

The Grant Parish Prisoners.

LAST DAY—CHARGE OF JUDGE WOODS.

The Circuit Court met at 11 A. M. Judge Woods then read the following charge:

The indictment is presented against 98 persons, 9 of whom are on trial here; J. B. Hadnot, J. B. Irwin, Donas Lemoine, Wm. Cruikshank, Alfred Lewis, Clement Penn, Prudhomme Lemoine and Austin Gibbons.

The indictment is framed under the sixth section of an act of the United States of 1868. This section of the act reads:

"If two or more persons shall band together with intent to deprive any person of the rights and privileges given him by the constitution and laws, he shall be found guilty of felony, and punished as the court may order; and if in the execution of this intent he shall commit any crime or felony, he shall be punished as such crime or felony is punished by the laws of the State in which the crime is committed."

The prisoners are brought to bar upon an indictment containing thirty-two counts. The first count of the indictment charges that these prisoners, on the 13th of April, 1873, did feloniously and illegally band together unlawfully to injure, oppress, threaten and intimidate Leve Nelson and Alex. Tillman, with the intent to intimidate them in the free exercise of their right peaceably to assemble together.

The next seven counts are the same, except that they charge different intent to the conspirators; that they were banded together to prevent Nelson and Tillman from bearing arms, etc.

The counts 9 to 16 charge that the prisoners were conspired together; the counts 17 to 24 that the parties indicted being banded together with the intent, etc., did then and there murder one Alex. Tillman.

The last eight counts are identical, charging that the indicted parties were conspired instead of banded together in the murder of Tillman.

The gist of the indictment is the intent with which the felonies were committed. The prosecution must show first, that the accused were banded and conspiring together; second, with the intent to injure, oppress and intimidate Nelson and Tillman; third, that this intent to oppress was designed to carry out one or the purposes specified in the indictment. If these three facts are not found, no matter how guilty the accused may be of other crimes, that they are innocent under this indictment.

There are many facts not disputed by either side; that Nash was commissioned by Warmoth, and exercised the duties of sheriff for some time; that Shaw obtained possession of the court-house and deputized sixteen persons to hold it; that armed white men, headed by Hadnot, came into Colfax, and that the negroes terrified by this and by the murder of Jesse McKinney, hastened to Colfax; and that the white people of the parish were equally frightened and hastened from the parish. After several skirmishes, a regular battle was commenced on Easter Sunday, the negroes were defeated, fled into the court-house and were captured by the whites. The prisoners, some thirty seven in number, were then marched out and shot by the whites.

Conspiracy must be shown by the prosecution; but to show conspiracy it is not necessary to show any regular agreement. It is sufficient if it be shown that all the conspirators were acting with a common purpose. If there was conspiracy this completes the offense on the first sixteen counts. Every right in the indictment, which, it is charged, the accused attempted to prevent, is a constitutional right, granted and secured by the constitution or the laws of the United States.

The third count charges the intent to deprive them (Nelson and Tillman) of life and liberty without due process of law. The United States charges that the white men had banded together to kill Tillman and Nelson. If Tillman and Nelson were guilty of robbery and stealing, of killing Hadnot and Harris, they are nevertheless entitled to due process of law. If the indicted persons supposed Tillman to be guilty of a public offense, and took the law

into their own hands, they are guilty under this count. No one has the right to take into his hands the summary right of Justice.

You must disabuse your mind that there was any war at Colfax. There was no martial law; there could be none; there could be no flags of truce. If Tillman shot on the flag of truce and killed Hadnot, he was guilty of murder, but he was still entitled to a fair and equal trial by an impartial jury.

It is sufficient to prove that Nelson and Tillman were in the crowd of negroes against whom the prisoners directed their efforts. It is supposed that if Tillman was killed by a shot, it was intended for him. This is all the malice necessary to be proved.

You must decide whether these nine prisoners were in the conspiracy.—Testimony has been introduced to show that certain of the prisoners were not present, either on the 13th of April or on any other occasion. I would advise you to take the case of each prisoner separately.

If Clement Penn and Cruikshank, who, it is proved, were in Colfax for a short time on Easter, assented to what the other persons there did, they are equally guilty, even if they went to Colfax after the fight was over, or left it before the killing of the negroes commenced.

