

LAKE CHARLES COMMERCIAL,

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY JOHN McCORMICK.

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ADVERTISING RATES:

Table with columns for 'INCHES' and 'PER LINE' showing rates for various lengths of advertisements.

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Newspaper Laws and Regulations.

- 1. Subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary are considered wishing to continue their subscriptions. 2. If subscribers order the discontinuance of their periodicals, the publisher may continue to send them until all arrears are paid.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1881.

Don't forget to call on Jas. A. Lyons before purchasing your Christmas "tricks."

Just a few wanted to complete the 10,000 visitors at the cheap counters of A. H. Moss.

The Police Jury meets next Monday. There is considerable business for them to attend to; but they will get through with it as they are not the men to leave anything undone that can be done.

Last Monday, by a vote of 47 to 20, the Louisiana House of Representatives virtually abolished the State Militia by refusing to insert in the General Appropriation an item of \$17,500 for military purposes, arming and maintaining the militia. This is well done: let those who like parades arm and equip themselves in time of peace. We therefore score one good point in favor of the Legislature.

We learn from Mr. Henry Welsh from Lacassine that two tramps on the night of the 14th inst. broke into Mr. Roundtree's blacksmith shop and stole a double-barreled gun, and took from under Mr. Welsh's gallery six wild ducks. They broke open a small house used as a ware-house, but did not get away with anything, as there was only salt and hides in it. They got on the passenger train and came to Lake Charles and sold the gun and ducks at the Railroad Depot, on Thursday morning. They bought two axes and said they were going to the tie camp at Edgerly station. They went on to Edgerly on the yard-engine, and tramped on to Sabine station, and Thursday night they got on the freight train at the last named station, and went on to Texas.

One of them is a large square built Irishman, bright complexion, clean shaven, about 40 years old. The other is a Canadian, and speaks English and French, about 5 feet 8 inches high, dark hair and eyes, heavy brown moustache, weighs about 165 pounds and is a fine-looking man about 27 or 28 years old. They are pretending to sell a patent coat with wire loops to put up rail fences, and have a model of same with them.

The fool goeth out in a Gospel Raft when he doesn't know a boom from a breaker, but the wise man picks up pebbles on the shore and utters with a girl in a pink dress.

Acknowledgement.

We have been permitted to publish the following letter of acknowledgement, from Mr. Geo. W. Dupre, Secretary of the Wiltz Fund Central Committee, to the President of the Magnolia Club of Lake Charles:

ROOFS OF THE WILTZ FUND, (Central Committee,) New Orleans, December 13, 1881. Hon. Thad. Mayo: President of the Magnolia Dramatic Club of Lake Charles: Dear Sir:—I am requested by the Wiltz Fund Central Committee to acknowledge with many thanks the contribution of \$50 sent by the Magnolia Dramatic Club of Lake Charles which was handed in by Mr. E. A. Burke at the meeting of the Committee this day held.

Public Eyesores.

The greatest eyesores of the present day is Guiteau and the called session of the Legislature. Guiteau, in Washington, is creating a notoriety that is by no means enviable. If the jury, trying the case, does not convict on his own expressions, they must be as crank or crazed as he is. Certainly no man that is insane could make such remarks, or use such expressions as he does. And further, it appears that he is determined to bulldoze the Court, jury and everyone else, and have the case tried after his own style. His counsel seems to be determined to prove the whole family insane; (his wife among the rest of the family). This, one would think was not very commendable on his part. A cousin of Guiteau's said, a few days since, in New Orleans, that Scoville appeared determined to send the whole Guiteau family to the insane asylum, to which he most positively objected. He said that Charles J. Guiteau was not insane, nor was insanity in any sense inherent in the family. He further said that, belonging to the family, he had to bear the odium, in part, which was very painful to him. And further, that if proven sane, the law should punish him; if proven insane, he should be locked up for life, where he could do no more harm.

