

The Daily Express.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00
A. H. STEINER & CO., Publishers.

JULIUS W. VAN SLYCK, Editor & Proprietor.

Official Journal of the United States.

Official Journal of Bexar County.

SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 1872.

Let us act at Once!

The suggestions we have made concerning railroad matters seem to have met the approval of a large majority of our citizens; and more especially of those who, in consequence of their pecuniary interests, have more at stake than other citizens.

But it is one thing to approve an idea, and quite another thing to act upon it. Many excellent plans have been conceived for the promotion of the welfare of this city and Western Texas; but for want of united action, a determined and common purpose, little has resulted. There will be no more favorable time than the present for an energetic movement towards securing a railroad to San Antonio—and not only that, but one which shall be owned and controlled by our own citizens. Instead of giving away the money already voted, and from which we can in no event derive any direct profit, why not expend it ourselves? We have voted in one road \$500,000, to another the same sum, and we were ready to vote to a third \$300,000, or if necessary, \$500,000. This sum, \$1,500,000, would build a narrow-gauge road to the seaboard, and not only build it, but equip it. If the bonds of this city and county can be made as good as cash at par, we will undertake to find the man who will build and equip the road, and for present needs for that sum to the nearest harbor on the Gulf. While so profuse, then, of offering aid to capitalists who doubt us when it suits their convenience, why not take hold of the master outlines, and become masters of the prize? Were a dozen live business men in our midst, in whom the commercial confidence totals, to hold of this business in doubt, we might have a complete railroad in two months, owned by our own citizens, every dollar of advance or profit from it coming home to us instead of going abroad.

You say we must have a railroad or die! It is true; and yet, instead of putting your shoulder to the wheel and building one, as it is in your power to do, you sit in your back parlors and sign bonds which are mortgaged upon your estates, but which bring you no railroads in the end. This life "tissue" should cease at once. Do you think Chicago would ever have had a railroad had she not put forth her own energies and expended her own money? How proudly she sits now, mistress of the great lakes, simply because she had the pluck to divert the great western railway lines of traffic into her swamps and along her bayous? And we sit here supinely signing notes and bonds to go away, but who dares stand upon our principles, the ill-fated which mocks us with phantasmal railroads?

God helps him who helps himself; and until San Antonio does for herself a little sensible, actual, tangible self-help, the God of railways will refuse to place a vice-roy here, and we may continue to bow down before the vassals and cringed oxen. Citizens! you have it all in your own hands. Get up and do something—or make arrangements for a very slim and unimposing general. But a soft will

The Sweet-McCormack Company.

Our readers will recollect that the Judges of election, Alex. E. Sweet, and H. McCormack, during the late election, were arrested for contempt of Court in disobeying a mandamus of the District Judge of this State Judicial District, directing the registration of a person claiming to be a legal voter, but to whom registration had been refused by the registrar and the judges of election. It is supposed that the Judges of election disobeyed the mandate of the Court upon the belief that, under the State law, the authority of the election judges was superior to that of the State District Judge. There is a question of constitutionality which merits consideration. We do not propose just now to discuss these questions in their legal bearings. But, we understand, that in support of the position taken by the judges of elec-

tion, the State government has ordered to this city a large State police force; and that there were present yesterday an ample number of armed men whose purpose it was to arrest the Judge of this District and such other persons as might be found recalcitrant to the Order. This is a new feature in local elections, and one which will naturally command the respect of the mass of voters. Indeed, we pronounce the whole scheme as a disreputable one, in which the Republican party, as such, has no part or lot and which can only result in the confusion of those who concocted it.

An Address by the United States Centennial Commission.

To the People of the United States:

The Congress of the United States has enacted that the completion of the One Hundredth Year of America's independence shall be celebrated by an International Exhibition of the Arts, Manufactures, and Products of the soil and mine, to be held at Philadelphia, in 1876, and has appointed a Commission, consisting of representatives from each State and Territory, to conduct the celebration.

