molasses.

By Keelar & Son, at 10 o'clock, at 73 Camp street, dry goods.

COMPLIMENTARY BENEFIT to Mr. VIRGINE BOURMAN.—In another column, we publish a correspondence between a number of the friends and admirers of Mr. Bowers and that gentleman, in which he is tendered a complimentary benefit at the Varieties Theatre. Mr. Bowers accepts the benefit offered, and has named Wednesday, the 18th inst., as the day on which it will take place.

We look upon this exhibition of public favor as an appropriate and deserved tribute to an artiste of merit and judgment, whilst it is an earnest that Mr. Bowers's old friends in this city have still preserved for him those regards of esteem which gave him in the days of yore so high a place in public favor, one which, we trust, he will ever continue to merit. It must be a proud satisfaction to Mr. Bowers to find, under the abnormal condition of affairs, that his friends in New Orleans are as earnest as ever in supporting his efforts to amuse and delight, when all is so sad and gloomy around us. We understand that the bill for the evening's performance is composed of "Everybody's Friend" and the "Carpenter of Rouen," in the former of which Mr. Bowers takes one part of Major De Boots, which our readers and the frequenters of the Varieties will remember as one of his most successful characterizations this season. In the latter piece, a dramatic play drawn from the many incidents of the massacre of St. Bartholomew, Mr. Bowers will support the character of *Nykin*.

As the performance does not take place before next week, we will take occasion again to refer to it, more particularly as regards the composition of the programme.

FURNISHED HOUSE FOR SALE.—Persons desiring to open a private boarding house could not find a better opportunity than that which is offered in the advertising column of this paper. As will be seen by reference to the advertisement published elsewhere, a boarding-house got up and kept in the first style, with a long established fame, and having the very best custom, is offered for sale, on reasonable terms, which can be ascertained by applying at No. 123 Royal street. The rent of the house is low. The house is offered for sale as the party desires to remove from the city and withdraw from business.

SPANISH LESSONS.—As will be seen by referring to our advertising columns, a course of Spanish lessons will open shortly, beginning on the fourth Monday of every month, at Harmony School, No. 108 Barracks street, near Dauphin, at half past 7 o'clock, P. M. For terms, see advertisement.

SHERIFF SALE OF A LARGE STOCK OF GOODS ON CANAL STREET.—To-day, at 10½ o'clock, A. M., the Sheriff will proceed to the sale of the contents of store No. 120 Canal street, Second District, consisting of silks, fancy goods, laces, millinery, &c. The whole to be offered in lots to suit the purchasers. See advertisement.

The attention of our readers is especially directed to B. T. Montgomery's sale for this day, Friday, the 13th instant, at 12 o'clock, at salesroom, 93 Camp street, of about 4000 bushels very choice oats, 61 chests and half chests fine teas of desirable qualities, 604 barrels very choice Philadelphia family beef, and 30 boxes navy tobacco. All of the above articles are of excellent quality, and for which there is great enquiry and demand at present in the market. We therefore notify our readers to notice the above sales and be present at the same.

T. KEELAR & SON'S AUCTION SALES.—The attention of buyers is called to the extensive sale of dry goods, to take place this day, at 10 o'clock, A. M., by T. Keelar & Son, at their salesroom, 73 Camp street, comprising a fine assortment of new goods just received per last arrival, such as barages linen shirt fronts, cotton, needles, hoop skirts, pins, thread, cottonades, lawns, kerseys, linen drills, hosiery, &c. See advertisement under head of auction sales.

Messrs. Phinney & Amory will sell this morning, at 11 o'clock, on the levee, 176 hhds. sugar, and 667 bbls molasses. Samples of sugar can be seen at their office, corner Camp and Common streets, during the day. Terms of sale are cash in Treasury notes.

Interesting News from Southern Sources.

The *True Delta* published last evening an extra edition from Mobile papers of the 4th instant, which, although not so recent by five days as the intelligence already published, still contain some interest. We copy the following:

THE WAR ON THE OCEAN—CAREER OF THE PRIVATEER RETRIBUTION.

Charleston, March 3.—Latest Nassau advices report the arrival there of the Confederate privateer Retribution. She had taken and burnt the bark Mary Wright, of Portland, and brig Erie, of Camden, Maine. She encountered an unknown whaler in the Carribean Sea, which showed fight, killing one of the Retribution's crew, when the whaler was sunk with all on board by the fire of the Retribution. She also captured and sent to Confederate ports the brig Elliott, of Bristol, Maine, and schooner Harvover, of Massachusetts. The Elliott was subsequently recaptured by the Federals at St. Thomas.

The Retribution also captured and ran ashore on the Bahamas the brig Emily Fisher, taking the crew prisoners to Nassau. The crew of the Retribution are all well, and would soon finish repairs and resume her cruize.

Third Attack on Fort McAllister.

THREE IRON-CLADS AND TWO MORTAR BOATS BOMBARD THE FORT.

