

The coming meeting of the friends of good order and harmony among all classes of our citizens, whether Virginians or Southerners, Americans or non-Americans, will be held at the office of the *New-York Journal*, to pass resolutions promoting fellowship and union with all ranks of Americans.

Yesterday was brought to New York papers of the 29th, by the steamer *Chesterfield*, to Charleston; and papers from the latter city to the 27th had. They contain no foreign advice. Exports may be elsewhere seen.

**CONFIDENTIAL INSURANCE CO.**—The books of subscription to the stock of this company will open on June 1st, and those who desire to become stockholders should embrace the opportunity. The books will be closed at 2 p.m.

The attention of capitalists is called to the sale of the property in the coffee house of the Regent of Wells, at Hawley's Exchange Coffee House. An account of the succession of Robert Lewis.

**THE PRESS.**

There is scarcely one true friend to liberty who does not desire to see the freedom of the press preserved, uncontested by any extraneous corse; nor is there one true friend to the decorum or discretion of social life, who does not desire to prevent that liberty from degenerating into licentiousness. The press is the palladium of our rights when it is truly the organ of public opinion, not of party servility or personal security.

An editor is but the echo of his readers; and is in being supposed to utter their views or opinions, he is permitted to assume the term "we." The public interest should always be his guide and object; the means of promoting it is indeed consigned to his own discretion or judgment. An enterprising and responsible duty is therefore devolved on him who would be fearless and faithful; and perhaps there is no place where that duty is more involved in difficulties than New Orleans—it is an editor who would be impartial and independent.

AV shall make no remarks on the state of the press; yet we cannot refrain from believing that there is much room for an independent journal conducted with intelligence and integrity, without fear or favor. Were the press to take cognizance of the administration of justice in New Orleans, a material militancy might be produced; would it not be important to investigate the conduct of the executive government of the state and the municipal of the city;—were it to notice more or less with ability and justice the proceedings of our legislature and judiciary;—to penetrate into the courts of justice; withdraw the veil from the functions of the city council; and the dark mantle of mystery and obscurity from the city police;—were it to scrutinize minutely the conduct of public officers and others engaged at the port;—to enter the places of public resort and amusement;—extend its fostering care over our charitable and other institutions, asylums, and colleges;—and were it still guided by a patriotic feeling for the good of all; to reconnoitre the mutual or collateral relations of the different parts of the state; the proper connection of Louisiana with other states; and its position in the union of all the states—were a press in New Orleans to do this with knowledge and zeal, there can be very little doubt of its liberally receiving public patronage.

We had hoped that we would make some progress to effect so desirable an object, even with our limited means—as regards our space for reading matter, and our local information. We have been encountered with persons of ill-will, with malignant suspicion and base insinuations. I have acquainted the public that I was honorably connected with the press in London and in Philadelphia, and have received the warmest encomiums for industry and intelligence, and particularly from all with whom I have been connected. One of these letters I published entire.

Yet now the only accusation brought against me is that of being unknown; that too by a person who has read one of my letters of introduction to a respected acquaintance of his; that by one who was generally known in binding me over to keep the peace towards him; by one who knew in his heart and soul that he can place reliance on my integrity and determination; by one... but why should I urge my case further than saying that he never propounded what I do not resolve to perform; that if I have appeared quiet under aspersions, it was because I despised them and was fully resolved that my conduct should give them the lie? I had indeed thought that malice could be shamed when it could not be softened; and that the most stupid slanderer might find out the utter unprofitableness of restituering a calumny easily and promptly exposed. Yet malignity will generally defeat itself.

I have made some animadversions on the house of representatives during the past session: I was right and justifiable. I laughed at them for the undignified manner of their passing the law abolishing legal gambling houses; I censured them for smoking cigars in the streets while passing in funeral procession to the shade of the late Mr. Durston; and I condemned them for their recklessness, fatuity and injustice during the last two days of the session. I carefully investigated many of the laws in transitu; but the public welfare was invariably my guide. I knew none; feared none; sought favor from none.

Since this conduct on my part may afford a salutary lesson to our delegates hereafter. They will learn that their legislative privilege is no bar to their being subjected to the bar of public opinion; and that their constituents will not consider it a satisfactory vindication that they passed a silly resolution condemning the writer of imperial strictures, because unprecedented and ex-posing.

So long as I have been connected with journalism I have maintained the freedom of the press fearless and faithfully; and with the blessing of God, I shall still do so. I shall never assail private character; nor wantonly insult any individual; and I am always responsible for whatever I write, in any manner required. If ever, I shall be happy to be undeceived; and shall cheerfully give insertion to any communication from a person who feels himself aggrieved by me or others. I want the opinion of justice for myself; and as far as in my power, I shall extend it to all others.

But none shall coerce or enslave into subserviency—the public interest is my duty; to the public alone was I responsible.

**THORNTON'S BENEFIT—THIS EVENING.**

There is not a stock company in the United States with more numerous young men attached to the corps than that of the American theatre in this city. The public are more or less acquainted with the capabilities of Messrs. Thorne, Farren, Peacock, Hodges, Reynolds, Williamson, and Baileys; but unfortunately these capabilities were obscured during the season, or rendered secondary to the exhibition of the theatrical stars, to render round their orbits. A different course would have more merit and judicious.

Thorne (with superior talents) has performed in every grade of his profession, from tragedy and opera to melodrama and farce. His last made as laugh heartily while we admired his Justice Woodcock and Jason Ponsonby, his Falstaff, Blanche and Balaena Smooth, his Modus, Mr. Plaide, and Knighthead; his Watty Cockney, Jax Shakespeare and Teddy O'Rourke; his Tom Tap, Dumb-diddled and Kranz; and tho' we have not seen his Caliban, we have heard it warmly recommended by competent judges. Yet we have seen his Dan, the Diamond with gratification; and we regard his Balie Nicoll Davis as the best impersonation of that character that we have ever seen. No doubt this is a master of opinion but is an impartial judgment consequent on some experience in Europe and this country.

Thorne never affects a subordinate part; but makes the most of a trifling character. He has gained the approbation of the public, and the esteem of his acquaintances. He deserves the support of the ploughing public, not less for his personal merits in his profession, than for his bill of fare.

His last performance of "The Miller and his Men" will be given this evening.

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