

## TRADE OF THE OHIO AND MISSISSIPPI.

From the *Mobile Gazette*.

A friend has obligingly favored us with the following list of steamboats actually engaged in, or building and destined for the trade on the Ohio and Mississippi, although the tonnage of steam boats has not increased very rapidly on these rivers within the last three or four years, yet the number has augmented with a regular and rapid pace. The steam boats now make trips in little more than half the time that they required eight years ago. In 1817 the Washington came from New Orleans to Shippingport in 12 days, which was the quickest trip that had then been made, and gave rise to much conversation and many newspaper paragraphs. The time required to go down at that period was from 12 to 14 days. Now boats come up in from 10 to 14 days, and descend to six. So that every boat can make nearly double as many trips in a season, as were made by those that ran in 1817. The benefits of steam navigation have already been felt in every quarter of the civilized world, alike the discovery seems to be but yet in its infancy, and improvements are daily making to lessen the quantity of fuel, and simplify the machinery. In a few years we confidently anticipate an entire revolution in the commerce of the world by means of steam vessels. For although it may not be found practicable to reduce the quantity of fuel as to adapt them to long voyages across the ocean, yet that they will supersede all other kinds of vessels for the navigation of rivers, bays and coasts, where fuel can be obtained without difficulty, is very evident. The people living on the Ohio and Mississippi, and their tributaries, have so far derived greater advantages from the invention than those of any other portion of the globe, and they must always regard it as an epoch of the first magnitude in their annals.

The preservation of valuable lives which it has already affected is immense, not only by enabling boaters speedily and cheaply to return to their homes without the fatigues and danger of a toilsome march through a wretched climate, but in greatly diminishing the number of hands required in the navigation, and entirely doing away the horrid slavery of rowing and wallowing up barges and keels.

No farther back than 1812, when the writer first visited New Orleans, the first steam boat that ever entered the Mississippi was plying between that city and Natchez, and no steam boat had ever ascended the river higher than the latter place. At her arrivals and departures from New Orleans the whole city was agitated to see the steamboat. What a wonderful change has been effected in the short space of 10 years!

The following list must continue to increase with the rapidly increasing population, wealth, and commerce of the West.

Steamboats in the trade on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

Patriot, of 280 tons; Lexington, 250; Pioneer, 200; Washington 300; Paragon 350; Caravan 280; Rob Roy 240; Mexico 160; Mechanic 160; Cavalier 100; Calais 100; Favorite 210; Columbia 200; Bell's Creole 140; Souda 160; Hibernia 270; Delivers 200; Philadelphia 220; Tecumseh 220; Clinton 200; William Penn 140; General Clarke 100; Emerald 170; General Jackson 170; Eclipse 200; President 260; Friendship 180; Nashville 180; Congress 180; General Noville 164; Steubenville 180; General Brown 170; Phoenix 160; Magdalene 160; Post Boy 150; Miami 70; Louisville 65; Robert Emmet 75; Fort Adams 180; Feliciano 400; Tampa 100; Parker 140; Louisiana 140; Natchez 150; Mississippi 300; Helen McGregor 340; Lawrence 150; Olive Branch, towing, 290; Expedition 210; Missouri 180; Greek 160; Natchitoches 130; Florence 100; Owens 130; American 75; Ariel 60; Rotary 35; Phoenix 75; General Pike 130; Putt 175; Pennsylvania 120; Oak 120; Atlanta 125; Pilot 100; Courier 140; Velveteen 100; Indiana 150; Aurora 120.<sup>11</sup> and 150.—In the Mobile trade, Henry Clay 160; Elizabeth 200; Baline 400; Faany 160; Columbus 270.—New Boats building, 7 at Pittsburgh, 2 at Marietta, 9 at Cincinnati 1 at Big Bone Creek, 3 at New Albany, 1 at Brownsville Pa.—92 in all, and 6 at Mobile.

\*for Mobile.