Savannah, March 2.—The enemy are attacking Fort McAllister. They commenced at 3 P. M. this morning with three iron-clads and two mortar boats playing upon the Fort. One of our 8-inch Columbiads was dismounted and two men slightly wounded. The firing continues very heavy.

Savannah, March 3, 5.30 P. M.—A dispatch from Fort McAllister, dated 3.45 P. M., says one of the iron clads has withdrawn, and two iron-clads and one mortar boat are still playing on the fort. The Fort is uninjured and no one hurt on our side, except the two slightly wounded this morning. The garrison is in good spirits, and the firing still continues this 5.30 P. M.

The subjoined dispatch, three days later than the foregoing, given in yesterday's *True Delta*, would indicate that the third bombardment of Fort McAllister was without important results, as the iron-clads had left:

Savannah, March 6.—It has been definitely ascertained that the enemy's iron-clads have left the Ogeechee.

The *Picayune* also published later in the evening an extra containing news from Southern sources. We copy the following:

The Vicksburg Canal—Further of the Destruction of the Indianola—Gen. Kirby Smith at Alexandria—The Red River Confederate Fleet—Further of Van Dorn's Fight—The Federals in Beer Creek—A Rebel Battery Silenced—The Fight at Mobile—Latest from Kentucky, Tennessee and Richmond—The Confederate Congress.

We have a file of late Jackson papers, including the *Appeal*, from which we take the following important intelligence:

TENNESSEE AND KENTUCKY.

Mobile, March 3.—The *Evening News* has the following dispatch:

McMinnville, March 2.—Major Austin, of Morgan's brigade, with one hundred and fifty men, passed around Murfreesboro', destroying the Murfreesboro' and Nashville Railroad, tearing up the track and running a train of soldiers over an embankment.

RICHMOND MONEY MARKET.

Richmond, March 2.—Gold advanced here to-day forty per cent, closing at three hundred premium, and the market much excited. Bank notes commanded fifty per cent premium; market firm.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

Richmond, March 2.—In the Senate, Mr. Oldham, of Texas, from the Committee on Commerce, reported back the joint resolution relative to the free navigation of the Mississippi river, with a substitute, the preamble of which declares that it is a settled and recognized rule of international law, that the right of navigating, for commercial purposes, a river which flows from one State through the territory of another State, into the sea, is common to all nations inhabiting the different parts of its basin.

The resolutions of the committee affirm the declaration, and declare the free navigation of the Mississippi river the natural right of the people of all the States upon its banks, or upon the banks of its navigable tributaries.

The report was ordered to be printed, when the Senate went into executive session.

In the House the bill to authorize the acceptance of troops from Missouri and Kentucky for less than three years, was tabled, when that body went into secret session.

DEPOSITION OF RAILROAD TRAVEL.

Grenada, March 2.—Colonel Goodman informs us he retired between this place and Jackson, and will be ready for travel in two days. The road through trains will not run until the repairs of the week. Both roads, running from Jackson to Water Valley are in perfect order.

REVIEW AT MOBILE.

Mobile, March 3.—A grand review of the army of Mobile took place to-day, by Brigadier-Generals Slaughter and Cumming. After the review four pieces of artillery, captured at Murfreesboro', were presented by General Withers, in the name of Alabamians and Tennesseans, in the army of Tennessee, to the army of Mobile. Each piece is inscribed with the name of a gallant son of Alabama who fell in the memorable battle.

GEN. KIRBY SMITH'S MOVEMENTS.

Port Hudson, March 5.—Lieut. Gen. Kirby Smith and staff arrived yesterday, and left this evening on the steamer Hodge for Alexandria, to assume command of the trans-Mississippi department.

Reports from Red River state that the Confederate fleet was but slightly injured in the contest with the Indianola, and will soon be ready for an important expedition.

GEN. VAN DORN'S VICTORY.

Chattanooga, March 4.—Confirmatory reports have been received of Van Dorn's successful raid at Franklin. He is now in possession of that place. Thirty-nine wagons were captured, with stores.

The Federal loss was one thousand killed and wounded; our loss heavy.

The number of prisoners taken was 2600.

RETALIATORY MEASURES.

Vicksburg, March 5.—Commodore Porter, commander of the Federal fleet, has issued a proclamation declaring that all persons firing on unarmed vessels on the river, and taken in the act, will be hung, as will, also, all persons burning cotton, levying contributions, &c. The answer of Gen. Stevenson has not yet transpired.

Later from the North.

VICKSBURG CANAL—MILITARY MOVEMENTS IN TENNESSEE AND KENTUCKY.

Grenada, March 5.—The Chicago *Times* has been received.

Letters from the Federal fleet on the Mississippi report that a scow drawing six feet of water passed throught the canal opposite Vicksburg.

The great scare in Kentucky was caused by the movements of six hundred Confederates, who are now leaving the State by way of Hazel Green.

