



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

Our Agents.

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ALEXANDRIA, LA.

WEDNESDAY, - - APRIL 10, 1878.

NOTICE!

WE AGAIN CALL THE ATTENTION of many of our country subscribers to the fact that they are still in arrears to THE DEMOCRAT for subscription.

By the Bart. Able, ahead of the mail and the telegraph, we learn of the loss and total destruction of two of the Pool Line's steamers—the Dawn and the Col. A. P. Kouns.

The Col. A. P. Kouns was bound up, having left New Orleans on Wednesday, regular day of leaving with the river mail, had a good freight and some passengers, was snagged at "Nigger Point," 75 miles below this Town, on Friday evening about 10 o'clock, and sunk nearly even to her hurricane deck.

Professor J. A. Frank, of New Orleans, has arrived here and proposes forming a number of classes in order to teach Dancing. He comes here highly recommended by the New Orleans press, and will at once open a Dancing Academy at the Town Hall.

B. C. DUKE, manager of the favorite and model store of Mrs. E. S. Hetherwick, on Front street, yet stems the tide of battle against the hard and depressed times, to which many are bending their broken knees.

The weather the past week has been varied and very erratic; we have had high, boisterous winds, with clouds of dust; we have had two white frosts, and finally we have had a really fine and much needed rain.

Sam's Restaurant and Boarding House are still basking in the sunshine of the public's patronizing favors, and still hold a stiff upper lip and a good table, well provided with the niceties of the season, despite these hard times, and the continued indolence of the non-producers.

ONE DOLLAR PER WEEK WILL buy a SINGER NEW FAMILY SEWING MACHINE from FERGUSON and SCHNACK, agents for the SINGER MANUFACTURING CO.

At the last regular monthly meeting of Stonewall Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of John F. Graham, as Vice-President, Jacob Walker was elected to fill the office.

WILLIAM HUSTMYRE has just received, opened and offers at the LOWEST CASH PRICES, the completest assortment of Hats and Clothing, expressly for Summer wear.

READ notice authorized by the proprietor of the Steam Ferry boat, John C. Rogers, and we give it as our opinion, that a fellow without money is just as well on one side of the river as the other.

The Packet Bart. Able came to law by noon Monday, had a fair freight, a good number of people, and leaves this morning at 10 o'clock.

ONE Dollar per week will buy a Singer New Family Sewing Machine from Ferguson & Schnack.

ANOTHER RETROSPECT.

There can be no good, not even policy, in hiding or disguising the lamentable and mortifying fact, that the elements of Democracy and Conservatism in our State, as opposed to and organized last campaign against Radicalism, are in a complete demoralized state, discontented and disgraced almost beyond remedy.

Therefore, more in Democratic sorrow than in Conservative anger, we state that the cause, the real and true cause of these woes and faux pas unnumbered, and yet increasing, spring from our trusted leaders, triumphantly and cordially endorsed and supported, in November, 1876, and their lack of confidence in their sovereign supporters and backers, sutured with the dead weight of owl wisdom, is the pillar of salt that has caused, and is the sole cause, of the troubles, vexations and herculean inconsistencies and betrayal of vested rights of a confiding people, which has thrown our good and sacred cause in confusion and drooped her graceful banners.

The authorship and parentage of our present troubles must be traced and commenced on the day and the hour, and the minute, that Governor Nicholls received that great and important message direct from Mr. Hayes in Washington, through a few of our then reputed, and trusted leaders, stating in substance that the troops would be removed at a minute's warning, that he could get full possession of the State Government.

The times are getting harder and more stringent than ever, and money in circulation is now the exception. But we conscientiously believe if Judge Rogers' decision in the Railroad-Mandamus case be confirmed by the Supreme Court, we may as well hang up our harps on the weeping willows of starvation.

These few blunt, but honestly penciled sentences tells the sad story, that has passed in history and that has done all the harm; the harm of all the Returning Board trials, which never would have been heard of had the people been told the great State secret, and confided with a voice of endorsement of the good agreement made in good faith, but persistently secreted from and denied to their people, their peers.

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Now is the accepted time. Why delay in procuring the right to use the best Washer in the world;—it is superseding all others wherever introduced.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ENTRIES.