The other eyesore is the present called session of the Legislature. With the low grade of talent now in the Legislature, it is not supposable that anything will be done to better the condition of State affairs. There have been quite a number of bills introduced, perhaps more than can be passed during the twenty days' session. One of the bills, No. 17, if passed, will drive many mechanics from their calling. It is to be hoped that it will fail, if not mechanical labor will be hard to secure.

Is Parish Scrip Receivable for Taxes?

[N. O. City Item.] The protracted and annoying difference of opinion between the officials of Jefferson parish, right bank, will next week receive judicial determination, Judge Hahn opening court especially to try the issue.

Section 2129, Revised Statutes, makes it the duty of the clerk of court to issue to jurors certificates for their mileage and per diem, and declares that "such certificates shall be receivable in payment of the parish tax, or paid out of any moneys in the parish treasury not otherwise appropriated."

Sheriff Leon Duforement has complied with this law, and when scrip was tendered by the taxpayer, accepted it. But the police jury now refuse to receive this scrip from him in liquidation of his accounts, and have entered suit against him and his sureties to compel a settlement in cash.

Judge Gervais Leche, district attorney, and Parish Attorney Carlisle will prosecute the case for the police jury, and Judges Alfred Shaw and A. E. Billings defend the sheriff. As the law under which the scrip was taken for taxes applies to all the parishes, the decision will be of general importance.

Providing for the Expenses Attending Garfield's Illness.

Washington, Dec. 12.—The bill introduced in the Senate to-day by Mr. Edmunds, to provide for defraying extraordinary expenses incurred in consequence of the assault on the late President Garfield, authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to pay necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in behalf of the late President, provided the aggregate sum allowed and paid out does not exceed \$100,000.

"The lurid flames shot their red tongues of fire high toward the glowing heavens, as if they were, in their vengeful fury, endeavoring to tear the bright faces of the twinkling stars." It was only a fifty-dollar stable, containing twenty-five dollars' worth of hay. But the reporter felt that way and really couldn't help it.

LAKE CHARLES.

The happy appreciation of our town "as it is," is copied from a late correspondence of the Houston Post:

"Lake Charles, La., which I found to be a beautiful little place of 2000 inhabitants. To one who had been spending months in West Texas where a pool of water larger than a goose pond is rare, the view that greeted me the morning after my arrival was enchanting. Spreading out away to the north, south and west was a magnificent sheet of water, dotted with glistening sails, and o'er whose surface miniature white caps danced and flashed in the morning sunshine. The town, with its shining church steeples and snow-white houses, nestled along the eastern shore, looked more like some fancy picture than a reality. Lake Charles, like all the towns of East Texas and West Louisiana is supported principally by the timber trade, though considerable quantities of rice is produced. There is one large rice mill in the place, owned by Messrs. Ryan & Son, which they informed me had all it could do. Here, as at Beaumont and Orange, the ring and clatter of saw mills is heard from morning till night. Several of the largest mills, and there are eleven, are situated at what is called West Lake Charles, which lies immediately west across the lake from the main town, and is distant about two miles. This place was once celebrated for its fine oranges, but now there are very few raised—none for export. The troublesome little insect that has for years infested the orange orchards of Florida, attacked the orchards a year or two ago and have almost totally destroyed them. This is a great pity, as the country seemed to be particularly suited for their growth, those shipped from this point being earlier and bringing better prices than those from anywhere else. During my stay every kindness possible was extended to me by citizens of the town, and, if all the people of the state are as hospitable as those of Lake Charles, they will deserve the name they have been given—as the "most hospitable people on earth." Lake Charles not only boasts of being a growing town, and of having a fine trade; she also has a right to be proud of her musical and dramatic talent. The splendid entertainments given by the R. K. E. Club at Fricke's Bijou Opera-house are rapidly becoming celebrated all over the western portion of the state. If it ever should be your good fortune to visit Lake Charles, be sure to stop with Captain Tom Reynolds, of the Haskell House. He will take capital care of you, and send you away happy as a lord; and in roaming about town be sure to get acquainted with the boys, for they are the jolliest set you will meet anywhere, and will see that nothing is left undone to make you feel at home and happy. WANDERER.

