The New Orleans Bee.

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[ITEMS OF THE BEE.]

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NEW ORLEANS:

SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 31, 1869

TRY GEORGE ALCES' CIGARS.

185 ..... Rampart Street 185

THE CHINESE IMMIGRATION QUESTION.

The *Bulletin* of yesterday, in publishing the letter of Mr. William Creevey, a ship agent of this city, to Collector Casey, which elicited the communication of Secretary Boutwell to the latter, already published in all the city papers, points out that Mr. Creevey and Mr. Boutwell are both "somewhat in error—Mr. Boutwell in confounding the Coolie trade with Chinese immigration, and Mr. Creevey in assuming that the treaty lately made between China and the United States, through Mr. Burlingame, entirely abrogated the act of Congress of 1862, prohibiting the Coolie trade in American bottoms." Our cotemporary then goes on to show what the Coolie trade is and what are the evils chargeable to that trade at which the act of Congress of 1862 intended to strike. The distinction between the *Coolie trade* and the legitimate immigration of the Chinese into the United States is pointed out by the *Bulletin*. We present it in our own words. The expression "Coolie trade" was first applied to the traffic in laborers, carried on between the East Indian possessions of England and other oriental countries, and the tropical colonies of European nations. In this trade American ships largely participated. This is the Coolie trade proper and we concur with our cotemporary in the accuracy and justice of the distinction he makes between the two pursuits; but the mischief of it is, that the authorities at Washington—the law makers as well as the officers of the Executive Department—are not disposed to make the distinction. The *ostensible* object of the act of 1862 unquestionably was to suppress this trade, and the system of kidnapping and other cruelties imputed to the Coolie system, but the secret motive of Congress was to prevent, if possible, the Southern planter from obtaining these laborers.

Let us see what are the terms used in the act of Congress of January 19, 1862, and then call to mind in what manner it has been construed and enforced:

Section 1, forbids the transportation in American vessels of the inhabitants of China, known as Coolies, from any port in China, or from any other port or place, to any foreign country, port or place, for the purpose of disposing of, selling or transferring, for any term of years, or for any time, as servants or apprentices, or to be held to service or labor.

Now, it is clear, from this section of the law—and there is no other section which describes the traffic to be suppressed—that it is the labor-ing class of *China*—not of the East Indies—which Congress had in view to keep out of this country. It is true, another section recognizes the lawfulness of a *voluntary* immigration of the Chinese into the United States. That section is as follows:

Sec. 4. Those nothing in this act hereinbefore contained shall be deemed or construed to apply to or affect any free and voluntary emigration of any Chinese subject, or any other person carrying such person as passenger on board the same; provided, however, that a permit or certificate shall be prepared and issued by the Consul or Consular Agent of the United States, residing at the port from which such vessel may take her departure, containing the name of every person, and setting forth the fact of his voluntary emigration from such port or place, which certificate shall be given to the master of such vessel; but the same shall not be given until such Consul or Consular Agent shall be first personally satisfied by evidence produced of the truth of the facts therein contained.

This section reads very well, and if the Union's and Consular Agents were to act in an impartial manner towards the Government of the United States and the immigrant, the obstacle interposed by the law might be overcome, but there is too much reason to believe that the officers would stretch their instructions *against* the immigrant. This they have already done, and the letter of Secretary Boutwell to Mr. Casey, Collector of this Port, shows that it is the intention of the present Administration at Washington to continue the system of discouragement hitherto in practice, so far as the Southern States are concerned. That our opposition here is not confined to this section of the country we have only to show that since the passage of the Act of 1862, the immigration of the Coolies of China into California, has gone on without the slightest opposition on the part of the Federal Government, and that in the case of their introduction into the Southern States, the most vigorous measures of repression have been taken by express orders from Washington.

We do not think Mr. Creevy's letter to Collector Casey, indicates any misunderstanding of the law. He sees very clearly, and says so, that Coolies from China are constantly arriving on the Pacific slope of the United States in large numbers, and asks how it is that such immigration is lawful in California and not lawful in Louisiana. He seeks to be enlight-ened on this subject. Mr. Secretary Boutwell evades the issue and fails to explain why it is that California has privileges which are not extended to Louisiana. That he misunder-stands the act of Congress of 1862, we do not believe. It does not seem to understand it nor to confine its operation to the Coolie trade *from* a foreign port to a foreign port, which is the language of the act. He has only one object in view, and that is to apply the law in such a way as to bear against the Southern States. A Court of the United States might decide differently, but so long as our Consuls and Consular agents in foreign ports are instructed to use their influence to prevent these people from coming here, we think it is useless to go to any trouble to make contracts with them. If the law now in force be insufficient to keep them away, Congress will lose no time in passing another statute to effect that object. It is useless to contend against the construction of the Washington authorities of the act of 1862.

