THE NEW ORLEANS DAILY BEE,
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NEW ORLEANS:
SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 31, 1866.

RATES OF ADVERTISING:

Spaces.	1 insertion	2 insertions	3 insertions	4 insertions	1 Week	2 Weeks	3 Weeks	1 Month
1	$1 00	$1 50	$2 00	$2 50	$3 00	$4 00	$5 00	$8 00
2	1 50	2 50	3 50	4 50	5 00	7 00	9 00	12 00
3	2 00	3 50	4 50	5 50	6 50	9 00	11 00	15 00
4	2 50	4 50	5 50	6 50	8 00	11 00	13 00	18 00
5	3 00	5 00	6 00	7 00	9 00	12 00	15 00	20 00
6	3 50	5 50	6 50	7 50	10 00	13 00	16 00	22 00
7	4 00	6 00	7 00	8 00	11 00	14 00	17 00	24 00
8	4 50	6 50	7 50	8 50	12 00	15 00	18 00	26 00
9	5 00	7 00	8 00	9 00	13 00	16 00	19 00	28 00
10	5 50	7 50	8 50	9 50	14 00	17 00	20 00	30 00
11	6 00	8 00	9 00	10 00	15 00	18 00	21 00	32 00
12	6 50	8 50	9 50	10 50	16 00	19 00	22 00	34 00
13	7 00	9 00	10 00	11 00	17 00	20 00	23 00	36 00
14	7 50	9 50	10 50	11 50	18 00	21 00	24 00	38 00
15	8 00	10 00	11 00	12 00	19 00	22 00	25 00	40 00

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AUCTION SALES THIS DAY.

Soule & Coppens will sell at auction, at 12 o'clock m., at the Merchants and Auctioneers' Exchange, Royal street.

AF Bouligny sells five lots of ground in the square bounded by Gentilly, Columbus, Leroux and Pont streets, at 12 o'clock, m., at the Merchants and Auctioneers' Exchange, Royal street.

McGovern & Co., sell Chamois skins at 11 o'clock, a. m., at their auction mart, St. Charles street.

G. de Feriet sells Jewelry, etc., also, a lot of washing apparel, at 12 noon, at his auction store, No. 67 Royal street.

PORTMANTEAUS' SALE OF DPB SALE CRAMOIS SKINS AT AUCTION.—We call the attention of our readers to McGovern & Co.'s sale of one bale of chamois skins, at 11 o'clock, today, at their mart, on St. Charles street, for whom it may concern. They will also have their usual sale of furniture. See their advertisement.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE LAW DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA.—The Annual Commencement of the Law Department, University of Louisiana, will take place at the Lyceum Hall, on next Monday, at 11 A. M. The order of exercises comprises: Prayer, by the Rev. Mr. Beckwith; Address, by C. H. Luzenberg, L. L. B., on the part of the Alumni; Address, by G. P. Branigan, on behalf of the Martin Institute; Conferring of degrees: Address, by Prof. C. Rosalius: Doom of the Faculty; Valedictory by Walter H. Rogers.

We are indebted to Mr. Wm. H. Black, clerk of the steamer City of Cairo, for late Memphis and St. Louis papers.

The French steamer Senora will leave positively for Matamoras, Tampico and Vera Cruz, to-morrow, Sunday, at 8 o'clock A. M.

AMUSEMENTS.

St. Charles Theatre.—To-night, Lotta will appear again in the "Seven Daughters of Satan." We are pleased to see that "Old Drury" presents nightly the pleasant sight of well-filled seats in the pit and the tiers. Whatever the little "star" does, in fact, is sure to bring down laughter and applause. Whether she sings, dances or plays the banjo, there is a freshness about her that is positively magnetic. Has Lotta ever known what sorrow is, we wonder!

Varieties Theatre.—The new sensation wazeth middle-aged; but is yet in the first flush of its success. People do not go so much to see the play as to laugh at Chanfrau's clever caricature. Parodies, too, make so amusing a Jackeen, with his circus dodge and "carpet-bag," that we are ready to yield to his master's judgment of him, and declare that "one can't easily do without the creature, you know."

