

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

LOUISIANA RETURNING BOARD AGAIN—ITS MEMBERS AND CLERKS.

COMPLETION OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION.

WHAT CONGRESS IS DOING.

THE POLICE BOARD.

DEMORALIZATION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

INTERESTING TO PENSIONERS—LIFE INSURANCE—GAMBLING, ETC. ETC.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31, 1877.

EDITOR DEMOCRAT—

When any member of the Louisiana Returning Board appears in public here, there is a scattering of those who have valuables about them. These men are, as men go, of unusually vicious personal appearance, so much so that the fact is noted by all who see them, and in as much a subject of remark as the weather, or the Presidential election. Kenner's contumaciousness is a history and a prophecy of fraud. His equivocal contradictory and self-convicting testimony as to the performances of the Board, fits his features as an eight-button glove fits the wrist. The same may be said of Wells, President of the Board. Luckily the whole four of them are under arrest here, and the Electoral Commission can see them before endorsing their manipulation of the Louisiana vote. Littlefield, a clerk of the body, testified yesterday, having once refused to answer, that he changed the votes of three precincts in Vernon parish by order of Wells. There had been no charges of fraud or intimidation in the precincts. "Make the change," said Wells to Littlefield, "and we'll have the affidavits prepared." This class of evidence, known to have been in existence for some time is just being made public. There is plenty of it.

Yesterday the Electoral Commission was completed, and is as follows: Senators Edmunds, Frelinghuysen, Morton, Thurman, Bayard; Representatives Payne, Hinton, Abbott of Massachusetts, Garfield and Hoar; Justices Field, Clifford, Miller, Strong and Bradley. These are excellent men for the purpose, with one or two exceptions. The omission of Cookling, and the election of Morton will be regretted by all who desire to see a peaceful and satisfactory settlement of the Presidential question. Happily, however, it is not likely that two or three radical and unreasonable men can prevent a happy result.

The House yesterday (30th) passed a bill abolishing the District Police Board. Probably the Senate will follow suit. This bill was passed unanimously in both House and Senate a few days ago, so great was the indignation at the employment of the police force of the Board for dishonorable and partisan purposes. The House also passed the bill giving Capt. Eads his first \$500,000 for his improvement of navigation at the mouth of the Mississippi river. The remainder of yesterday's session was occupied in electing the House members of the Electoral Commission.

In the Senate enormous petitions were presented asking that Pensions be granted to invalid soldiers of the late war shall commence at the date of the soldiers discharge. It seems that they now commence only when the claim is established. Also numerous petitions for a Constitutional amendment giving suffrage to women. Senator Howe introduced a resolution to keep the Congressional library open a greater number of hours than now. Practically this fine library is inaccessible to many.

Ex-Archbishop General Black will manage the case "before the Electoral Commission for the Democrats, and Mr. Everts will perform the same service for the Republicans, unless theascalities in Louisiana and Florida shall make him decline.

One or two more Life Insurance companies have collapsed within a week, to the great loss of innocent policy holders. Of the assets of one of the companies over half were worthless. It is found that the limited State control over these institutions is insufficient, and as a company judiciously managed to day may fail to-morrow under the control of the inefficient or wicked men, there seems to be no security at any time.

The suggested plan of having each company invest a portion of its assets in Government bonds, to remain in the U. S. Treasury, and in a similar manner invest a fixed percentage of its yearly receipts, would seem to be as good as any. The companies cannot be compelled by the Government to adapt it, but if one or two strong companies took the lead the others would have to follow or lose business. It seems proper to state that the demoralization brought upon the various Departments by the exciting elections of last fall continues. All

who have business with the Government are suffering from it.

Recent reports of the police show that in Washington there are seventy-five "policy shops"—small gambling houses, where for five cents or upwards a chance to draw a larger sum is given. They are chiefly patronized by the very poor, yet it is estimated that half a million dollars per year are invested in the game.

NEMO.

MAT. WELLS AS A WITNESS.