Longstreet's division is reported at Knoxville, with the intention of making an invasion through Cumberland Gap.

A Cincinnati dispatch, dated February 25th, says: Two regiments of cavalry will go to Kentucky to-day. The refugees are returning to their homes.

Capt. C. Morgan, a brother of Gen. John H. Morgan, who ventured into Lexington, has been captured and sent to Camp Chase.

Rosecrans is moving towards Chattanooga. His advance was at Franklin on the 5th.

Van Dorn has reinforced Gen. Bragg with ten thousand men.

FROM TAZOO PASS.

The *Appeal* of the 4th instant says:

The best information we have from this point is that the fleet of the enemy still at the mouth of the pass into the Cold Water. It is composed of five steamers and two sidewheel boats, carrying two guns each, and a few transports. Nothing definite is known as to their strength.

We presume no hindrance will be offered to their clearing out of Cold Water, as we have every reason to believe it has been determined to let them get as far from their base, the Mississippi, as they may have the courage to venture on so precarious a route. Ample preparations have been made to prevent the accomplishment of the purpose of the foe, at the proper time. We apprehend no danger from that direction.

Gen. D. H. Hill has resumed command of the Confederate forces in North Carolina, with his headquarters at Goldsboro'. The Raleigh *Progress*, in noticing this fact, says: "We have had too much strategy, dividing and dodging in North Carolina, and that Gen. Hill is the man to inaugurate a new and different system of tactics."

Gov. Bonham, of South Carolina, has called out five regiments of the reserve corps to rendezvous promptly at certain places named and designated, to assist in repelling the threatened invasion of the coast and capture of the metropolis of that State.

THE FIGHT AT BEER CREEK.

We learn that the enemy has withdrawn his boats from the Tazoo Pass, and sent a force to Beer Creek, in Bolivar county, where they are burning and destroying all the property which falls in their course. They attacked some batteries on the creek, and after a short conflict captured one of the guns. Col. Ferguson was attacked by the Federals, when he jumped a ravine, turned and fired upon his pursuers, killing two, and the other escaping.

Mississippian.

DESTRUCTION OF THE INDIANOLA.

The Appeal says:

It is a matter of regret that this vessel was completely destroyed, in fact, if such we have positive information. It appears that the Queen of the West and her consorts, seeing the approach of the nondescript from above—the character of which has not yet been determined, some believing her an iron-clad, others a rebel—attempted to run her aground—abandoned the sunken vessel, and steamed off down the river, when, to prevent her falling into the hands of the enemy, a few daring spirits ventured out in skiffs and completed her destruction by applying a match to her magazine.

The craft above proved the batteries at night and was not fired into because she was thought to be a coal barge, that just inevitably would be a prey to our boats below, but the retreat of the little fleet took place after observations at dawn day, and the Indianola was discovered.

Up to this time the character of the Federal craft has not been satisfactorily ascertained. The conclusion of our naval men was that it was a war vessel, with which they were unable to cope, others think differently. In the absence of our little fleet, which continued below until last advices, no opportunity has occurred of making accurate observations.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Theatrical Accident.—In the closing scene of the "Island Queen" at the Varieties on Wednesday night, Mr Baker had to perform a part which necessitated his being bound. While bending in acknowledgment of the pardon which had been graciously conferred upon him by the Squid Queen for his gross infidelity to his troth with her, he was forcibly reminded of his mortality by the falling upon his head of a heavy plank from the side scenery, which for a moment seemed to stun him. He soon recovered however, and remembering that he part was that of a hero, he did not heed his pains, and went through his part heroically.

Smuggling Cases.—There were two cases of smuggling, or charges of attempting to run contraband goods across the lines, in the Provost Court yesterday. John Heffinde had been arrested on the Bayou St. John with a couple of boxes containing about 200 spools of cotton, which the police alleged he was engaged in transporting to some eligible point for shipping across the lines. The second published that Mr. Heffinde had nothing more than a drayman and was simply carrying a load for other parties, and he was discharged.

The other case was of heavier proportions. J. Schreiber, A. Meyers, Jno. Burke, Ed. Deverno and John Collie, were charged and examined partially on the charge of attempting to run contraband goods across the lines. Special officers Richardson and O'Connell had information of the expedition, and finding the accused with a considerable quantity of dry goods, took them to the house of Emile Serpas's house, captured them and the goods. The statements of the especials, that some of the accused had made some criminating admissions led to a search upon the premises, and the arresting officer—counsel declaring that these confessions had been extorted by unnecessary harshness and undue zeal, and the officers arguing that lawyers calling themselves Union men should not be allowed to defend persons who were giving aid and comfort to the enemy." Counsel retorted severely, and finally the court interposed and put an end to the acrimonious interludes by advising the officers to have counsel in future for the prosecution of such cases. The charges against the accused not being fully sustained, the case was continued to Saturday next. Burke is a policeman of St. Bernard, and was arrested on suspicion of trying to give information to the other parties, by riding ahead of the officers in post haste. As to Deverno, it appears he was arrested in Spanish Fort house—that he was a registered enemy, and had paid half his passage money to go across the Lake. Schreiber owned the goods, was a peddlar without license, and removed them from Serpas's house on hearing that the officers were coming. The testimony for the defense did not implicate Collie and Meyers, only that they wanted to get out. The schedule of property seized consisted of needles, combs, shoes, porte monnaies, knives, pipes, &c., including a gold watch and chain, and $23 in current funds.

