

# The Baton Rouge Gazette.

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BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1852.

M. G. BRYAN, Publisher.

## THE BATON ROUGE GAZETTE,

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## Legislative Proceedings.

**SENATE—Friday, March 5, 1852.**—The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

**Present:** Hon. J. B. Platche, Lieut. Governor and President of the Senate in the chair—22 Senators present.

An act concerning Bills of Exchange, reported favorably.

An act giving attorneys and counselors at law a lien and privilege upon judgments for their fees, reported favorably.

Also, An act to amend article 259 of the code of practice.

Mr. J. N. Carrigan, the Governor's Private Secretary, delivered several written messages from the Governor.

A bill to refund to the Parish of Point Coupee certain moneys expended for Grand Levee, passed.

On motion, the Senate went into secret session.

On the doors being opened the Senate adjourned to Monday morning, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

**House—Friday, March 5th, 1852.**—Seventy-six members present.

The reading of the Journal was dispensed with.

Mr. McCutchen offered a set of resolutions, passed at a meeting of the mechanics held in Baton Rouge. On motion he withdrew the table subject to call.

Mr. Munday offered the following resolution:

**Resolved,** That this House meet at 9 o'clock, A. M., during the remainder of the session, for the despatch of business.

On motion, the same was adopted.

Mr. Theard, on behalf of the Committee on Enrollments, reported as duly enrolled the following entitled bills:

An act relative to interest on debts due.

An act to prevent the Councils of New Orleans and Lafayette from contracting debts.

An act to repeal an act to provide for the liquidation of the city debt, and of the debt of the separate municipalities of the city of New Orleans, approved 20th of March 1850.

The Speaker having signed the same, the Clerk was directed to request the signature of the President of the Senate thereto.

The House then took up the bill entitled:

An act to amend an act entitled "An act to incorporate the town of Vernon," approved February 21, 1850.

On motion the rules being dispensed with, said bill underwent its several readings and was passed with its title.

By a message from the Senate, through Mr. Walton, their Secretary, the House was informed that the President of the Senate had signed the following entitled bills of the House.

An act to prevent the Councils of New Orleans and Lafayette from contracting debts.

An act relative to prescription, joint resolution concerning the State Library—conferred in.

The House then took up the joint resolution of the Senate requesting the Governor to deliver credentials to the Hon. J. P. Benjamin, U. S. Senator elect.

The Clerk was directed to inform the Senate thereof.

On motion, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, for the consideration of the following entitled bills:

An act to make a settlement with Jas. A. McLendon, Chas. G. McHatton, and George Ward, by giving to the firm of McLendon, Pratt & Co., late lessees of the Penitentiary, now constituting the firm of McLendon, Ward & Co., present lessees.

Mr. Joel G. Sever in the Chair. After some time the Committee rose and reported that they had the above bill under consideration and had adopted it.

The House then took up the above entitled bill, and after having undergone its several readings was passed.

The Clerk was directed to request the concurrence of the Senate thereto.

The House then took up the bill of the Senate entitled—

An act to amend an act entitled An act to authorize the purchase of Martin's Digest, Deix's Digest and General Index, approved 7th March, 1848. On motion, the same was amended by striking out five dollars and inserting four. On motion the bill was concurred in.

The Clerk was directed to inform the Senate thereof.

Mr. Campbell, with leave, introduced the following entitled bill:

An act supplementary to an act to consolidate the city of New Orleans, and provide for the management of its affairs. On motion, the rules being dispensed with, said bill underwent its several readings and was passed with its title.

The Clerk was directed to request the concurrence of the Senate thereto.

An act for the relief of Robert Spedden—passed with its title.

The House then took up the bill of the Senate, entitled—

An act to provide a block of stone for the Washington Monument.

On motion, the same was concurred in, and the Clerk was directed to inform the Senate thereof.

On motion, the House adjourned until 9 o'clock, to-morrow.

**House—Saturday, March 6, 1852.**—The House met pursuant to adjournment. Fifty-two members present.

Mr. Phillips, on behalf of the Judiciary Committee, to whom was referred the Senate bill, entitled An act relative to bail in certain cases, reported the same back with an amendment. On motion, the rules being dispensed with, said bill was concurred in with amendments.

