GAZETTE & DEMOCRAT.

FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 24, 1854.

DEMOCRATIC CONVENTIONS.

The Democracy of the first Congressional District, will hold a Convention, at Batesville, on the first Wednesday in May next.

The Democracy of the second Congressional District, will hold a Convention, at Princeton, on the first Monday of May next.

The object of these Conventions, is, to nominate a Democratic candidate for Congress, in each Congressional District.

To Subscribers and others indebted to the Gazette and Democrat.

The heavy loss sustained by the burning of the Gazette and Democrat office, makes it necessary, to call on those indebted to the paper for subscription, advertising, job work, or *any thing else*, to come forward and liquidate their indebtedness at the earliest practicable time.

The proprietor would say that he has not had the paper just eleven months; and all subscriptions, due for more than six months, may be call cited at the rate of $4 per annum; but, as an inducement to those indebted to make prompt payment, he would say, that, if payment be made *immediately*, it will be considered as having been made in advance, and will cost only at the rate of $2 50 a year.

There is enough due the paper to pay the entire expense of refitting the office. This is a large sum to the proprietor, in the aggregate, though due to him, from his numerous subscribers, in comparatively small amounts. It is hoped that all indebted will remit the amount they are due immediately.

Money by mail, and for which a Postmasters receipt is taken, may be sent at my risk.

C. C. DANLEY.

☞We are authorized to announce Hon. B. F. OWEN, as a candidate for re-election to the office of Judge of the County Court, of Pulaski county, at the ensuing August election.

☞We are authorized to announce ARCHIBALD SMITH, Esq., as a candidate for Judge of the County Court of Pulaski County, at the ensuing August election.

☞J. J. THOMPSON, Esq., is a candidate for County Judge of Pulaski County, at the ensuing August election.

EXTENSION OF THE LAND RESERVATION.—The reservation of the public lands, on the lines of the Cairo & Fulton road and branches, has been extended indefinitely.

☞We learn that our neighbors, the proprietors of the "True Democrat," and "Gazette & Democrat," intend to resume the publication of their papers as soon as they can procure the necessary materials. [*Whig.*

ARKANSAS MIDLAND RAIL ROAD.—By the address of Mr. HEWSON, the agent and chief Engineer of this road, it will be seen that the road is progressing rapidly, and will soon be completed to this place. The address of Mr. Hewson, renders any remarks by us unnecessary. We commend it to the attention of our readers.

We shall at our earliest leisure, offer some suggestions, regarding it as an enterprize in which the citizens of Pulaski, Prairie and the adjoining counties, have a deep interest.

ANOTHER CONFLAGRATION.

The most destructive fire that ever occurred in our City took place on Tuesday morning. About one o'clock, it was discovered, in the brick building (the "True Democrat" office) the property of Mrs. Reardon on the corner of East Main and Elm streets. It appeared to have originated in the wood house in the rear of the main building; the next building, on main street, belonging to Jacob Reiler, the Albatross, belonging to Byrne & Burnside, of New Orleans, and the building known as Rapley house on the same block and fronting on Markham street, were all soon enveloped in flames, and all efforts to save them were in vain. Every building on the block (comprising the most valuable property in the city,) betw. en the Masonic and Odd Fellows' Hall and Main street, are now in ruins.—By prompt and active exertions, the fire was prevented from crossing to the South side of Markham and the north side of Elm streets.

The Albatross, was occupied, by Capt. C. C. Danley, as the "Gazette & Democrat" Office; D. Bandet & Co., dealers in fancy and dry goods; John E. Reardon Bookseller and stationer; Dr. W. W. Adams druggist; and J. Reiler & Co. Tailors. The Rapley building belonged to Mr. Wait and was occupied by him and Mr. Levy dealer in dry goods, &c.

The "Gazette & Democrat," owned by Captain Danley and the "True Democrat," by Richard H. Johnson Esq., a great total loss. The building which belonged to Mrs. Reardon, is also a total loss, there being no insurance.—The Albatross, Rapley house and the property in them, except the "Gazette & Democrat," office, were insured—whether to a sufficient amount to cover the loss we have not learned.

The contents of the stores were principally saved. The loss is at least $50,000.

It is generally believed, that it was the work of an incendiary.

The above account of the fire, as most of the other general matter in to-days paper, is copied from the Whig. We differ with our friend in his estimate of the loss, and think that $100,000, would be nearer the amount.

ED. GAZ. AND DEM.

☞We had on our table, before the fire, the Parlor Magazine by Jedediah Jackson, Cincinnati, a very neat paper published at Post Oak Grove Chickasaw Nation; a book from *T. B. Peterson*, Publisher, Philadelphia, and several other new exchanges, periodicals &c; which we intended to have noticed. We hope the pub'lishers will take the will for the deed, as we have it not in our power to make such notice of them as we would like to have done.

The Proposed Convention to modify and reform the State Constitution.

