



OFFICE—CORNER OF SECOND & JACKSON STS. OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE TOWN

Our Agents.

Thomas McIntyre, New Orleans; J. Curtis Waldo, New York; Geo. P. Russell & Co., St. Louis, Mo; Rowell & Chalmers, St. Louis, Mo; ALEXANDRIA, LA.

WEDNESDAY, - - OCT. 10, 1877.

NOTICE.

We have many subscribers in arrears—some of them to a considerable amount; we have reminded them often of the fact, and every DEMOCRAT they receive costs us just so much cash, for there is no credit in the printing business. Again we ask all of them to come to our relief, as this is the season of the year when they all can pay. Though what each one owes is small in amount, could easily be paid, still the aggregate is large, and is justly our due.

"The St. James."

The favorite name which graces the heading of this local belongs by right to that most elegantly kept Hotel, in New Orleans, at present under the guidance and entire control of General Charles E. Smedes, so long known and acknowledged as the Napoleon of caterers in the South. Now that the honored and veteran, Hiram Cranston, has been gathered to rest in the long hereafter, General Smedes stands without a peer or a rival in the line of business he now so well and favorably fills. We refer Rapidians to his card, in the present issue of the DEMOCRAT, and cordially endorse all he says in it, and without hesitation ask and recommend them, when they visit the Crescent city to register their names at once at the favorite and moderate priced St. James, and we feel certain they will come home contented and pleased at their treatment "at home" in the St. James.

HARDTNER STILL HOLDS OUT AND MANUFACTURES TO ORDER THE BEST BOOTS AND SHOES IN ALEXANDRIA—CHEAP, THE BEST OF LEATHER, AND A COMPLETE AND EASY FIT.

The full column of 1877 advertisement of Julius Levin is only a standing compendium of the branches of business which he superintends and manages with a skill and disposition to merit increasing favors from the public, which he so well displays as a business man of untiring perseverance and indomitable pluck. He finds no relapse from his business to visit New Orleans to make purchases, but has adopted a system which does much better. His renewals and additions to his varied stock are made weekly, and dealing only with first class houses, he is enabled to keep a complete and fresh supply to meet all increasing demands. His patrons can be assured of this, by knowing the fact that he is never out of anything in his line, and never turns off a customer with that suicidal reply: "Just out, sir."

HARDTNER, AT HIS BOOT AND SHOE SHOP PURCHASES NONE BUT SUPERIOR LEATHER, AND TURNS OUT NONE BUT GOOD WORK, CHEAP FOR CASH.

We are rejoiced to announce that the Jetty works of the steamer Alexandria have proved a complete success. Two hundred feet of jetties on the bar, below Town, have given full three and a half feet water. The Bonnie Lee, on Monday morning, passed through the jetties without the least delay or trouble. The Alexandria has gone above and will continue building jetties over all the bad places in the river.

Mr. HUSTYRE is just back from New Orleans, where he has been purchasing his Fall stock, and his store is now full and jammed with every variety of goods and wares, all the freshest and very latest styles and fancies.

Nothing in the outfit line more becomes a gentleman than a decent pair of boots and shoes, well fitting his foot and free from the tortures of misfit. Go to HARDTNER'S, and you can but be suited in every respect.

WATERS' Saw Mill, of which J. Levin is agent, turns out lumber just as fast as the hills of its customers are placed on file. Try it, if you believe this writer.

SAM. FELLOWS returned home from his Western trip, by the stage Monday, and remembered the DEMOCRAT.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AGAIN.

We were among the very first to express our views upon the subject of a Convention to frame a new Constitution for this State and we were the very first to oppose the project. Since then we have waited for an expression of opinion by the other papers to see if the advocates of the measure could advance any arguments to convince us that we were wrong. We were desirous of consulting the best interests of Louisiana, and we were not so wedded to our opinions as not to readily acknowledge our error and fall in with those who are so vigorously demanding the Convention, if we could discover from their arguments that they, like ourselves, were influenced solely by a desire to look to the good of the people of this State, and that their best interests would be subserved by the holding of the Convention. The discussion has now been general and we are strengthened and confirmed in our original opinions thereby. We are pleased to note that some of the ablest and most conservative journals published in the State have sided with us and if the matter were to be settled as it stands now, we take it, that the Legislature would not be justified in calling the Convention in the face of the respectable opposition to the measure shown by those who are and have been the strongest supporters of the State Government now in power, and who have in the dark days, now happily past, rendered valuable aid to the cause of the people. As the discussion goes on the opposition gathers strength and by the time the Legislature meets we expect to be in the majority. That, however, is not a question germane to the issue, which after all, is who is right? and not who has the numbers?