The Clerk was directed to inform the Senate of the concurrence of the House in said bill, and ask the concurrence of the Senate in said amendments.

Mr. Munday, on behalf of the Select Committee, to whom was referred the bill, entitled An act to provide a homestead for the widows and children of deceased persons, reported the same back without amendment.

Mr. Theard reported, as duly enrolled, the bill entitled an act in reference to medical practitioners.

The House then took up the bill entitled An act to exempt the homestead of a householder from seizure and sale on execution, and also to exempt from execution, from seizure for rent, certain personal property and effects, and the wages of labor and compensation for professional or other services.

After much discussion, the 4th, 5th and 6th sections were amended and adopted. On motion the bill was adopted. On motion the bill was engrossed for a third reading.

The House was then occupied in matters of a local nature.

On motion, the House adjourned until Monday morning, at 9 o'clock.

**SENATE—Monday, March 8, 1852.**—Present: Hon. J. B. Platche, Lieut. Governor and President of the Senate, in the chair—23 members present.

Mr. Clark, on behalf of the Committee on Public Lands and Levees, introduced the following entitled bill.

An act to appropriate a portion of the monies accruing from the sale of swamp lands ceded to the State by acts of Congress, approved March 2, 1849, and September 28, 1850.

Mr. Gardere, on behalf of the Committee on Enrollments, reported that the enrolled bill of the Senate, entitled An act to provide for the expropriation of lands for railroads and other works of public utility, had been submitted to the Governor for his approval.

Mr. Clark introduced the following entitled bill:

An act to provide for the sale of a portion of the swamp and overflowed lands granted to the State by act of Congress, and to appropriate the proceeds thereof.

On motion of Mr. Phillips the bill was made the special order of the day for to-morrow, to be taken immediately after the reading of the Journal.

By a message from the House, through their assistant clerk, the concurrence of the Senate was requested to the following entitled bill:

An act to authorize the State Treasurer to settle with the Union Bank of Louisiana; and also informed the Senate of the concurrence of the House with amendments in the following entitled bill and resolution:

An act in relation to the bequest of property made by the late John McDonough to the State of Louisiana, and Joint Resolution on John McDonough's will, approving the course of the Attorney General.

Mr. Watterston, on behalf of the Select Committee on the Penitentiary, to whom was referred the House bill, entitled An act to provide for the settlement with Wm. Pratt & Co., late lessees of the penitentiary. Reported favorably on the same.

Mr. Declont reported favorably on an act to provide for taking bonds of the Register of the Land Office at Baton Rouge. Passed.

An act supplementary to an act relative to bail in certain cases. Passed.

An act to increase the number of Jurors in the Parish of East Baton Rouge, and to provide for the service of said Jurors. Passed.

Mr. J. N. Carrigan, the Governor's Private Secretary, delivered to the Senate a written message from the Governor, and also informed the Senate that the Governor had approved and signed the following enrolled bill:

An act to provide for the expropriation of lands for railroads and other works of public utility.

By a message from the House through their special messenger, Mr. E. R. Eastin, the Senate was informed of the concurrence of the House in an act supplemental to an act relative to bail in certain cases.

Mr. Mayo introduced an act supplementary to an act, entitled An act to take the sense of the people on the expediency of calling a convention to change the constitution, and to provide for delegates and the holding of the convention. Referred to the Committee on amendments to the constitution.

By the same message the Senate was informed of the concurrence of the House in the following entitled bills and resolutions:

An act to procure a block of stone for the Washington Monument.

Joint Resolution requesting the Governor to deliver credentials to the Hon. J. P. Benjamin, U. S. Senator elect.

An act in reference to Medical Practitioners.

And also asked the signature of the president of the Senate to the following entitled bills and resolutions of the House:

An act relative to the Lunatic Asylum.

