

Lake Charles Commercial.

VOL. 1.

LAKE CHARLES, CALCASIEU PARISH, LA., SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 1881.

NO. 5.

LAKE CHARLES COMMERCIAL,

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY
JOHN McCORMICK.

PRICE OF SUBSCRIPTION:
Two Dollars a Year.

ADVERTISING RATES:
Per Square, (10 lines or less), first insertion, \$1; each subsequent insertion, 50c.
Legal advertisements, (100 words or less), first insertion, \$1; each subsequent insertion, 50c.
Liberal discount to those who advertise by the year.

Entered at the Post-Office, Lake Charles, La., as second class matter.

LAKE CHARLES, LA.

SATURDAY, : : : AUGUST 6, 1881.

M. J. Rostee has just received a lot of new goods.

Vegetables are as scarce, in Lake Charles, as hen's teeth.

Subscribers who fail to receive their paper, will please notify us of the fact.

The R. K. R. Brass Band have employed Professor Carlos Greig, as teacher.

The whole fleet of lumber schooners got in this week. Some have been a month on the trip.

It is said that the mill operations in Beaumont, Texas, will soon be interrupted on account of the low stage of water in the Neches river.

The rice fields near the Mermentau are reported to be in excellent condition. A large crop may be expected from this section of our parish, this fall.

Owing to light and northwesterly winds during the month of July, there was less timber shipped out of this river last month, than any month this year.

Capt. Simeon Baker says that the schooners are making tri-monthly trips to Galveston now; i. e., they go to Galveston one month, and try to get back the next.

There are between 12,000 and 15,000 logs afloat in Calcasieu river and its tributaries, and more going in every day. No danger of Calcasieu mills stopping shortly.

More Drummers in town this week than fiddlers in Hades. (Revised Edition). The custom of our merchants must be a very desirable acquisition, from the strenuous exertions made by the New Orleans, Galveston and Houston merchants to secure it.

A. D. McFarlin has a big store at Jennings' Station—he is also building a large house there, for a residence and hotel—Jennings is the shipping point of a large extent of country extending from Grand Marais to bayous Nez-Pique and Canis.

We learn from Messrs. Anatole Gauthier and Eugene Guindy, two ranches having charge of large stocks of cattle in our parish, that owing to the great severity of last winter, the branding of calves will not be more than one-third of what the usual annual branding is.

The new Catholic church building is now completed. The carpenters got through last Tuesday. It is a splendid building, and quite an ornament to our town, and Rev. Father Kelly deserves great credit for his indefatigable efforts and energy in erecting such a building, almost at his own expense.

Tobe Armstrong, colored, who had been sentenced, for assault with a dangerous weapon, at the April term of the District Court of 1880, to twelve months imprisonment and a fine of \$250, and to twelve months additional confinement, in default of paying the fine, was released last Monday by the District Judge, on his affidavit and proof of insolvency and inability to pay the fine imposed.

THE EXCURSION.

The steamboat excursion and basket picnic, up the River, under the auspices of the German Benevolent Association of Lake Charles, took place last Sunday, according to previous announcement. Being the favored possessor of a complimentary ticket, (for which we tender our sincere thanks to the courteous members of the committee of arrangements), we did not fail to attend, and, with a degree of zeal and punctuality, worthy of a real *dead head*, we manifested our presence at the landing, at the very precise hour appointed for departure. We had to wait there, however, fully an hour and a half, before everything could be made ready to leave, and it was quite near ten o'clock, before the last belated excursionist from town had jumped on board just in time not to be left behind. The committee of arrangements had spared no effort to make the excursion an agreeable and a safe one. The steamer Willie, with such experienced men as Capt. W. L. Hutchins, at the wheel, and J. W. O'Neil in the engine room, had in tow a strong and spacious barge capable of conveniently carrying over two hundred passengers, besides those who could find room in the cabin and on the deck of the Willie. A thick awning, absolutely impermeable to sun or rain, protected the whole length and breadth of the barge with a double roof of canvass, and quite a sufficient number of benches had been improvised to accommodate each one with a good seat. The morning turned out to be cool and pleasant, and everything gave promise of a delightful trip. Our German friends known at all times for their love of good music, had secured the assistance of the Lake Charles Brass Band for the occasion. Although the band has been but recently organized, their performance, on their first public, was admirable, and quite creditable to themselves and to their efficient leader, Prof. Carlos Greig. We regret to say that the number of excursionists from town was not as large as might have been expected, not exceeding seventy-five, children included; but, at the several landings, at West Lake Charles, Bagdad and Goosport, a considerable accession was made to raise the number to nearly one hundred.

