The New-Orleans Bee.

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TERMS OF THE BEE.

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The New-Orleans Daily Bee.

Friday Morning, May 24, 1850.

☞ The Northern MAIL failed yesterday from beyond Charleston.

THE CUBAN EXPEDITION.

Can any ingenious quidnunc inform us what has become of the Cuba Expedition; in what unknown seas is it cruising, or to what mysterious realms has it sailed? Some two weeks have elapsed since the last detachment of the "liberating army of Cuba" sailed from this port, with the avowed determination to effect a landing on the coast about the 12th of May, and to begin at once an energetic series of operations. Three or four days ago the *Guadalquiver* arrived, with dates from Havana to the 15th, but her budget of intelligence was a complete vacuum. Nothing had been heard of the Expedition—the Island was tranquil—no evidences existed of commotion from without, or intestine strife within. This absence of all news was a grievous disappointment, but the inquisitive were consoled by the assurance that if even the Americans had disembarked on the southern part Cuba, the information could hardly have reached Havana by the 15th. We listened and believed; and possessed our souls in patience for the next arrival. But, alas, for the instability of human expectations, the *Funny*, which sailed on the 19th, four days after the *Guadalquiver*, brings the same monotonous and irritating story, and we are still suffered to burst in ignorance. Where is the Expedition? Has it landed? Is it awaiting a favorable opportunity for escaping the prying scrutiny of the Spanish cruisers? Or can it be that the period has been found inauspicious and the occasion unripe for the enterprize. The last hypothesis is almost untenable, and no one will give it countenance who, has the slightest acquaintance with the character of the men engaged in the Expedition. They are Americans, and consist chiefly of those hardy and fearless adventurers, who in Mexico were wont to rush to the fray as to a banquet, and to encounter the most frightful numerical odds with perfect confidence in their strength, courage, and determination.

Still we cannot disguise our serious apprehensions of the result. The fate of the expedition is wholly unknown. Its destination and its original intentions seem to have been modified by events of which we have no cognizance—and the minds of our citizens will be harrowed by suspense, if not by fear, until something tangible and definite is ascertained. In respect to the composition and strength of the force which has been dispatched to Cuba, we have at length specific knowledge. The *Delta*—a journal which we doubt not is thoroughly posted up in reference to this subject, states that the expedition consists of about two thousand picked men, of tried courage and skill, mostly armed with Jenning's patent rifles. This is by no means a formidable force, and the attempt to effect the liberation of Cuba by the unassisted efforts of so insignificant an army would argue a rashness bordering upon fatuity. But we are told that the spirit of resistance is ripe among the native Cubans; that they are prepared to rise at all points, as soon as the invaders appear; that they themselves have asked for only 5,000 American soldiers, and that a deed by our countrymen they are resolved to overthrow the cruel and despotic domination of Spain.

We presume that these assurances must have a solid foundation, for we cannot imagine that the wary and experienced officers who have charge of this expedition of 2,000 men, would undertake the Quixotic enterprise of revolutionizing Cuba, conquering the disciplined legions of Spain, seizing the arsenals and fortresses of the Island, and bidding defiance to the Count Mt. Arcol, and the Conde de Alcoy, unless they were morally certain of prompt, efficient and active co-operation. If the Cubanos are true to themselves, the presence of 2,000 Americans, fully armed and equipped, and of approved valor, will quicken their courage and strengthen their resolve. If they play false, through treachery or fear, the doom of the invaders will be one from the contemplation of which humanity may well shrink. A short shrift and the extinguisher of the *garote* will be the most merciful fate that can be anticipated from Spanish vindictiveness.

But will the Cubanos prove loyal and faithful to their pledges? There's the rub. It strikes us that if the Creoles were so generously enamored of freedom as they profess to be, they would long since have struck a blow for themselves, and would not now be awaiting the presence of a slender force of 2,000 Americans, before drawing the sword and throwing away the scabbard. Not thus did the Republicans of Mexico and South America fight their battles. They paused not for foreign aid; but valiantly achieved their own freedom. If the Cubanos have the courage to do battle, and are actuated by a stern resolve to rid themselves of Spanish irondom, they hardly need the assistance they have demanded. If they are destitute of these qualities, the presence of 2,000 Americans will scarcely inspire them with the necessary valor and determination. But we trust we are doing injustice to the natives of Cuba, and that the issue will prove that we have underrated their intrepidity and cast an unworthy doubt upon their good faith.