An act to authorize the construction of a railroad from Red River to Grand Point or Bayou Pierre.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

**House—Monday, March 8, 1852.**—56 members present.

Mr. Munday offered the following resolution:

**Resolved,** that owing to the absence of the secretary of the Senate, on account of business, the chief clerk of the House be allowed leave of absence for the day, in order that he may take the place of the secretary in the Senate. On motion the same was adopted.

Mr. Simpson offered the following resolution:

**Resolved,** that the use of this Hall be tendered to the members of the democratic party, after 1 o'clock to-morrow, for the purpose of holding a State Democratic Convention. On motion the same was adopted.

Mr. Phillips offered the following resolution:

**Resolved,** that after Monday, the 8th inst., no petitions or memorials relating to any matter not already before the House, will be received, except by consent of the House. On motion the same was adopted.

Mr. Scarborough resolved, that E. R. Eastin, one of the enrolling clerks of the House, be authorized to act during the balance of the session as a special messenger to the Senate. On motion the same was adopted.

Mr. McCutchen introduced the following petition:

Petition of Citizens of Baton Rouge, relative to the Penitentiary, laid on the table, subject to call.

The House then took up the special order of the day—

Joint Resolutions on John McDonough's will, approving the course of the Attorney General.

By consent said resolution was passed over, and the House then took up the bill of the Senate, entitled An act in relation to the bequest of the property made by the late John McDonough to the State of Louisiana. After several amendments being made, on motion, the rules being dispensed with, said bill was concurred in as amended.

The clerk was directed to inform the Senate thereof.

The House then took up the message of the Senate, entitled An act supplementary to an act relative to bail in certain cases. On motion, the rules being dispensed with, said bill was concurred in, and the clerk was directed to inform the Senate thereof.

The House then took up the bill entitled An act to provide a homestead for the widows and children of deceased persons. On the final passage of the same, the yeas and nays being called for, it appeared that 52 members voted in the affirmative, and that 9 members voted in the negative, consequently said bill was passed with its title.

The House then took up the bill entitled An act to exempt the homestead of a householder from seizure and sale on execution, and also to exempt from execution, from seizure for rent and from being garnished, certain personal property and effects, and the wages of labor and compensation for professional or other services. On the final passage of the same, the yeas and nays were called for, when it appeared that 38 members voted in the affirmative, and that 25 members voted in the negative, consequently said bill was passed with its title.

On motion the House resolved itself into committee of the whole, for the consideration of the following entitled bill:

An act to refund to the parish of Concordia money expended for the State. After some time the committee rose and reported favorably on the same.

A call of the House was ordered, when it appeared that 59 members were present.

Some time was then spent in discussing matters of a local nature.

On motion the House then adjourned, to meet again at half-past six o'clock, P. M.

**Evening Session.**

**House—Monday, March 8, 1852.**—71 members present.

The Journal of the morning was read and approved.

Mr. Smart introduced an act to improve the navigation of the Sabine River. Referred to Internal Improvement Committee.

An act to make further provision for the completion of Barataria and Lafourche canal. Passed.

An act appropriating a sum of money for the payment of the contingent expenses of the Legislature. Passed.

The House concurred in the bill of the Senate, entitled An act to refund to the parish of Concordia money expended for the State.

An act to allow a compensation to M. M. Reynolds, District Attorney of the First Judicial District of New Orleans. Passed.

On motion the House adjourned until 9 o'clock to-morrow.

## The Legislature.

The present Legislature has evinced a commendable disposition to dispatch the business for which they have been elected. They have worked industriously for forty-eight days and accomplished much—there are twelve days more left to them in which they have much to accomplish, and the resolution to hold evening sessions conclusively shows that it is their intention to do their whole duty. Among the most important laws passed at this session, may be placed the act to take the sense of the people upon the expediency of calling a convention to change the present constitution. The act providing for the subscription by the municipal corporations of this State to the stock of corporations undertaking works of internal improvement, and for the payment and disposal of the stock so subscribed, and an act to consolidate the city of New Orleans and providing for the annexation of the city of Lafayette. Other important laws have passed, and many more are far advanced—and we feel assured that they will not fail for want of industry on the part of the members. It is true that the two Houses have generally adjourned on Fridays until Monday; yet most of them make up for their absence by strict attention to business when present, and we much doubt if a Legislature ever dispatched business with more celerity than the present one. Much remains to be accomplished. The bill for the relief of the Citizens' Bank must be passed again—the Governor having vetoed it—and the homestead exemption bill has yet to be acted upon by the Senate. The members have strength to do, and we make no doubt that they will do it. We are not disposed to flatter, nor will we, but having in the discharge of what we conceive to be our duty as chroniclers of passing events, noticed the fact there was no quorum in the morning, on two or three occasions, we cheerfully bear testimony to the ability, and industry, evinced by the two Houses.

