
NATCHEZ, March 4.

A melancholy circumstance took place last night at the Pine Ridge on the Pine Grove plantation. Between the hours of 2 and 3 the gin was observed to be on fire in all directions, so much so, as to render fruitless any exertions of Mr. Perkinson and the negroes to save it; sixty thousand weight of cotton in the seed is supposed to have been consumed by the devouring element; the wind from the northward blowing very fresh. However we are happy to say by the attention of that gentleman, who kept the negroes on the alert, the dwelling house and the negro cabins, fences, &c. (all contiguous to the gin,) no further damage was sustained. It is supposed from a variety of circumstances, that fire was intentionally put to the building, and that this foul deed was executed by a person in the neighbourhood.

Information has been received from New-Orleans, that several attempts have been recently made to set fire to that city. Governor Claiborne has issued a proclamation offering a reward of 500 dollars for the detection of the incendiaries.

The governor has also, by his proclamation of the 21st ult. offered a pardon to all absent slaves who shall return to their respective owners, within two months from that date; provided they are charged with no other crime than running away.