Now we say again that we are no apologists for the men who framed the Constitution of 1863, nor do we deny that some important changes in that instrument are not only desirable, but necessary. What these changes are in our opinion, we have taken occasion to point out at some length heretofore. But we reiterate, that the question of substituting an entirely new Constitution for that one, is at this time ill advised and likely to produce by its agitation more real, substantial, tangible harm in one year, than would result from the proper enforcement of the present Constitution, just as it stands, for the next ten years to come. We have just come out of a fight for life or death, victorious it is true, but "by the skin of our teeth" as it were, and after the result had hung trembling in the balance for many months. Our success was achieved through the intention of the power which held our fate in its hands, to try a doubtful experiment. Even as yet that experiment is itself on trial and the opposing sides are massing their forces for a protracted and perhaps bitter contest in the Congress of the Nation. Our Senator knocks at the door of one of its halls and our Representatives at the other. Until they are seated, as of right they ought to be, Louisiana is not properly a free State of the Union, nor until she secures her proper and legal representative seats in the Council halls of the Nation, can she be secure from the Federal interference which ground us to the dust for so long. Agitation of questions which will alarm the negro at home and give an argument against us to his supporters and our enemies in Congress, will get us into hot water again and may result, if not defeat, our complete redemption from outside interference, to which we owe so much of our past misery and misfortunes.

COMMUNICATION.

Mr. Editor—The people of South Carolina have set us a proper example. They are hunting up all the rascals who oppressed and robbed them for the last ten years—from the Governors down to the lowest scrub who held office. We must follow their example to the letter—let none escape; fill up the Penitentiary and then put them chained to making railroads, side by side with the poor negro, who is sure to be sent to the Penitentiary who steals a pig for his starving child. The Returning Board and the hog thief side by side.

The Grand Jury of New Orleans made a beginning which I trust will be followed up until all are housed where they should be. Don't forget all fiduciary officers—tax collectors and others. Unless this is done I pray the people will send out such a cry of indignation that judges and prosecuting officers will never cease to remember. The people will not forget, and when again they are called upon to vote the inquiry will be—have you discharged your whole duty—have you hunted up the perjurors and forgers—particularly those who held most important stations?

Mr. Editor, it is your duty as a watcher of our rights to see that the Courts do their duty. Let the people know if any officer fails to attend to his duties.

ONE OF THE PEOPLE.

A WORD TO THE UNEMPLOYED.—Our attention has been called to a new cooking utensil, recently invented, which makes baking a pleasure, instead of a dreaded necessity; the inventor of which has conferred an everlasting blessing upon every housekeeper. We refer to the Patent Centennial Cake and Bread Pan, with which, by simply raising a hook, you can remove the sides of the pan from the cake instantly, without breaking or injuring it in the least, thus enabling you to take and frost it while warm. To remove the tube in the center, insert a knife in the slot in the top of the tub, and simply give it a half turn, and it will drop out. It is also provided with a slide on the bottom, so that, when you remove the tube you can close the hole, making a pan with plain bottom, for baking jelly and plain cakes, pudding, bread, etc., thus practically giving you two pans for the price of one. The Centennial Cake Pan is highly recommended by the ladies as being the best and most convenient ever introduced. They are made of Russia iron, are more durable, and will bake your cakes more evenly and much more brown than you can bake them in the old-fashioned tin cake pans. These goods are sold exclusively through agents to families, and every housekeeper should by all means have them. A special opportunity is offered to some reliable lady or gentleman caretaker of this Parish, to secure the agency for a pleasant and profitable business. For terms, territory, etc., write to L. E. Brown & Co., Nos. 214 and 216 Elm street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Gov. Phelps, of Missouri, has appointed D. H. Armstrong to fill the unexpired term of Senator Boggs, made vacant by his death. The new Senator is known as the old war horse of Democracy, and belongs to the aggressive wing of the party.