**A CORRECTION.**—A paragraph is going the rounds of the newspapers, stating that the answer of General Lafayette to the address which, as Speaker of the House of Representatives, I made to him upon the occasion of his last visit to this country, was prepared by me, though pronounced by him. This is a mistake, which, in justice both to his memory and to myself, ought to be corrected. It was composed by himself, as the style abundantly shows. On the morning of his reception by the House of Representatives he breakfasted with me alone, and I started or read to him the address which I intended to make to him on that day. The expression occurs in it, that he was in the midst of posterity; on reading which I remarked to him that it would afford him a fine opportunity to pay in his handsome compliment, which he might do by saying, No, and that he found himself surrounded by the same patriotic men, attached to liberty, devoted to free institutions, and with all the high attributes which distinguished his revolutionary compatriots. The General seemed pleased with the idea, adopted it, and incorporated it in his answer. This trivial incident could have been the only foundation of the paragraph.

H. CLAY.  
Washington, Friday, Feb. 20.

**A VILLAGE SWEET AWAY.**—One Hundred Persons Missing.—The heavy rains which fell on Tuesday and Wednesday last, have produced a most alarming destruction of life and property in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire. One truly awful calamity has occurred at the village of Holmfirth, near Huddersfield by the overflow of a reservoir used for supplying the woollen mills and a number of the dwellings in the neighborhood with water, and known as the Home Reservoir. On Thursday morning, about one o'clock, it burst with a tremendous roar, and the water rushed down the valley with terrific force, carrying away an immense mill, built of stone, with all its heavy machinery, etc., several outbuildings, two rows of new buildings at Holmfirth, and part of the village of Uncliff, and Mills. Nearly all the inhabitants were asleep at the time, and were swept to a considerable distance, a number of bodies having been taken from the river 15 miles from the spot. One hundred persons are missing, and more than sixty dead bodies are said to be lying at the bottom. Liverpool paper, Feb. 7.

**SINKING OF A STEAMER.**—The steamer Kite, which lay at the wharf at Smiths-Gold, Texas, sank; she suddenly filled with water from a leak, occasioned by some cause not ascertained. She had on board 350 bales of cotton, of which about 250 were already saved, of course much damaged. The furniture of the boat is all saved. It is uncertain whether the boat will prove or not a total wreck.

## The Bayou Manchac.

It will be seen by the following extract from the very able report of the State Engineer, on the Bayou Manchac, that he is altogether of the opinion that the opening of that bayou would not only be injurious to a large number of planters, but that navigation by means of it would be extremely hazardous, if not impracticable.

I might here close this report, but I am aware no considerable commercial importance has been attached, both here and abroad, to the opening of the Manchac, and the subject should be considered in reference to that point.

If the Bayou were opened, even at high water, it could not be navigated even by small flats and keel boats, without great difficulty, on account of its size, force of current and numerous short bends. Would such navigation be worth any thing like a compensation for the evils it would inflict?

If the Bayou were opened, as an inevitable consequence, a large portion of the territory of Ascension and Baton Rouge would be overflowed. Several hundred thousand acres of land, much of it highly improved, would have to be abandoned. The losses would have to be counted by millions of dollars. Suppose this could be prevented by levying the banks of the Bayou, still the expense would be very great. Levees would have to be built of miles in length, from twelve to fifteen feet in height, to sustain the back water from the Amite, as well as that coming from the Mississippi. But, even with this, the country could not be so protected.