The demand of Nash on Irwin to be a deputy sheriff is no excuse. Nash had no right to attack the Court-house. His remedy was open at law; he could not make it a question of battle who was the legal sheriff. For four other prisoners, Gibbons, the two Lemoines, and Hickman, the defense claim that they were not present at Colfax. It is not necessary to prove that these prisoners were in Colfax on the 13th. If it is shown that they, at any time in April, were in the conspiracy, they are as guilty as if they went to Colfax and assisted in the battle.

If you find the accused are guilty of this conspiracy, it is next necessary for you to determine whether in this conspiracy Tillman was killed. This must be proved to your satisfaction before any verdict on the last sixteen counts can be rendered. You may, however, find all or any one of the counts charged.

This is a case of importance and magnitude to the people of the United States and State of Louisiana. On one side is involved public peace and order; on the other the lives of these prisoners. But I trust that if they are guilty, you will have the courage and manhood to say by your verdict. And may God assist you in your judgment. —[N. O. Picayune.

THE OFFENSE OF "BORING."—In the Kansas Legislature, Mr. Tinkham, of Miami county, has introduced a bill "to define the offense of boring, and to punish the same." This bill defines boring as such acts as paying board bills of members of the Legislature, their liquor bills, their railroad fares, and the like, by persons wishing office or having other favors to ask at their hands, and provides that any person guilty of boring Kansas legislators shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and liable to a heavy fine. It is a sensible bill, and would be so well suited for the meridian of Albany or Washington as that of Topeka. If a bill against boring should be introduced into Congress it should be made to apply to all members of the Government, including the President and the heads of departments, and should be made comprehensive enough to cover the case of borers who make presents to a lady, or give pianos to the wives of secretaries, as well as those who undertake to influence the course of legislation by paying for Congressmen's rum.

Judge McKee of San Francisco has a low opinion of detectives, and of the system of employing them to shadow respectable jurymen. He says that such a practice is an insult to men compelled by law to discharge a disagreeable duty. Unjust suspicions and depraved practices are fast destroying confidence in courts, and subjecting judicial proceedings which ought to rest upon the confidence and respect of the people to the bitter prejudices and reckless passions of men excited by base hopes or fears. The Judge also condemned the conduct of attorneys in dispensing drinks and cigars to jurors.

Three Court Beauties of the Last Century.

As the re-issued portraits of the three beautiful Miss Gunnings, seen amidst the gay throng in the gallery of the Irish House of Parliament, as it appeared in 1790, are attracting so much attention in Liverpool, it may interest many to know somewhat about those celebrated Irish beauties. They were born in Roscommon county, Ireland, and were the daughters of a General Gunning. Their parents were respectable, but by no means rich. Thomas Sheridan, at the time lessee of one of the principal theatres in Dublin, was accustomed to let them have access to the theatrical wardrobe to dress themselves when they went to the castle or any of the balls in the then gay city of Dublin. They resolved to go upon the stage; indeed, it is said the eldest did appear for two nights on the boards of Mr. Sheridan. However, he prevailed upon them, before they finally committed themselves, to take their pretty faces to London for one season. The fascinating beauties soon threw London into an amazing excitement. On their appearing in Rotien Row and Vauxhall they were mobbed, the crowd forming an avenue through which they had to walk. It may be remarked that, though poor, they determined to have "lords" for their husbands, and they were not long in securing them, to the rage of all the fine ladies in London. The eldest one met the Duke of Hamilton at an evening party, and his grace fell so desperately in love with the Irish beauty that he determined to be married there and then, midnight though it was! A married lady was not present, and only a sort of "couple-beggar" clergyman; however, a bed curtain ring was got, and the happy pair there and then united. Walpole, of Strawberry Hill notoriety, tells amusing stories of the high state kept up by the Duke and his beautiful bride; at all times preceding their company from the drawing-room to the dining-room, seating themselves together at the head of their table, eating off the same plate, drinking out of the same glass and studiously making a point of never drinking wine with any of their guests whose rank was below that of an Earl! The Duke of Hamilton died; she was then married to the Duke of Argyll, and from her descends the Marquis of Lorne, the husband of Princess Louise. The second sister became Lady Coventry, and it is said, truthfully or not, that she killed herself by the excessive use of white paint. The third sister, more in the background of the group, was married to the Honorable Mr. Blakely. —[Exchange.

