



OFFICE—CORNER OF SECOND & JACKSON STS.

Our Agents.

- Thomas McIntyre, New Orleans
J. Curtis Waldo, New Orleans
S. M. Pettengill & Co., New York
Geo. P. Rowell & Co., St. Louis, Mo
Rowell & Chesman, St. Louis, Mo
ALEXANDRIA, LA.

Wednesday, April 19, 1876

Weather and River.

Certainly the past week has been a changing and an extraordinary one with us in the weather line, and we are truthfully within bounds when we make this assertion. One of its odd freaks was two days' and one night's deluge of rain, that must have been lineal descendants of old Noah's deluge, which as a matter of course again struck the planting and farming interests below the belt and caused them excessive drawback and damage. Then came as if by magic 72 hours of consecutive fine, genial, clear sunshine and pure Spring weather, which never was surpassed in this land of orange blossoms and dewberries. This was followed, or rather trumped, by a Northern blast and change, bountifully supplied with old Boreas' best blows, and as we write we are resting within doors to keep from being blown below Young's point. Still this last is far better than the rain storm, and we can put up with it as a fair antidote.

Daring all these weather variations old Red has not been idle in its tramps, and we have to report a goodly rise in this drink, which has frightened more than one fearful adversary, and started the Corporation shovels to improvise a few infantine levees, to keep a few low places in the old veteran levee under control, and within guage of the highest points. The shoveler work has proved a success, and the honest efforts of its directors have smiled to see the old scarlet stream come to a stand on Monday evening. This stand marks the river notch of the Government to within two feet, eight inches of the highest water mark of 1866, and all this at last good news is booked for a continuance by the Telegraph, which ticks us the latest from Shreveport, the rivers and lakes above. At Fulton the river has receded 20 feet, at Shreveport one foot, and almost on a stand as low down as Grand Ecore.

A Model Store.—The well known and long established store of Mrs. E. S. Hetherwick, under the full control and management of B. C. Duke, now the oldest in that line in Alexandria, once more commercially graces our columns with its card. In calling attention to it we have to repeat an often told tale, that it is the model store of our Town, it is conducted and run on its time-honored and safe platform, cheap sales and quick returns, and almost strictly on the solid cash basis. Mr. Duke is just back from New Orleans, and has on hand the largest stock in his line which he has purchased since the surrender, and offers rare inducements to traders and purchasers generally. In his employ and well educated to his interests, are those well known and reliable young gentlemen, John Laney and Murray Hetherwick, who at all times are ready and tutored to the real accommodating mood which guides the whole establishment.

A. HEYMAN, the agent and general manager of Baer & Mann, will move into his new store during the week, and by the next issue of the Democrat, will be in full commercial harness within that really fine, large and eligibly situated store room. Alongside of the Telegraph, the Railroad overhead and the Democrat to the eastward, surely he should not complain of good company, besides being on the elite square of the Town.

We are pleased to announce that the Telegraph line here, under the able and of courteous management of Charles R. Langford, Lessee, is working well and in full connection with all points. The public can now have an opportunity of testing their news cravings outside of the paper rush on all landing steamers, and get the worth of their money with the very latest of the Telegraph's talking.

As usual the obliging clerks of the Packet, Bart. Able, favored the Democrat with a full package of New Orleans papers, morning and evening.

THE GRANT DECISION.

The Republican party of the Union, and more particularly that of Louisiana, are now on trial and many are the corrupt tribulations of that party just about now. The cohesive bonds of plunder thus far have cemented them as one man, and though the nation hangs its head in shame at their corruptions, which are now cropping out from the four quarters of the Union, still they are yet cemented together and move in unison to their music of corruption and spoilation. As the time approaches for their National and State trial they abate not one iota on their old slogan and impudence, but as ever march to the tread of the old cry. This we see in Congress, out of Congress, in their Custom Houses, out of their Custom Houses, nay in our very midst, and the sooner we make up our front to meet again the attack the better for our valor, our prudence and our success.