A Wife-Whipper.—Stephen McGill was arrested in the First District yesterday, for drunkenness like a fish—not water, but whisky; for whipping his wife—like onto a man whom it were base flattery to call a coward; and breaking the furniture of the matrimonial domicile, not regarding the hard times, and perfectly regardless of the expense.

U. S. Provisional Court—Judge Peabody.—Thursday.—In the case of Emerson vs. Guillotet. The exceptions of Mr. Schmidt, on the ground that the petition had not been made in French as well as in English, as the law required, was argued by him, and by Mr. Durant in opposition. Mr. Schmidt showed that it was the law and also the practice in the State Courts, where a writ was demanded. Mr. Durant contended, and produced evidence, that it was obsolete in the Courts, and had not been in practice for over twenty years.

The Court decided that the proof was preponderating in favor of the practice having become obsolete, and for the future it would be the rule of this Court to require petitions only in English; but would in this case, as defendant's counsel seemed to have relied upon the statute, sustain the exception.

Mr. J. Q. A. Fellows filed an answer in behalf of the widow of H. O. Anderson, praying that the information recently made against property supposed to be his, at the house of Camp and Second street, be set aside and quashed, on the grounds: first, that he did not own the property; second, that he never owned it; third, that he has been an imbecile, and incapable of any act against the Government during the war; and fourth, that he was dead before the confiscation law passed; finally, that the property was already sold, and had been purchased with her own funds, before her marriage to Anderson.

In the case of Hardcore vs. Sorbonne in which judgment had been rendered by default, Mr. Hughes, at the request of Mr. Rozier, stated that it was caused by an error or oversight of his, he not being aware that an answer had been filed by the defendant. Thereupon, on motion of Mr. Rozier, the judgment was set aside, and he was allowed to reinstate his answer.

Geo. D. Leamon, Esq., the Prosecuting Attorney, announced to the Court that he had appointed J. P. Sullivan Assistant Attorney for the State of Louisiana, and filed his commission therefor with the clerk. During the day the clerk administered the usual oath of office to Mr. Sullivan, who enters immediately upon the duties of his new position.

In the case of Fay vs. Jewett, Mr. Rozier filed a rule on defendant and Hn. Kennedy, called in warranty, to show cause on the 14th inst. why the 113 bales of cotton should not be sold at auction for cash, and after depositing $10,000 out of the proceeds in the registrar of this court, to abide the final issue of the suit, why the balance of said proceeds should not be paid to the plaintiffs—their title to two thirds of the net profits being admitted by defendants.

The case of Grewell & Hallett vs. Spencer Field was fixed for trial to-day.

When we had to leave the court, an elaborate argument was progressing between Messrs. Fellowes and Rozier on one side, and Mr. Rosellius on the other—the point appearing to be whether the client of the latter had a right to sequester the grown crop of a plantation.

*Second District Court—Judge Whitaker—*J. Ad. Rozier, Esq., as counsel, yesterday instituted in this Court quite a number of suits, on promissory notes against merchants of this city for goods purchased from merchants in New York and Boston. The notes were mostly for large amounts.

*Sixth District Court—Judge Howell.—*The divorce case of Gustave Tonnade vs Mary Ann Fowell, his wife, was up in this Court yesterday for trial. He sued for a divorce, on the ground that he was absent in Mexico on business, from April, 1861, to October 7th, 1862; nineteen executive months, that when he returned he found his wife was on the eve of giving birth to a child, which, morally and physically, could not possibly have been his. Therefore he claimed a dissolution of the matrimonial bond. The defendant denies all the allegations, and insists upon proof, charging her husband with failing to give her proper support. The case was not decided, it being arranged that the witnesses for the defense were to be examined in private.

[FROM OUR EVENING EDITION OF YESTERDAY.]

Interesting Summary of Southern News.

A correspondent of the Mobile *Tribune* writes, intimating that there are indications of an early battle in Tennessee. The statement recently arrived from Virginia, numbering 20,000 troops, on their way from Nashville to join Rosecrans at Murfreesboro', indicates that not only an early movement would be made, but almost desperate effort essayed to drive Gen. Johnston to Middle Tennessee.

The force of Sigel is said to be over estimated. It is thought probable that Rosecrans has received reinforcements to between 60,000 and 70,000 men, which would make his total effective force between thirty-nine and forty thousand.