REFORM IN THE JUDICIARY DEPARTMENT.

The policy of the radical governments throughout the South, and particularly in South Carolina and Louisiana, was to multiply offices and increase salaries to reward their partisans. In this State they made small districts so as to increase the number of judges, and in the Constitution of 1863 they re-adopted the Parish Judge system which had been abolished by the Constitution of 1852 and which even they left out of the Constitution made by them in 1864. We are not opposed to the Parish Courts and think that under conditions they may be made very beneficial to the interests of the people. The first step in that direction, it seems to us would be to look rather at the amount of business to be done by the Parish Judges than to parish lines. There are parishes in the State with enough business to keep a Parish Judge busy the greater part of the year, and there are numerous others where the united business of four parishes would not occupy one Parish Judge for six months in the year. Caddo, Natchitoches, Rapides, St. Landry and Baton Rouge are instances of the former class. Vernon, Sabine, Calcasieu and Cameron we take it are illustrations of the latter. If the Clerks of the Courts were authorized, as they formerly were, to grant preliminary orders, we see no reason why a Parish Judge should not have three or four parishes, when after all he would not probably have twenty cases in each parish during the year. It is true that he would then cease to be properly a "Parish" Judge, and would be more properly a District Judge.

The District Judges should have at least six parishes with two terms a year in each, where the business to be done will justify it. Many districts can be so arranged that one District Judge can do all the business of as many as eight parishes. The Ninth Judicial District which now comprises only the parishes of Rapides, Grant and Vernon does not keep the District Judge employed more than four months in the year, and during the other eight he has nothing to do. This is not the only district in that situation. One term of Court a year in Grant and Vernon is all they require, and to give them more is to put them to the useless expense of jurors, witnesses, etc.—We see no reason why this District should not be made to include the parishes of Sabine, Calcasieu, Avoyelles, Catahoula and Winn in addition to the three now composing it. Give Rapides, Avoyelles and Catahoula two terms a year, which would occupy at the most, six months of the time of the judge; and one term each for Grant, Sabine, Calcasieu and Winn would occupy five months more, if they had business to keep the Court open the whole month, and still leave the Judge one month for holiday and rest. The Seventeenth or Natchitoches district just above us, is just as bad as the Ninth, and comprises only Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine and De Soto if our recollection of the law is correct. Here we have two District Judges for seven parishes, when one could do all the business of both and have four months leisure. Probably the best thing the Legislature could do would be to abolish one of them entirely, and we understand the law to be that the formation of the Districts is left entirely to the Legislature, and that the necessary changes can be made without recourse to any Constitutional Amendment.

The early and prompt dispatch of law business, civil and criminal, should be provided for by law, but that object can be attained at a much less expense than it at present costs the State, and the people look to the Legislature for early measures of reform in the Judiciary Department.

The new Pool liner, Alexandria, named in honor of our Town, reached here on her maiden trip, on Friday, and has ever since been engaged constructing jetties across the bad bar below Town. Up to the present writing very little good in that way has been effected. The bar is now worse than ever, and in no place can two feet scant be found.

The Board of Councilmen of our Town have placed the finances of the Town on a strictly cash basis; have not a dollar of script afloat, are entirely out of debt, and intend to work in unison with the new State law, which went in force on the 1st of October.

The Col. A. P. Kouns had a hard old time of it, fighting the bar below Town. She unloaded, and then was over 48 hours making this port. She went on her way up Monday morning and must see fits before she returns.

A LATE Washington dispatch says that Wells and Anderson of the Returning Board, have retained Shelbarger and Wilson, of that city, and that Jere. Black will assist the prosecution.

LETTER FROM TOBIAS.

COLFAX, LA., Oct. 3, 1877.

DEAR DEMOCRAT—Having been called by business to this historic burg, where I have been sojourning for a week, I cannot resist the temptation to tell you something of this little place, which has cut so extensive a figure in the history of the South, and which for its size is the "biggest little place" I ever saw. Shorn of its political importance it is now simply the Parish Seat of Grant Parish, and strange to say, the whole concern, Court House and all, is private property and belongs to the succession of Meredith Colbourn.