These well meant and warning remarks of ours were forcibly beaten into us, on glancing at the last issue of the sub-organ here, whose columns were graced by an appropriate leader from the Returning Board, whose President owns the aforesaid organ, on "The Effect of the Grant Decision." This article is in perfect keeping and training with their leaders and comes by the card to the faithful in Rapides. Whilst we have no disposition to interfere with the orders on the marked platform of the Returning Board, as they have mapped it out for the coming campaign, we claim the liberty and the right to show their hand to our people, our true people, and demand of them to prepare to trump it. One simple sentence from this mandamus editorial, which we italicize, will sum it in full and show the real animus of the Returning Board: "The Republican party cannot submit to these decisions."

We are thus particular in calling all these things as emanating from the Returning Board, because we know, and have practical reasons for knowing, that it is the sole and strong power of the party which has always cheated us out, and we know still they are at the same game and mean to repeat it. They have no other power, no other votes, and the same fingers are already greased to renew again the work of defrauding and cheating, and though to their shame there are patriots here, who for policy sake are ready to compound felony with this crew, yet we know and feel there are still many here, who will fight them to the last and can't be purchased by pap promises or pap reward. To these we take a manly pride in addressing and ask them to be watchful, to be on their guard, for the enemy in Rapides are at work, and their willing and pliant allies are pulling the strings and singing the charms, whilst the old coons are singing low. Our friends and our true people, who are not candidates for office, cannot be too cautious how they are approached directly and indirectly by these syren songs of independence, policy, charity for Kellogism, sweetened with stray curses against the Democratic party, and under no circumstances make them any pledges or promises. The exacting of pledges from the yeomanry now, under such circumstances, we regard as criminal and cannot be too seriously condemned, and all such should be frowned down. We have at present a good and purely anti-radical party composed of nearly every white man in the Parish, and over 350 good and true colored ones, and why should we allow or permit its unity and harmony to be marred by a set of chronic office seekers and place hunters?—These now are on their tramps by day and by night, and by their owl wisdom and cheeky presumption, are moving in whispering cliques, striving to ring up the people into a belief that the offices belong to them and by right should be nominated on them.

All these doings are wrong, criminally wrong, and though we are loathe to believe it, exist here to a fearful extent and should be known in time to be checked by our well meaning people. A true and united party have nothing to fear from a bold enemy, and now that we have warned them of the breakers ahead, we ask them to pause, reflect and then prepare to act their parts rightly. We have a Parish Committee yet in power, clothed with all the power to organize our party and our forces, in whom we have full confidence, and they will in the proper time issue their call for our Parish Convention, when it will be fully time to bring out the candidates. We feel sure such a Convention can and will give satisfaction to all, and they will abide by its decision and its choice. Till then we again repeat our advice to the true friends of our party and cause to be on the alert, to be watchful and don't be tramped by the epidemic-office seeker who casts his net for you.

THE CATHOLIC FAIR.

We have taken the pleasure, on several occasions, to remind our liberal-minded community that the Ladies of the Catholic Church of St. Francis Xavier had in contemplation and active preparation a Fair for the exclusive purpose of raising money to repair their sacred and time-honored edifice, and now for the last time we renew our task-notice and gently hint to them that to day and tomorrow, in the Town Hall, their Fair comes off. Knowing full well that woman, with religion as a zealous guide and christian clarity as a guard, seldom halts in the face of opposition and stringent times, we can but feel convinced that our community will rally with a liberal tread, on this occasion, to their aid, assistance and mounded help. They need but a moderate sum to accomplish the furtherance of their love-assumed task, have labored hard in the furtherance of their pure motives, and now that their two days dawn upon them, let us hope their most sanguine expectations and fervent prayers will be crowned with a bountiful fruition. The smallest mite from each and every one, however pressed, will fully suffice to raise the means they have a right to expect from the people to whom they appeal for succor, and we feel almost authorized to endorse in full for that people who have never so far permitted such appeals to go unheeded and listless.

—HARD times and real dullness have fallen on our steamboats and their business, and we cannot help thinking that with us in the Grand Ecore trade we are yet permitted to be a blessed and a well-served people. One of the Shreveport packets so-called reached here on Saturday, just 84 hours from New Orleans, and really some fast ones here thought it was a fast trip. We only hint at this as an awful sequel which would fall on us, if ever in our insanity we permit the Grand Ecore trade to be broken up, and allow it to become a tributary one to Shreveport and upper Red River. We really shudder at the bare mention of the baneful idea, and ask our reflecting business men and planters to ponder well on such a possibility, and seriously ask themselves if they can possibly better their present good situation by taking a heavy and uncertain risk in wild cat steamboating. The thing to them is a far more serious one than they think for, and let us hope they will give some attention to and make known their opinions in the matter.