Our old fellow citizen, now pretty well known to notorious and doubtful fame, Mat. Wells, has at his own volition been summoned to testify. As he is an important personage in our Louisiana case, every body here, friend and foe, wants to see what he has to say. Below we give a compendium of his little chat, as given by telegraph by A. C. Buell, the Washington correspondent of the New Orleans Democrat, and also his letter to Senator West:

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—The tale told by J. Madison Wells to David Dudley Field's committee to-day was as brazen and crooked a piece of swearing as any Congressional Committee has been treated to for a long time. His Republican allies have been all along roundly asserting that when he was given a chance he would blow Maddox's story so high that nothing would be left of it. To day the committee gave him this chance. He has told his version of the story, but instead of having impeached Maddox in the least, he will find his cunning taxed to the utmost to make his own story hang together.

To appreciate Wells testimony one must have seen him on the witness stand and have heard the peculiar manner of his replies. From the first he assumed a defiant air and was, at most without intermission, in dispute with Field, who subjected him to a severe cross examination. Upon the West letter and the Vernon parish forgery as brought to light by Littlefield, he halted repeatedly in his sentences, rambled from one thing to another, contradicted himself a dozen times, and impressed every fair-minded man present with the belief that he was lying from the beginning to the end. When Mr. Field attempted to confine him to direct answers, he flatly refused to do so, saying that he meant to answer in his own way or not at all. At one time he excitedly refused to answer, and appealed to the chairman to protect him, and striking the table with his fist exclaimed: "If you don't protect me, I'll protect myself and that very quick, too!" looking threateningly at Mr. Field while he said this.

At another time when he attempted to answer or interrupt a question, Field adroitly ordered him to stop. Wells turned to the chairman and inquired, in a voice quivering with excitement, "I want to know whether he has any right to order me to stop, and go outside of the pale of a gentleman to do it?"

Field adroitly drew him into damaging admissions and increased his confusion by skillfully pointing out the inconsistencies of his statements. His attempted explanation of the West letter was simply absurd. The amount of it was that he wanted West to beware of a combination that had been formed to defeat him for re-election to the Senate; that he wanted Maddox to tell West the condition of affairs in Louisiana and get him to induce the President to send troops to protect the board in the discharge of their duties; that he had heard it rumored that millions, or a barrel of money, had been sent from New York to secure the State for Tilden; that he feared the money might be used to influence the electors, or to excite the mob to assassinate the returning officers and destroy the records of the votes of the State, that the counter movement alluded to by him meant a movement of troops; that in saying he knew his duty to Gen. Grant, he meant that he felt it his duty to have a fair count in the presence of the gentlemen whom the General sent down there to witness it; that in saying he did not intert the rebels should rule, he meant that they should not carry the State by murder and intimidation; by saying "A hint to the wise," he didn't mean anything in particular, except that West ought to be ready to send troops at any moment.

He said he had been tampered with, but Republicans are not easy to be bought, though they may sell out to one another, if necessary. In his direct examination he pronounced Littlefield an unmitigated liar. On cross-examination he identified the word "compiled" on the original return from Vernon parish as in the handwriting of Kenner, but suggested that it might be a forgery after all. He said the returns looked like an original, and he could not see anything wrong about it, but would not swear that it was really the original.

Mr. Field drew from him an admission that if the Hayes electors have a majority at precincts 1, 7 and 10, in Vernon Parish, the figures must have been transposed for purposes of fraud or speculation. This was an assumption of innocent ignorance on Wells' part, and a fling at Littlefield's motive in testifying to the alteration to the return from Vernon Parish. Wells persisted in declaring that the face of the returns from the whole State showed a majority for Hayes, even before any votes were thrown out; but he finally got so mixed up that he inadvertently admitted that the returns as received showed six or seven thousand majority for Tilden.

He refused to testify in reference to any acts of the Returning Board, except as to Vernon Parish, on the ground that he was still a prisoner undergoing punishment for contempt, and ought not to be required to testify under duress. Mr. Knott pointed out the transparency of that excuse by reminding him that he volunteered to testify, and swore to tell the whole truth. It was too late to get out of the difficulty by so shallow a pretence. Before Field got through with Wells, he exhibited the temper of a demon. In more than one instance he rose from his seat and, shaking his finger menacingly in Field's face, gave the strongest outward indications that he was even ready to do his sharp questioner bodily harm. Field added some little to the dramatic situation by having his temper somewhat ruffled, but before Wells left the witness stand he was in a terribly dejected state. It was intimated in committee room from the peculiar manner of Wells, that he might be armed. When taken to his quarters by the officer of the House he was searched and there was found upon his person two loaded revolvers and a dangerous thug knife. The came he carried with him was also loaded. To-night he sent to Sergeant-at-Arms Thompson to send him a bottle of brandy, but it was not given to him. The most charitable construction to be put on his very strange conduct to-day is to say that he was drunk. His manner certainly leaves very little room to doubt that he was under the influence of strong drink. He will go before the committee to-morrow, but minus his bulldozing paraphernalia.