Burlett's Bluff, the place of destination, which is a gradually rising bluff from the edge of the river, thickly covered with timber, situated about twenty-five miles from Lake Charles, was reached at about 1 p. m. The whole trip up the river, although rather slow, owing to the numerous landings and the difficult of running fast with the heavy barge in tow, was one of intense enjoyment from first to last, not one solitary occurrence calculated to mar its pleasures having taken place. Everybody felt comfortable and happy. A gentle shower, during the latter part of the trip, had somewhat cooled the atmosphere, and the whole party landed under the trees, the leaves of which were yet moist and dripping from the late shower. A convenient spot was soon found, a broad tele-cloth spread on the ground, the baskets opened, their contents displayed, and, with the keen edge of an appetite sharpened by good humor, the good things spread before the excursionists, were soon devoured. After dinner, Capt. J. G. Gray and G. A. Fournet, sq., being called upon, addressed the party in a few appropriate remarks. After the speeches, came the dancing, on the turf, with music by the band. The return homeward was still livelier, if possible, than the trip up the river, the disposition to

gaity having been, no doubt, enhanced by a copious dinner and its accessories. We must not omit to mention that, on the return trip, we had the rare pleasure of listening to a speech from Mr. D. W. Jessen, in German, which we did not understand. But, being called upon to translate, Mr. Jessen spoke in English, to the effect that German emigration to America was fleeing from misery and oppression. He gave the history of the German colony in Lake Charles. He told us how Captain Daniel Goos, who is one of the oldest and most respected citizens of Lake Charles, came early to this country; how he was pleased with it, how he returned to his home in the fatherland, which was a small island in the North Sea, six miles long and four miles wide, how he prevailed upon his friends and acquaintances there to follow him here about eleven years ago, and how they found happy and contented homes in Lake Charles. Then Mr. Jessen closed by saying: "If we are all happy to-day, if we have been able to enjoy this fine excursion—we owe it all to Captain Goos." Three cheers for Captain Goos! and the three cheers were given with a vim that made the echoes ring.

Rice Culture in Louisiana.

Last Wednesday we had the pleasure of forming the acquaintance of Mr. W. H. Harris, the active and energetic Commissioner of Agriculture and Immigration, of the State of Louisiana. Mr. Harris is one of the happy appointments made by Gov. Wiltz. He is a native of the State of South Carolina, he served the last cause faithfully for four years and a half, and, after the war, married and settled in Louisiana, where he has an interest in a large plantation in the parish of Assension. He is, therefore, fully identified with the needs and interests of our State, and, being both a scholar and a scientist, no man could be better fitted for the important position which he holds. We met Mr. Harris, at Jennings' Station, in this parish, about 33 miles east of Lake Charles. He had just returned, with Mr. Jos. Bertrand who acted as his guide, from a personal inspection of the prairie about Grand Marais. He told us the object of his visit to be a thorough examination of the topographical and geological character of the lands of that section, with a view of making a full and comprehensive report of the same to the Bureau of Agriculture and Immigration. He says that all the lands bordering on this marais are pre-eminently suited, to rice culture, and that we have there an inexhaustible source of agricultural wealth to this section of the State, if properly taken advantage of. He also gave us to understand that application was to be made for the entry of several thousand acres of these lands, and that a project had been matured to bring over several hundred immigrants to settle in that neighborhood. Mr. Harris proposes not only to give his official support to this project, but also to invest in it such means as he can dispose of.

The Natchitoches Vindicator, of the 30th ult., says: "Peaches have been very scarce thus far. Some small and hard clinging stones were offered on the streets last week, at twenty-five cents a dozen."

In Lake Charles we have any quantity of them, and some of the finest we ever saw, and they are selling at from 25 to 50 cents, per water bucket.

Thanks to W. H. Haskell, Esq., our Postmaster, for his favors, and especially for a batch of new subscribers.

Dredging the Calcasieu Bar.

We are informed by H. C. Drew, Esq., that the contract for dredging the inner bar, at the foot of Calcasieu Lake, has been awarded to Messrs. Forbes & Co., and that they will commence the work as soon as they can get their dredge-boat towed around from Vermilion Bay, where they have just completed a contract for dredging out and straightening the Bayou Petite Anse, from Avery's Island to Vermilion Bay. The canal will be 70 feet wide, 8 feet deep, will be cut or widened one-quarter of a mile further up into the Lake, thereby reaching into deeper water, than is to be found at the present end of the canal.