Owing to the fact of our being compelled, temporarily and partially, for a few weeks, to suspend the publication of our paper, we have thought we could not, for the time, call a subject to the attentive reflection of the people, of importance to them than "the proposed Convention to modify and reform the State Constitution."

And here we ask of each of our readers, as have not attentively perused our preceding articles on this subject, to refer to them again, and reflect on the propositions and suggestions therein contained. Under and by the duty of every voter in the State, on the first Monday of August next, to vote for or against said Convention—Every voter, therefore, should investigate the subject sufficiently to enable him to vote on it intelligently. If the question be understood, there is no danger but that the people will vote as becomes patriotic citizens. When we resume the regular publication of our paper, we will continue the discussion of this question until the election.

We have heretofore called attention to the fact, that notwithstanding the people are burthened with county taxes, sufficient to meet all necessary public expenditures, under an energetic and effective administration of the law, yet, in a majority of the counties, depreciated scrip is strewn broad cast, and officers, witnesses, and jurors, are paid for their services in this miserable substitute for money. We have said, also, that it is the administration of the present system of criminal procedure, mainly, that involves the counties in debt. This crying evil may be remedied, under a new constitution, as follows; in our opinion.

First. Indictments must be offered to invite upon the Circuit bench, able and energetic lawyers.

Second. Much of the cumbersome, technical forms of the criminal law, must be dispensed with; and simple, brief, and comprehensive pleadings and proceedings substituted, so as to bring the accused to a trial, upon the merits of a plain accusation, speedily.

Third. Many of the petty offences, now indictable in the Circuit Courts, and which produce a large portion of the expense of administering the criminal law, must be transferred to Justice's of the Peace, or some such tribunal organized for the purpose, where offenders may be dealt with summarily, and with but little cost.

To this last feature of judicial reform, we propose to devote this article, having taken some pains to look into the provisions of the present Constitution, and the decisions of the Supreme Court on the subject.

The 11th section of the *Bill of Rights* is in those words: "That no man shall be put to answer any criminal charge but by presentment, indictment, or impeachment."

The Supreme Court, in the case of *Rector v. the State*, English's Reports, p. 197, said a criminal charge, within the meaning of the above section of the *Bill of Rights*, was any violation of penal law; that, therefore, an assault and battery was such, and though the Legislature might confer upon corporate courts, jurisdiction of offenses less than felony, under section 4 and 5 of article 6 of the Constitution, yet the act would be unconstitutional and void, unless it provided for the indictment or presentment of the accused, by a grand jury.

The Legislature, at the session of 1844, proposed, and ratified at the session of 1846, an amendment to the Constitution, in these words: "The General Assembly shall have power to confer such jurisdiction on Justices of the Peace, as may be thus deem proper, on Justices of the Peace, &c., &c., in actions and prosecutions, for assault and battery, and other penal offences, less than felony, which may be punishable by fine only." *See Digest, p. 71.*

The Legislature, at the session of 1846, in pursuance of this amendment, and in obedience to what seemed to be a general desire, on the part of the people, to rid the Circuit Courts of such petty offences, passed an act to provide for the punishment of assaults and batteries, and affrays, before Justices of the Peace, by a summary procedure, and without indictment or presentment by a grand jury. *See Digest, p. 673.*

The Supreme Court, in the case of the *State v. Cox*, 3 *Eng. Rep. p.* 456, decided, that the above amendment of the Constitution, by implication, so modified the 4th section of the Declaration of Rights, as to authorize the Legislature to confer upon Justices' of the Peace, jurisdiction of assaults and batteries, and other penal offences less than felony, which may be punished by fine only, without indictment or presentment, by a grand jury, and that, therefore, the act in question was constitutional and effective. Under this decision the Justices began to put the machinery of the law into force against evil doers, in a small way, in their respective townships, and the criminal calendar for the Circuit Court, began to diminish, somewhat to the detriment, we confess, of *arrest and battery lawyers.*

But the increased jurisdiction of these worthy ministers of the law was destined to be of but short duration. A change occurred in the judges of the Supreme Court, and, with it, came a change of opinion on this feature of constitutional law.

The question came up again in the case of *Ewin v. the State*, 5 *Eng. Rep. p.* 498, and the court held, that the Legislature acting as a quasi Convention, had no power to amend directly, or by implication, the *Bill of Rights*, overruling so much of the *State v. Cox*, and declaring the act of 1843 conferring jurisdiction upon Justices of the Peace, of small offences, without indictment or presentment, to be null and void, from beginning to end.

This decision, that the Legislature, under the power conferred upon them to amend the Constitution by the members of the bar, as we tution, cannot change the *Bill of Rights*, was more are informed, than the previous one, which held the contrary doctrine, and may now be regarded as the settled law; for, whether right or wrong, the Supreme Court will hardly change its opinion on the subject, for the sake of consistency.