The Sunday Herald, published in Washington, has gotten off a good thing in sporting parlance, on the entries for the next presidential contest. We publish it below, and are sure some of our patriots here, will bet their bottom greenback on Mr. Hayes just on account of the pedigree assigned him:

In the grand sweepstakes, free for all, play or pay, purse of \$200,000 added, and four years in the White House, rent free, to come off in November, 1880, the following nominations have already been made: Sam Tilden, gray gelding, aged, by "Barrel of money," dam'd by "Bourbons" out of "Pocket," owned by Wall Street, to be ridden by Pelton, weights Hewitt, colors gold. Ross Conkling, s. h. by "Vanity," out of "Conceit," sired by "Swellhead" out of "Ringworm," to be ridden by Collector Arthur, colors blood red.

Now, Mr. Editor, is not that paying pretty heavy for the privilege of breathing the air of Alexandria? Is there no way to lessen the burden of high taxes? I think there is, but before stating how, I will give the way how this revenue is laid on the people. First, by license on business \$20.00 for each Dry Goods house without reference to amount of stock, which makes a poor man, who has a stock of \$500.00, pay as much as his neighbor, whose stock will invoice \$30,000.00, which looks like legislating for the wealthy at the expense of the poor.

AT TOM M. BLOSSAT'S JEWELRY and WATCH-MAKING SHOP, in the store of JACOB WELLS, corner of SECOND and DESOTO streets, you can have your CLOCKS, WATCHES and JEWELRY REPAIRED WITH DISPATCH, and at THE VERY CHEAPEST CASH RATES.

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It should be remembered and joyfully caressed by the youth, beauty and chivalry of Alexandria, Pineville, and adjacent localities, that the Grand Ball of the Fire Department is fixed for Tuesday, the 23d day of this month.

NAPOLKENVILLE, Assumption Par. La., N. Jenkins, Esq., Dear Sir—

I had been very bad off with Chronic Rheumatism for more than two years—my crutches; suffered intensely; tried everything to no purpose; have taken eight bottles of your medicine and am well. GEO. W. GRISAMORE. Jenkins' "Annihilator" cures Rheumatism, Gout and Neuralgia.—Price, \$1 per bottle.

We invite the special attention of the property holders and tax-payers of our Town to the proceedings of the last regular meeting of the Board of Councilmen, and supplement this invitation with the financial fact, that the total revenues of our Town for the year 1877 were \$3689.29, and that the salaries and commissions of its officials were \$2641.73.

TRUE REFORM.

EDITOR DEMOCRAT—

Will you permit me, through your columns, to express my views and the views of a large portion of the interested citizens of Alexandria, as to the revenue collected from the impoverished people of Alexandria, and the disposition made of the same. If I am correctly informed, (and I believe I am,) the amount of licenses, taxes, wharfage and rent of Corporation property for the year 1877 was \$8689.29, out of which the Mayor receives a salary of \$600.00; the Constable's salary and percentage for collections made, besides the fees for arrests, amounts to \$1501.73; Custodians, \$200.00; Secretary \$100, and the Treasurer gets his percentage, amounting to \$234.00—making in all paid to officers \$2635.73, or about 30 per cent. of the revenue of the Corporation.

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Now, I propose that the Mayor's salary be reduced to \$300.00, which I think will compensate him for the little time devoted to the interests of the Town. Reduce the Constable's salary to \$750.00, and let that cover all his fees, except of arrests, and do away with the Secretary, and let his place be filled by one of the Councilmen at \$1.00 for each meeting, which will make a saving of at least \$75, and a saving in the aggregate of \$125.00. Then reduce the licenses to \$10.00 on the small stores. It does look to me that we ought not to censure the State Legislature for not adopting reform measures to a greater extent while our Town affairs are so badly managed.