A Violent Assault on Concealed Weapons by the Judge of the Criminal Court.

[Special to the Times-Democrat.] Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 13.—This afternoon Judge L. B. Horry, of the Criminal Court of Shelby county, issued the following order: "It appearing to the court that there are a large amount of pistols on deposit in several of the hotels of the city of Memphis, and it further appearing that said pistols so deposited in said hotels should be held and impounded as evidences of crime: It is therefore ordered that the Sheriff of Shelby county call upon the hotel keepers of said city and demand of them all the pistols and other unlawful weapons so deposited, and that the Sheriff turn the same over to the clerk of the court. The Sheriff will leave a copy of this order with each hotel keeper from whom he receives either a bowie-knife, stiletto or pistol for their protection in turning the said weapons over to the Sheriff."

Steel Breastplate.

Some interesting experiments have been lately carried out in Leicis with a cuirass made of a newly invented preparation of steel. The metal of the cuirass is only about three-fifths of an inch thick, and is lined inside with a thin layer of wool. The cuirass itself is 14 inches wide and 10 inches high, being intended only to protect the heart and lungs, and weighs 24 1/2 pounds. Eleven rounds were fired at a distance of 175 yards from a Martini breech loading rifle, and of eight bullets which struck the cuirass only two pierced the metal, while even those were completely flattened and remained in the woolen lining, so that a man wearing the cuirass would have been uninjured.

Washington, Dec. 12.—A decision was rendered by the Supreme Court to-day in the case of Eliza Davis, administratrix, vs. Myra Clark Gaines, a case which involves the title to a large and valuable plantation in Louisiana, and raises an important question of law. Both parties claim title to the property in controversy under wills executed by Daniel Clark, its original owner. The title of appellant rests upon a will which was supposed to be the testator's last, and which, as such, was duly admitted to probate on August 17, 1813. Subsequently in 1855, another and later will was discovered, and was by the Supreme Court of Louisiana recognized as genuine and ordered to be recorded and executed. Under provisions of this later will appellee claims title. The question presented is whether the holder of the property who derives title through the first will is the legal owner. The question is stated and answered in the opinion of this court, substantially as follows: The will of a testator having been duly proved, the Probate Court, which had jurisdiction upon petition of the executor, made an order for the sale of all property of the estate. By virtue of this order the property was sold according to law, at public vendue, and was duly conveyed in pursuance of the sale to the purchaser in good faith.

Our New Premier.

[Times-Democrat.] Mr. Blaine's determination to resign and retire, temporarily at least, to private life, seems to have been honest, contrary to the opinion of many of the press. He leaves the high office he has occupied with honor. Mr. Blaine has certainly made a good Secretary of State, having shown a disposition to obtain a recognition for this country abroad without uselessly embroiling us with other powers. His letters to Harburt and Kilpatrick on the Chili-Peruvian imbroglio are everywhere admitted to be able documents, taking a perfectly proper view of the situation and relieving this country from an awkward situation into which the vanity of our two South American Ministers had forced us. To this high office as premier, Mr. Frederick T. Frelinghuysen, of New Jersey, succeeds. Mr. Frelinghuysen is politically a much less conspicuous person than his predecessor, and yet, as is shown by the immediate and unanimous action of the Senate in confirming him, a man about whom there is no doubt or suspicion. He is a highly respected gentleman of New York Knickerbocker descent. He has held few political offices, and has been practically retired from politics for some years past. He was Attorney-General of New Jersey from 1861 to 1866, when he was sent to the United States Senate, in which body he served almost continuously for ten years. It was during this time that he made his chief political reputation. In 1877 he retired to private life, and while his name has been occasionally mentioned since, he has figured but little in politics. Mr. Frelinghuysen was one of the original founders of the Republican party, and was prominently mentioned at one time as a candidate for the Vice Presidency.

The Gaines Case.