As long, therefore, as the 14th section of the *Bill of Rights* remains a part of the organic law of this State, all petty criminal offences, must be punished by indictment or presentment of a grand jury, or be stricken from the criminal code, which no one desires to see done. The only remedy is to make a new Constitution, modifying this provision of the *Bill of Rights*, which can only be done by a Convention from the people.

In forming a new *Bill of Rights*, a provision similar to that contained in the Constitution of the United States, might be inserted, in lieu of the 14th section of the present Bill, which is in those words: "No person shall be held to answer for a Capital or other infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury."

The Constitution might then contain a clause empowering the Legislature to confer upon justices of the peace jurisdiction of such petty offences, less than felony, as might be deemed expedient, that such offenders might be tried and punished summarily, and with, comparatively no cost to the country.

We predict that if this were done, together with the other measures of judicial reform which we have suggested, the counties would soon be out of debt, depreciated Scrip would cease to circulate as plentiful as forest leaves, and money enough would be saved, in one year, in the state, to pay the expense of holding a convention to reform the Constitution. Much of the money, also, now paid by the people, to defray the expenses of the administration of the criminal law might be expended in making Rail Roads and other solid improvements.

We know that some persons are opposed to increasing the jurisdiction of justices of the peace, on the ground of their alleged incompetency to exercise it. Well, it must be conceded, that we have had some very sorry justices of the peace, who had but feeble capacity to administer the law; and so we have had some very sorry judges &c. Indeed, under the present constitution some very scrubby men have crept into every department of the government—but we hope to see the office of justice of the peace dignified by the new Constitution, so that our most intelligent citizens will feel it an honor to hold the office, and administer justice among their neighbors.

We believe that a large majority of the people have desired the reform of which we have just been writing, as indicated by the action of their representatives, in trying to bring it about. We have endeavored, in a plain manner, to point out to them how this reform has been prevented, as we understand it, from the best examination we have been able to give the subject; and to suggest the only remedy remaining—to *call a Convention and make a new Constitution*—in favor of which we hope every freeman will cast his vote at the next August election.

To the Readers of the Gazette and Democrat.

As you have already been informed, through the columns of the Whig, the Gazette and Democrat office was entirely destroyed, by the great conflagration on the night of Monday, the 20th inst. The loss, though a severe one—nothing being saved but the books and files—will produce only a temporary suspension in the publication of the paper. An experienced printer has been dispatched to New York, to purchase type and material for an entire new office, and, in the course of a short time, the Gazette and Democrat will, Phœnix like, rise from its ashes, with renewed strength and vigor, and resume its weekly visits to its readers.

Through the kindness of friends, letters of credit have been furnished, for an amount sufficient to the purchase of an office with a greater variety, and a more extensive supply of material, than before its destruction; and, then, it was by far the best appointed office in the State. The readers of the paper will lose but a few weeks time in receiving it, and they may be fully assured, when it does appear, that it will be improved in every respect.

The favor heretofore shown this paper, both in business and circulation, is ample assurance of the position it occupies before the people; and the constant increase of both, affords the best guaranty that it will grow with the growth and strengthen with the strength of the country.—For these marks of the confidence and the approbation of the people, the editor would express his gratitude, and give an assurance of his obligation to those who have stood by him, and with him, through evil as well as through good report.

In announcing that he will be ready, in a few weeks, to resume the publication of his paper, the editor does so with the fullest confidence, based upon the fact that he understands somewhat of his business, and has a thorough knowledge of the people, that he will *be retained and regain his business.* From his extensive editorial experience he has been taught the importance, and the necessity—of self reliance. Having been in the State from his early boyhood, and to many of his readers personally known, he hopes to be excused the egotism of saying, that those who have known him always, know best, that he has ever been impressed with the belief that every man is the artificer of his own fortune; that on self alone depends success or failure; that, for himself, he has *always* acted on that rule, whether he put his hand to the plow, the sword, or the pen.

Lack may do for fools to prate of, or for sluggards to wait for, but he who would call on Providence to help, should put his shoulder to the wheel.

As before stated, the regular publication of the Gazette and Democrat will be resumed in the course of a few weeks. It is probable, if important advertisements come in, that an advertising sheet may be issued from the office of the Whig, which has been kindly tendered for that purpose. These will be furnished our readers gratis; and on the exact regular number, after we get our new office, the time of our subscribers will recommence.

Until then adieu.

C. C. DANLEY.

☞At the breaking out of the fire, the first side of to-day's paper had been worked off, and the paper containing it was saved by the timely and energetic exertions of Mr. BEKER, of Maryland, and Dr. HUMMELL, of this place, for which they will please accept our thanks.

We are indebted to the kindness (which we hope they may never needy of our neighbors of the Whig, for the use of their office and material for the completion of this number.

Next week we will send to our subscribers the supplement to the Gazette and Democrat, containing the Land advertisement of B. F. HUMPSTEAD, State Land Agent at Washington, Arkansas, for the preservation of which from the fire, we indebted to HENRY BROOKS, Esq., of this office.