August Belmont & Co. brought suits in the Superior Court of Wake county, N. C., to obtain a mandamus to compel the collection of taxes to pay the past due interest on four different lots of railroad bonds, all known as special tax bonds. The taxes would have amounted to about two per cent. on the taxable property of the State. The suits were dismissed on a technical ground.

The progress of the construction of railroads in the United States is shown in a table given in the Railroad Gazette from which it appears that 37,77 miles were built in 1873, a little more than half as many as were built in 1872. The total number of miles of railroad in the United States is set down at 70,857, of which 35,857, of which 35,800 miles have been completed within the last eight years.

A San Franciscoan being annoyed by a mud-puddle in the street, reported that he had lost a \$20 piece therein, whereupon the pool was soon emptied by eager seekers after the money.

TEMPERATURE

AS REPORTED BY FERGUSON & SCHNACK

Table with columns: Date, Morn., Noon, Night. Rows for dates 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23.

Special Notice!

I HAVE APPOINTED Col. N. L. McGinnis, my Agent to attend to my business at this place, and between here and Red River Landing. Capt. A. M. Osgood continues my Agent from Monette's Ferry to Shreveport, La. B. H. PETERSON. March 20, 1874-1m.

NEW THIS DAY. PROSPECTUS

"THE CAUCASIAN."

THIS is to announce the inauguration of a new enterprise in journalism at Alexandria, Louisiana. The Caucasian will be a weekly newspaper, published every Saturday, under the editorial management of ROBT. P. HUNTER, Esq., with associates whose names are not now given; and with CHAS. B. STEWART as Publisher. In politics, as its name indicates, The Caucasian will be a white man's paper, devoted to the interests of the white people of the Parish and State, and opposed to the aggrandizement of the negro to the prejudice of the Caucasian race, the superior of the African race in every particular, except the endurance of physical labor for which the latter was created and designed by Providence.

It will lend its aid and espouse the cause of that white man's party—by whatever name it may be called—which shall seem most likely to relieve our downtrodden State from the oppressive burden under which the labors from negro ignorance and impudence, and carpet-bag corruption and rascality. It shall be our purpose to hunt out incompetence and venality, and expose it wherever it may be found.

The chief aim and object of the paper will be to sustain the Agricultural Fair Association in developing the resources of our parish and bringing white emigration in our midst. Its columns will from time to time contain a description of our soil, climate, products and all other matters pertaining to the planting interests of the country, and our aim shall be to distribute this information in localities likely to induce such immigration as we desire.

If our contemplated arrangements are perfected the Agricultural Department will be under the charge of a gentleman eminently qualified for the position. We will have a Ladies' column, and will endeavor to make it entertaining to them, by publishing new recipes, etc., and dabbling to a small extent in fashions.

Our local column will contain all the local items that time and attention can collect. We will always find room for Communications on matters of general and local interest, and will invite the aid of our friends in this department.

In short we intend to have a live, wide awake newspaper, devoted to the interests of our Parish and State containing the latest news, entertaining reading matter and particularly the matters that concern us at home and in our every day life.

The Editor wishes to premise that the conduct of the Caucasian shall in no wise interfere with the practice of his profession, and he is desirous of not being understood to have in any way abandoned or laid aside the duties of that profession.

The support of the public generally, in the way of subscriptions and advertisements is respectfully solicited.

The Caucasian will be a twenty-four column paper. Subscription price \$3 00 Three Dollars per annum in advance.

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The open secret of its future, as of its past and present triumphs, is still a steadfast adherence to the organization, an unflinching fidelity to the principles of the Democratic party—principles never so useful as now to be applied throughout our National, State and Municipal life, to heal the wounds and demoralization of war, to stop corrupt and profligate expenditure, to limit and localize powers entrusted to the people's servants, to liberate our industries from the fetters of a barbarous Tariff, our trade from the fluctuations of an irredeemable paper Currency, and our agriculture from the double plundering of both, as well as to repair the widespread financial ruin wrought by the Fiscal policy of the Republican party.

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