From Shelbyville there are no turnpike roads leading toward Tullahoma, of the Confederate line of defense on Duck river.

After leaving Shelbyville the enemy would be forced to travel the direct roads, which are still in a most impassable condition from the heavy snows and rains. The advance of Rosecrans must necessarily be very slow, admitting that within the next ten days the roads will be in a condition to be worked. A large pioneer force, protected by several brigades, will no doubt soon be thrown forward by the enemy. This will cause heavy skirmishes, which will continue as the enemy advances toward our lines. You may look soon to hear, therefore, that our troops have fallen back from their outposts, and that they have become occupied by the enemy. This will be preparatory to the commencement of another grand battle.

It is our object not only to draw the enemy as far as possible from his supplies, but also to select on our part the strongest strategical positions near the rising eminences of the Cumberland mountains. This will probably be the hardest fought battle of the war. A brilliant victory on our side, and a total route of the enemy, will not only give us Nashville, redeem all Tennessee, but also give us the key to Kentucky, to which place the enemy will soon be driven, to become the grand theatre of war. A grand expedition West is now on foot, or rather on *horse*, and may soon be expected to be heard from.

Speaking of supplies in Middle Tennessee, a writer in Van Dorn's corps, dating his letter from Columbia, twenty miles from Franklin, the scene of the late victory, says:

The only fear of the people now appears to be that the army is not equal to the supply, instead of the reverse—in other words, that the supply is inadequate for the army. Corn, of the very best quality, sells at from fifty to sixty cents per bushel, and flour is purchasable in any quantity at from $12 to $20 per barrel, while cows of fresh pork can be procured at 20 to 22 cents.

Our soldiers are delighted with the country they have made their appearance in, and show a decided repugnance to retreating to Mississippi. It is very possible that they will not again have to retrace their steps. I learn that there is a report in or of Federals a short distance on this side of Franklin. If such be the case I have little doubt that I will soon be able to chronicle their arrival in the Confederacy, as such airy bands will be taken in for sale.

Richmond Items.

From our late Northern exchanges, we copy the following gleanings from the Richmond papers:

The Richmond *Whig* of the 26th instant urges that not a plant of tobacco be raised this year in Virginia or North Carolina, as to support their armies in these States it is absolutely necessary to cultivate the whole tillable area of each individual estate, &c.

Theodore Whitman was discharged under a writ of habeas corpus, in the Richmond Hustings Court, under a judgment ignoring Gen. Davies right to declare martial law.

Captain Wm. Damron, captured by Floyd's army in Kentucky, and another Union captain, are at hard labor in the Richmond penitentiary, in retaliation for the act of our authorities in using (here) two rebel officers convicted of robbing the mails.

A NEW BATCH OF IRON CLADS.—Under this heading the New York *World* of the 26th publishes the following:

On Tuesday the specifications and plans for the last batch of iron clad vessels were withdrawn from inspection by Admiral Gregory, in pursuance of an advertisement. Contractors have examined them, and some are now in Washington looking for orders to commence building. No one can attain a contract unless he himself engaged in the construction of vessels. The new ships have from three to seven will carry two guns, one of fifteen-inch guns, but will not draw so much water as the last nine Monitors. There are a few peculiarities of their construction which it would not be advisable to print at present.

Chief Engineer Stimers, who has for a considerable period been the superintendent of iron-clad machinery in the vicinity of New York, has left for the iron-clad fleet, about to commence operations South. Having been present at the putting up of all the engines, and understanding safety and technicality of them, he will, in the estimation of the officers, be a great acquisition to the squadron during the expected hostilities.

COTTON SPECULATION IN THE WEST.—The following paragraph occurs in the Cairo correspondence of the New York *Tribune* of the 26th:

The steamer Chippewa Valley arrived at this port loaded with 400 bales of cotton, and taken as a prize by the gunboat Forest Rose. The Chippewa came down the Mississippi, passing Cairo, Memphis, and other points, in the night, and was captured by her freight inside of Island No. 63, on the Mississippi above Helena. It is supposed that the officers and crew of the boat were all concerned in the business, but they allege that a German Jew was the only one concerned. He had fled as soon as the gunboat came in sight. She had no permit or ship's papers of any kind aboard, which would have subjected her to penalties even in time of peace. The Jew was buying the cotton at from 10 cents to 15 cents a pound, in gold. A nice little fortune is raised. And a general thing these long nosed Jews care nothing for Government or country. All they are after is to make money, and it is likely they are the tools of those who would like to appear well in the world.

The United States Government and France.

We published in our evening of yesterday an extract from an editorial article in the *Times* of the 25th on the subject of the Relations of the United States Government with France, we now find in the New York *World* of the 25th an article entitled the "Great French Fright," which is an answer to the intimations and fears of the *Times*:

As the *Times* has substantially confessed that its diplomatic inspirations date not from Washington, but from Wall street, it is hardly worth while to be at any particular pains to point out to it the importance of keeping probability in view when it next takes up its "dreadful tale" of wars and rumors of wars.