Washington, Dec. 12.—A decision was rendered by the Supreme Court to-day in the case of Eliza Davis, administratrix, vs. Myra Clark Gaines, a case which involves the title to a large and valuable plantation in Louisiana, and raises an important question of law. Both parties claim title to the property in controversy under wills executed by Daniel Clark, its original owner. The title of appellant rests upon a will which was supposed to be the testator's last, and which, as such, was duly admitted to probate on August 17, 1813. Subsequently in 1855, another and later will was discovered, and was by the Supreme Court of Louisiana recognized as genuine and ordered to be recorded and executed. Under provisions of this later will appellee claims title. The question presented is whether the holder of the property who derives title through the first will is the legal owner. The question is stated and answered in the opinion of this court, substantially as follows: The will of a testator having been duly proved, the Probate Court, which had jurisdiction upon petition of the executor, made an order for the sale of all property of the estate. By virtue of this order the property was sold according to law, at public vendue, and was duly conveyed in pursuance of the sale to the purchaser in good faith.

In the opinion of this court the title of the latter was not affected by the fact that a later will of the testator appointing another person executor and making different disposition of the property was discovered and admitted to probate. The order of the Court of Probate for the sale of a testator's estate is of itself an adjudication that all the facts necessary to give it jurisdiction to make the order really existed. Upon averments made in the bill, and evidence adduced to support it, this court is of opinion that Mrs. Gaines is not entitled to a decree against appellant. So much, therefore, of the decree of the Circuit Court as relates to the property claimed by the widow and heirs of minor, Kenner, is reversed and the cause remanded, with directions to dismiss the bill so far as it concerns appellant. Opinion by Justice Woods.

An Island City.

[Times-Democrat.] Dr. Jones, president of the State Board of Health, in his special report to the Mayor on the drainage of New Orleans, highly approves the scheme of the circumvallating canal, suggested by the Times-Democrat. He thought that the canal would be built in time and that it would afford great benefits to the city, but at the same time, he did not seem to believe in the early completion of this enterprise on account of its great cost, and referred to it as "a scheme revived by certain professional journalists."

The fact is that the matter came up before Congress at its last session, was then favorably considered, and a bill providing for a survey of the proposed canal and a report thereon passed the House, and would have passed the Senate also but for a hitch in the appropriation bill. We understand that the matter will be brought before Congress again at its present session, and as there is now plenty of time ahead, it is more than probable that it will be adopted. The proposed canal will start from the river above Carrollton. It will run in a semi-circle, just back of the settled portion of the city, emptying into the river below the Barracks, thus making New Orleans an island of nearly circular form. The canal will be 300 feet wide and thirty feet deep, and will serve, therefore, not only as a drainage canal, but for navigation.

The advantages to be derived are many, both in a sanitary and a commercial point of view. The canal will completely drain not only the city but all the noxious swamps back of it. It will leave New Orleans as dry as a chip and put an end forever to all malarial fevers. It will redeem a considerable amount of land and render it cultivable and inhabitable. The canal will greatly benefit this city, from a commercial point of view. It will give it some eight or ten miles of additional river-front, for every portion of it will be as suitable for a landing for steamboats and ships as the river itself. The country beyond the canal, also, will be well adapted for building purposes, and here houses, factories and warehouses can go up; in fine, it will make New Orleans, in time, the finest location in the world for a great commercial city.

Thus the proposed canal will benefit New Orleans, both in health and commerce, and protect it at the same time from lake floods, and from the floodings that come with heavy rain-falls. It will produce no injury whatever. Engineering science has progressed so much of late years that there will be no danger in a work of this kind, no probability of an erosion at the point above the city where the waters from the river pour into it. Only one lock will be necessary, at the point where Bayou St. John crosses the canal. A survey such as was proposed in Congress last year, should be appointed and should investigate the project. If it finds that the cost is heavier than the advantage of a canal of this kind will bring, the project will be dropped. If, on the other hand, the survey shows, as we think it will, that the canal can be constructed for a much smaller sum than is imagined, that it would so improve the sanitary condition of New Orleans as to make this city one of the healthiest in the country, thereby benefiting the entire Mississippi valley and saving it millions of dollars now expended in quarantine and sanitary schemes and projects, then we believe that the whole country will join with us in demanding the construction of the circumvallating canal.