One thing is certain: If the expedition lands and finds the Cubans at all disposed to abide by their assurances, the dominion of Spain over the Queen of the Antilles is at an end. The struggle may be protracted, for the mother country, in view of the approaching danger, has made extraordinary efforts for resistance; but let the American people clearly and fully understand that the Cubanos are in open revolt, fighting to the last extremity for independence, and thousands of our countrymen would join them. Government proclamations could no more restrain, than the impulse bid Niagara cease to roar. The first gun fired in behalf of Cuban liberty would be the signal to every bold adventurer in the land to unite heart and hand with the patriots. It is well enough to understand this, because whatever may be the consequences, no reflecting mind can doubt that it would occur. Whenever Cuba wants to be free, she is bound to be free. Whether this time, or some place in a few short weeks, or at the expiration of some years, the event is beyond a presentiment, and he must be shallow and benighted who can question it.

FROM HAVANA.—By the arrival of the schr. [illegible] we have received Havana papers to the [illegible] They contain nothing new. The *Diario de la Havana* contains a very violent article [illegible] threatening extermination to the Cuba Expedition in sonorous six-syllable epithets.—*Veranos.*

ANOTHER INCENDIARY ATTEMPT.—On Wednesday night, an attempt was made to set fire to the building occupied as a Boarding house, by Mrs. Orait, in Canal street. A servant girl was alarmed by the smell of burning wood proceeding apparently from a pantry that had not been used for some time, and on burning open the door, the room was found to be in a blaze. The flames were extinguished by the aid of a few buckets of water.

THE CROPS.—We believe it is certainly conceded on all hands, says the Eufaula *Alabama Shield*, that the prospect of the crops at this time are more unfavorable than they were even at this time last year. The cause of this is attributed to the almost unprecedented inclemency of the Spring.—We have heard intelligent and observing planters remark, that the cotton plant is much more backward and less promising than it was this year which was planted after the frost. It seems to have had almost every difficulty to contend against—cold, heavy, washing rains, and slight frosts all the Spring; and now we hear complaints of lice and grasshoppers which are said to be injuring it much, before it has seemingly had time to grow large enough to be thinned out to a proper stand.

Important from Washington.

THE CUBA EXPEDITION.

The evening Picayune contains the following important despatch:

BALTIMORE, Monday, May 20.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CUBA EXPEDITION—The Republic says that the President has issued orders to all the vessels of the Home Squadron, including the steamer Saranac and the frigate Congress, to proceed forthwith to the Island of Cuba. They have express instructions to prevent the landing in Cuba of any revolutionary forces from the United States; and in case such forces have been already landed, to prevent the disembarkation of any reinforcements, or of any arms or provisions under the American flag. In accordance with these orders, the Saranac has already proceeded to sea and will reach the coast of Cuba on Thursday, 23d, when she will be joined by the Germantown, Albany and steamer Vixen.

The President and the Territorial Question.

The Republic officially announces that the President has not changed his views in relation to California and the Territories, as set forth in his message on the subject.

MR. SECRETARY EWING'S COMMITTEE.—Mr. Ewing has sent to the committee, investigating the charges against the administration of his office, "a full reply to each of the allegations, backed by such evidence as will put to rest the calumnies that have been so industriously circulated against him." In relation to the charge that he employed or retained clerks whose main business was to "correspond for newspapers," he shows "that his clerks during office hours are attentive to their duties, and employ their time in no other way than in the public service. That he is not a spy upon their employment after office hours and has no means of knowing how they employ their private time."

Mr. Ewing has answered with the promptitude, directness, and manliness that have always been among his leading characteristics. The Locofoco press throughout the country has long been basely slandering the distinguished Secretary, and the Locofocos of Congress can render him no more valuable service than by subjecting his whole course of public conduct to the test of the severest scrutiny.

STEMBOATS BURNT AT MEMPHIS.—The steamer *Amaranth*, Captain Pierce, which arrived yesterday from St. Louis, reports the total destruction by fire at Memphis of the steamboat *Constitution*, A. B. Shaw & Co.'s wharf boat and the Memphis ferry boat. The disaster occurred on the night of the 20th, and the particulars, as learned from the officers of the *Amaranth*, are as follows: The *Constitution* had arrived but a short time previous, and was landing freight just above the wharf boat, when the fire was discovered in the hemp stowed in the engine room, and so rapidly did the flames spread that the officers, crew and passengers had barely time to save themselves. The fire then communicated to the wharf boat, then to the ferry boat, both of which drifted into the stream and were burnt. The Constitution had a large freight, consisting of pork, bacon, lard, hemp, tobacco, lead, &c., and from 60 to 70 head of cattle—all of which is a total loss. We did not hear of any loss of life, nor any account of the origin of the fire. The river is falling from St. Louis to Memphis.

