

Lake Charles Commercial

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Agents for the Commercial: Jno. H. Poe, Ragland; J. W. Harrison, West Lake Charles; C. Mayo, Ocean Springs.

PERSONAL.

A. J. Perkins returned from Galveston, Sunday morning. Our young friend Albert Bell was over from Orange, this week. Mr. N. J. Wooster, from Centerville, parish of St. Mary, is visiting our town and parish. Thad Mayo, Esq., our efficient and popular Clerk of Court, went to Houston yesterday. Capt. G. Hall, left last night for Galveston, to lay in supplies for his hotel and bar-room. G. A. Fournet, Esq., went to St. Martinsville, Sunday morning, on a short visit to his family. Rev. Father Kelly went to New Orleans, Monday morning, on business connected with his new church. Hon. A. J. Kearney left for home Thursday morning, to take a little rest after his two weeks' labor in court. G. M. Gossett, Esq., has broken up house-keeping in town, preparatory to moving to the scene of the log tramway, about being built by H. C. Gill, Esq. W. C. Churchill, Esq., representing the house of Fairbairn & Roy, general agents for the Diebold Safe & Lock Co., was here this week. Mr. Churchill has sold several safes in town. J. G. Gray, Esq., having sold his store building to Messrs. Kaufman & Bloch, has purchased the Alert No. 1, better known as the B. R. Alert. We wish him success in the new departure. Mrs. Mary Hawkins, widow of the late J. A. F. Hawkins, who removed to Texas after the death of her husband, has returned with her family to Lake Charles, intending to make this her permanent home. Professor Albert is building a Photograph Gallery on Ryan St., opposite the Haskell House. The Professor comes to us well endorsed, from Opelousas and Alexandria, and we hope he will meet with that encouragement his enterprise deserves. Our enterprising friends, Kaufman & Bloch, have bought the Gray property, occupied by them as a store ever since their advent among us. We congratulate them upon this purchase, which is evidence of their success, among us, as business men, and of their determination to stay. A Sexton and his enemy had a fight in a churchyard at Millsboro, Del., and the sexton was thrown into a freshly dug grave. Then the other undertook to bury him alive, and had almost completed the job when help came.

West Lake Charles Jottings.

The sudden change in the weather has not proved to be very conducive to the health of our little community. We attended the "hop" Thursday evening at Fricks's Opera House and noticed that each and every one seemed to enjoy himself. Public school was inaugurated last Monday morning, at 9 o'clock under the auspices of Miss Mattie Burt. Thirteen names were enrolled the first day and several additions have been made subsequent to that time. May the undertaking meet with the success it deserves. We beg pardon for the error contained in the last issue in regard to the moon-light excursion to be given for the benefit of the Baptist church. It is to be a social affair only, and purely non-sectarian. All who desire may attend, and participate in the amusement, which will doubtless consist of dancing and other innocent enjoyment. Messrs. Felix and Allen Perkins, Jr., will soon give Lake Charles the "G. B." and enter upon their several duties at Soule's College, New Orleans. Both expect to finish their commercial education before returning for good. Mr. E. W. Kowitz will not leave before Christmas. Success attend you, boys.

IMPORTANT TO PLANTERS.

A Scheme for the Importation of European Farm Laborers.

As a matter of general interest throughout the State, we publish the following notice. The commissioner desires the press generally to give the matter publicity.

STATE OF LOUISIANA, Bureau of Agriculture & Immigration, New Orleans, September 12, 1881.

Planters who are prepared to furnish good quarters, suitable for white families, may secure through the State Bureau of Immigration any number of European farm laborers by a guarantee of passage from New York to New Orleans. The guarantee of a responsible New Orleans house will be accepted by the Cromwell Line of steamers at No. 41 Carondelet street, and the passage money—\$20 steerage per head—can be paid on arrival at New Orleans.

The laborer is expected to refund this amount out of the first wages earned by him.

Planters who desire to avail themselves of this arrangement should at once write out concise contracts for one year, stating terms, conditions and wages, as liberal as possible, and send to a commission merchant in New Orleans with order to guarantee passage money to the Cromwell Line.