NEW TO-DAY. LEOPOLD GEHR SECOND ST., UNDER THE TOWN HALL ALEXANDRIA

FAMILY GROCERIES FINE WINES, LIQUORS and FRENCH BRANDY PURE OLD BOURBON WHISKEY!

CONFECTIONERIES CANDY, CAKES, FRUIT. FINE TOBACCO AND CIGARS

PLANTATIONS IN RAPIDES PARISH, ON BAYOU RAPIDES, NEAR THE TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA, AND ON THE LINE OF THE NEW ORLEANS PACIFIC RAILROAD.

IN THE MATTER OF THE LIQUIDATION OF THE CONSOLIDATED ASSOCIATION OF THE PLANTERS OF LOUISIANA.

No. 8014—United States Circuit Court for the District of Louisiana.

BY HOYE & O'CONNOR—NICHOLAS J. HOYE, Auctioneer—Office No. 25 Commercial Place, New Orleans, Louisiana.—SATURDAY, 24th FEBRUARY, 1877, at 12 o'clock M., at the Merchants' and Auctioneers' Exchange, on Royal, between Canal and Custom House streets, in the City of New Orleans, by virtue of an order of the Hon. Edward G. Billings, Judge of the United States Circuit Court for the District of Louisiana, rendered in the above entitled matter, will be sold by public auction, the following valuable property, to-wit:

1. "THE BROWN PLACE"—a tract of land in the Parish of Rapides, containing about 517 arpents, be the same more or less, situated fronting on the Bayou Rapides, and running back 40 arpents, and is bounded above, below and in the rear by lands of Clapp Brothers. This tract is situated within about one mile of the Town of Alexandria, and was formerly a portion of the sugar plantation owned by Thomas and Flint—the line of the N. O. Pacific R. Co., passes through the tract.

2. "THE LOVE PLACE"—A tract of land in the Parish of Rapides, containing about 1273 arpents be the same, more or less, situated fronting on the Bayou Rapides, about 12 miles from the Town of Alexandria, bounded on the lower line by the old "Walker Place," and on the upper by the lands of the heirs of Frank Byrnes, being the plantation formerly worked by G. Mason Long, and upon which he resided.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. One-third Cash, in U. S. Currency, at the moment of adjudication, and the remainder of the price a credit of One and Two years from the date of Sale, in notes of the purchasers in equal amounts bearing interest of 8 per cent per annum from the day of Sale until final payment, said notes to be made payable at the Louisiana National Bank, in the City of New Orleans, the act of mortgage to contain the penal clause of 5 per cent. Attorney's fees in event of suit; the payment of the aforesaid price to be secured by vendor's lien as by a special mortgage on the property sold, and the purchasers to assume payment over and above the amounts of their bids of all taxes for the year 1876, and for the year 1877.

The above described property to be sold and adjudicated, free from any stock of the Consolidated Association of the Planters of Louisiana, and freed from clear from any mortgage lien or privilege whatever for the payment of any such stock or in favor of the aforesaid Association except for the price of said adjudication according to the terms of sale, and the purchaser in buying at said sale will be subjected to no further liability to such Association or the receiver than the payment of such price, and will not be regarded as a stockholder in the Consolidated Association of the Planters of Louisiana, nor in any manner liable as such.

Acts of Sale at the expense of the purchasers before Amodeo Ducatel, Esq., Notary Public. Feb'y 7-tds.

NEW ORLEANS Grand Ecure Weekly Packet FOR GRAND ECURE, MONTGOMERY, ALEXANDRIA, PINEVILLE, NORMAN'S, BARBON'S, and ALL WAY LANDINGS! THE MAGNIFICENT and FAST RUNNING STEAMER BART HAMILTON and DOWDY, CLERKS

WILL LEAVE NEW ORLEANS EVERY SATURDAY at 5 o'clock P. M. Returning—leaves ALEXANDRIA every WEDNESDAY at 12 o'clock. For Freight or Passage APPLY ON BOARD.

