

DAILY EXPRESS.
Offices on Commerce Street.
Editor in Chief, John C. Goss.
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San Antonio Daily Express.

WEEKLY EXPRESS.
Published Every Thursday
TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION: One
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VOL. VI.

DRUGS.

Spring 1872. Spring 1872.

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A. BREMNER & CO., Publishers.

JULIUS W. VAN SILVER, Editor & Proprietor.

Official Journal of the United States.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF BEXAR COUNTY.

FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1872.

The Civil Rights Bill.

We are asked our opinion of the Civil Rights Bill as passed. We have not at hand a copy of the bill as it was originally introduced, and are therefore unable to criticize it as it seems to have passed. The following is the text of the telegram received by the Express day before yesterday, and published yesterday morning:

"The Civil Rights Bill as passed applies only to men, licensed places of public entertainment or amusement, and stage coaches, railroads, and other public motives of conveyance for freight and passengers. Equal rights regarding cemeteries, schools and benevolent institutions strike out."

The dispatches also state that so many amendments had been taken out of Senator Sumner's original bill that the Hon. Senator refused to have it read in the Senate. We cannot give an intelligent criticism of the bill as passed, we do not object to expressing our opinions upon the question in general, and they are as follows:

We certainly believe in civil rights, the adjective possessing a distinctive legal significance, as much as any person on this continent. It is also very proper that laws should be passed defining what civil rights are—just as proper as it is to pass laws defining any rights whatever. The difficulty has been in making the proper distinction between man as a voter in a pure democratic government, and man as a social animal.

The right of self-government acknowledged, and political equality follows not merely as a logical, but as an inevitable sequence. But no law can force a social equality. You might as well pass a law that an apple graft shall grow on the pine stock, or the grape when budded on the best root. A higher law than any legislative enactment controls. Human laws cannot force you to eat or sleep with every person who happens to be traveling the same road you are going, any more than they can force you to eat a designated amount in weight, or to sleep a certain length of time. All laws which undertake to regulate these matters are unnatural—the subjects themselves cannot be properly legislated upon.

Such relations in life should be left to regulate themselves, just as you leave each person to adopt whatever religious belief he or she may choose. But Mr. Sumner and Mr. Greeley, who appears now to be a favorite with the democracy in this part of the world, make this distinction, they say a hotel is a place of public resort, a railroad is chartered to carry freight for the public at large, as well as the public itself, and therefore no distinction can or ought to be made on account of race or color or other social distinction. It will be granted that, for instance, it is a railway company through its agents will sell to the veriest vagabond in creation a ticket for a ride on one of its sleeping cars, it is justly bound by its bargain; but we say no law can compel a railroad to make such a bargain with every person—any more than it can compel you to make a contract of marriage with every person who differs from you in complexion, or color. The greatest difficulty, however, has grown out of general systems of public schools, where compulsory education is sought to be enforced.

It is contended that here at least no social distinctions can or ought to be recognized—that taxation itself is a necessary forcing of social intercourse. This evil can only grow out of defective laws; and every law is defective which attempts to force a degradation of one class with the view of elevating another.

There will always be social distinctions arising from various causes, chief of which are superiority of intellect, education, wealth, breeding; no law can eradicate them, nor prevent their observation. Your legislatures might as well enact that horses should wear horns, have their hoofs split and go slow; that the eagle should consort with the buzzard, or the dove with the crow, as to attempt to force unnatural associations upon men or women.

The higher law is sure to prevail in this case.

A touching incident is reported from Chattanooga. An after stroke called on a respectable farmer, last week, and said him if his house had not been robbed during the war. The farmer replied that he had. "I told the stranger," was one of a melancholy party that did it. I took a little silver locket." "That locket," said the farmer, bursting into tears, "had been worn by my dear, dear child." "Here is a man rich; let me make restitution; here are \$20 for your little son." He gave the farmer a \$50 bill and received \$20 in change. He then wrung the farmer's hand and left. The farmer has since died his tears and loaded his shroud. The \$50 bill was bad.

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The horrid rabbit, exhibited at the Houston State Fair by Mr. Cherneyev, of Bremner, and a contributor to its column for years, died on Tuesday, in London. He was the youngest of the brothers Maykay, both noted in the world of letters for a certain racy humor which finds no representative in British literature. He was the champion and friend of Douglas Jerrold, Thackeray, Laman, Blanchard, Horace Smith, Mark Lemon, John Leech, Alfred Crowquill, and other wags known to the world.

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