—THE U. S. Supreme Court have affirmed the decision which prohibits the funding of the debt due to the Louisiana Levee Company in the consolidated bonds issued, or to be issued, under the funding act of January, 1874, and reversing the said decree or so much thereof as prohibits the issue of any other bonds to the Louisiana Levee Company in liquidation of its debts.

—THE La Belle, the star packet of the Pool Line, and the sole side-wheeler of the line, has laid up and now hugs a stump over at Algiers. From present dull appearances a few more of the same line will quickly follow suit—the dog days are already upon us and the steamboat interests of the river are the first to feel the stroke.

—R. W. ESTLIN, a well-known and highly respected gentleman and merchant of New Orleans, attempted his own life by cutting his throat, on last Sunday, on board the Maria Louise. The attempt was a failure, and as the boat passed here his condition was improving.

—M. H. SANFORD, the owner of the American stable now in England, sailed from New York for Liverpool on the Baltic on the 1st inst. As the stable has several engagements during the Newmarket Craven Meeting, beginning on the 18th inst., Mr. Sanford will arrive out in good time to witness the racing.

—THE steamer R. E. Lee, the champion of the Western and Southern waters, has made her last trip.—She left on the 12th inst for Louisville, where she is to be dismantled and her machinery placed into the new R. E. Lee, now building by the Howard Brothers.

—WE regret to state that Captain Ben. W. Kay, the pilot of the Bart. Able, so well and favorably known here, did not come up on her last trip. He has had quite an attack of sickness, and is yet confined to his bed at his home in New Orleans.

—THE House Committee on Elections have reported by a majority in favor of J. V. Lemoyne, Democrat, to the seat in Congress for the Third District of Illinois, now held by C. B. Farewell, Republican.

—BARCOCK is getting fast mixed up with the safe-burglary. Grant thinks it is adding insult to injury thus to accuse him.

OUR FAIR.

On last Friday we were approached eagerly by a friend, who clasped us by the hand, and after exchanging salutations over the general prospects for fair weather, the first in a month, when he broke off and remarked, old fellow, why don't you give us something every week about the Fair and some horse talk throw in. We chatted some moments with our old friend, convinced him we had done our share of duty to the Fair Association, and refusing to drink with him because we could not as yet get one of Levin's ice Lemonades, we hobbled back to our cottage home.

Reader, we had not been long home well seated in our old chair, when it suddenly occurred to us, that it was the anniversary of the great race of Lecomte and Lexington:—7:26—7:38 3-4, and that twenty-two years ago it had occurred, we were a marked participant in it, and that the remarks of our friend must have been inspired by the thought of this anniversary. Be this as it may, we must acknowledge to peculiar and pensive thoughts of our own on the occasion, and must twine them together as an incentive to our friends of the Rapides Agricultural Fair Association. Early on the morning of that memorable day, Saturday, April 14th, 1854, there came out from the St. Charles Hotel a small crowd of Rapidians, one of whom was the writer of this, who entered in an already secured omnibus and were driven to the stable of Lecomte at the old Metairie Course, there to be in time for the coming race ahead of the rush, the crowd, and to partake of a country race track breakfast. How the old phrenzy comes over us, how our thoughts well up, at the bare mention of this, to us, memorable and happy day, but kind readers how it is mourned as we now know that all our then companions, faithful and true men, have gone to their long hereafter and that solitary and alone we are left to eord the pensive fate and weep for that happy past. Our companions and friends on that occasion were men of the best days of Rapides, and we have only to mention their names to receive the verdict that we are right in thus classing them: Col. T. J. Wells, James A. McWaters, L. A. Stafford, S. K. Johnson and James Raleigh. The last mentioned one was an honest, humble and skillful mechanic, whom Col. Wells had expressly taken to New Orleans to shoe Lecomte, and he was by no means an intrusion on our then happy crowd. Here again crowd on us pleasingly and happily the grand race, the grand crowd, the grand day and how Rapides' invincible racing colors were carried to the front by the peerless son of Boston and Reel, but we must check them, and dropping a friend's tear to the memory of our departed friends, proceed in a very few lines to close this rambling article.