There is an important peculiarity of the Manchac which is not found on our other natural outlets, that demands our special attention. The other outlets have no inlets flowing into them, and if we can by levees carry off the water derived from the Mississippi, all is well. The Manchac, on the contrary, has several large inlets, and in this respect, if no other, it has some claim to the name of a river.

If the banks of the Bayou were raised, the water would be backed up Crocodile, Fountaine and Wards Creek, and overflow the country almost as effectually as if it had no levees at all. If these were closed with dikes, the water usually discharged by them would have no outlet, and would spread over the whole adjacent country. They are inlets of the Bayou and it must bear the servitude of their drainage. It is therefore inevitable if the dike is removed at the head of the Bayou, that the adjacent country must be abandoned. This could only be prevented by an extensive system of locking, to which I shall refer in the sequel.

The low water navigation could not be effected, even without regard to safety, except by enormous expenditures.

The rise in the Mississippi, as has been seen, is about thirty-two feet, but this must come up twenty feet before it reaches the present bottom of the Bayou. The fall from the river to the point where the Bayou has, from the back water of the Amite and the lakes and its inlets, sufficient depth for navigation is at least twenty-eight feet, and the distance is some twelve miles.

To afford then ingress, at low water in the Mississippi, the bed of the Bayou must be deepened at its head twenty-five feet, and this must be carried gradually decreasing back for twelve miles, and to protect the country locks constructed at the river to bear the immense column of thirty-seven feet water. Such locks could not be expected to stand in our alluvial soil. The bottom of the Manchac is now, and this is not the dry weather season, entirely dry a few yards from the mouth of the Crocodile, near ten miles back from the river. The works necessary to effect low water navigation in the Manchac, would not cost less than three hundred thousand dollars.

An imperfect and dangerous navigation of the Bayou, could be effected during the high water season, without danger to the country, but it would be by a system of lockage, probably, even more expensive than that for low water, if we expect the dredging; by a placing a lock at the head of the Bayou in its present condition, and locating others at proper distances to overcome the fall of thirty feet in twelve miles. This would of course be attended with great expense and difficulties, and even then could only be used when the water of the Mississippi would be within seven feet of the high water level. This period would be so short and uncertain that no reliance could be placed upon it. In addition to all this, there is a reason which has been but little considered, which will forever prevent a navigation of such commercial importance through the Manchac, however great our expenditures, or those of the general government, might be on the Bayou itself.

There is not sufficient draft of water in the connection between Lake Maurepas and Lake Pontchartrain, to admit the passage of vessels of any great burden. The draft of water will not usually admit the passage drawing more than five feet, and this difficulty would probably be increased by pouring into the lakes the sediment of the Mississippi water.

In view of the calamities that would be inflicted upon a worthy people, who have settled and improved, in good faith, and without expectation of change in the State policy, an important and fertile portion of the State, if the Bayou were simply opened without steps being taken for their security, and of the vast cost of protecting them, and of its insignificance as an outlet of the river, I would respectfully recommend that the Bayou Manchac be permitted to remain in its present position.

Circumstances of a peculiar character, in the early history of our State, gave an undue importance to the Bayou Manchac of the famous river Iberite, and this importance has been added to it by the present day, probably, from the fact of its being closed by some observation. Its ancient fame, and reputation abroad, soon vanish when it is seen.

Respectfully,  
A. D. WOODBRIDGE,  
State Engineer.

The Secretary of the British Meteorological Society states that there has not been so cold a November as that of last year since 1786.

## Proceedings of the Democratic State Convention.

The House of Representatives adjourned yesterday at 1 o'clock, in order that the Democratic convention might occupy their Hall.

The convention was called to order by placing Gen. Albert Carter, of East Feliciana in the chair, and the appointment of Geo. Eastin, Jr., and Mr. Labat, Secretaries.

On motion of Mr. Wilder, of New Orleans, the proceedings of the convention were preceded by a prayer from the Rev. W. H. Crenshaw.

On motion, the Democratic members of the Legislature were allowed to represent their respective parishes, from whence no delegates had been appointed.