DIABOLICAL OUTRAGE.—MRS. C. Christian lodged an information yesterday, before Recorder Genois, to the effect that on Wednesday night she started in company with a young man to proceed to the Lake—that on reaching the neighborhood of the Half-way House, the cab was stopped by three men, named Thomas Sullivan, Frank Moon and James Chapman, who violently assaulted and struck the young man so that he was compelled to run off for his life. They then dragged the woman out of the cab and placed her in another vehicle, the driver of the former having in the meanwhile gone off for fear of bodily injury. After proceeding with their victim to the distance of half a mile, she was seized by Thomas Sullivan, who threw her on the ground, and notwithstanding a violent struggle on her part, succeeded in accomplishing his infamous designs. Immediately afterwards she underwent a similar treatment from Frank Moon, though, according to her averment she made every resistance in her power. The cab then drove off, leaving the woman almost senseless on the road, where she remained until yesterday morning. If the foregoing statements sworn to by Mrs Christian, is true, it is one of the most diabolical outrages we have ever been called upon to chronicle. A warrant was forthwith issued for the arrest of the precious trium virate, but up to a late hour last evening they had not been apprehended.

POLICE ITEMS.—In the First Municipality, only a few cases of assault and battery were brought to the notice of Recorder Genois, and one of the parties named Dori was committed for trial before the First District Court. T. Barton was committed by Recorder Caldwell, for trial before the First District Court, on the charge of having entered a house in St. Charles street, with burglarious intent. J. Daley *alias* Haley, was sent before the First District Court, on a charge of assault and battery. G. Dilg, W. Otto and C. Dilg, were arraigned on a charge of arson, and remanded.

☞ A letter from a correspondent of the Savannah *Republican* states that in Dooly county, Ga., the crops are very backward; and that the cold nights and mornings threaten the Cotton with injury.

FIRST DISTRICT COURT.—*Judge McHenry.*—At 11 o'clock yesterday morning, the Court discharged the Jury in the case of the State vs. McConnell and Marie. They had been out sixty hours without being able to agree on a verdict, and stood six for conviction and six for acquittal.

THE FIRE IN CHARLESTON is stated to have been more destructive than was at first anticipated. The loss is now estimated at a half a million of dollars. The quantity of cotton destroyed is about 6,200 bales, of which 435 are Sea Island.

☞ The first article in Blackwood's Magazine for April, is an examination of the Ministerial measures of the day, Free Trade, &c., in which the writer introduces a letter from Gen. Sir Wm. Napier, the eloquent historian of the Peninsular War, portraying the disastrous effects of Free Trade upon the fate of the nation in future times, in powerful and graphic colors. The following is the concluding paragraph of the letter:

"Free Trade for England is, I think, well illustrated by the story of the view in Marryat's "Captain Violet." Brain being up a peach tree, was vigorously shaking down the fruit for his own eating, but a hog was below very complacently eating the peaches, as they fell, and expressing by grunts his satisfaction at the bear's generosity."

Mr. Napier thinks, will be the satisfaction of the United States, and other nations, at the course pursued by the British Ministry.

A FINE COUNTRY.—Forty miles west of Santa Fe, 25 miles from the gold mines of New Mexico, and within ten miles of the Rio del Norte, are [illegible] containing an area of [illegible] there, diminished to [illegible] five to two thousand acres. They are surrounded by mountains, the peaks of which are covered with perpetual snow, while the valleys are rich in soil, water, trout, woods, vines, black, yellow and red currants, gooseberries, strawberries, bananas, roses, and wild flowers, gold, lead, hot-spring, copper, black tailed deer, elk and antelopes. Inhabitants are deterred from these lovely spots by incursions of the Navajo Indians.

PUNITAN NAMES.—A gentleman was lately looking over the record of births in Boston city clerk's office, about the year 1680, and was so struck with the singularity of some of the names he met with, that he sent a few specimens to the Transcript, for the amusement of its readers. They are as follows:

"Grace Beamsly, Mercy Beamsly, Dick Beamsly, Deliverance Beck, Suzann Beck, [illegible] Bacheler, [illegible] Bacheler, [illegible] Bacheler