THE SUGAR SHING.—Twenty-three commercial firms engaged in the sugar business have signed a petition to the City Council, recommending the plan of Mr. Fleitas, and requesting the Council to adopt it, provided the charge be reduced to 2½ cents per hogshead for the first month and 15 cents for every month after the first month, or whenever it changes hands.

One hundred and thirty commercial firms engaged in the sugar and other business, and several planters, have signed a petition to the City Council, protesting against the leasing or otherwise conveying any part of the levee between Canal and St. Louis streets, to any private individual or company, for the purpose of erecting sheds or warehouses. They request the Council to repair the levee and place it in good condition immediately, and in consideration of the present condition of the city's finances, they suggest that a small charge be made against each package landed on this portion of the levee.

STEAMER CREOLE.—The Creole now extends her trips to Pascagoula every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, touching at Bay St. Louis, Pass Christian, Mississippi City, Biloxi and Ocean Springs, and leaving the Lake end of the Pontchartrain Railroad on the arrival of the train which leaves the Good street depot at 10 o'clock in the morning. The Ship Island trips are discontinued.

The Creole, as we have had occasion to know, is provided with all the accommodations that are desirable for making passengers comfortable, and is commanded by Capt Char Walker, one of the most experienced, careful, and gentlemanly officer in the trade. Excursionists can remain on board, if so disposed, without extra charge other than for the round trip, the tickets for which are eight dollars. Captain Peter Marcy, 175 Common street, is the agent for the Creole.

FIFTH DISTRICT COURT.—JUDGE LEAUMONT.—Judge J. B. Cotton, of counsel for the Butcher's Association, has risen in this Court a motion to set aside the writ of injunction issued at the instance of the Attorney-General of the State, forbidding them from purchasing any land in the Parishes of Orleans, Jefferson and St Bernard, for the purpose of erecting Slaughter-houses thereon. This motion has been fixed for argument on the 14th of August.

We have not heard whether Mr. Charles Cavaroc proposes to resist the pretensions of these Slaughter-house people, and the Attorney General to supervise and control him in the disposition of his property.

The Annual Statement of the *New Orleans Price Current*, giving full details of the business of our city for the year, will be published on Wednesday, 1st September next. As customary during many years, the Annual Statement of this year will contain remarks on the crops, carefully prepared tables of receipts and exports, comparative prices of the principal articles of the commerce of New Orleans, etc., etc. The announcement from the *Price Current* office, Nos. 129 & 131 Gravier street, will be found elsewhere.

Chinese Immigration.

The following is the letter referred to in the correspondence between Collector Casey and the Secretary of the Treasury in relation to Chinese emigrants:

NEW ORLEANS, June 26, 1869.

Col. James F. Casey, Collector of Customs, etc., New Orleans:

Sir—In our interview yesterday I fear I neither succeeded in conveying as clearly as I could wish my views as to the introduction of Chinese labor to Louisiana, nor exactly comprehended the position to the National Government (as understood through the Treasury instructions to you) desires to maintain on the question.

The act of Congress prohibiting the importation of Coolies in American ships was well known to me when I had the honor of addressing the Hon. Secretary of the Treasury on the 12th inst., but as I conceived that act was entirely abrogated by a recent treaty, negotiated by the State Department at Washington with a former Minister of this country to China, who is now of Chinese nationality, and was when the said treaty was negotiated, received by this and other nations as a duly accredited Ambassador, fully empowered to make and complete treaties for the Imperial Government of China, and binding upon it.

Under this treaty the people of China are guaranteed all the rights and liberties extended to American citizens in China, among which it seems obvious must be included in favor of the latter the natural and reasonable one of disposing of their individual labor for the best price it will command in free markets here.

On the Pacific slope of the United States, I believe I am accurate in saying that Coolies from China are constantly arriving in American ships, and in unestimated numbers. Can it be, therefore, that such immigration is permissible and lawful in California, and not permissible or lawful in the American territory of the United States on the Gulf of Mexico?