But in its anxiety to expose the vivid vituperations in which it has indulged of France and the French Government, it contemporary recurs with singular persistance to the following statement, which it is charitable to suppose originated in a hasty and impetuous perusal of the dispatches of our Minister in France:

"On the 9th of November M. Drouyn de L'Huys, the French foreign Secretary, assured Mr. Dayton, in the most direct and explicit terms, that the French Government had done nothing about intervention or mediation—that it had not even *resolved* in any thing, on mediation with the subject; while the latter, proposing mediation to England and Russia, had been written and sent a fortnight before. What was the object of this direct and unmistakable falsehood?"

What, indeed! It will be difficult to answer this question, as no such "direct and unmistakable falsehood" was ever uttered by the French foreign secretary.

On the 9th, not the 9th, of November, Mr. Dayton writes to Mr. Seward that in a conversation of some length with M. Drouyn de L'Huys he had said to that Minister: "I have seen it stated that France, England and Russia were conferring upon the propriety of offering mediation." To this the French Minister replied as follows: "He said that the wish that the war could be ended, or that something could be done with the assent of the belligerent parties, had been spoken of, *and it was yet spoken of*, but nothing had been resolved upon. In further conversation he said that France reserved to herself the right to express this wish to the parties, if it should be thought advisable to do so, or that good would grow out of it." He further said "that such a wish would not be an offer of mediation; if there were any word which could express less than mediation that such word should be used in its place."

These are the words which the *Times* describes as "a direct, unmistakable falsehood!" They are, on the contrary, a full avowal, and, so far as diplomatic courtesy to the courts of Russia and England would permit a French Minister to speak explicitly of propositions not yet replied to by those powers, an explicit avowal of the fact that the three Governments were then conferring as to some way of "expressing their wish" for a termination of the war. But they are more. They distinctly intimated the course which France would take, if left to act by herself—would consider herself free to take, and which she has really since taken. The charge of duplicity and misrepresentation against the French Government in the face of this dispatch can only, as we have said, be excused as the effect of a hasty and inconsiderate glance at a subject whose importance should certainly have entitled it to graver treatment at the hands of a public writer.

However, we are glad to find the *Times* so far coming to its senses as to admit that "whether we are to have trouble with France or not is a matter of opinion."

A few days ago it was a matter of certainty. By the first of April we were to be invaded, blockaded, bombarded, and generally brought to grief. Now our doom depends upon such various contingencies as the following:

"Unless he shall find England immovably hostile to it, and willing to pledge herself to a *permanent* neutrality, or unless the insurrection in Poland shall have created distrust at home, or unless decisive Union victories promise the speedy closing of the war, we believe that in three months Louis Napoleon will demand, and, if necessary, *force* the delivery of cotton already purchased by French agents to be delivered at Southern points."

"Within three months" is better than within a month. We may add to the chapter of accidents which the *Times* interposes between ourselves and its awful apocalypse almost *ad libitum*. Unless Jefferson Davis should become an abolitionist, or unless the Emperor of Siam should suffer decapitation, or unless the Czar should be chosen Pope of Rome, or unless to sum it all up in a word, unless Louis Napoleon should abstain from interference in our affairs, it is likely he may interfere in them. This is truly, as Jack Bunsby would say, "an opinion as is an opinion." Whether it is exactly the opinion the *Times* "has thought" expressed the public perhaps will decide for itself.

Startling Developments—An Infernal Machine Sent from North Adams to a Group of Arrest of a Prominent Massachusetts Lawyer.

In the latter part of December, Sol. Shipley, a boy was forwarded from North Adams, Massachusetts, to New York, and from thence to Chicago, Illinois. It was directed to Mr. Whipple, of that city. As he was absent from town when the box arrived, it remained in the express office for two weeks unclaimed and unopened. Mr. Whipple returned to Chicago, and suspected that something was wrong about this mysterious box, which was about fifteen inches long, fourteen wide and ten high, enveloped in thick wrapping paper, tied with a cord, which on its front was made to form three quarters of a bow knot, covering the key-hole and fastened by a screw in each corner.

Between Mr. Whipple, to whom the box was addressed, and Nat. Small Hodge, of North Adams, a feeling of enmity had for a long time existed. Mr. Hodge is the inventor and patentee of a railroad brake, which is in general use throughout the country. He has several suits pending against corporations and individuals for alleged infringements on his patent and improperly use of his brake. Whipple was for several years connected with Hodge in the ownership of this invention, but the connection was severed a short time ago, and Whipple's interest was transferred to several railroad companies. Hodge became exceedingly incensed, and made threats to the effect that "he would bring the powers of hell to bear against Whipple."