\$5 TO \$20 PER DAY AT home. Samples worth \$1 free. STINSON & CO., Portland, Maine.

VICK'S FLORAL GUIDE A BEAUTIFUL QUARTERLY JOURNAL, finely illustrated, and containing an elegant colored FLOWER PLATE with the first number. Price only 25 cents for the year. The first number for 1877 just issued in German and English. VICK'S FLOWER and VEGETABLE GARDEN, in paper 50 cents; with elegant cloth covers \$1.00. VICK'S CATALOGUE—300 Illustrations, only 2 cents. Address VICK, James VICK, Rochester, N. Y.

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right glimpse of what you are trying to show?" "I will 'correct' it myself, with your permission." "Do so; go on." "I was soon 'alive,' and when I was 'shoved over' I was standing."

"Young man, you narrate in paraboles. Can't you elucidate?" "I will try, Judge. They put a 'good heading' on me, and gave me a prominent place at the top of the column."

"Young man, you are getting the court muddled. Come to the point." "That's where I came to at last—a full stop. They 'locked me up'."

"Yes, now I understand." "And plained me down with the mallet?" "Now I don't. You won't stick to the rule."

"If I had stuck to the rule the 'stick' would have saved me." "I don't get it to that." "Neither did I. It was I who got off."

"Well, go on; go on," said his honor, tipping back the chair with the resignation of a man who gives up his seat in a crowded car to a woman.

"Then they put me in a 'chase'!" "What? chased you? Impossible! but go on."

"And then they got out their 'shooting stick'!" "Now, look here, do you mean to say they had to pull their revolver on you?"

"Not exactly, but they took a mallet. Then they sent me to 'press' and here is the 'impression' as you see."

"Is there anything the matter with you, young man?" "No, sir; only I ask to be delivered!" "I am told by a friend of yours who has just climbed down from the back of my chair that you have spoken in the technicalities of your profession, and that you were persuaded by a lot of the boys that the old year hadn't ended, and so you fell. If I let you go and give you an almanac that contains a list of the eclipses, and tells when it will thunder, will you promise never to look in a grocery again; never take another drink; never go out with the gang; never, never, no, never sit up all night, and that you use your efforts, to the best of your ability, to bleach your nose? Do you swear it?"

"I do, with italics." "Then go away, and be good." [Chicago Times.]

DIED: In New Orleans, on Wednesday, the 28th day of January, 1877, FANNIE, only daughter of Dr. S. and Maggie M. Gordon, aged 16 years and 4 months.

Not for the dead in Christ to weep. Their sorrows now are o'er—The sea is calm, the tempest past, On that eternal shore.

Their peace is sealed, their rest is sure, Within that better home, While we weep, and linger here, Then follow to the tomb.

And though no visioned dream of bliss Nor trace of rapture show Where on the bosom of their God They rest from human woe.

Jesus! our shadowy path illumine, And teach the chastened mind To welcome all that's left of good To all that's lost resigned."

TEMPERATURE AS REPORTED BY FERGUSON & SCHNACK

DATE. MORN. NOON. NIGHT. 5. 40° 52° 54° Clear 6. 43° 54° 56° Clear 7. 43° 50° 50° Clear 8. 52° 50° 50° Clear 9. 50° 57° 50° Clear 10. 54° 64° 60° Clear 11. 54° 62° 54° Cl'dy

PROBATE SALE. SUCCESSION OF S. D. LINTON. PURSUANT TO AN ORDER OF sale issued to me by the Honorable Parish Court of the Parish of Rapides, in the above entitled Succession, on the 12th of February, 1877, I will sell at public auction, at the door of the Court House, in said Parish, on SATURDAY, the 17th of MARCH, 1877,

between the hours prescribed by law, the following described property, viz: The Quantico plantation, situated in said Parish, on the East side of Bayou Boeuf, about eleven miles from Alexandria, at the mouth of Bayou Robert, bounded on the upper side by the land of Chambers, on the lower side by the L'Esperanza plantation, containing about eighteen hundred acres, together with all the improvements thereon.—The said property to be sold in lots of not less than ten nor more than fifty acres, according to a plat which will be exhibited on the day of sale.