☞Among the many losers of manuscripts and papers, incurred at the late fire, there is none which we regret more sincerely, than a very interesting letter from an *occasional reader*, "written from San Juan de Nicaragua, which we had put in hand, and hoped to have produced in to-day's paper. This letter was well written and of great interest. If our correspondent find it convenient to give it, we would like a duplicate of this letter; and whether he can furnish that or not, we are in hopes that he will occasionally "drop us a line," while he continues a sojourner in the dominions of King Gallinipper lst.

☞It is probable that before the arrival of the material for our new office, we may issue an advertising sheet from the Whig office. If we do so, it will be furnished our readers gratis. As we announced elsewhere, the publication of the regular paper for our subscribers, will not be resumed, until we get our type, &c., from New York.

B. H. TUCKER.

Feb. 23, 1854.

The Hoes—Still at low water mark.

PUBLIC MEETING.

A large meeting of the citizens of this place, was held on yesterday at the City Hall, for the purpose of taking into consideration the subject of the late disastrous fire, and the various circumstances connected therewith. The meeting adjourned to this day, at 11 o'clock, A. M., at the same place, and it is earnestly requested that every citizen will attend, and join in the deliberation and action, to prevent, in future, if possible, the destruction of property by fire, and the pilfering of property necessarily exposed thereby.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.

A railroad to the Pacific on the El Paso route would have several advantages over a more northern line.

1st. It would afford more easy and cheap connections for a railroad now finished or in progress. A branch from Cairo, the terminus of the Central Illinois road, and one from Memphis would afford connections with all the Northern, Eastern, Western, and middle road, either finished or in process of construction. Branches from Vicksburg and New Orleans would afford connections for all the Southern roads.

2d. It would be cheaper to construct a road on this route. The country is more level, timber more plenty, the climate milder. It has been estimated by one of the best engineers in the United States that on any of the more northern routes suggested the cost of construction would be upward of one hundred millions of dollars, while, upon the El Paso route, the cost would be less than fifty millions.

3d. It would pay better when constructed. The through business would perhaps amount to about the same on either route. If any difference should exist it would be in favor of the El Paso route, as it would have connection with a greater number of roads than any other and the travel would be more pleasant on account of climate. The land from the Mississippi to El Paso, being of superior quality, would be speedily settled, and the productions of the country greatly increased. These produce lions would seek exchanges in the West, North, and East, which would create, a large home trade and stimulate home industry and production in every quarter.

4th. As a means to be used for national defense, the El Paso would be certainly superior to any other route in case of war. Our coast would be assailed. The Atlantic coast is now easily reached by steam vessels from every where except upon the Gulf of Mexico. The road would enable the government to reach that a city; it would pass upwards of seven hundred miles along the frontier of Mexico; reaching San Diego it would soon follow the coast to San Francisco, and in all probability would soon be extended to Oregon. A road on any more northern route would afford no facilities for reaching the Gulf of Mexico and would touch at but one point on our whole Pacific coast.

5th. The necessities of the country and the interests of the U. States demand that the road should be promptly built. It is a heavy undertaking and any company that may engage in it must, to be successful, inspire the public with confidence. On the El Paso route, the road may be reached at several points along its line by water transportation, which will both facilitate the work and diminish its cost.

What the Government of the U. S. may do in aid of the work a uncertain. Texas has granted on the El Paso route 200 sections, 12,800 acres, of land to the mile. The distance through Texas is 800 miles. Her donation therefore amounts to 10,240,000 acres of land; and, to render her donation more valuable to the builders, the Legislature has reserved from any other location 60 miles on each side of the route until the track of the road is located, after which 20 miles on each side is reserved to satisfy the grant. These lands have recently been examined and pronounced by many reliable men the most valuable lands in the United States except for the want of facilities for transporting their products to markets. It is by me safely assumed, that, if the lands thus donated by Texas be held until the road completed, they will fully refund the cost of construction.

The influence which greater facilities of intercourse between the different sections of the Union would have upon the people, the stimulus to industry and increased production, the increased value it would give to railroads now completed or in course of construction, the increase of national wealth, and the additional power and facilities it would afford for national security and defence, are subjects well deserving the consideration of all.—*Lou. Jour.*

FIRES.

The Exchange and Owen's Hotel, at Louisville Kentucky were completely destroyed by fire on the 10th inst. Loss, between $30,000, and $60,000.

The Parliament House at Quebec, in Canada, was destroyed by fire, on the 1st inst. Loss $180,000.

The N. O. True Delta, of the 6th says,

About half past 12 o'clock, last night, a fire broke out in the grocery in the building, No. 20, Main st., used as a Restaurant and Coffee-house, which was consumed with its contents, and the adjoining buildings materially damaged.