Originating under the auspices of the National Legislature, controlled by a National Commission, and designed as it is to "commemorate the first Century of our existence, by an Exhibition of the Natural resources of the Country and their development, and of our progress in those Arts which benefit mankind, in comparison with those of other Nations," it is to the people at large that the Commission look for the aid which is necessary to make the Centennial Celebration the grandest anniversary the world has known.

The completion of the first century of our existence should be marked by some imposing demonstration, we believe, the patriotic wish of the people of the whole country. The Congress of the United States has wisely decided that the birth-day of the Great Republic can be most fittingly celebrated by the universal collection and display of all the trophies of its progress. It is designed to bring together, within a building covering 60 acres, not only the varied products of our mines and of the soil, but type of all the intellectual triumphs of our citizens, specimens of everything that America can furnish, whether from the brain or the hands of her children, and thus make evident to the world the advancement which a self-governed people is capable of. In this "Colorful" nation all nations will be invited to participate; its character being international. Europe will display her art and manufactures, India her curious fabrics, while newly opened China and Japan will lay bare the treasures which for ages have been their ingenuous people have been erecting. Each land will compete in vigorous rivalry for the palm of supremacy.

To this grand gathering every zone will contribute its fruits and cereals. No mineral shall be wanting; for what the East lacks the West will supply. Under one roof will the South display in rich luxuriance her growing cotton, and the North in miniature, the ceaseless machinery of her mills converting that cotton into cloth. Each section of the globe will send its best offerings to this exhibition, and each State of the Union, as a member of one united body politic, will show to her sister States and to the world, how much she can add to the greatness of the nation of which she is a harmonious part.

To make the Centennial Celebration such a success as the patriotic and the pride of every American demands will require the co-operation of the people of the whole country. The United States Centennial Commission has received no Government aid, such as England extended to her World's Fair, and France to her Universal Exposition, yet the labor and responsibility imposed upon the Commission is as great as in either of those undertakings. It is estimated that ten millions of dollars will be required, and this sum Congress has provided shall be raised by stock subscriptions, and that the people shall have the opportunity of subscribing in proportion to the population of their respective States and Territories.

The Galveston News of the Day, says:

"There is certainly no healthier place in the State of Texas than the city of Galveston. But on yesterday we had five funerals—two of them old and respected citizens.

The most gratifying news to all parties concerned, was that made on the election in Bridgeport, on Monday night, during the election: if Grant was winning, the young man won the City; and if Greeley was elected, the City would have the young man. The above shows that the young man won the City, and it is stated on authority of the young lady herself, that she is perfectly willing he should have the prize.

A Wisconsin man has passed up the following notice:

"Having by a long course of dissipation and debauchery so weakened my will as to utterly powerless to resist the appetite for alcohol liquors, and not being particularly anxious to die and be dead so yet, I hereby solemnly swear that I will prosecute to the Utmost Thral of the law any saloon-keeper, druggist, or other person who shall give or sell me any spirituous or malt liquors of any kind whatever."

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THE GREAT WORKER.

STATING THE GAZETTE.
NOTICE.—EXCEPTED NOV. 10,
1852, AND DRAWN AT 12 M. D.

OUR FRIENDS.—MEN OF THE WORLD.—
To those who are anxious to know, we say
in her speech to the world, never say
we do not mention too lightly—there are
ways over every day—
But go you to the meadow when trouble's
over away.

All the shifting and the long, long
years nothing seems to wrong;
Oh, the world is good, and may the world

We know the gardeners—where is all
Is sorrow and the world? Who knows
which has been? Who
Whoever tuned the chorus till the chief
singer came,
Through all his singing ages the boy has
been the same.

For him in his time,
And for each in passion prime,
The joyous and the dolorous are inter-
mixed.

HAVANA ROYAL LOTTERY.

The hearts of men are rivers that chase in
ordered groves,

With forms of living, and moving, and

O, Nature, picture thy page, she bathes us
in her broad bosom!

Till our own grand heart is beating in flow
with our ure.

Many a time they dry
Earth-worn barks by rain dry

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