The mysterious box having been placed in the custody of the person to whom it was addressed, C. P. Bradley, Chief of Police of this city, knew as reputation as a detective is nothing at—was consulted. He took the case in hand, and proceeded to a reconnoissance of the box. He became satisfied that it contained an infernal machine. In order to open it he devised a peculiar mechanical arrangement. The box was placed between ledges of rocks—a wedge was inserted in the cover, and a thirty six pound weight was suspended over it, held by a rope over two inclined feet long. Chief Bradley, at the safe end of the rope, gave a strong pull, the weight fell, the wedge did its duty, and the cover was removed. An envelope was then discovered in front of the key-hole, containing the key to the box and a description of the contents—which were made to form an invention, requiring the utmost secrecy in their removal. Still the box was unopened. The mechanical device was readjusted. Down rattle the weight, and as it struck the box an explosion followed that was heard for the distance of many miles. The box proved to have contained about fifteen pounds of powder.

On the inside of the cover a spiral spring had been so arranged as to release a hammer and strike a percussion cap at the moment the lid was opened. There was the certainty of a failure in the murderous engine if an attempt was made to open it in the usual manner. Death was a certainty to every person in the vicinity of this terrible machine.

To discover the person who had sent this box on its errand of destruction, was the task of Chief Bradley. To it he devoted the energies of himself and his corps of assistants. About two weeks ago he came to this city, and consulted with Detectives Walker, Kipp, and Leonard Hurlburt, in relation to what he conceived to be the important investigation. Chief Bradley procured all the evidence that he could obtain and returned to Chicago, whereupon the United States Grand Jury found bills of indictment against Nehemiah Hodge, Nathaniel Adams, for conspiracy and assault with intent to commit murder.

A few days ago, officers Vanderwerken and Dodge, of Chief Bradley's staff, came to this city with a requisition from the Governor of Massachusetts for the surrender of the party who had been indicted. Yesterday morning these officers, with officer Kipp, of this city, proceeded to North Adams. About noon they called upon Mr. Hodge, and presented to the office of Mr. Hodge, and informed him of their errand. He received the startling announcement with calmness, and made no attempt at escape or resistance. Of course a terrible excitement was produced in North Adams, where Mr. Hodge has a large number of friends. His friends called upon him to offer words of cheer. He is a man of fine presence, great intelligence and courteous demeanor. We should be loth to record the facts above written, but for the finding of a Grand Jury, and a statement of the charges.—*Troy Times.*

CONDITION OF THE NEW SIZAM SLOOPS.—The Secretary of the Navy officially reports to the Senate that the inability of the Oneipee resulted from the cutting off of the cylinder valve, caused the enforced stay of the vessel. We have hardly fitted. Four hulls of vessels have been built on this plan, and ten have similar machinery, of which eight have been tried, two only giving any trouble, viz.: the Oneipee and Jamaica. The Secretary is experienced, with neither the proper shops, tools, mechanics nor engineers. Their facilities were pronounced against in advance, but they were much the lowest bidders. With regard to the failure of the Pensacola, a Chief Engineer, Isherwood, reports that her hull was built at Pensacola and her machinery at Washington, from designs of E. E. Dickson and W. E. Sickels, under a contract with Secretary Toucey in 1858. One was a patentee of an alleged improvement in engineering, the other a lawyer, with intimate relations with Messrs. Mallory and Yulee, of the Senate Naval Committee, and the plan was tried in opposition to the engineers of the navy. Owing to the numerous blunders, the machinery was two years in place, and when it operation, the cost was $328,400. She was with difficulty got to New Orleans, and there reported useless until the machinery was replaced.—*Baltimore Gazette 25th ult.*

GOV. ROBINSON, OF KENTUCKY, AND THE FRANKFORT CONVENTION.—The New York *Post* of the 24th contains the following paragraph:

Governor Robinson, of Kentucky, heartily approves the action of Colonel Gilbert in dispersing the recent rebel Convention at Frankfort, in that State.

SALE OF COTTON IN NASHVILLE.—One hundred bales of cotton were sold in Nashville last week at seventy five cents per pound.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Provost Court—Judge Peabody—Thursday Morning.—Tom Cannon and H. McDermott, were charged with being drunk and disturbing the propriety of a restaurant. Cannon was also charged with being a rebel. Both were disposing upon the unhappy state of the country. Pat remarked he was a Union man, while his friend held that he was a Confed. The disturbance cost them $5 each, but not the expressed opinion.

C. C. Morgan filed exceptions to the motion of T. J. Earhart, (which called for the refunding of $25 collected from Mrs. Waverly) on the ground that his opponent has no license himself to practice in the Courts of Louisiana, and was disqualified therefrom; and that the remedy of Mrs. Waverly was in a civil suit, and that he had himself a license to practice in the city courts; and if not, the fee was paid under a moral obligation.

The case of larceny which we noticed yesterday against a respectable-looking woman, came to a melancholy conclusion this morning. New evidence was much stronger against her, and the court was reluctantly, we are sure, compelled to sentence her three months to the Parish Prison. No doubt it was an hasty, momentary weakness, and not of determined depravity—but who can estimate the evils which will flow from that imprisonment, stained so heavily with crime.