It is said that competent men would not have the Town offices at the above salaries, but that is a mistake. The present incumbents, who are very efficient officers, I have no doubt would hold them, but as a matter of course, would prefer to get a larger salary, but it is the duty of the Town Council to legislate for the many and not for a few. There are but very few men but would like to have a fat office, but if they cannot get a fat one they will take one not so fat. How many young men seeking employment, fully competent for the position of Constable, who are willing to do much harder work at from \$15.00 to \$25.00 per month.—The Mayor's position can be filled by some competent man who has other business, and the office in connection would do very well. Mr. Editor, these are hard times, and the taxes of State, Parish and Corporation are heavy burdens and ought to be reduced to the lowest point, without regard to individual interests. Provisions are low and the laborer who supports himself can work for smaller wages, because his expenses are not as great. Why will not the same apply to the salaries of officers.

I hope, Mr. Editor, you and your readers agree with me and that you will keep the subject before the Council and the people.

Respectfully, REFORMER.

ONE DOLLAR PER WEEK WILL buy a SINGER NEW FAMILY SEWING MACHINE from FERGUSON and SCHNACK, agents for the SINGER MANUFACTURING CO.

NATCHITOCHEES, LA., Dec. 15, 1875.

W. L. Juzgiewicz, Esq., New Orleans, La. Sir—The two bottles of ANTI-RHEUMATIC MIXTURE sent me some time ago has been fully tested, and I can say, with wonderful effects. To my knowledge, it is one of the best medicines now in use. Enclosed \$5 by P. O. money order, for which send as many bottles as you can for send, amount, either by mail, if practicable, or by our regular boats to Grand Ecote. I remain, respectfully yours, L. DUPLEX.

GRANT'S spiritual power has never been broken, but the movement to restore his temporal power is getting gigantic. SIXTY horses are in training for the Mobile races, which take place on the 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the present month. THE red men of the forest can now rejoice—an Indian agent has been robbed of \$1,500 in Washington. GRANT has called on Pope Leo at the Vatican, accompanied by his wife and son.

THE COLLECTORSHIP.

WASHINGTON, April 5.—Contrary to the general expectation, the New Orleans collectorship question was not settled at the Cabinet meeting to day, nor did the President intimate that he intended to settle it very shortly. In fact it is asserted that he has an elephant on his hands in the matter, and has been unable to devise a plan to get rid of it.

Anderson, who now has full charge of the Custom House, is earnestly urged by his friends for the appointment of Collector, as necessary to his complete vindication, and it is believed that the President would send in his nomination at once if he thought it could be confirmed; but it is not believed that Anderson could be confirmed. It may, however, become necessary for the President to send his nomination to the Senate in order to pacify him and his friends, and to pave the way for a new deal.

New York, April 5.—The Washington Post's special says that J. Madison Wells and Pinchback, of Louisiana, have arrived there to take an active part in the contest for the New Orleans Collectorship. The latter is utterly opposed to Packard's appointment. Wells is in favor of Anderson first and Packard afterward. Kellogg's friends say that he will oppose Anderson's confirmation if the President nominates him. Wells had an interview with the President to-day.

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The latest war rumors from Europe are thus telegraphed:

LONDON, April 6.—The Post publishes the following in semi-official form. No doubt our government, while determined to vindicate every line of Lord Salisbury's despatch, is not unwilling to take into consideration the views suggested by Vienna statesmen.

To-day the prospect is more peaceful, but the government should guard against a surprise at Constantinople and Mr. Layard ought to be empowered to assure the porte of England's support against any sudden advance of the Russians.

The Standard publishes the following in a similar form: We understand the present intention is to keep the channel squadron near Malta available for the transport of the troops therefrom. Every arrangement has been made so that three thousand or four thousand troops could be embarked in a few hours.

LEVIN's accomplished manager of his recherche Sample Room, Chas. Goldenberg, truly understands the thirsty wants of a temperate Editor, and seems inclined none too often to cater to his needs. A big flowing and iced pitcher of real lemonade, on yesterday morning, was handed to us in our sanctum as a practical and positive proof that we do not sound the praises of the Manager of the Sample Room without a substantial excuse.

The steamer Texas, of the Pool Line, recently seized and libeled in the U. S. District Court, on a suit for the sinking of the tug Hope, was on Friday last sold by Jack Wharton U. S. Marshal, for the sum of \$2600, and was purchased by Capt. Joseph A. Aiken.

GENERAL Charles W. Field, of Georgia, formerly of Kentucky, an officer throughout the war under General Lee in Virginia, and who, since the war, has been in the service of the Khedive of Egypt, has been elected Door Keeper of the House of Representatives.