THE TOWN OF COLFAX consists entirely of eleven houses, stretching for a distance of a quarter of a mile from a point directly opposite to the mouth of Cane River, down Red River, and in these eleven houses is done the business of five stores, two boarding houses, Court House, jail, a printing office, tailor shop, Tax Collector's and Sheriff's offices, two doctors' and two lawyers' offices, post office, Justice of the Peace, one gin, a drug store and one blacksmith shop; which, to say the least for it, is certainly utilizing the available house room on hand.

In the only brick house on the ground, which was formerly a stable, gin or something else on the Colbourn plantation, there is now a store, printing office, Tax Collector's office, boarding house, tailor shop and the post office all under one roof, and they all seem to have plenty of room. The printing office, however, is *Junctus officio* and I am sorry to "Chronicle" its departure for the shades where "the woodbine twineb." *Mirabili dictu*, it died of "Sweeney," a disease hitherto considered to be peculiar to horses. It may be that "the young man's" jokes helped to kill it, and if so, there is a poetic justice in the retaliation, for Sweeney claims the credit of having christened him "the young man."

JUSTICE IN COLFAX. The presiding dignitary of the law on my arrival here, and for some days afterwards, until the Parish Court met, was a colored Justice of the Peace, whose first name is Lorenzo, and whose distinguished patronymic is Smith—the same who represented Grant Parish in the last Republican District Convention and who "by ways that are dark and tricks that are vain" was not allowed to vote on his proxies, whereby Grant lost two votes and Orsborn the nomination. I am of the opinion that Lorenzo has been trying to get even on that score ever since, for his court reminded me more of a radical convention than a court of justice. His ideas of law are unique and many of them refreshingly original. He doesn't believe in the "law's delays," and cites you to day to appear to-morrow, and the third day execution is issued. His cases are generally against the colored people and they know no better. His Constable, another representative of the great Smith family, whose other name is James, is a very efficient officer, but "Lorenzo," as Jim calls him, is too much taken up with his seed cotton store to attend to business now.

"BIG TOM." Thomas Johnson, or, as he is familiarly called, "Big Tom," is another local celebrity. He rents four plantations from the Citizens' Bank and can neither read nor write—at least he makes his mark. I don't know how many sub lessees he has, but he is the "boss dog of the honeyard" and puts on considerable style with them all, and is disposed to think that everybody is a sub lessee of his, or ought to be, and he treats them accordingly. He is a big man in his own estimation and is identified with the worst days of radicalism in Grant. "Big Tom" has yet to learn that a white man is as good as a negro, even if he is in Grant Parish.

WORK FOR THE LEGISLATURE. One of the first acts that should be passed by our Legislature this Winter ought to be one abolishing the Parish of Grant and giving its territory back to the Parishes from which it was taken. The Rapides linc runs now on the opposite side of the river to the mouth of Cane River and the Winn Parish line formerly came to about the same point. All that it is necessary to do is to simply declare the Parish abolished and that the territory, with all records relating thereto, shall be returned to Rapides and Winn. There is no earthly reason why it should not be done and the fair name of our State demands that it should be abolished. The land upon which the county site is situated is private property, and is so tangled up in law that it is not at all probable that it can be sold and built for the next ten years.—It was gotten up for private purposes, has promoted the interests of but a few private persons, and it has

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List of the Classes Destroyed in the Patent Office Fire of Sept. 24th, 1877.

PUBLISHED BY THE LOUISIANA DEMOCRAT BY GILMORE, SMITH & CO., PATENT SOLICITORS, 629 F STREET, WASH., D. C.

Aeration, Bridges, Brushes, Boiling Brooms, Butchery, Baths, Bee-Hives, Bolts, Brakes, Carpentry, Carriages, Closets, Castings, Doors, Dairy, Engineering, Excavations, Fences, Files, Glass, Gins, Garden, Grinding, Hoisting, Hydraulics, Harrows, Hardware, Harvesters, (Cutter Bars saved) Journals and Bearings, Lime and Cement, Masonry, Merchandise, Power, Metallurgy, Metal Working (7 classes), Mills, Nuts, Nails, Needles, Orchard, Paving, Presses, Pumps, Pneumatics, Polishing, Plows, Planters (very few saved) Railroad, Railways (4 classes) Rivets, Stove, Saws, Seeders (a few saved) Sheet Metal, Stabling, Tobacco, Treshing, Tubing, Wagons, Wire, Water Wheels, Wire Working, Wood Working. Total number of models destroyed, about 60,000.

