

# THE CITY.

## The Canal Carondelet.

This, one of the oldest works of public improvement which New Orleans can boast, begins of late to attract a full share of public attention. It was projected as early as 1803 by the "Orleans Navigation Company," then organized for the purpose of opening a water communication between the city and Lake Pontchartrain, by way of the Bayou St. John. The formation of the Basin in the then heart of the city, the digging of a mile and a quarter of canal between the Basin and the head of the Bayou, and the deepening of the Bayou itself, together with the formation of a proper harbor at its mouth, so exhausted the resources of the company that it could never afterwards relieve itself, and finally, after a precarious existence of forty-nine years, its charter was declared forfeited by the State Legislature, and it was placed in liquidation. The result was a sale by the Sheriff of the canal, together with all the lands, buildings, privileges and appurtenances therewith connected. The whole passed into the hands of parties who subsequently organized under the style and title of the "New Orleans Canal and Navigation Company."

The stock of this new company was chiefly held in Philadelphia, and according to the terms of the charter, the corporation had three years to complete its contemplated works. In this, however, the direction failed, and an extension of time was granted by the Legislature. But the resources and credit of the company were at so low an ebb that it was found impossible to restore vitality to the enterprise, and during the session of 1856-7, the charter of the Canal and Navigation Company was declared forfeited.

After the failure of the second attempt to render the navigation of the canal and bayou practical and remunerative, it was feared that the whole enterprise would have to be abandoned, and that the work then accomplished would prove an entire loss. But at this juncture a number of enterprising gentlemen of this city, chiefly belonging to the Creole portion of our population, stepped into the breach, and from that moment the fortunes of the undertaking have been in the ascendant.

According to the terms of the act of the Legislature granting a charter to the Carondelet Canal and Navigation Company of New Orleans power was given to effect a compromise with the New Orleans Canal and Navigation Company, and after a long consultation, the old company agreed to transfer all its interests to the new one for \$100,000 in stock, the capital of the new company being fixed at \$250,000. The new company then started with a paid up capital of \$100,000, and books were at once opened to dispose of the balance of the stock, most of which was taken in small sums, the largest subscription being \$5000.

The compromise effected with the old company left the revenues of the canal and shell road in the possession of the former Direction until the 15th of October last, at which time the whole passed into the hands of the new company, of which R. Gardere, Esq., was appointed President, and Louis Gagnet Secretary.

After so many failures, it became a matter of pride as well as of interest to proceed cautiously and economically, and with these views the new company commenced operations. Every thing was conducted on the ready cash principle, and so extensive have been the improvements since October, that even now the canal admits vessels of double the tonnage that it formerly did, and its revenues have more than doubled. The recent average per month of vessels which pass up the canal is 140.

Of the mile and a quarter of canal between the head of the bayou and the basin, the whole has been deepened to nine feet, with the exception of about 2200 feet. This deepening is effected by means of a powerful dredge boat, which was constructed at a cost of \$14,000, and is found capable of excavating a hundred feet per day; the depth of the excavation being four feet, and the width sixty feet. The earth thrown out on the banks of the canal is readily carted off by property holders for the filling up of lots there being no less than a hundred carts daily need for that purpose during the last two months. It is estimated that 100,000 cubic yards of earth have been thrown from the canal by this new dredge boat.

As yet but fifty per cent. of the stock subscribed for has been called in, but as there are several places along the bayou to be straightened it is thought that the whole capital will be required to complete the designed improvements.

One of the principal changes effected by the new company is the lake harbor. The entrance has been entirely changed, and a

new channel with extensive breakwaters has been formed. The harbor now opens to the west—the principal object of the change being to prevent the formation of sandbars at the mouth, which formerly proved a continual source of annoyance.

At the last session of the Legislature the charter of the company was amended by a supplementary act which permits the construction of such additional indentations or basins along the line of the canal and bayou as the exigencies of trade may require. The company has also the right of running a line of railroad from the basin to the lake, and the city, after the expiration of five years, is prohibited from draining into the bayou. Furthermore the company is to enjoy corporate succession for fifty years, after which the works may revert to the State upon due compensation being made according to the award of three commissioners. The charter further provides that during the fifty years of its continuance the canal and railroad are to be exempt from taxation.