Before the fire in Main street was got fairly under, the Cathedral bells rang out the second alarm of a fire in the neighborhood of Canal street. This second fire originated in the hay store of Chapman & Chaffee, No. 87 Chartres street. We were passing the spot, on our return from the fire in Main street, as the smoke was first observed by the watchman on duty, issuing out from the window of the second story. At that time a man was observed descending to the side walk by a rope; whether escaping to save his life or as an incendiary, we could not then ascertain. He was, however, arrested.

Before the engines could get to the spot, Tricou & Albert's store was one mass of flame, which soon communicated with the adjoining drug store of F. P. Dacosse, 33 Chartres St. That building, with its contents, was also destroyed. When we left the scene at half-past 2 o'clock, this morning, there was every prospect of the Fire Department confining fire to the drug store. The night was remarkably calm, and the firemen nobly exerted themselves to arrest the progress of the destructive element. Had it been otherwise, the whole block on Chartres street would unquestionably have been destroyed.

DEATH OF HON. H. P. POINDEXTER.—The Washington Telegraph, of the 12th inst., announces the death of Hon. H. P. Poindexter, late Senator from Hempstead county. He died at his residence, in that county, on the 10th inst., in the 62d year of his age.

CO-PARTNERSHIP.

I HAVE associated with me, Mr. John M. Rose, of this city, for the purpose of transacting a general Dry Goods and Grocery business; and respectfully ask for the firm, the liberal patronage that has heretofore been extended to me.

B. H. TUCKER.

Feb. 23, 1854. 6—*tf.*

[From the Arkansas Whig.]

CITIZENS OF PULASKI COUNTY.

As agent for that road I beg leave, most respectfully, to recommend to your calm deliberation the subject of the Arkansas Midland Railroad.

Some ten weeks ago the people of Phillips and Monroe counties organized a company, under the general Railroad law of the State, for the construction of a Railroad from the town of Helena to the city of Little Rock. For several weeks past their engineers have been in the field, and have completed two distinct lines of survey to White River, are now pushing forward their work energetically into the Prairies. In three weeks more they will run their surveys into Little Rock.

The estimated cost of the Midland railroad, road, fixtures and rolling-stock, as far as White River is $300,000. The private subscription already obtained in the state is nearly $100,000; this subscription having been obtained without any public effort is progressing steadily; the policy of the Board of Directors being the increase of private subscription, as the healthiest basis for future loans, by the largest possible amount. A vote has been taken by which the county of Phillips with a valuation of nearly $1,000,000, has subscribed $100,000 to this road by a large majority. This vote, however, requires an Act of the Legislature to give it legal force; but as that act will of course be obtained, this $100,000—payable in a tax on real estate to be collected by the County Court—is the same of their wars and parents. The county of Monroe having a valuation, I presume, of $2,000,000 will subscribe $50,000 to the road payable as in the case of Phillips county. The Board of Directors, of the Arkansas Midland Railroad, while there is good reason to reckon on a higher sum, have therefore set their estimal means down at the minimum of $300,000. They have ascertained by careful investigation that the road, once completed to White River, will be perfectly self-sustaining and the usual facilities for railroad loans ensuring the remaining $200,000 necessary to reach that point, they have therefore, cautious but resolute men, determined to strike out boldly into the actual construction of their road. Their means tho' small are perfectly equal to the purpose they propose to put to use and shall lack nothing for want of care, economy and prudence. Early in May they will place under contract the earthwork and structures of, in all likelihood, the whole road from Helena to White River.

By the efforts of Monroe and Phillips counties alone a railroad outlet to the Mississippi is consequently secured to you beyond a doubt to White River. This noble company of enterprise men are volunteering *from their own funds* to make a full survey of the road from Helena to Little Rock. They instruct me to tell you with unreserved frankness that they cannot seriously entertain a road west of White river without external cooperation; and having now, by straining their own means, secured its construction to that stream, they look on this side of White River for aid in the manner and mode necessary to secure an extension to the Arkansas river. In the first place then they appeal, to you, citizens of Pulaski; they ask you flatly whether you will or not, to work with them, or still wait like Mr. Micawber until something turns up?" Alew gentlemen amongst you entertain "predilections" for Memphis, I will tell you citizens of Pulaski cannot afford to exhaust your public spirit in mere idle predilections. Sentimentality must stand aside; the strong spirit of progress is coming down upon it from the Prairies. A citizen of Little Rock to disposed on an offer of an outlet to the Mississippi river with the stretch and yawn of a drowsy predilection!—it is sheer madness. The Midland railroad company tell you in friendly earnestness that they have sought out the shortest highway of intercourse and business for nine months in the year, cannot *afford* to dally with their offer of an outlet. They ask you in fraternal blunt ness to forget sentiment and dreamy predilections and to unite with them on the White river; they ask you as men of practical sense to enquire whether you are concerned in their undertaking; and then finding that you are, to work with them in conjunction with them to accomplish the undertaking. They tell you as they drive ahead with friendly "if you're coming why don't you come along?" They invite you to take stock in their road; to obtain a representation in its directory; to be authorized to an executive committee to lay out your money on this side of White river. They ask no favor of you; they will undertake to build the eastern division of the road; and they simply ask you in entering the partnership to build the western division.