The contract will be placed in the hands of our New York agent, who will cause it to be signed by the laborers ordered, and each lot will be consigned separately to the party ordering, and they will be accompanied by the agent to New Orleans.

Our agent will use great care in the selection of laborers from the fresh arrivals of Germans, Austrians, Russians, Swedes and Norwegians at Castle Garden. He will deliver them at New Orleans or any other point on the river, south of New Orleans, after which the bureau disclaims further responsibility.

Planters should order at once in order to receive their laborers by the first shipment about October 15th. WM. H. HARRIS, Commissioner.

Smiths by the Thousands.

New York, September 8.—Several thousand members of the Smith family from different parts of New Jersey and from other States held their annual reunion yesterday at the old homestead of Zachariah Smith, at Penpack, on the Raritan branch river. These Smiths are the descendants of the original John Schmidt, of Holland, who settled in Stanton, Huntington county, N. J., over 137 years ago. The purpose of their meeting was to have a pleasant time, to make the acquaintance of the new members of the family, to offer sorrowful tributes of affection to those that have been called away by death, and to listen to an address in which many matters of interest to the family will be treated of.

All of the children of John Schmidt, with the exception of Christopher and Mary, remained in New Jersey, and the aggregate of their recognized descendants to-day is 2,342. A majority of these follow the calling of the original founder of the family—that of a farmer. Some of them are ministers of the gospel, merchants, lawyers, physicians and mechanics, and all of them have the reputation of being good and industrious citizens. In fact, there is no record of any one of the New Jersey Smith family ever having been convicted of crime.

The Jury System.

To the Commercial: Is it absolutely necessary that there should be a Grand Jury impaneled at each session of the District Court to inquire into all the various grades of crimes and misdemeanors? Is not a Grand Jury an expensive, unnecessary, uncalled for appendage to a court of justice?

In answer to the above questions, it is not necessary to examine the duties and merits of such jury, and the heavy expense attending the sittings of the same, the wrongs done many persons, and the costs imposed upon the parish by its acts; to enable one to reach an affirmative conclusion, let us examine its working and see if it could not be safely dispensed with.

At each session of the District Court sixteen men are selected to act as Grand Jurors, at a fixed per diem rate; these jurors sit from four to ten days at a cost to the parish of \$24 per day, at least; then, in addition to this, there are many persons summoned, from all parts of the parish, to testify before this Grand Jury, each one entitled to pay for attendance and, perhaps, mileage in travelling, then to this add officers' fees and mileage and we have, when all is added up, a very heavy bill for the parish to pay at each session of the court.

The worst feature of the case is: the Grand Jury hears but one side of the case, and upon this one-sided evidence an indictment is made, the accused is arrested and imprisoned, or put to trouble to give bonds, and when his case is tried by the court, the prosecuting witnesses are either gone from the country, or come forward and testify very differently from what they did before the Grand Jury, on which the accused is acquitted, and yet there is no redress for the wrong done him. The Grand Jury is a good opportunity to wreak revenge in secret and is often resorted to, as witness the numbers of cases dismissed for want of evidence. The Grand Jury had plenty of evidence to do their work, but the court had none. Fully one-half of the true bills found by the Grand Jury are either quashed, dismissed or not prosecuted. And why is it so? Because witnesses swore falsely before the Grand Jury and were afraid to appear before the court. This, being often the case, causes trouble and expense to many persons, that others may gratify private spite. All this throws a heavy tax upon the parish, and there is no redress; and this will be the case as long as Grand Juries are used. Hereafter I propose to examine the subject of Grand and Petit Juries more fully and suggest a substitute for same.

Execution of Five Murderers.

[Special to the Galveston News.]