Any particular information desired may be obtained by addressing Gilmore, Smith & Co., 629 F Street, Washington, D. C.

Old Time Tables.

At the court of Louis XIV, in the house of process and nobility, and only for the dinner hour, or the time for the "table," was announced by the blowing of horns. They used to sit on benches—banes in French—thence the word banquet. It was Henry III who first introduced chairs. There were tables of silver and gold. Wooden tables were simply covered with cloth, folded doubly and of homespun linen, made in the houses of the bourgeoisie. They hung away down, serving as substitutes for napkins. The first were made at Rheims, and presented by the city to Charles VII, at his coronation. Later they used napkins at court made of velvet, with their coats of arms on them, and richly ornamented by precious stones. But those of linen were also used. Forks were unknown up to the fourteenth century. They carried with them spoons and knives. A knife was called "monk," a fork a "nun," because the wife managed the table, and the husband the fork. At banquets they used to sit in couples, always man and wife together, and those who sat beside each other ate from one plate, and drank out of one goblet. Wherever in Germany that fashion did not prevail there were separate eating rooms for men and women. There were neither glass nor porcelain in use in the eleventh century.

The vessels of the poorer classes were made of wood and tin, and those of the wealthier classes of majolica and Fayence. The nobility had silver, silver gilt-plated or gold, which served more to feed the eye than for any practical use—simply to stand on the sideboard, which was called buffet in the fifteenth and sixteenth in the sixteenth century. At this time the State interferes with the domestic affairs of its subjects, prescribes the number of courses for the table and the expenses of their meals, the cut and length of their clothes. At this time we find the luxury laws of the middle ages still to prevail, to which new ones were added. Philip the Handsome forbade any one the use of golden or silver vessels who had not an income of £6,000, and ordered that at a common meal, but one kind of soup and one dish should be served. On festive occasions one milk soup and two dishes. Louis XIII ordered that at a banquet held not at home no more than \$1 per head—or, rather, stomach—is to be expended. An ordinance at Bale (1556) declares that a meal is to have no more than 3 shillings (about 5 cents—Tr.) of meat or two dozen of fish per person. A law of the sixteenth century, in Venice and Ferrara, fixes a dress not to exceed the price of 15 ducats, and any ornament for a woman not to cost more than 50. Pensive women are forbidden by the law to wear silk, pearls, gold or silver.

—[St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

"THEY ALL DO IT" is the title of a new book we have just received from those enterprising publishers, Lee & Shepard, Boston, Mass., and it being from the free and easy pen of the "Danbury News Man," cannot fail to be a really interesting and fun making book. We cordially recommend those of our people fond of good, light and strictly moral literature to send their orders to the publishers we have mentioned above.

—They have a patent register liquor law, in Richmond, and for 17 days in September it registered 135,550 malt drinks, and 127,000 alcoholic drinks. Such a register in Alexandria would make good time, and we fear would proportionally beat Richmond all hollow.

—On Dir that Packard is going to Washington to attend the Extra Session, and try and solve the problem how the same vote counted fairly elects Hayes and counts him out.

—Rock bottom prices are asked and charged by HARDTNER, for his extra made and fitting boots and shoes.

—Would it not aid in paying the debt of our Parish to establish the Moffett bell punch in Alexandria and at the country stores? This is our put: financially for Rapides.

—It begins to work—the Constable arrested a minor, hanged under the influence of mean tanglefoot, disturbing the peace, and landed him in the Lock-up.

—No Packet or Pool-liner left New Orleans Saturday evening for this port. The C. H. Darfee left Monday evening, and ought to be here early to-night.

—STATE elections in Ohio and Iowa yesterday. We will know the result by Saturday's mail, ahead of the telegraph.

—FRAMPS, loafers and non-producers are as plentiful in Alexandria, as fiddlers in hell.

—See proceedings of the Board of Councilmen, and the report of the Town Treasurer.

—THANKS to the clerks of the Col. A. P. Kouns for the latest papers.