THE DAILY BEE.

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NEW ORLEANS:
THURSDAY MORNING, JANY 12, 1860.

CITY AFFAIRS.

There are sundry marked improvements going on in our streets, for which the community should be grateful—and the more so as our City Fathers have too frequently appeared culpably indifferent to the comfort and convenience of the public. We take sincere pleasure in acknowledging the prospective advantage of the square block pavements. No doubt, when completed in our principal thoroughfares, they will vastly embellish and beautify the streets on which they are laid down, will save considerable amounts of money to the proprietors of omnibuses, by diminishing the labor of the animals which draw them and the wear and tear of the vehicles themselves, and will render traveling in those conveyances far more agreeable than it now is to all who do not agree with Dr. Johnson in believing the jolting of a coach over a rough road to be one of the keenest pleasures in life. In consideration of the benefits in store for the citizens, they do not murmur at the filthy and ruinous impassable condition of the streets while these square blocks are being laid. They care no more for the mud mounds accumulated on either side of the pavement, and quidnuncs to pick their way with as little deliberation as possible from the slushy, sloppery and miry deposits.

This being regarded in the light of a necessary evil, is submitted to with that unanimity which specially distinguishes our population in all matters of municipal shortcoming. We apprehend, however, that because a number of the streets of New Orleans are undergoing the work of repairing, that is no good reason why in other portions of the city profound and treacherous mud holes should be left standing as traps to the unwary, and as break necks to unfortunate dray horses. A few days ago we beheld a cart and horse heavily laden, so completely imbedded in a pitfall, lying at the corner of Chartres and Canal streets, at to require for its liberation, first, the removal of the load, and next, the strenuous and long continued exertions of a large number of laborers. On Tuesday morning a driver unanimously passing along Exchange Passage, between Conventionale and Canal streets, got his vehicle stalled in another of those delightful excavations. We had the pertinacity to observe the frantic efforts of the horse and his master to extricate the dray from its position, but even the last named had a hard job. The team was not accomplished before an hour. In both these instances there was a serious loss of time, involving no doubt a loss of money, moreover the drays must have sustained injury from the violent pulling and hauling required to raise them up to level ground. Why could not in that in such cases the city day couldn't operate in that in such cases the city could operate in that in such cases the city could be sued for damages, and would be made to pay for the reprehensible negligence displayed in the department of the Street Commissioner. There is not the shadow of excuse for having those mud holes unfilled. If they have been hitherto overlooked, they can be so no longer.

While on the subject of municipal affairs, we desire to ask of the New Orleans Common Council whether the obligation of the Gas Company to light the street lamps does not apply invariably to cloudy and moonless nights. We say "moonless," because, though the calendar may make known the fact that the moon ought to shine, the presence of rain and clouds will render the night as black as Erebus. Nothing is more common than such nights in our city. A very considerable number of residents are compelled to cross their dwellings after sunset, and we need scarcely say that on those occasions, when according to the almanac the moon is in her second or third quarter, but according to truth and observation, her disk is obscured, and her light invisible, pedestrianism, especially in the present condition of our streets, is a feat that is only to be achieved at much personal risk. The lamps of the Company, contrary to manifold privileges, that of withholding the ordinary supply of carbureted hydrogen from our citizens, whenever the Queen of Night is supposed to dispense her radiance? Is the company justified in assuming fiction for fact; in taking it for granted that because on certain evenings the moon really rises, the citizens even through thick and cloudy nights hidden by banks of mist and fog, and consequently that the company is relieved from the duty of substituting gas light for deficient moon light? If this prerogative really exists, there is, of course, no remedy. If not, in behalf of thousands of citizens whose other limbs are periodically imperiled by this gross dereliction of duty, we invoke summary action by the city authorities to abate the evil.

THE LATEST DODGE.