Fort Smith, Ark., Sept. 9.—Wm. Brown, Geo. W. Padgett and Patrick McGowan, white, and Abel and Amos Mauley, Creek Indians, were hanged here at 10:30 o'clock this morning for murder. The execution was private, the gallows being erected in an enclosure in the corner of the old military fort and about forty persons admitted. A guard was set on the wall to keep back the people who surrounded the place and clamored for admission. At 10 o'clock the doomed men were taken from the prison. On the way to the scaffold Brown fainted, but soon recovered, and the march continued. Arriving at the scene of execution the death warrants were read and a prayer offered, when each prisoner made a short speech, acknowledging his guilt, but expressing the belief that their sins had been forgiven and that their souls would go straight to heaven. Shortly after 10 o'clock the prisoners bade the spectators goodbye. Their arms and legs were bound and the cap and rope adjusted. As the cap was placed over Padgett's head he cried, "We live die on the scaffold this morning; we'll meet again in heaven this evening." The signal was then given, and the trap was sprung, the bodies falling some distance over six feet. The three white men died instantly. The Indians writhed convulsively. A stream of blood gushed from Amos Mauley's mouth, and both perished miserably. In sixteen minutes the bodies were cut down and given to their friends for burial.

Senator Butler, of South Carolina, has a cordial appreciation of the newspaper, and adds his testimony to its value as an educator.

"Journalism," he says, "has become as much a separate and distinct profession as medicine, or law, or engineering, or agriculture, or architecture, or mining, and every family should have a newspaper if they expect or care to keep pace with the current of events in this fast-moving age. Books are not always accessible, but newspapers are read at a price that places them within the reach of the poor as well as the rich."

Vicarious Sufferings.

The Henrietta (Texas) Shield describes a case in which the penalty for being in bad company beats the proverbial luck of poor Tray in the fable:

Mr. Allen Palmer, a citizen of Clay county, went through the war, under Quantrell, enlisting at the age of thirteen, surrendering with the remnant of his command, ten in number, at Samuel's Depot, in Kentucky. Palmer, then seventeen years old, went to St. Louis and entered a commercial college. After a short session he became a member of the firm of Shawhan & Co., of that city. During the year 1867 the bank at Richmond, Mo., was robbed, and soon afterward Palmer was arrested as a party implicated. At his examination a number of prominent business men of St. Louis, came forward and proved his daily presence on change for a period covering the time of the robbery mentioned, and he was turned loose. He subsequently became a book-keeper L. G. Greer & Co., with whom he remained two years. In 1870 he married his former school and playmate, Miss Susan L. James, of Clay county, Missouri, a sister of the well-known Frank and Jesse James. During the following year, Palmer and his wife moved to Texas and settled at Sherman. He afterwards learned that while there he was under the constant surveillance of detectives. Mr. Palmer came to Clay county, with his family, in 1876, and settled on the Big Wichita where he now lives. The train robbery at Glendale, Mo., occurred on the 8th of September, 1876. Palmer was arrested at his home on the 2d of November, on a warrant returnable to the District Court at Sherman, whence he was taken and put in jail, charged with being concerned in the above-mentioned robbery. He sued out a writ of habeas corpus, and proved by fifteen citizens of Clay county that on the day of the robbery he was in the field raking hay, and on the next day was in Henrietta. In the meantime a requisition of the Governor of Missouri, approved by Governor Roberts, had arrived, and he was taken off to Kansas City and thrown into prison. There he remained nine weeks. The grand jury at its meeting failed to find a bill against him. Before he had left his prison, however, he was re-arrested by United States authorities on the charge of obstructing the mails, and kept in jail six days longer. He was turned loose on examination before United States Commissioner on the United States Attorney's statement that there was no evidence against him. Returning to Texas he found his expenses had nearly eaten up his small fortune. He was forced to sell his cattle and rely on his farm for a livelihood. The crop failure of 1880-81 induced him to seek work on the extension of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad below Fort Worth, where he was working at the time of the Winston train robbery in Northwest Missouri. This took place on the 15th of July of the present year. On the 19th Palmer was arrested at his work and taken to Cleburne and thrown into jail. The next day he was liberated on a writ of habeas corpus—proving by the contractors that he had not been absent a day from work in the last two months. The detectives were once again foiled of their prey, but left with threats of obtaining a requisition and carrying him back to Missouri.

The Shield says: Mr. Palmer is a quiet, law-abiding citizen of this county, holding the esteem of his neighbors, and the respect of all who know him.

Largest Land-owner on the Continent.