Academy of Music.—There will be the usual matinée to-day, for the benefit of the ladies and the little ones. These matinées bring out such a deal of beauty amusement for all parties concerned (on both sides of the curtain) that it has become a number of course for those better parts of humanity to look to Saturday as quite a day of riotous dissipation, in a fresh and innocent way.

The programme, at night, will include a capital selection of varieties in which all the favorites take a part.

Benefit of H. F. and Amy Stone.—These popular artists will take a joint benefit to-morrow night, for which occasion they announce, in connection with an excellent piece, the appearance of Mr. Eddy and Miss Henrietta Irving.

The beneficiaries have added largely to the pleasure of the "St. Charles" patrons during the present season, and have shown themselves artists of tact and talent. We trust that their benefit will be—as it deserves to be—a substantial one.

Freedmen Labor and Cotton Calculations.

The varying estimates which are put on the number of laborers in the South devoted to agriculture, and on the amount of cotton to be produced by these laborers the coming season, prove undeniably either that the elements of Southern labor are profoundly disorganized in condition and uncertain as to results, or that data on the subject are wholly insufficient to form a basis of correct general conclusions. Some respectable authorities have differed as to the extent of a million and a half of bales in estimating the crops, and a half a million of hands in estimating the number of laborers. On the one hand, three millions of bales are confidently assumed as the cotton crop of the season; on the other hand, it is asserted, with not less confidence, that fifteen hundred thousand is a figure that will amply cover all the cotton which can be made the present year by the available labor in the South. It is useless, as some are disposed to do, to try to adjust these discrepancies on the basis of splitting the difference; for where the difference is so wide, and consequently where accredited facts are so few, the truth is about as likely to be outside as between the varying estimates. This large variance, which fluctuates with the shifting phases of the labor problem and the irregular statements of hypothetical data, is to be regretted. It indicates a margin in the cotton market for corresponding speculation. Speculation, which, if it keep foster the spirit of speculation, and favor an unwholesome species of commercial gambling, are in an equal ratio calculated to discourage the solid enterprise which always looks to something more than precarious and conjecturable results. Fortunately, the agricultural situation in the cotton States is beginning, if we may judge from a more definite and satisfactory report. The time for sowing the cotton seed is now at hand, and the quantity of land previously prepared for the seed by ploughing and otherwise can now be ascertained; so also the number of hands regularly employed in cotton cultivation. In this connection we are glad to have it in our power to point to the result of recent observations in the cotton regions of the South by a planter of experience and intelligence, General Albert Rust, formerly of Arkansas, now residing in the parish of Ouachita, Louisiana. Gen. Rust, as we are informed, concludes from what he saw in an extended tour recently made through the South-western States, that the area of cotton cultivation the present year is not less than one half of what it was before the war. This conclusion is sustained by the tenor of intelligence conveyed by the country papers in this and other States embracing the progress of agriculture in various localities. The limitation of cotton cultivation to the half of what it was for merly is fixed only by a positive lack of labor for extending it further. We must infer from this that not less than one half of the former number of agricultural laborers in the South has been extinguished in five years or has been withdrawn from agriculture. The extinction was the withdrawal have been, perhaps, about equal. If so, one million blacks must have perished from the commencement of the war to this time, and one million must have been diverted from agriculture, whereas two millions would remain from which, or from which a field hands for making cotton. Supposing there to be one fourth of that number, five hundred thousand effective laborers would constitute the whole cotton-tilling force of the South. Under this new system of labor no one ventures to place four bales to the hand.

As to the present disposition of freedmen to live up to their contracts by reasonable good faith and patriotism, information from the interior of this State and from some other States is of a highly gratifying nature. We publish elsewhere some testimony of this character, contained in the letter of an intelligent correspondent at Shreveville, La., and in the editorial remarks of other correspondents, one at Monroe, La., speaking of the prompt prospects in the Ouachita district, and the other at Natchitoches, reporting the situation in the same regard in each of the four planting regions bordering on Red River.

It is to be stated that the purchase testimony referred to which has been accompanied by a large number of the freedmen or ex-slaves who have left the plantations to which they belonged before the war, and who have been discharged by their former masters. This fact may be taken as a good sign of personal independence on the part of the freedmen, which indicates a hope for the future. It is a fact which indicates a hope for the future. It is a fact which indicates a hope for the future. It is a fact