The Tea Case.—It will be fresh in the recollection of our readers, that a number of chests of Hyson Tea, which had been found in this city, were recently taken possession of by the United States Marshal on the ground of fraudulent conveyance of them from the public store in Philadelphia, without the duties having been paid, or even occupied according to law. The Tea amounting to 2235 chests are valued at about \$150,000. Yesterday the case was brought up for trial in the District Court of the United States, and after the evidence had been heard, and the Judge delivered his direction to the jury, they brought in a special verdict, on the facts only. We understand that it is to be carried to the Supreme Court for a judgment on the points of law, which are said to be various and conflicting. The claimants of the Tea rest their defense on the fact that they were *bona fide* purchasers, and that they became so without any knowledge of the fraudulent conveyance alleged against the impostor in Philadelphia. On the other hand, it is said that by the United States statute law the government possesses a lien on such valuable property as may have been obtained from the public stores in a surreptitious manner, to which no subsequent contract can effectively form a bar.

FROM THE CHARTER OF CORPUS.

Case of Hydrocephalus.—The following report of a case of Hydrocephalus, which occurred in this city a few days since, has been procured for publication in the *Courier*:

Mary Ann, a negro wench, was bitten on the right finger of the right hand, in the month of February last, by a small dog, supposed to be mad. No attention was paid to the wound; it healed very readily; and her health remained good until the last day of April, when she complained of sharp pains in her bones. No notice was taken of her indisposition until the night of the first of May, when, from circumstances, it was suspected that Hydrocephalus was beginning to manifest itself. A physician who was called, is determined that the disease was unfortunately too copious. Any attempt by the unhappy patient to swallow fluids, was attended by an insufferable sense of suffocation; and even without water being offered, or any apparent exciting cause existing, she would, at intervals, be attacked by a spasmodic contraction of the windpipe, so severe, as to suspend respiration for a few moments. Language cannot convey an idea of the agonies experienced at these periods. Her countenance was horribly distorted; her hands were convulsively in every direction; and her only exclamation was "air," "air," "no air." This disease continued to increase, and by midday of the 2d of May, the paroxysms of suffocation were much more frequent, and excited by the slightest cause. Moving blanket in the room, admitting a little more light than usual, permitting the air to come through the window, or the mere name of any thing fluid, produced the most exquisite suffering. A slight shower of rain, by the effects produced from the patterning of the water, nearly caused her dissolution. The saliva, which from the first she could not swallow, was now profusely secreted, and every attempt to spit it out, brought on a repetition of her spasms. During the paroxysm, she could swallow solid food without

the slightest difficulty, and would, without hesitation, eat bread moistened with water. The sight of wine, milk, or any other fluid produced effects similar to those described above. With the exception of the symptoms already mentioned, there was now no noticeable deviation from a healthy state. Her muscular powers were good, her pulse and tongue natural, and her intellect unimpaired. The sight of the 2d May, was not as distressing as might have been expected, the paroxysms being at more distant intervals, and the patient sufficiently composed to offer up supplications for pardon to that omnipotent Being into whose presence she was conscious that a few hours would usher her. Early in the morning of the 3d May, however, the disease became more severe, the energies of her system flagging, and it was determined to wait the issue of a few hours, and should no relief be obtained, as a dernier resort to force an artificial opening in the wind-pipe. At eleven of the same day, when the operation was to be performed, she was so much better that it was determined to wait until three in the afternoon; at two her distress was so much abated, that she drank half a pint of milk, and ate some rice; her pulse being determined by the stop watch, was exactly the healthy standard. This calmer was only deceptive; for a few minutes before three, she had several attacks of the sense of suffocation, and died suddenly.

Upon examination of the body, the deviations from the healthy appearance were not discernible, except that the upper part of the wind-pipe and gullet, there was a very slight infiltration of blood; indeed so slight, as scarcely to merit notice.

The stomach was also congested about its middle; the intestine, in a minute spot or two, shredded.

The treatment adopted, was the use of sugar of lead in large doses, and the liberal administration of opium.