Some of you gentlemen may not be aware of the topographical advantages of this Midland Railroad. I will state them, however, briefly; and in doing so, shall avoid all invidious comparisons with other roads. Crawley's ridge, running down from Missouri, between the waters of White River and St. Francis River, terminates within one thousand feet of the Mississippi, at the town of Helena. The great volcanic wave of 1812 swept from New Madrid to the mouth of St. Francis, the eastern edge of that terrible wave carried the Mississippi river, the other edge sweeping the eastern slope of Crawleys ridge; indenting the whole line of its influence as shown upon Lapoinsett, Big Creek, Cache, Bayou, Cypress sloughs, and sunken lands "Between New Madrid and the mouth of the St. Francis, eye ridge drop down to a low escarpment or the Mississippi river cannot be approached without crossing the line of this volcanic wave as marked by its "lagoons" "cypresses" "swamps". The western slopes of Crawleys ridge, rise gently from an elevation of a country of great agricultural richness, and constituting in the counties of Jackson Phillips and Monroe, an immense body of unsurpassed cotton lands. This luxuriant that is completely above overflow, gradually sloping from the ridge to the highest water-mark of the rivers; on a line south of west from Helena, this plateau drops off into the Mississippi bottom, the various inlets and bayous of which are subject to overflowing the floodline of the Mississippi and White rivers. All south of this as far as the mouth of the Arkansas, is subject to inundation.—While north of Helena, the bluffs skirting the any road striking the Mississippi river north of Helena, must necessarily incur the formidable swamp resulting from the New Madrid Earthquake, and the overflow of the Mississippi south of Helena can only be so by traversing the combined overflow of the Arkansas, Mississippi and White rivers. Furthermore, the Mississippi river at Helena is, on an air line, 30 miles nearer to the citizens of Pulaski county than the same river at Memphis. The situation of the town of Helena is admirable; backed by a country of unsurpassed productiveness for forty miles westward, it lies parallel to the terminal slopes of Crawleys ridge, *the only point south of St. Genieve, in Missouri, at which the western bank of the Mississippi river is bluff, and consequently free from overflow.*

The State of Mississippi has chartered a road giving Helena a connection through the town of Holly Springs with the Charleston rail road; and also another road, the St. Louis Helena and New Orleans Railroad, giving Helena a direct connection through Lexington, Mississippi over the N. O. and great northern rail road with N. O. The latter or these roads, so far south as lies within the State of Mississippi, will be most certainly built; and the enthusiasm on the subject in northern Mississippi, is a good guarantee that, *if Mississippi still refuse the right-of-way to the Memphis and Charleston railroad, the first road connecting Charleston with the Mississippi river, will terminate opposite Helena.*

I appeal to you citizens of Pulaski county the central invitation of your fellow citizens of Monroe and Phillips co's to work with them; to lay aside your pleasant dreams of prudence, and while warning against no rash, to take a "long pull, a strong pull, a pull altogether" in completing the fifty-five miles of the western division of the Arkansas Midland Railroad. Commending these matters to your sober judgment and dispassionate, practical sense, I have the honor to be

your very ob't serv't,

M. BUTT HEWSON,

Chief Engineer and Agent of the A. M. R. R. Company.

Little Rock, Feb. 20th, '54.

ARRIVAL OF THE PACIFIC.

Three days later!—Decline in Cotton!—Cracow retakes the Vienna Note!—Loss of Emigrant Ship Tayleur with 400 Lives!

The Pacific with Liverpool dates to the 25th ult., arrived at New York on the 9th inst.—Sales of Cotton for the three days 18,000 bales. Orleans fair 6¾; Middling 6¼d; Upland 7¼; Middling 5¾d. All qualities declined ¼d.

Brown, Shipley & Co., report the Market very heavy and the demand chiefly confined to the middling qualities.

Liverpool circulars are contradictory as to the prices of breadstuffs, but most quote flour advanced one shilling. Yet figures do not show it.

LOSS OF EMIGRANT SHIP TAYLEUR.—The emigrant ship Tayleur, bound for Australia, was wrecked in Dublin Bay, and four hundred lives lost.

POLITICAL.—The Times states that the reply of the Czar leaves little hope of his changing his mind. The popular excitement at St. Petersburg is indescribable.

It is feared that the Emperor will be forced to declare war formally before his plans are matured.

It is rumored that 15,000 Russians crossed the Danube.

The resignation of Nesselrode is also reported.

Russia has protested against Denmark maintaining a neutrality, and insists that she shall take sides with either party.

There was considerable excitement along the Danube, but no battles.

The allied fleets were last seen steering for Bretown.