TERMS OF SALE—CASH. H. M. ROBINSON, Sheriff. Feb. 14, 1877. Printer's fees \$6.00.

PROBATE COURT. RAPIDES PARISH, LOUISIANA. Succession of No. 72 Editha Lamotte.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Mrs. Caroline Bynum, Adm. of the estate of the above named and entitled Succession, has filed her final account, and that the same will be approved and homologated unless objection is made thereto within the delay prescribed by law.

JAS. H. RANDELL, Clerk Ninth Judicial District Court. Feb. 6, 1877.—P. F. \$3.00.

THE DEMOCRAT

SEND TO HENRY ST. JOHN FOR FRESH GARDEN SEEDS SEASON OF 1877

TO THOSE WHO ARE MAKING GARDENS THIS SPRING AND WISH TO PROCURE RELIABLE SEEDS

I HAVE A LARGE AND WELL ASSORTED STOCK OF FRESH SEED DIRECT FROM

LANDRETH PARTIES WHO HAVE BEEN IMPOSED UPON IN PURCHASING SEEDS (sold at some places on commission) which are OFTEN OLD SEEDS, REPAIRED and MIXED, season after season, adorned with a glaring label, to catch the eye of the UNWEARY, to those WHO HAVE BEEN HUMBUGGED I will say try "LANDRETH'S SEEDS." I am satisfied YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.

To Dealers in Country Stores! I CAN SUPPLY AT LIBERAL TERMS WHOLESALE—BY THE DOZEN, 100 or 1000 PAPERS.

HENRY ST. JOHN Jan. 1, 1877.

ST. VINCENT'S BOARDING SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES CONDUCTED BY THE SISTERS OF CHARITY AT DONALDSONVILLE, LA.

THIS INSTITUTION IS LOCATED in the above named beautiful village, situated at the junction of the Mississippi River and the Bayou Lafourche. It is accessible at all seasons of the year, both by railway and water.

Parents will find for their daughters, in this Institution, all the facilities for a christian and refined education; the course of instruction being the same as that pursued at St. Joseph's Academy, Emmitsburg, Maryland, of which it is a branch.

The buildings and grounds are spacious and commodious. In consideration of the changed condition of the South, the terms have been reduced to nearly half price.

The Academic year is divided into two sessions of five months each—the first commencing the 1st of September, and the second on the 1st of February. TERMS—PAYABLE IN ADVANCE: Board and Tuition, including washing, mending, bed and bedding, per session.....\$75 00 Or per annum.....150 00 French language, per annum... 10 00 Tapestry, Painting, etc. extra charges, Music at Professor's prices. Books and stationery furnished at CURRENT PRICES.

For further particulars reference can be made in person to the different Institutions of New Orleans, or by letter to the SISTERS at Donaldsonville, Dec. 13-3m.

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ERRORS OF YOUTH. A GENTLEMAN WHO SUFFERED for years from Nervous Debility, Premature Decay, and all the effects of youthful indiscretion will, for the sake of suffering humanity, send free to all who need it, the recipe and direction for making the simple remedy by which he was cured. Sufferers wishing to profit by the advertiser's experience can do so by addressing in perfect confidence.

JOHN B. OGDEN, 42 Cedar street, New York

TO CONSUMPTIVES THE ADVERTISER, HAVING been permanently cured of that dread disease, Consumption, by a simple remedy, is anxious to make known to his fellow sufferers the means of cure. To all who desire it, he will send a copy of the prescription used, (free of charge) with the directions for preparing and using the same, which they will find a SURE CURE FOR CONSUMPTION, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS, &c. Parties wishing the prescription will please address

Rev. E. A. WILSON, 194 Peon St., Williamsburgh, N. Y.

NOTICE. THE CO-PARTNERSHIP EXISTING between ASHLEY & ERICHSON expires by limitation and is dissolved this day. Either partner will liquidate the business of the firm. J. B. ASHLEY, B. ERICHSON. Jan. 1, 1877.

MISCELLANEOUS. SEND TO HENRY ST. JOHN FOR FRESH GARDEN SEEDS SEASON OF 1877

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PURE OLD BOURBON WHISKEY CONFECTIONERIES, CANDIES and FRUITS of every kind.

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