The men who compose our Fair Association are in many respects worthy to wear and use the mantle for Rapides, which has fallen on their shoulders, if not by inheritance as least by choice, and to again bring her colors to the front. We know from coming preparations, and the earnest by which they are directed, that we are to have our Fourth Annual Fair on a footing and on a scale of liberality, unsurpassed in Louisiana, and this notice of the fact on our part cannot be considered fulsome, but merits to be heralded in more rounded phrases, than we have at our pencil's point. We urge the public of our Town and Parish to rally to the standard of our Fair and once more permit it to bask under the sunshine of their approving smiles, and under no circumstances to throw as much as the smallest pebble in its progressive path.

—SCHUYLER COLFAX, the late Vice-President, has a great reputation for smiling and really is known by the sobriquet of the great smiler, but we begin to believe his laurels are in great danger of being snatched from him in and around Alexandria.—Election time is approaching and it is a caution to broad grins to see our patriotic ones here smiling at every corner at every passing voter. The job just now, though assumed, is a hard one as most of them are unused to the melting mood which fosters a genuine smile, and are better adapted of the smile that crooks the elbow. We begin to broadly grin at these suffering martyrs and trust some good manual labor will turn up for them, and leave off so many hard and rehearsed tasks.

—ON the up trip of the Col. A. P. Kouns our devil managed by courteous coaxing and second-handed begging, to squeeze out from her accommodating clerk a single New Orleans paper, for which we are somewhat obliged, but he may be assured that the Democrat will never again trouble him in that line.

—ORIGIN to be allowed to sit down.—A merchant of forty years standing.

THE LATEST.

LONDON, April 15.—Numerous wrecks occurred on the east coast.—Eleven lives have been lost.

LONDON, April 15.—The Standard's Paris dispatch says the snow has seriously damaged the vines in the Bordeaux District. No such wintry weather has been known in Paris at this season for fifty years.

WASHINGTON, April 15.—Full Judiciary Committee decided not to surrender Kilbourne.

The resolution giving the real estate pool committee power to investigate crooked actions of all government officers and members of the present House covers Blaine's case. Director Harrison, of the Union Pacific, will tell that committee all about it.

Detectives A. P. Wood and Sam. Felker are working against Whitley in the safe burglary case. J. Russell Jones' accounts are in question.—Sergeant at-arms Thompson appeared before Chief Justice Carter this morning, and stated the House of Representatives would to-day act on the matter of habeas corpus in the case of Hallet Kilbourn.

The Judge, in consideration of this and other circumstances, adjourned further proceedings in the case until Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock.—There seems to be no doubt that Babcock, Harrington and others will be indicted to-day for alleged participation in the safe burglary conspiracy. It is understood Harrington has left the country.

IGNORANCE IN FARMING.

One of the greatest drawbacks to successful farming is the presence of the unknown quantity—ignorance of the exact condition of things, in value, weight and measure, concerning our products. We often produce at a loss. An account with each crop would decide the matter. If after a few trials it costs more to produce than a crop will sell for, its cultivation should be abandoned. Many continue to produce from year to year at a loss, simply from the want of a little calculation.

In order to conduct farming operations understandingly and intelligently, it is necessary to ascertain the cost of production by keeping accurate account, as far as possible, with the farm as a whole, and with each field in detail. To do this requires, in the first place, an accurate measurement of the different fields. A map of the farm should be made, and each field numbered, with the number of acres also marked down. A farm account book should be prepared or purchased, in which should be noted the crop produced on each field, charging to its account the labor required to produce the crop, together with seed, manure, interest, taxes, etc., crediting the amount for which the produce is sold, or at its market value. By this course the actual cost can easily be ascertained, showing how and where the profits or losses arise, affording an excellent guide for future operations. An account should also be kept with the farm, as with an individual, on the above basis, balancing the books at the end of each year, and taking an inventory of stock, farming implements, etc., to open correctly the account for the succeeding year. This method will demonstrate conclusively whether farming pays or not as far as that person is concerned. Most farmers are very careless about keeping any accounts whatever, even with neighbors and others with whom they have dealings, which is a very prolific source of trouble and vexation, often leading to expensive lawsuits.