The relapses, although dealt with the freedom required in the treatment of so malignant an affection, were productive of no apparent effect on the system. The object of this sketch is forcibly to remind the public, that many persons during the past season, have been injured by rabid animals, who may remain in a state of false security, from an impression, that as the wound is well, there is no danger that the animal could not have been dead. This is not only an erroneous but a mischievous idea, for the poison will remain inactive for months; and at no period of time, previous to the developments of the disease, is it too late to introduce preventive measures.

### GREAT FIRE.

New-York, Apr. 2d.—About two o'clock this morning, the citizens of the lower part of the city were aroused from sleep by the cry of fire. In a few minutes afterwards the flames burst forth from the upper story of one of the four story buildings of that immense pile called the "Exchange Buildings," situated on William and Garden streets, and partly on the site of the old post-office. Most of the engines were soon on the spot, and regular lines formed from the east river, but notwithstanding the greatest exertions were used by the several companies, before five o'clock the whole of this unfortunate corner was a heap of smoking ruins.

Two buildings on William street, adjoining the Exchange buildings, two or three on the north side of garden street; and two two story buildings on the south side of the latter street, were considerably injured. At one period great fears were entertained for the safety of the post office, the fire having communicated to the adjoining building, but it was fortunately arrested at that house. Great praise is due to the clerks of the post office for their indefatigable exertions to save the letters, and other public property. All the letters, &c. were well tied up, and deposited in the bags ready to be saved to a place of safety.

For about one hour the flakes and sparks flew in showers. The roofs of several distant buildings took fire, but were promptly extinguished by the activity of the firemen, several of whom had their clothes burnt.

The loss sustained cannot be correctly ascertained, but we have been informed that it is not less than two hundred thousand dollars, on which there was an insurance of one hundred and thirty two thousand dollars in five offices, viz \$12,000, \$40,000, \$30,000, \$16,000, and \$3,000. A brief account appeared with the first office.

Mercer's bill to the amount of \$20,000 was to have been removed yesterday afternoon, but the weather being fair, the whole of which was destroyed.

The sufferers, as far as we have been able to ascertain, are as follows:

The Exchange-buildings were owned by Delevan & Lord, and occupied by the Marble Company, John B. Murray & Son, Samuel Conder & Co., Arthur Bronson, Timothy Kellogg, Moore, Justice, A. W. Hardin & Co. It. J. Lord, E. C. Delevan, A. C. Rossiter, B. M. Gipps, F. A. C. Belknap, N. Castiglia, Oliver Hoskot, and the Rhode Island Coal Company. The houses much injured on garden street are owned by Mr. John West, of the Gazette, and were occupied by Mr. Saunders, Israel Munro, and as offices by C. D. Colton, Charles Graham, William Van Hook, Wm. H. Maxwell, J. P. Strong, and Isaac Park, Esquires.

The fire is supposed to have originated in the third story of one of the houses in Garden street, and there being but a slender board partition in the dormitory, the fire in a few minutes spread from the extremity of the building to the other.

We regret to state that several persons were seriously injured, but we have not been able to ascertain whether they are dangerous.

We have never witnessed better order at any fire than was preserved at this by chief marshal Hayes and his assistants.

For nearly two hours the spectacle was one of awful grandeur and sublimity. The buildings were new, and the quantity of oil used in the paint, added much to the fury of the flames, which ascended in a stupendous column to a great height, and illuminated the whole city. In the lower part of the city particularly, the spectacle was one of uncommon and terrific grandeur. The ringing of the bells, the noise of the firemen with their engines, mingled with the roaring and crackling of the flames, caused altogether a deep and heavy noise like the united sounds of the trump of death, the din of battle and the rush of mighty waters. The lurid light glared fearfully upon the windows and roofs of houses for a great distance, while the lofty spire of Trinity church shone amid the gloom of night like a huge pillar of burnt gold.

This fire has disclosed the fact, that the owners of the buildings were most shamefully taken in by the builders, or that they attended far more to the outward appearance, and the magnitude of its structure, than to its durability. The whole mass of buildings were put up without carrying up the partition walls with brick, beyond the third story, as the law requires. Boxes of these partitions were made of common deal boards, of slender workmanship. And the walls, which appeared so firm and beautiful to the eye, tumbled to pieces as though they had been laid only in sand. We never saw a building of its magnitude sooner consumed, and from the manner in which it tumbled to pieces, it was soon ascertained to be what is called "a fireman's trap."