Arrivals and Departures of Mail.

POST OFFICE, LAKE CHARLES, LA. New Orleans and Way Stations, leave every day at 6:10 a. m.; arrives at 10 p. m. Galveston, Houston and Way Stations, leave every day at 10:50 p. m.; arrive every day at 6:10 a. m. Cameron, Rose Bluff, Johnson's Bayou, leave Mondays and Thursdays at 5 a. m.; arrive Wednesdays and Saturdays at 11 p. m. Dry Creek, Sugar Town and Leveaux, leave Mondays and Thursdays at 6 a. m.; arrive Tuesdays and Saturdays at 6 p. m. Hickory Flat, The Bay, Phillip's Bayou, leave Mondays at 6 a. m.; arrive Tuesdays at 7 p. m. Office open daily, Sundays excepted from 7 a. m. until 8 p. m. Money orders issued, and letters registered from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. Office open Sundays from 7 to 10 a. m., and from 6 to 8 p. m. No money orders issued or letters registered on Sundays. T. B. FERREN, P. M.

Lake Charles Academy.

Opposite Judge Ferren's Residence. Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish. Day school, from 9 A. M. to 12 M., and from 2 to 4 P. M. French, English, Latin, Greek and Mathematics will be taught. Tuition—Two dollars per month. N. B.—Having made the necessary arrangements, I am now prepared to receive boarders. LEWIS L. BOURGES, Principal, August 29th.

HAIR WEAVING.

"TO the ladies of Lake Charles and vicinity, I would announce that I am prepared to execute all kinds of hair work, such as Switches, Puffs, Curls and Wringlets. Hair combings worked into all styles desired. I will match any and all styles of hair, sent or brought to me, at reasonable rates. MRS. ELIZA MENGES, Nov. 5, '81-82.

A. H. MOSS.

STILL AT THE SQUARE STORE! MY friends and patrons will find me at the old stand of Moss & Bledsoe with a very choice selection of merchandise. Thankful for past favors, I have by the constant attention of clerks, superior quality of goods, and cheap prices to retain all old customers and secure many new ones. A. H. MOSS, Oct. 29, '81-82.

The U. S. Mail Steamer RAMOS.

HAS recently undergone thorough repairs, and is now making regular trips from Lake Charles to Calcasieu Pass, leaving Lake Charles Mondays and Thursdays at 7 A. M., arriving at the Pass at 5 P. M., leaving the Pass Wednesdays and Saturdays at 7 A. M., arriving at Lake Charles at 3 P. M. The trip each way being made in daylight. Passage, Each Way, \$2.50. July 9, 1881-82.

NOTICE—Land Office at New Orleans, La., Nov. 28, 1881.—Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before the Judge or Clerk of Court, at Lake Charles, La., on the 4th of January, 1882, viz: H. T. Beimer, Homestead No. 208, of the W. 1/2 of S. W. 1/4 of Sec. 25, Tp. 10 S., R. 10 E., Louisiana M., and names the following as his witnesses, viz: Peter Beyer, Thos. Hoffer, N. Thichman and Peter Beyer, of Calcasieu Parish, La. GEO. BALDEY, Register, Dec. 3, 1881-82.

NOTICE—Land Office at New Orleans, La., Nov. 28, 1881.—Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before the Judge or Clerk of Court, at Lake Charles, La., on the 4th of January, 1882, viz: Mary Mitchell, Homestead No. 208, of the S. W. 1/4 of Lot No. 3, Sec. 22, Tp. 10 S., R. 10 E., Louisiana M., and names the following as his witnesses, viz: Milton Thompson, Daniel Goos, Riley Moore, et al. by Perkins, of Calcasieu Parish, La. GEO. BALDEY, Register, Dec. 3, 1881-82.