Under so liberal a charter it is not wonderful that confidence has been restored to a long scouted, but heretofore unsuccessful project, and we trust that ere long the most sanguine expectations of the present company will be more than realized. Already new buildings are springing up along the line of the canal, and when the work is completed, its influence will be favorably felt on the general prosperity of the Second District, especially those portions lying in the vicinity of the Old Basin.

**MURDER.**—Last night, an old and quiet drayman named Joseph Tinet, who resided on Felicity street, between Chippewa and Fulton streets, was basely murdered at his own door when unharnessing his dray. It was later than usual when he returned from his work, and just after he stopped at his door a man walked along the sidewalk and in passing struck him a heavy blow with a slung shot on the back of his head, and then kept on his way. The old man was then taken into his house, in a half insensible condition, and in the course of three hours died. An inquest has since been held on his body, and a verdict returned attributing death to a blow with a slung shot inflicted by some person unknown. The blow fractured the occipital bone, the fracture extending to the base of the skull, causing compression of the brain and death. Deceased was a native of Cork, Ireland, and 58 years of age. A more unprovoked murder was never committed.

We understand that another man was about the same time badly beaten with a slung shot, near the same time and place.

**MURDER IN THE PARISH PRISONS.**—Last night, two prisoners were temporarily locked up together in the Parish Prison. When the turnkey opened the cell this morning, one of them was found dead. The survivor, during the night, had taken a board out of the bunk in which they were to have slept, and with it beat out the brains of his companion. We have not the names of the parties, but understand that they were strangers.

**INTENT TO KILL.** A Spaniard, named Francisco Costillo, was last night arrested by Sergeant Grillor, of the Third District police, on a charge of having stabbed one Lopez, at Lake Borgne, with intent to kill him. The accused is said to have left the lake to avoid the consequence of his act.

#### Police Matters.

**BEFORE RECORDER STITH.**—H. T. Young was brought up for riotous and intemperate conduct on Girod street, and as his face showed that he had been roughly handled, he was only fined \$5. Eliza Maxwell, for vile behavior on Marais street, and Bridget Dowd, for indecently exposing her person on Gravier street, were also fined \$5 each. Ann Powers, for drunkenness, had either to pay \$5 or go to the Workhouse for a month.

John Murphy and Michael Davis, *alias* Reddy, have of late rendered themselves conspicuous. They were recently sent to prison by Acting Recorder Holland as dangerous and suspicious characters, and also for carrying concealed weapons. On the 24th ult. they attacked officer Charles Chalmers, after midnight, at the corner of Poydras and Magazine streets, and fired three pistol shots at him—one firing one and the other two. For this they were examined before Recorder Stith and sent before the First District Court for trial without benefit of bail. Furthermore, Davis was examined on a charge of having stolen a Colt's revolving pistol from Van Buren Johnson's trunk, in a house on Julia street, and a case being made out against him he was sent before the criminal court for trial. Last, but not least, Murphy and Davis were jointly examined on a charge of having, at 1 o'clock A. M., on the 23d ult., attacked, shot at and wounded James Connolly, at or near his residence, corner of Melpoene and Camp streets, with intent to murder. In this case Murphy was principal and Davis accessory.

It appears that there was a party next door to Connolly's, where a difficulty occurred after midnight, in which the accused were concerned. Connolly told them they would have to be quiet or leave the house. They then went but afterwards returned in a menacing manner. Connolly took up an old musket, which was not loaded, and told them he would shoot them unless they went away. Thereupon, Murphy drew his pistol and fired at him, wounding him severely. Davis had previously drawn a knife and threatened to kill Connolly. After the shooting Connolly's son pursued Murphy with a knife, and the latter turned on him and burst three caps in attempting to shoot him. Finding that the pistol would not go off, he again took to his heels. Connolly's wound was a very severe one, and for a time was expected to result fatally. The accused were again committed for trial before the First District Court.

Mary Maher gave bail to answer for an assault with brickbats and other deadly weapons on the person of another Mary Maher, her sister-in-law.

Mary Caughlin was examined and sent before the First District Court for trial for beating Bridget Caughlin with an iron pot on Clara street.