The progress of the flames was very rapid, and owing to the very dangerous construction of these stones, the firemen absolutely, and as the event soon proved, very wisely, refused to enter them on ordinary occasions they are wont to do, with the utmost fearlessness. So obvious, indeed, as we are informed, was the insecurity of these

buildings, that when they were putting up; the fire department, who were in the event of fire to them, the firemen would not think it safe to enter within their frail walls. The leading defect of their construction was this—the wall front wall rested upon and braced, and door and window frames of iron which in these were raised on wooden beams and these last being charred, burnt in some instances burnt through the trim supports yielded with them, and the brick walls followed, as of course—as that when once the facade began to give way, the whole mass fell like a card house; and at this moment there is scarcely one brick on another to tell where such edifices were.

*Debtors.*—Fire.—Last night the new Exchange Buildings at the corner of Garden and William streets, owned by Messrs. Lord & Delevan, were entirely consumed by fire. It broke out in an upper story in Garden street about three o'clock, and before it was discovered it had made such progress, that it was impossible to save the building; the engine companies were as active as usual, and succeeded in preventing its communing with any one of the adjoining houses, which were however, considerably injured by the falling of the walls of the exchange. The occupants, many of whom are lessees to a large amount, were Messrs. Arthur Bronson, James B. Murray, Samuel Conder & Co. Timothy Kellogg, A. W. Hardin, Lord & Delevan, owners of the buildings.

P. A. Birches, P. J. Schuyler, (Rhode Island Coal Company,) Bell, (Academy 400,) B. M. Gipps, N. V. Langdon, Bank, Meridian Manufacturing Company, E. D. Colton, Charles Graham, William Van Hook, and Wm. H. Maxwell. Insurance was effected at the Howard, Mutual, Eagle, and Chatham Companies to about \$150,000 but this sum is said to be divided among several of the other companies in the city by the insurers. It is said, that one of the occupants whose insurance had expired not above three days, and who neglected to renew it, has lost \$30,000. Another removed his property to nearly the same amount, yesterday.

We do not recollect any instance where a fire made so complete a havoc in so short time as the present. Yesterday an immense four story brick edifice covering eleven lots of ground, ornamented our city, to day not a wall nor chimney is left standing to tell the tale. Much anxiety was felt for the Poor Office, which at present occupies a wooden building in the immediate vicinity of the fire. Several箭頭 were severely injured by the falling of a girder, but no lives were lost.—*Quoted.* Would not the present be a good opportunity for widening Garden street through to Broad street.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, April 2d.

### CONGRESS.

*Washington, May 3.*—A very interesting report, accompanied by several documents, and introductory to a series of bills, was yesterday made in the Senate, by Mr. Benton, from a committee appointed to inquire into the expediency of reducing the patronage of the executive government of the United States. The subject and the report to which were deemed of sufficient importance to call upon the free citizens of States, many hundred miles distant from the point affected, to pour out their blood and sacrifice their lives, for its defense; and at the same time exonerate from that service its own physical and moral force. Men were wanted, and in that capacity, the slave was put in requisition. The master, too, might have been called upon and his sons, and his hired servants, as they were, in other parts of the country, and where sons and fathers, and husbands, fought and died, without having their lives valued, or compensated in money.

The emergency justified the improvement of every moral agent, capable of contributing to the defense of the place; to call upon the master to defend himself and slave, as well as the slave to defend his master. It would be the height of injustice to call upon the free citizens of States, many hundred miles distant from the point affected, to pour out their blood and sacrifice their lives, for its defense; and at the same time exonerate from that service its own physical and moral force.

That this is a claim for the value of a slave, belonging to the petitioner, impressed into the service of the United States, by General Jackson, in the defense of New Orleans, and alleged to have been killed by a cannon shot, while in that service. Without stopping to deny or admit any of the facts by which the petitioner supports his claim, the committee recommend its rejection on principle.

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