As I am a shipping agent and ship owner, and not a politician, I ask for information specific and authoritative from the Treasury Department on this subject, for the benefit of the trade of this section, at the request of many employés of labor, and in pursuance of my own legitimate business, and I would earnestly and respectfully request the early transmission of this communication by you to the Hon. Secretary of the Treasury, with such accompanying representations as you may think the important matter referred to demands at your hands.

Awaiting the explanation referred to,

I have the honor to be, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM CREEVY.

The Opera Next Season.

From information we have received, we can venture to congratulate in advance the habitués of the opera upon their prospects for next season. Already the building, at the corner of Bourbon and Toulouse streets, is undergoing repairs and renovation, with a view to the better comfort of the public; to what extent will these improvements be carried we are not yet in a measure to state, but under the new direction, who have already displayed great zeal in the matter, we be sequal will show, we are encouraged to hope that they will be complete.

Mlle Calabresi, the leader of the orchestra, is now in Paris, and has already made some selections for the coming season. Among those engaged we hear of Mlle Dupuis, as premiere chanteuse legere. Mlle Dupuis has, for the past four years, been delighting the Parisians who frequent the Opera Comique of the French Metropolis. She is said to be young and handsome, qualities which always assist in rendering an artist popular.

Mlle Amalie, a blooming girl of twenty, is engaged as one of the prima donnas, her style of voice is the "Falcon."

Mr. Calabresi has also secured what he considers a treasure as maitre de ballet. Name not mentioned.

Besides these three engagements, Mr. Calabresi had entered into arrangements with others, and was awaiting instructions from the Board of Direct ors to know whether he should pay the salaries demanded. By this time the telegraph has authorized him to complete the engagements of Richard, one of the finest comedians of the Grand Opera of Paris, at ten thousand francs per month, gold, of course, as in all the other cases; Mr Dupuraste, one of the barytons of the Grand Opera, and said to be second only to Faure, the famous baritone of France. Mr Dumestre's wife, a "Dugazon," is also engaged, and will form one of the operation will have to pay ten thousand francs per month. Mr. Vidal, also of the Grand Opera, is engaged as basse profonde.

Mr Calabresi is positively instructed to engage none but the best artists he can find. We may therefore hope, in view of his instructions and the extraordinary concessions he is authorized to make, that next year the opera season will be equal to anything that we have ever seen or heard at the Opera House.—*N. O Bulletin.*

Louisiana Items.

FROM RAPIDES.—The *Democrat* of the 21st says:

We have again to report our crops of cotton and cane as doing well, remarkably well—and the corn crop, which is principally made, is an average half one. On some places fodder pulling has commenced.

FROM NATCHITOCHES.—The *Times* of the 17th says:

CATERPILLARS.—During the week, several planters have reported the presence of caterpillars in very small numbers in their fields, and a few have been brought to town. There is no doubt that these are the genuine cotton destroyers, in their second stage; but, under the influence of the prevailing hot and dry weather, there can be no reasonable fear that the crop will be materially reduced by them this year.

LONG BRANCH.—HOW THE PRESIDENT AREAS.—*Long Branch, July 25*—The President of the United States does not affect the equability of the conventional life at Long Branch. He scarcely attends attention from the habitual loungers. He is seen in the morning smoking his cigar and standing in elegant attitude on the piazza, and if he is occupied with ease, he is because the whole figure of the man is opposed to the style and neatness about him. He is dressed in broadcloth of strictly quaint cut, and displays no independence of fashion; he wears a small, narrow brimmed silk hat, without glove, a little black silk neckties, and a plain gold chain hanging over his black vest. He bows to the ladies without lifting his hat; one arm is behind him, the other hangs in a cramped way by his side. He is approached at intervals by friends and acquaintances with commonplace remarks about the morning, the weather, and kindred subjects, to which he drops his eyes a moment reflectively before answering. His whole manner is that of a man not lacking self possession, but yet marked by indecision so much as that of a man entirely practical, and lacking the *savoir faire*—the ease and elegance of society. His character is in his action, the poise of his head, his eyes, mouth, and attitude. Thoughts come slowly; he has no impulses, so he never starts, never moves quickly, never turns back if he has once set out. He is unimpressionable, so he moves out into the sunlight, never opens his mouth to get an extra breath of fresh air, never sees and comes back