Mathew Roper was accused of selling wine to soldiers at his oyster saloon in Victory street—the charge was fixed at $15.

John Hotsoff was accused of assaulting a white-headed boy by dragging him along the streets, and also for resisting and trying to bribe the officer. The story of the accused was, that he was in pursuit of a boy who had stolen a pair of shoes from his store, when the prosecuting boy tried to throw him "off the scent." The enraged him, and he collared the boy, when a policeman collared and jugged him. He was fined $25, which he paid with a *sem!*

A poor devil in blue blouze was up for *less than nothing*—the policeman's own story completely exonerating him and taking the blame on a soldier who he was not arrested. As a matter of course, blue blouze went out of Court with flying colors, and the leatherhead got a laugh.

The Hack family—father, son and daughter—were arraigned on a charge of stealing. It proved to be one of those old hackneyed cases of malicious accusation and arrest. The prosecutor had some mean designs against the daughter, and had given her some shirts, which he afterwards accused the whole family of stealing, because they would not favor his plans. The accused were honorably discharged.

The black boy who was arrested for stealing $800 in gold from a colored woman in Wilson's slave yard, was tried. The only evidence was the statement of the especials that the boy had confessed the deed, while he was in the dark cell of his prison; but on the promise of other evidence the boy was remanded till to-morrow.

James Maroney and a Spaniard were fined $10 each for furiously riding their horses in the streets.

When we left the Court the smuggling case had just commenced, but it was not advanced far enough to see what it amounted to.

Officer Reynolds, the good looking gate keeper of the Provost Court, suggested to us that he had found in the court room a sum of money, which the owner can get by describing it.

We omitted to mention that yesterday Charley Neff, who had been acquitted of the charge of stealing a mule, was convicted of stealing the horse, and was sentenced to eighteen months in the Parish Prison, where last January he had completed his six other five years sentence.

COMMERCIAL.

OFFICE OF THE BEE, Thursday Evening, March 12, 1863.

TOBACCO.—Sales of 18 hhds fine leaf sold today on a private list at 7 @ 8 ℔.

SUGAR.—The supply is extremely light, and with a continued good demand prices have still further advanced to-day. We quote, sales embrace: 5 hhds, by auction, sale, at 7c for Inferior, 8½c for Low Ordinary, 9½c for Good Common to Fair, and fine grain, for Good Fair to Fully Fair, new crop, and 11½c for Good Fair, old crop.

MOLASSES.—The demand is good, and prices are firm. Nearly all in first hands has been disposed of. We quote: Prime Cuba, in bbls, at 38c. for Old crop, and 40@41 cents 42c. for Fermenting new crop.

CORN.—65c. was realized sold on private terms, and 70c at 61@70 per bush.

BACON.—Sales of 5 hhds, 50c lbs each low sugar cured Hams sold at 10½c, and one of 3 hhds, 500 lbs, each, now Shoulders at 10c. ℔ lb.

MISCELLANEOUS.—The following sales were made at auction today: 1c. half lb. Maize Knot at 9c ℔ 100 ℔; 20 kegs and Eskina Lard at 10c 12½c; 3 casks Hams, shoulders at 4½ @ 5c; a small lot of Bacon in condition to discuss Hams at 11 @ 12c; 2 bbls Cider at 3 50 @ $3 75; 50 boxes Adamantine Candles at 25 @ 27½c; 100 boxes Tallow Candles at 20c; 2 bbls Pickled Herring at 6c; 10 bbls Butter at 25c; 6 bbls Lard Oil at 75c; 2 bbls Linseed Oil at 75c; 2 bbls Rosin at 3 @ 3½c; 2 bbls Tar at 3 @ 3½c; 1 bbl Pitch at 3½c; 1 bbl Rosin Oil at 50c; 3 bbls Oakum at 10c; 3 bbl Bible Northern Beef at 9 @ 9½c; 1 bbl Pickled Pigs at 7½c; 1 bbl Sperm Candles at 37½c; 1 bbl Wax Candles at 37½c; 1 bbl Sperm Oil at 1 50; 1 bbl Whalebone at 50c; 1 bbl Linseed Oil at 75c; 1 bbl Sealing and Lubricating Oil at 75c; 1 bbl Sealing and Lubricating Oil at 75c; 1 bbl Sealing and Lubricating Oil at 75c; 1 bbl Sealing and Lubricating Oil at 75c; 1 bbl Sealing and Lubricating Oil at 75c; 1 bbl Sealing and Lubricating Oil at 75c; 1 bbl Sealing and Lubricating Oil at 75c; 1 bbl Sealing and Lubricating Oil at 75c; 1 bbl Sealing and Lubricating Oil at 75c; 1 bbl Sealing and Lubricating Oil at 75c; 1 bbl Sealing and Lubricating Oil at 75c; 1 bbl Sealing and L