HENRY P. LUCKETT, our State Tax Collector, came up on the Bart. Able on Monday from New Orleans, where he had been officially, and has settled up with the Auditor for the first quarter.

Gov. Nicholls has signed the death-warrants of three colored men, found guilty of murder in the Parish of St. Mary. The day of the execution of their crime has been fixed for Monday, the 22d inst.

At an election held in the town of Evergreen, Avoyelles Parish, the following officials were elected: Wm. Ewell, Mayor; Jos. Cappell, J. A. Hollinshead, Chas. Arene, H. W. Miles and C. W. Duvall, Councilmen.

TRAMPS and non-producers are still hereabouts in a disreputable majority, though the Temperance boys are striking the votaries of old red-eye some hard and telling blows.

PLENTY of strawberries in the Alexandria market—we have not as yet sampled the fruit.

USUAL thanks to the clerks of the Bart. Able for our package of New Orleans papers.

Hon. James Graham, late Auditor of the State, died in New Orleans on last Wednesday.

NO RAILROAD.

We seem to be doomed and nearly damned in Louisiana, and now that our Courts stretch the law so eagerly and unjustly against justice, we are forced to make the admission. The following decision against our Railroad was rendered, on the 3d inst., in New Orleans, by Judge Walter H. Rogers, of the 5th District Court:

"The General Assembly, by an act of 1873, approved March 11, entitled an act to authorize the loan of State bonds to the New Orleans Pacific Railway Company, etc., provided for the issue of bonds of the State to the extent of two millions of dollars, to be made in amount and condition as specified in the provisions of the act.

By the fourth section of this act the first issue of State bonds is provided to be made as soon as the act shall take effect, to the amount of \$250,000, represented by the work already done on said railway.

The Governor, Secretary of State and Auditor of Public Accounts having refused to issue the bonds required by the said fourth section of this act, this application is made to order the performance of duties prescribed under the said provisions.

The Attorney General, in defense, alleges that the act of the Legislature making this grant is unconstitutional and null for several reasons, one of which is "because it violates the amendment to the constitution limiting the debt of the State to \$15,000,000."

By act of the Legislature, approved January 24, 1874, provision was made for funding the floating and bonded debt, and authorizing an exchange of bonds under the act for outstanding obligations at the rate of sixty cents in consolidated bonds for one dollar in outstanding bonds.

Section 13 of this act provides that "the entire State debt prior to the year of our Lord 1914 shall never be increased, directly or indirectly, beyond the sum of \$15,000,000 heretofore authorized, it being the intent and object of this act, and of the changes to be effected thereunder, to reduce and restrict the whole indebtedness of the State to a sum not exceeding \$15,000,000, and to agree with the holders of the consolidated bonds to be issued hereunder that said indebtedness shall not be increased beyond said sum during said period."

Of even date was enacted an act proposing amendments to the constitution of the State confirming the funding act above recited, and which amendments were approved by a vote of the citizens of the State.

When these several acts of 1874 were passed the Legislature had before it the report of the Auditor of Public Accounts for the year ending December 31, 1873, and this exhibited:

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Total amount of the absolute debt of the State: \$24,506,180 36. Total amount of the debt for which the State is contingently liable: 5,483,602 47. Total absolute and contingent debt: \$29,989,782 83.

Also, acts of the General Assembly granting State aid to various corporations, bonds not yet issued, \$10,788,000.

It is contended by counsel for relator that the funding act and constitutional amendment of 1874 in reducing and restricting the debt did not contemplate this contingent liability, and this court would err if it considers as a part of the debt of the State this contingent liability of \$5,000,000; that this amount represents bonds indorsed by the State in favor of the associated banks and Citizens' Bank; that the bonds of these banks are secured beyond redemption, and the State will never have to pay them; that the Legislature have not deemed it proper to include them in her schedule, and as the sovereign cannot be held to a responsibility for them by her own courts, that is to say that the Legislature contemplated reducing a debt of nearly \$30,000,000 to \$15,000,000 by paying sixty cents on the dollar, is an absurdity. To this last suggestion I think the second amendment of 1874 is a sufficient answer:

"Whenever the debt of the State shall have been reduced below \$25,000,000, its constitutional limit shall remain at the lowest point reached, beyond which the public debt shall not thereafter be increased. This rule shall continue in operation until the debt is reduced to \$15,000,000, beyond which it shall not be increased."