It is a great pity that the appropriation is not sufficient to pay for carrying off the mud and dumping either in deep water or at a distance from the sides of the canal; as it is, the mud taken from the canal will have to be dumped immediately on the sides, and will eventually wash back; but we are glad that Messrs. Forbes & Co., have been awarded the contract, as they are probably better prepared than almost any other dredging company to do the work in a satisfactory manner, being provided with a long arm to their crane, they will be able to throw the mud to a greater distance than ordinary dredge-boats are able to do.

Dredging at the upper end of Calcasieu Lake is almost as badly needed as at the lower end, and we shall feel disappointed if some effort is not made to get an appropriation to have the much needed work done there.

The COMMERCIAL complains that freight on a car-load of lumber from Lake Charles is \$15 in excess of the charges from Orange and Beaumont. Our neighbor is probably mistaken.—[Orange Tribune.]

The COMMERCIAL is not mistaken. Lumbermen from Beaumont and Orange pay \$22.50 per car-load on lumber to Galveston, and Lake Charles mills have to pay \$37.50 per car-load. Orange, although 28 miles further from Galveston, has no more to pay than Beaumont, while Lake Charles, 38 miles from Orange, is charged \$15 a car-load more. Why are these things thus? We learn, however, that, to other points in Texas, than Galveston, our mills pay \$7.50 per car-load, more than Orange and Beaumont, which makes our lumber cost the purchaser in Texas \$1.50 per thousand feet more than Orange or Beaumont lumber. We are willing to admit that our lumber is intrinsically worth \$1.50 more per thousand feet than the Texas lumber, but it is hard to make the consumer in Texas believe it, and still harder to make the Texas dealer believe it, when that difference constitutes about all the profit that is made by handling the lumber.

We heard within the last two or three weeks a great deal said about a firm in St. Louis, Mo., selling yeast powders of a very superior quality, with a heavy silver plated spoon in each and every can, and as low as any other powder of the same standard. We thought at first that Mr. Ben. Butler had something to do with it, but after finding out that the spoons were actually given away and also knowing that old Ben. couldn't be guilty of such a crime we have dropped the idea like a hot potato.

To investigate the matter we called on our townsman Wm. C. Fricks, who is the agent for the above mentioned firm here, and he explains the matter as follows. To advertise in newspapers, posters, etc., it costs an enormous amount of money, and often the result is very doubtful, so the St. Louis firm thought it best to give said amount of money, which would otherwise be expended, not to the dealer but directly to the consumer of the powders, in the shape of silver spoons, thereby gaining the good will of the public which they value and appreciate more than any advertisement.

We call the attention of the public to the fact that the powder cannot be beat either in quality or price. The spoons are heavy silver plated, and all our readers ought to patronize such a liberal offer.

In Paris false eyes are a new manufacture in the world. Ladies who think they have ugly eyes place these artistic productions under luxurious trusses of lace hair, fasten them to the natural eyes, and wear them to show.

There may be greater men in the United States than Pierre Lorillard and Jim Keene, but there are no happier. To be the owner of horses that won the English Derby and the Grand Prize at Paris is glory enough even for the lions of New York clubs.—[Chicago News.]

President Garfield's Opportunity.

There is one thing General Garfield can do which will make him one of the most popular Presidents the United States ever had, and contribute more towards keeping up and continuing the era of good feeling which appears to be, at present, the prevailing sentiment of the country, and that is to lay aside party bias and sectional preference altogether in the appointment of a Judge of the Supreme Court, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the recent death of Justice Clifford. Let the President but select a Southern man, and a democrat, of national reputation; let him be a good jurist and of unblemished character; let his name be sent to the Senate, and we venture to say that no half-breed or stalwart will dare vote against the confirmation of such an appointment without voting his own condemnation.

SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS.—We are pleased to notice that, whilst the constantly growing prosperity of Lake Charles is attracting the attention of business men all over the country, the cause of education is far from being neglected, and we have now very good chances of having soon, at least one, if not several good schools for girls. We have it from good authority, that two very competent ladies from the State of Mississippi, propose to establish a girls' school here and that they have the promise of about thirty scholars already. A highly accomplished lady of our town has also engaged the services of two competent teachers, and will soon open a select school for girls; and two ladies of the order of the Holy Cross, have been here on a visit this week, their object being to make arrangements for the establishment, in the fall, of a female boarding school. There are enough children in and around Lake Charles to give them all a chance, so we wish them all success.