Dr. W. B. Scott, of East Baton Rouge, was then nominated and unanimously elected permanent President of the convention.

Upon taking his seat, the President tendered his sincere thanks to the members of the convention, for the honor they had done him in selecting him as their presiding officer, and as an old Democrat, and resident of the parish, welcomed them most heartily to Baton Rouge.

When a Democratic convention had assembled four years ago, for the purpose of sending delegates to the National Convention, which was to name the standard bearer of the Democracy in the approaching election, they had all flattered themselves that Gen. Cass would most certainly have been elected. But they had been disappointed; and their disappointment came from the total want of union in the Democratic party. They had been led away by the brilliant victories of the man whom the Whigs had chosen. The election came on too soon after the return of Gen. Taylor from Mexico—the people wished to reward him for his services, and the Democrats had aided to elevate him.

But it was not his purpose to censure so severely those Democrats who had forgotten their duty and voted against their party. On the contrary, it was usual for Democrats to look mildly upon those backsliders, and those who strayed from the ranks must be forgiven.

Since 1828, the Democratic party never had such names before them, as those of Cass, Buchanan and Douglas. Each of these gentlemen had strong friends, and each one's claims would be vigorously urged. But he believed he expressed his feelings of every member of the convention, when he stated as soon as the nomination is made, whatever personal predilections members might have, there would be no division, and that the whole party would unite upon him. [Applause.]

He regretted that during the present administration the Government had been brought down from its high position [Applause]. Citizens of the country had not only been murdered, but their limbs had been mutilated, and no notice had been taken of it by the Government. The conduct of the Whig rulers has shown that it was necessary that the Democrats should have the reins.

Let us then buckle on our armor; let us be united, and success is certain, and we will bring back the times of General Jackson.

In conclusion, the President said that the fabric of this Government was founded upon the beautiful principles of the Democratic party. Let us guard them, then, with a jealous care. The President took his seat amid general applause.

On motion, the Hon. Mr. Phillips was appointed first Vice President; Samuel Lee, Esq., second; Dr. Cannon, third; J. O. Moore, fourth; J. B. Platche, fifth.

On motion of Mr. Moore it was resolved that Gov. Walker be asked to take a seat by the side of the President.

Mr. Richardson moved that the rules of the Senate be adopted as the rules which were to govern this Convention in all debates, etc. Adopted.

Mr. Cocoran moved that a committee be appointed to examine the credentials of delegates, and fix the number of votes each Parish was entitled to, on the basis of 1849. Adopted.

The President appointed on that committee, Messrs. Carter, Lasere, Herzon, Brown and A. G. Penn.

On motion, the convention adjourned to 5 o'clock, P. M.

**AN ENGLISH MUMMY FOUND.**—A few weeks ago in taking down an old wall of St. Stephens' crypt, in London, a mummy, or preserved body, was found embedded therein. A committee of the members of the Antiquarian Society, with other scientific gentlemen, met to examine and unroll it at the new Palace of Westminster, on the 31st of January. The English papers give all the details of the operation.

No wrappings or other specific proofs were showing at the period of incineration or the name of the person, but the gentleman present came to the unanimous conclusion that it was the body of Eusebius, Bishop of St. David's, who died about the middle of the fifth century, four hundred years ago. The face was bound in a remarkable preservation. The cartilage of the nose was not even decayed, and the lips and other portions of the face were even flexible to the touch. The abdomen, legs and arms, had been converted into adipose matter. The examination having been completed, the remains were placed in a strong elm coffin and screwed down; and it is understood will hereafter be replaced as nearly as possible in the spot where they were discovered.

Why ought the officers of the United States Army in the late war with Mexico, to keep a clothing store. Because they might Bragg of having the best Taylor and the best Wool; their goods may always be sold for what they are worth, and after counting their Gains, they could lay their heads on their Pillow in perfect ease, and rest satisfied that no one could swindle them and go State free, while they had a good Walker to catch him and shield them from loss.

The Ex-President Tyler is out with a letter on Intervention, in which he intimates that we cannot do much for Kosuth just now; but thinks that in about 23 years