Did you Obow wantonly insults a Southern member of Congress, and when asked if he will give satisfaction, pleads Christianity and moral convictions as sufficient reasons for declining. We are far from impeaching the justification. We abhor and detest the practice of duelling, and look upon it as the relic of a barbarous age. But of Mr. Obow we have not to fight, why does he not begin by resolving not to provoke a quarrel, and cowardly to insult another and then shrink from atonement under the plea of religion? The first thing which religion teaches is good will to man. He who really lives God and his neighbor may consistently oppose the duello, for he will be quite sure never to engage in quarrels and never to indulge in offensive phrase of others. Mr Obow, Mr Obow, you miss your aim and even, but the world will deem you nothing but a base dunghill cock, in spite of your valorous assumption.

AUCTIONEERS' NOTICES TO THE AUDITOR for the quarter ending 31st December, 1859, following sales made at public auction and amounts of State tax paid by them respectively into the State Treasury:

Auctioneers.	Sales.	Tax paid State.
C. F. Claiborne & Co.	$ 49,750 00	$ 49 75
C. F. Claiborne & Co.	35,454 77	1,500 00
E. E. Kidd & Co.	40,000 00	1,000 00
E. E. Kidd & Co.	100,000 00	2,500 00
Rawles & Beaumont	23,127 25	231 73
R. H. Taylor	170,986 57	709 97
Rawles & Claiborne	150,000 00	750 00
N. Napier & Co.	147,000 00	441 00
E. Turpin	242,286 15	726 72
Total Sales & Gallons		
Smith	112,565 89	297 71
Chas. Taylor	104,744 00	209 48
R. H. Walker	102,136 50	153 20
E. L. Cucullu	81,597 00	81 59
R. M. Montgomery	55,646 67	278 23
Turner & Dymond	42,997 50	64 49
F. Fernandez	29,705 00	148 52
F. Fernandez	26,705 00	106 82
M. Stevenson	25,000 00	50 00
William Stone	21,478 00	10 73
E. & J. Bagley & Co.	17,000 00	17 00
Robert Archibald	16,220 65	16 22
H. A. Kingsbury	8,777 45	43 87
Auctioneers.	Sales.	
A. Gueringer	No returns	
T. De St. Romes	No returns	
Mercantile Exchange & Co.	No returns	
Thomas A. Mackey	No returns	
P. H. Dewees	No sales	
A. Fernandez	No sales	
Total.....	$ 1,878,718 26	$10,306 71

HOME MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—The annual statement of this prosperous and well conducted institution, which appears in our columns, exhibits its uncommon strength and abundance of resources, especially in view of the fact that the numerous and destructive fires of the past year have fallen heavily upon our domestic insurance companies. It will be seen that the net earned premiums of the Home for 1859 amount to $649,166, and that in spite of severe losses, its net earned profits are nearly $250,000. The company pays 8 per cent. interest on outstanding certificates, in addition to a dividend of thirty-eight per cent., and reserves 78 per cent. of 1858. Its assets amount in value to $1,410,967 19.

N. Varner will sell this day, at public auction, and without reserve, at the City Hotel, Commercial place, a superior Engraver, two Spittoons Cushions, a fine Washing Stand, and a young Carriage Driver. Terms—One year's credit.

The particular attention of buyers of Havana cigars is called to the splendid stock of Messrs. Ferrer & Co., 30 Camp street, which will be offered to the trade THIS DAY, at 11 o'clock, by D. E. Morgan, auctioneer.

CREDIT SALE.—The particular attention of buyers is called to the large credit sale of Rawles' stock, comprising a fine assortment of Dry Goods, to take place THIS DAY, at 10 o'clock, at the store lately occupied by E. Rogers & Co., Nos. 65 and 67 Old Levee street, between Conti and Bienville streets. Terms—Over $200, four months' credit; under $200, four months' credit.

CREDIT SALE.—To take place THIS DAY, at 10 o'clock, at the store No. 80 Chartres street, (up stairs) between Canal and Bienville streets, through Rhodes & Lovejoy, auctioneers. Terms—Over $200, four months' credit; under $200, four months' credit.

SALE OF NEGROES.—By Messrs. Rawles & Beaumont, at the Merchants' Exchange, this day, at 12 o'clock, a likely negro boy, about 15 years old, and a negro girl, about 18 years old