But farmers will say they have no time to attend to such things and trust to luck and the honesty of other people to carry them through. Any merchant or other business man who conducted his affairs in such a slipshod, slovenly manner, would surely fail, and certainly would not deserve to succeed. It will require but a few moments at the close of each day, and one year's trial of keeping farm accounts will convince most farmers that it is a very sensible and proper method of doing business. I would like to hear from others through these columns on this subject.—[Country Gentleman.

—THE Presidents has been sick for some time back, and would not be seen by visitors. His physician is in constant attendance and reports the President as very weak and possibly threatened with severe illness.

—THE annual boat race on the Thames, between Cambridge and Oxford, was rowed on the 8th inst, and resulted in favor of Cambridge, being its sixteenth victory over Oxford.

—DON PEDRO, Brazil's Emperor, has reached New York, and comes to attend the Centennial.

—WE owe thanks to the steamer C. H. Durfee for the latest New Orleans papers.

—DANDIES and nanny-goats never fall to pride themselves upon their kids.

—LEOPOLD GERH has new Irish potatoes for sale.

—THE most impolite of men must bow to fate.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, April 8, 1876.

EDITOR DEMOCRAT—

A Republican member of Congress, who is understood to be in the councils of the White House King, said, yesterday, in my hearing, that if the Democrats could carry New York State, they would select the next President; but that they would have to do some pretty tall work to accomplish that end, as the administration would show them before they get through. This simply means that the Custom House, Navy Yard, Post Office and Internal Revenue service in that State, backed by the immense sums of money that are now being assumed upon Republican office-holders all over the country, will be used to aid the Republican nominee. It is more and more evident, every day, that New York is to be the great battle ground. Forewarned, forearmed.

LEAKY SENATORS TO BE BROUGHT TO BOOK.

Just now the Senate is greatly exercised over the publication of its transactions in executive session.—Executive sessions are held almost daily, for action upon Presidential nominations and foreign treaties; the doors being closed, and none but certain sworn officers of the Senate being allowed to be present. The Senators are pledged to secrecy; and yet, in spite of all precautions, scarcely an executive session is held of which the proceedings are not published to the world on the following day by enterprising news gatherers. This contraband information comes, of course, from certain Senators; and who these leaky Senators are it is the duty of the Committee on Privileges and Elections to find out. As a rule, the information referred to is drawn out by the reporters from different Senators. All the shrewd news men want is a clue; and if, perchance, he can obtain this clue from a good-natured Senator, he is sure of getting at "bottom facts." He learns, for instance, that the Senate, in executive session, considered the nomination of John Smith to be Post Master of Boston or New York. Familiarity with passing events enables him to judge by whom the nomination will be favored, and by whom opposed, (as, for instance, in the case of R. H. Dana, and straightway he calls upon an indifferent Senator, and very cautiously sounds him. He does not, by any manner of means, begin by asking, "What did you do in executive session to-day?" because the answer would be a laugh, and, "I am sorry, but I am not at liberty to divulge what is done in executive session." On the contrary, he begins: "I hear that Senator — made a violent speech to-day, against the confirmation of Smith."

"Indeed! who told you so?" queries the Senator.

"Well," returns the wily newsman, "I heard it from several sources; and I know that two or three correspondents intend to telegraph to their papers to that effect, to-night." (This, of course, is a pure fiction simply to provoke the interviewed Senator into a communicative mood.)

"Well, I can say this much," replies the Senator, "that Senator — did not make a violent speech in opposition to the confirmation of Smith. He made a moderate speech, opposing Smith's confirmation solely on the ground that although he is a man of good moral character, he is not the choice of the people of —"

"Yes," replies the interviewer, "but didn't he charge Smith with having once failed in business under suspicious circumstances?"

"He simply referred to the matter," responds the Senator, "saying that he was unacquainted with the particulars, but that the Senate ought to inquire into the matter, before declining upon Smith's case."

"Who urged his confirmation?" asks the reporter, growing bolder.

"Senators — and — made speeches in his favor."

"What are the prospects of his confirmation, Senator?"

"Well, (with a laugh,) I wouldn't like to say."

"But," persists the reporter, "if you were to guess?"

"If you ask me to guess, as an individual, and not as a Senator, why then, I guess that he will be confirmed," replies the Senator with a sly wink; "but pray don't say where you got your information."