[Beno (Nev.) Gazette.]

Colonel Dan Murphy, of Hallock's Station, Elko county, came to California in 1844, and may be said to have made the country pay him well for his time. He is now probably the largest private land-owner on this continent. He has 4,000,000 acres of land in one body in Mexico, 60,000 in Nevada and 23,000 in California. His Mexican grant he bought four years ago for \$200,000, or 5 cents an acre. It is sixty miles long and covers a beautiful country of hill and valley, pine timber and meadow land. It comes within twelve miles of the city of Durango, which is to be a station on the Mexican Central. Mr. Murphy raises wheat on his California land and cattle on that in Nevada. He got 55,000 sacks last year and ships 6,000 head of cattle a year right along.

A lady recently departed in great haste from Long Branch on a Saturday morning. She was resplendent in silks, laces and diamonds, and made the remark at table just before she left that she would do some shopping, but would be back on Monday morning. After she had gone one of the little girls remarked: "You see, there's a rush of trade on Saturday night, and she's gone up to help Father lead in the store."

The Michigan Forest Fires.

An Appeal for Aid for the Stricken People of the Burnt District.

Cincinnati, Sept. 12.—The following appeal has been telegraphed from Port Huron:

Port Huron, Mich., Sept. 11.—To the American People: We have to-night returned from the burnt district of Huron and San Ildefonso counties.

We have seen burnt, disfigured and writhing bodies of men, women and children; rough board coffins contained the dead, followed to the grave by a few blinded, despairing relatives; crowds of half-starved people at some of the stations, asking bread for their families and neighbors.

We hear of more than 200 victims already burned and more charred and bloated bodies are daily discovered. Already more than 1500 families are found to be utterly destitute and homeless. They are huddled in barns, in school-houses and in their neighbors' houses, scorched, blinded and helpless; some still wander half-crazed around the ruins of their habitations vainly seeking their dead; some in speechless agony wringing their hands and refusing to be comforted. More than 10,000 people, who only a week ago occupied happy, comfortable homes, are to-day homeless and homeless sufferers. They were hungry and almost naked, when found, and in such numbers and so widely scattered that our best efforts and greatest resources fail to supply their immediate wants. Without speedy aid many will perish and many will suffer and become exiles.

Our people will do their utmost for their relief, but all our resources would fail to meet their necessities. We appeal to the charity and generosity of the American people to send help without delay.

E. C. CARLETON, Mayor of Port Huron and Chairman of Relief Committee. Wm. Hartnett, John P. Sanborn, Chas. A. Ward, Omer D. Conger, Chas. B. Peck, Peter H. Sanford.

Attempt to Kill Guitien.

Washington, Sept. 12.—At 7 o'clock last evening an attempt was made to kill Guitien at his cell. At that hour Battery B, Second Artillery, was relieving Capt. Graves' command, which had been on duty at the jail for the past 24 hours.

The battery arrived in their wagons, in the first of which was seated First Sergeant Mason. As the wagon drew up in front of the jail Mason jumped out, threw his cap aside, and, with a musket on his shoulder, proceeded to the right wing of the jail. A few seconds brought him abreast of the window through which Guitien had been often seen. Putting his gun to his shoulder a clear report, which rang throughout the jail, told the story of his intention and act. The ball grazed Guitien's head and penetrated his coat, which was hanging on the side of the cell.

Sergeant Mason surrendered himself to his commanding officer, Capt. McGivery, who immediately put him under arrest.

Mason is a native of Virginia and has been nineteen years in the service. He says he shot for the purpose of killing Guitien, and is sorry he missed him. He had become tired of riding over cobblestones to jail every day to guard the life of such a man as Guitien. He made up his mind to kill him. He loaded his gun before he left the arsenal, and as soon as he reached the jail he went to the window where Guitien usually stands waiting and gaping for the arrival of the guard; that he fired, and that is all there is about it.

Guitien was overcome with fear, and he pleaded for removal to another part of the building. His request will probably be granted.

A Brutal Father Murdered by his two Daughters.