The Russian fleet was also at sea.

The Pacific's news is thus briefly summed up:

No abatement in actual hostilities, or in preparation for attack; but there are no further battles reported either on the Danube or in Asia.

Dispatches received the morning of the sailing of the Pacific, say the Czar had not proceeded to extremities, on hearing of the entry of the allied fleets into the Black Sea.

He asked "Are the fleets to observe strict neutrality, or to take an active part with Turkey?"

A telegraphic dispatch from Vienna, says: The Czar's answer to the Vienna note would be a contempt-us refusal, and that he also referred Turkey to Gortchakoff for further particulars, asserting positively that we will not give up one jot of Gortchakoff's first demand.

In India trade was dull.

WASHINGTON, FEB. 7.

THE NEBRASKA BILL.—The vote to-day in the Senate on Mr. Chase's motion to strike out the 5th section from the Nebraska Bill, was lost.

NEW YORK, FEB 9.

A great town meeting was held last night at Chicago to protest against the Nebraska Bill. Senator Douglas was denounced by the old line Democrats, and even by his personal friends; and resolutions were passed urging their Representatives in Congress to oppose the bill.

In Albany to-day, both branches of the Legislature passed resolutions instructing the New York Senators and Representatives in Congress to vote against the Nebraska Bill.

Married.—At the residence of John H. Crease, Esq., in Saline co., on the 22d inst., by Rev. Mr. Freeman, Mr. *Garden N. Pray*, of this city, to Miss *Sue Crease*, of Saline county.

O happy lot, and hallowed, even as the joy of angels,
Where the golden chain of godliness is entwined with the roses of love."

THE MARKETS.

LITTLE ROCK PRICES CURRENT.

CORRECTED WEEKLY BY GEORGE S. MORRISON.

TUESDAY, February 23, 1854.

Bacon—⅌ yard	10½@20
Bore—⅌ pound	8 @ 9
Coffee—⅌ lb	18 @21
Sugar—brown, ⅌ lb	12 @
—loaf	18 @20
Flour—⅌ barrel	12 @ 00
Meal—⅌ bushel	75
Bacon—New	10
Lard—rendered, new	12
Powder—⅌ keg	$5,00 @5,50
Box Lead—	12 @15
Whisky Tax—⅌ keg (pure)	$1 00
Liverpool Salt—	$1 00@1 25
Molasses—	55 @60
Nails—	9 @10
Iron—	3 @ 4
Whisky—rectified	43 @50
Gin Imitation—	75 @81
Brandy—American	75 @81
Hoes—bar	6 @ 8
—horse-shoe	7 @ 8
Leather—⅌ lb	15 @ 20
Butter—	15 @ 20
Eggs—⅌ doz.	10 @12½
No 1 Mackerel ⅌ bbl	8
No 2 ⅌ bbl	8

From the True Delta.

February 11, 1854.

NEW ORLEANS CLASSIFICATION

Ordinary	5 @ 6
Low Middling	5½@5¾
Middling	6¼@ 6½
Good Middling	6¾@ 7
Middling Fair	7 @ 7½
Fair	7½@8 —

TOBACCO.

Refined	5½@6
Low Addicted	6 @7
Fair	6½@7
Fine	7½@7½
Choice	8 @8½
Manos County	8 @10

SUGAR.

Inferior	2½@2½
Common	2½@3
Fair	3½@3¾
Prime	3¾@4
Choice	4½@4½
Clarified	4 @5
Refined	—

MOLASSES.—Choice 16c, Prime from 10 to 15.

FLOUR.—Ohio $7.50. Extra St. Louis $8.

CORN.—White 85c, white and yellow mixed 87c. Yellow 88c.

OATS.—St. Louis, in small lots from store at 70@75c. Ohio and Indiana 60@65c.

WHISKY.—Rectified 26c, Raw 26@27c.

PORK.—Mess ⅌ bbl $13@13.50.

DRY SALTED MEAT.—Hog round 8c Shoulders 4c, Sides 5¼, Hams 6c.

BACON.—Sides 6¾c Shoulders 6¼, Sugar cured hams 10@11c.

LARD.—Prime 9@9½ in bbls and 10c in kegs.

BEEF.—Mess $16 per bbl and Prime 13.

CANDLES.—Star 18@20c.

BAGGING and ROPE.—Small sales at 13 @13½c for Kentucky and 7@8c for Rope.

GUNNY BAGS.—14@15c.

HAY.—$19@$20 ⅌ ton.

Arrivals at the Anthony House.

JOHN COLLINS, Proprietor.