WELSH'S STATION.—The business outlook at this important station on the line of the Louisiana Western Railroad is very promising indeed, if we may judge by the large quantity of rice, hides, poultry and other country produce daily carried to the depot for transportation to market. Welsh's station is also a great stock center and shipping point of Eastern Calcasieu. Several new buildings for stores and residences have been erected on the South side of the track, and it will not be long before the place will assume the name and dignity of a town. We learn that a project is on foot to connect, by a good road and a bridge over the creeks, the upper cotton region of this parish with this prospering locality, which project if carried into execution will make things lively around Lacassine.

The great railroad engineering feat of narrowing the track of the old Jackson route from New Orleans to Cairo, to the standard width, was successfully accomplished, in a few hours the same day, last week 571 miles of the main track, with all the switches, side tracks, etc., were narrowed from a five foot to the standard gauge, with the interruption of only one set of trains. It is pronounced to be the greatest achievement of the kind ever accomplished in this country or any other.

FUN! FUN!—If you want to subscribe for the funniest newspaper published in the South, send 50 cents to "The Southern Humorist," Corinth, Miss., for a year's subscription. Send for a sample copy. Agents make big money working for us. Send for terms. SHEETS & PATTON, Proprietors.

A watering-place post writes: "Old ocean slept." We dislike to do it, but we are compelled to ask: What did the sea lion?—Detroit Chief.

We had quite a thunder-storm here yesterday evening.

PERSONAL.

H. C. Gill, Esq., made a flying trip to New Orleans this week. F. A. Gallagher, Esq., returned from New Orleans, Tuesday night. Dr. J. C. Mundy, returned yesterday morning from New Orleans. A. J. Perkins, is back from Galveston, looking hale and hearty. Dr. W. H. Kirkman returned, last Saturday, from a flying trip to Texas. E. C. Abadie, from Zuberbier & Behan, New Orleans, made a short stay with last Tuesday. Fred. T. Heidel, with Meyer & Beuke, crockery dealers of Galveston, was in town this week. Frank Ferguson, with E. P. Clegg & Co., hardware dealers of Galveston, is on hand. Ed. McCarty, with Heidenheimer Bros., Galveston, was around among the merchants this week. C. L. Black, representing G. Seeligson, & Co., grocers of Galveston, is in town. A. B. Hewson, the efficient representative of Leon & H. Blum, Galveston, was in town this week. D. J. Crowley, representing N. D. McDonald & Co., Booksellers, Galveston, was in town this week. Geo. H. Mundy, from T. Ratto & Co., Galveston, was on hand this week. His samples of Candies looked nice. Sam. Watson, the genial is on hand again. Sam. is not hard like the wares he sells for J. S. Brown & Co., of Galveston. Bob. Weis, from Half, Weis & Co., clothiers of Galveston, was on hand this week with his samples of fall and winter clothing. J. H. Hanks, with Lange, Lewy & Co., Grocers of Galveston, was in town this week, supplying their customers with staple and fancy groceries. Rev. Father M. Kelly returned from New Orleans, Wednesday night, looking much improved by his two weeks of respite from his arduous labors. Judge S. D. Read, returned from Cameron last Saturday, and left Thursday for Vernon, where he goes to hold the August term of the District Court for that parish. Hon. A. J. Kearney came up from Cameron on Wednesday, and started to Vernon parish yesterday, to attend District Court in that parish, which commences next Monday. H. C. Drew, Esq., returned Sunday night, from Florida, where he had gone to procure the locomotive and cars for the steam tramway. He went to Galveston, Monday night. We were pleased to meet Capt. S. W. Larsen, of the schr. Lehman, on our streets yesterday, looking so well. This is the Captain's first trip to Lake Charles since he left, after being six weeks here last spring. Geo. H. Wells, Esq., and Mr. Adolphe Meyer, left for the Pine woods last Monday, to be gone a couple of weeks. From their "appointments" they certainly intend having a good time, whether they get any venison or not. Mr. Lewis L. Bourges, of New Orleans, is visiting Lake Charles. Mr. Bourges comes with an intention of remaining, if he can get employment as a teacher. He is very highly recommended, and would be quite an acquisition to the Lake City.

Lake Charles was honored this week by the presence, in town, of two ladies of the Holy Cross, Mother Conception, provincial of the order, and Mother Albina. They visit our city with a view of establishing, in our midst, a boarding school for young ladies.

M. A. Medicis, whose purchase the Lake City Saloon, we noticed last week, after running the business four days, concluded that he had got into too deep water, and sold back the property to Joe. George, last Monday. Martin says he knows how to mix mortar and lay bricks, but mixing cock-tails, whiskey sours and such, don't suit him, and he has concluded to stick to the trowel and let the cock-tail shaker alone.

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