Danville, Va., Sept. 9.—Near Whit Mill, in this county, yesterday, Robt. Williams and wife had a quarrel, whereupon the wife left home and went to a neighboring magistrate, from whom she obtained a warrant for the arrest of Williams. The magistrate appointed Williams' own son as a special constable to execute the warrant. On arriving at Williams' house with the warrant, his dead body was found lying upon a quilt in the yard. The head had been nearly severed from the body with an axe, which was lying beside it. No living person was found in the house, but it was learned that two daughters of Williams, who had been left with him by their mother when she went for the warrant, had fled after having perpetrated the murder and have not been arrested. Williams was an educated man of good family, but addicted to drink and dangerous when drunk.

Which of the reptiles is a mathematician? The adder.

Governor McEnery.

[N. O. Democrat.]

Gov. Wiltz having departed for the plains of Texas under the commands of his physicians, Lieutenant-Governor Samuel D. McEnery assumed the executive functions Monday morning. Gov. Wiltz was quite feeble, and suffered much from the fatigue of travel during the first few hours after which he was relieved. His health is shattered to such an extent as to excite the gravest apprehensions of his friends, and it was only on the imperative advice of his physicians that he could be prevailed upon to abstain from public duties and seek to restore his strength by travel.

Gov. McEnery has a difficult task before him in view of the responsibilities which the situation of affairs invests him with, because of the fact that the enforcement of the laws, the preservation of the public peace, and the protection of laboring citizens engaged in the pursuit of peaceful avocations, are thrust upon him within the first hour of his incumbency. He finds to the situation a firmness and quickness of perception that has so justly made him a leader of men, and coming to the scene of action free of all local bias and prejudice, the public may rest assured that law and order will be enforced firmly and impartially. The condition of affairs in this city is no longer local. It affects the people of the whole State and the Mississippi valley, and the situation demands a broader consideration than a mere question of wages.

A Noble Institution and its Wonderful Progress.

[Correspondent Galveston Guardian.]

A short time since an organization was founded by the young people of this town, and incorporated as a Secret Order under the laws of the State, to be known as the "American Matrimonial Association," and though at the first report of the Order going abroad, a few of the usual skeptical smart-heads shook their natural wise craniums in doubt as to its success. But we are living in too enlightened an age for people to pay any attention to a few gossip-mongers, who would condemn anything without knowing its principles. But no sooner did the actual objects of this Order become known to the outside world than some of the leading journals, who, knowing this organization having adopted the same mathematical tables governing all secret endowment institutions, with the exceptions where the old ones pay in case of death this one pays when a marriage occurs among its members, thus enabling each member who marries to start out in life with a brighter prospect, justly advocates its cause.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Order is scarcely a month old, it now enjoys a large membership of some of the best young ladies and gentlemen of this town and parish, and all the neighboring towns and villages are actively organizing to join the wonderful crusade of Union, Charity and Justice, which heartily invites all good people, wherever existing, to join in this noble work, so in a few short years it may extend from ocean to ocean.

Death of Gen. Burnside.

Providence, R. I., Sept. 13.—Gen. A. E. Burnside died suddenly at 11 o'clock this morning, at his residence in Bristol. He had been slightly unwell for two or three days, but he was in the city yesterday.

The immediate cause of his death was spasms of the heart. A telephone message from the General's house summoned Senator Anthony and Dr. Miller, but before the telephone connection was broken a message came that the General was dead.

Gov. Littlefield, Senator Anthony, Representatives Chaffe and Aldrich and other personal friends immediately started for Bristol.

The Apache Troubles.

[Special to the N. O. Democrat.]

Washington, Sept. 12.—Gov. Fremont of Arizona, has suggested to the Interior Department, apropos of the Apache troubles, that the United States shall negotiate with Mexico for the cession of the upper portion of Lower California, to be used as a place of exile for all troublesome Indians. Mexico, he suggests, is equally interested with us in sequestering the bad Indians of the border and would unite with us in executing the scheme. The Pacific ocean, the Gulf of California and a chain of forts on the isthmus would help them, and then peace would prevail throughout the West.

"Always pay as you go," said an old man to his nephew. "Not so, etc., suppose I have nothing to pay with?" "Then don't go."