R M Gaines, Jr Franklin; D H Gryer, Ill; M Batt, Hessen, Holland; A J Walker; Wm G W A Peacock, Texas; S Coffee, Ky.; M W Lewis, Chicot; A M Williams, Ala; Wm G Burke, Md; R L Hunter, Ga; Moo Stagg, Hot Spring; C R Vaughan, Texas; Capt. Carter, s. b. Jed Dennison; B Chadbourne, do; J Bridges, Cal; L W Dickey, Ark; H E Pattish, Cal; G W Featherston, G M Featherston, J D Swinney, Scott; J D Phillips, Mon; E Walsh, Pt. Smith; J McCallister, Ala; J Wheat, J W Lemaster, Ala; A L Pears, P Phillips, Choctaw Agency; E A Latimer, La; Kimbrough, Jefferson; W L Kendalson, Canada; A Eike, G. C Wright, Jackson and Lady, N Rock, Ark; S S Cary, W J Arnold, Mem; L W Perkins, Texas; D. Violet, Dr. Violet, Dr. Rose, J S Kirt, D P Short, Ky.; Capt. D H Cooper, Choctaw Agency; J Kelley, Miss; C A French B C Morgan, Indiana; M Chapman, Mem; N Hooper, Mrs. Sibley and servant Hot Springs; P Goodman, Yell; R Hayden, Ohio; A G Stoffer, Iduna; R S McFarlane, Mt. Ida; P Goodman and servant Van Buren.

GROCERIES, GROCERIES.

JUST received, by wagons from White river, a good supply of Coffee and Sugar:

0 bbls Whiskey;

½ pipe of very fine Cognac Brandy;

A large assortment of fresh Oysters and Lobsters, in cases;

8 cases Sardines;

10 boxes Malaga Raisins;

1 bbl soft shell Almonds;

1 ⅌ Crushed Sugar;

10 kegs and 10 ½ kegs Dapouts' best nails Powder;

Also Candles, Shot and Lead;

For sale by GEO. S. MORRISON,

At the Lower Steamboat Landing.

Feb. 16, 1854.

DR. L. GIBSON,

WILL practice the several branches of his profession in the city of Little Rock and vicinity.

Office in the rear of the building formerly occupied by E. Morris as a clothing store, and adjoining the store of S. H. Tucker, Esq., where he may be found from 9 o'clock, A. M. until 1 P. M., and the remainder of the time at his residence, unless professionally absent.

Little Rock, Jan. 20th, 1854. 3ᵐ

Gaz. & Dem., and True Dem., copy.

UNION HOTEL.

DR. W. C. KELLY, having fitted up a large and commodious building, with convenient and roomy stables attached, in the town of Rockport, Hot Spring county, is prepared to accommodate those who may favor him with a call, the best accommodations the county affords. Travelers are specially invited to give him a call.

Feb. 16, 1854. 32-tf.

VALUABLE PLACE FOR SALE.

THE FARM and improvements, known as the "*Brown Place*," situate on the Southern road, three miles from Little Rock, containing 240 acres, and some open land cultivatable, is now offered at private sale. Purchasers can see the property by application to Mr. Wm. Brown who is now at said place, and for terms and particulars apply to

JNO. C. PEAY.

January 2, 1854. 37-tf.

LIVERY STABLE.

ON ELM STREET, LITTLE ROCK, ARKS.

HAVING purchased the establishment formerly owned by Mr. Skelton, I beg leave to inform the public, that I now have, and intend to keep on hand, horses, Buggies, Carriages, and Hacks, on the most reasonable terms. Nothing will be wanting to make mine a

LIVERY STABLE

of the most approved order.

The convenient and location of my stable claims for it a superior advantage. It will, at all times, be supplied with provender of every kind, in abundance, and be attended by none but faithful and experienced ostlers.

HOUSE FOR SALE.

A vacant lot near by affords ample room for horses that have been stuffered by usk, or that need exercise, to run in.

Mr stable possessing those superior advantages and conveniences, I feel warranted in assuming the public that entire satisfaction will be given.

☞No exhorbitant charge will be made or suffered to be made.

C. AYLIFF.

Dec. 1, 1853. 18—y

SALE.

Of Saline or S H Spring Lands.

Land Office,
Dardanelle, Ark., January 27, 1854.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to the requirements of an act of the General Assembly, entitled "an act to sell the Saline Lands belonging to the State of Arkansas," approved 12th January, 1853, the undersigned, Land Agent, will offer for sale on MONDAY APRIL 10th, 1854, at public auction to the highest bidder, all of the Saline Lands in the Dardanelle Land District, not previously disposed of. The sale will commence at this office at or near the hour of 10 o'clock in the forenoon, and continue until all of said lands shall have been offered for sale.

TERMS OF SALE.

None of said lands to sell for a less sum than one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre; one fifth of the purchase money payable on the day of sale, and the balance in the equal annual instalments, with interest at six per cent, from the date of the purchase.

PRE-EMPTORS.

Notice is hereby given that all persons claiming pre-emption rights to any of the lands described below, that they must make the necessary proof, and enter their lands at least three days previous to the day of sale.

Twp 8 N 8 East, Range 18 West, in Pope Co.

Sections 11, 12, and 13.	
N ½ and SW qr of section	14