"Certainly not," answers the reporter; and, having gained his point, he hastens to his office and indites the following dispatch:

"The Senate in Executive Session to-day had under consideration the nomination of John Smith to be Post Master at — Senator — made a speech opposing his confirmation on the ground that he was not the choice of the people of — and, during his remarks, took occasion to refer to Smith's suspicious failure in the year 18 —. Senators — and — urged his confirmation. It may be safely predicted that Smith will be confirmed."

mation obtained is enlarged upon, and, by the aid of a vivid imagination, expanded into half a column or more. It is not at all likely that the Senate will ascertain who the leaky parties are, since the newspaper men regard all such communications as sacredly confidential.

HON. WM. H. BARNUM, OF CONNECTICUT. This distinguished Democratic Congressman has received from the party he has so long and faithfully served an unusual but not unmerited mark of its confidence in his zeal and ability. Mr. Barnum has been placed on both of the great committees charged, in their respective spheres, with the conduct of the Presidential campaign—the National Committee and the Congressional Committee. Of the latter Committee he is the Treasurer. To Mr. Barnum's wise counsels and personal labors is largely due the late triumph of the Democracy in Connecticut. THE SENATORIAL OUELLO FROM MISSISSIPPI.

Senator Bruce, the only colored man in the Senate, made a speech on Mr. Morton's resolution providing for an investigation into the late election in Mississippi, a few days ago. A short time since he broke the party fetters during an Executive session of the Senate, and indulged in a tirade against the President because he had not taken more radical measures to secure the election of a majority of Republicans to the Legislature. This speech created consternation in the Republican camp, which was heightened when it was reported that Bruce was determined to repeat his speech in open session. The other day, however, in his speech on Mississippi, he never once alluded in disrespectful terms to the President. His speech was just what might have been expected, coming from such a source. Instead of confining himself to the question of the late election in Mississippi, he contented himself with a passing allusion to it, and launched out into an essay on the subject of equal political and civil rights for his race. He read his remarks from manuscript; and the closeness with which he confined himself to it, never once raising his eyes, suggested that he was not over familiar with the handwriting. As regards dress, the colored Senator is the most nobby, not excepting Conkling, in the Chamber. He is a thick-set man, and in color is a cross between a mulatto and a full-blooded African. A continual sneer rests upon his ebony countenance, and the erectness with which he sits in his seat, and gazes with a look of indifference upon his brother Senators of a whiter hue, indicates that he considers himself the peer of any honorable gentleman in the chamber. He is exceedingly affected in his manners, and always enters the chamber with his hands encased in a pair of black kids; frequently sitting, during the entire session, with one glove on, and the other lying on the desk before him. Mr. Bruce may have made a very good shuff in Mississippi, but as a United States Senator he is not a success. TREBLA.

—WE are of opinion, and just now don't believe there is much harm in talking it out, that if some certain patriots within the range of our knowledge, were to turn their opposing attention to the Republican party instead of the incessant anathemas they have been hurling at the Democratic party, we are sure it would be of advantage to our cause here, and be a better weapon directed against our enemies. Of course we don't desire to interfere with the outspoken liberty of their real feelings, but we seriously begin to object to their roosting these curses on our pole, and then resting and basking under its sunshine. Patriotism, whose perpetual and eternal cursing is always directed against the Democratic party, must have an innate affection for the Republican one, and only from self interest, at the expense of principle, do they fall in at the eleventh hour under our victorious banners. There is too much sunshine patriotism, not to say cheek in all this, and the sooner these patriots unload the better for both parties, and certainly the better for the country.

—THE growth and structure of the human hair, is very plainly set forth in a pamphlet, published by R. P. Hall & Co., Nashua, N. H. proprietors of Hall's Vegetable Sicilian Hair Renewer, for gratuitous distribution.—The deservedly high reputation of their preparation has wholly been gained by its merits. Being free from oil and alcohol, it has a healthy action on the scalp, restoring gray hair to its natural color without dyeing it cures itching of the scalp, removes and prevents dandruff, and will thicken up the thin locks. Such are the benefits which are conferred upon the consumer. No one should neglect to give it a trial.

—Miss Carrie May will join the Roman Catholic Church before marrying James Gordon Bennett, who was reared in that communion.