In response to the other propositions, it is to be said first, the bonds of the Associated Bank have been decreed by my brother of the Third District Court to be valid and binding obligations of the State, and his opinion has been affirmed by the Supreme Court.

Secondly, as to the Citizens' Bank bonds: In Twenty third Annual Report, p. 404, by a unanimous court, of which one of the learned counsel

who has favored me with a brief in behalf of relator was a distinguished member, it is said:

"It is contended that the bonds issued in favor of the property banks, amounting to \$4,839,833, should not be computed as debts of the State, because they are amply secured by assets of the banks, and because the accrued interests thereon have been promptly paid by the banks. It is well known, especially in this country, that persons natural and artificial frequently fail in business, and from affluence are suddenly reduced to insolvency. The present ability of the property banks to meet their liabilities is no guarantee that the State will not eventually have to pay her bonds issued to aid said banks; and much less, is it a reason to say that the said bonds should not be computed as a part of the debt of the State. If it had been intended to exclude these bonds, or others, in the computation of the debt of the State limited by the constitution, it would have been done in express terms."

This decision was rendered in 1871, and the interpretation of the act of 1874, in reference to the State debt or its computation, passed with the full knowledge of the judicial expression and definition of the subject matter, will be presumed to have been enacted in harmony with the law laid down by the courts.

It is true counsel have argued that the conclusion of the court in that case was bad law, but I certainly find it most reasonable and clear, and better than that, its wisdom has been proved by the fact that the holders of some of these very bank bonds have sought for and obtained judicial recognition of their claims against the State as holders of its obligations.

In making an extract from the Auditor's report, I have included amounts of bonds of \$10,788,000 not issued; these, of course, are virtually annulled by the constitutional amendments, and can serve in this connection only as a purpose showing as much as anything else a motive in submitting the amendments restricting further indebtedness.

It seems to be conceded that, if the bonds of the "property banks" are held as debts of the State, the inquiry should be pursued no further and I can see no reason for making further exhibit of facts, which, as far as I have even cursorily examined, convince me would take nothing from the public burden.

Mandamus refused with costs. ONE DOLLAR PER WEEK WILL buy a SINGER NEW FAMILY SEWING MACHINE from FERGUSON and SCHNACK, agents for the SINGER MANUFACTURING CO.

CIVILITY AND CEREMONY.—Nothing is more honorable and pleasant than civility, and nothing more ridiculous and burdensome than ceremony. Civility teaches us to behave with proportionate respect to everyone, according as their rank requires and their merit demands. In other words, civility is the science of men of the world. A person of good address, who conducts herself with due circumspection, conciliates the love and esteem of society, because every one finds herself at ease in her company; but a ceremonious woman is the plague of her acquaintance. Such a one requires too much attention to be a pleasant associate, is too seldom satisfied with what is paid her, and every moment feels her pride hurt by the want of some frivolous etiquette. You cannot be too formal to her, nor can she dispense with her formalities to others. In short, ceremony was invented by pride, to harass us with puerile solicitudes which we should blush to be conversant with.

THE paths of glory lead but to the grave. The fifth battalion of French chasseurs a pied, a crack corps, has received upon its rolls the names of 382 officers between January 1, 1840, and October 1, 1876. Of these one—old Canrobert—has become a marshal, seven have become generals of division and three generals of brigade. Forty have fallen on the field of battle, not to mention those who died in hospital or of wounds or illness contracted in the service, or were retired because of broken health or wounds. Nine fell in Africa, twelve in the Crimea, one in Italy (in 1859), one in Mexico and seventeen in the Franco-Prussian campaign.

A big dinner is soon to take place at the White House, in commemoration of Keno Anderson's escape from punishment. The programme includes a prayer by Mr. Hayes, a congratulatory address by Honest John Sherman, and a hymn by Eliza Pinkston.

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A WOMAN'S fall is something like that of a child. The first intimation that the child has that it has tumbled down is conveyed in the fact of its being picked up.