



Official Journal of the School Board of Rapides Parish.

MOBLEY & CO., - Proprietors.

W. G. MOBLEY, Editor H. H. MOBLEY, Local Editor

Governor Foster has signed the death warrants and designated April 2d as the day for the execution of the Blane brothers, who so brutally murdered Martin Begnaud, a merchant near Lafayette, La., about one year ago.

Governor Bradley, of Kentucky, having refused to respite Scott Jackson and Alonzo Walling, convicted of the atrocious murder of Pearl Bryan, they were accordingly executed last Saturday, at Newport.

The DEMOCRAT is under obligations to Commissioner of Agriculture, J. G. Lee, for a copy of the proceedings of the Eleventh Annual session of the State Agricultural society, held at Baton Rouge, January 27th, 28th and 29th 1897.

FOUNDERED AT SEA. - The French line steamship Ville de St. Nazarie, which sailed from New York on March 6th, bound for the West Indies, is reported to have foundered at sea. Out of a passenger list and crew of eighty-two, only four have been rescued. These reached New York on the schooner Hilda, after drifting about for several weeks in an open boat in the Atlantic ocean, during which time thirty-four of the thirty eight occupants became mentally deranged and died of starvation. Of such is the horrors of the Ocean.

The Revellie moves into its new office this week. President Boyd has kindly given the first room down stairs and north of the sally port for this purpose. This room has been newly floored and fixed up in other ways until it presents a very neat appearance. One of the tables donated is historic, having been used by General Sherman when he was president of the University before the war. Visitors to our sanctum are requested to be very gentle in their treatment of this venerable piece of furniture, and to remember that it is not to be used either as a foot-stool or as a chair. - [Baton Rouge Revellie.

CORBETT "KNOCKED OUT." - Fitzsimmons knocked Corbett out in the fourteenth round, at Carson City Nevada, last Wednesday. I is said that \$1,000,000 changed hands on the result of the "fight," still, the country is understood to be enveloped in a mantle of gloom and desolation, on account of the prevailing "hard times," alleged to be caused by a general depression and stagnation in all kinds of business, resulting from the so-called single gold standard. It is to be hoped that the newspapers will now cease to parade the champion and his defeated antagonist before the public gaze, but permit them to remain in obscurity for some time to come, if not for the balance of their natural lives.

IT IS GOOD TO BE HERE. - We are glad to see the faces of many of our elderly citizens among those in daily attendance at the Gospel Feast which has been going on and is still in progress at the Court House. We say feast, because it is truly a feast to the heart and soul to hear this learned scholar and noted Presbyterian Evangelist, Dr. W. D. Morison, of Virginia, who is assisted by the Rev. B. L. Price, of Alexandria, and also an elegant preacher, and whose presence, together with that of Rev. C. R. Delepine, has added greatly to the interest of this spirited meeting. It is indeed a fine treat to hear this learned man expound the gospel in the light he sees it. About the best and truest way in which we can express ourselves, is to say like the Apostles of old, "It is good to be here." It is our sincere prayer that this good work may continue from day to day until every household in this community has felt the divine influence of this godly man to such an extent as will drive them from their godly ways and make them publicly buckle on the armor of the righteous and follow Christ. - [Marksville New Enterprise.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

President McKinley's message to Congress in extraordinary session last week, was characterized by brevity and the use of the plainest and most easily understood language to convey his meaning to the two houses of Congress. Heretofore, it has been the custom of our Presidents to transmit to Congress verbose recommendations, couched in recondite language, not easily understood or decipherable by the "common people." Indeed, the customary reading of these usually prolix and uninteresting state papers are generally listened to with impatience, apathy and indifference by the members of Congress themselves, some one of whom always arises when the reading of the message has been finished by the respective officers of the Senate and House, moves its reference to the usual committee and that so many thousand copies be printed for the use of members and for general distribution.

The message of the new President, therefore, is a unique departure from the lengthy, labored and uninteresting documents of his predecessors, which are rarely ever read or understood by the masses. As we have intimated, the McKinley message is short, sharp, concise and to the point. He seeks to impress upon the members that an extraordinary exigency has arisen in the history of the country, whereby it has become necessary to convene them, so that in their united wisdom they may devise ways and means to raise sufficient revenue to keep the wheels of the governmental machinery revolving smoothly without borrowing the deficiency from individuals or syndicates. He assures them—as his predecessor has done many times before him—that the governmental expenditures are largely in excess of the revenues, entailing a considerable deficit at the end of every fiscal year, which must be provided for by a succeeding session of Congress. That nations, like individuals, must necessarily lose their credit and be thrown into bankruptcy, when they repudiate their honest obligations.

While no one will dissent from the proposition of the President that it is the duty of Congress, in view of existing insufficiency of revenue, to raise the necessary income by levy of sufficient taxes to carry on the government economically administered, many thousands will differ with him as to the proper and legitimate method of accomplishing the desired object. President McKinley believes—a belief in which we do not concur—that the enactment of a high tariff which will increase taxes on the necessities of life for the benefit of the protected industries of the country and the further enrichment of the plutocrats at the expense of the toiling masses, will produce the desired result in the attainment of increased revenue.

While we are satisfied that our chief magistrate is reasoning from illogical premises to erroneous conclusions and that his vaunted policy of protection will have a diametrically opposite effect to that which is intended, by reducing the amount of imports and correspondingly decreased revenue to be derived therefrom, we entertain the opinion, that the Democratic minority in Congress should cease to make any factions or partisan opposition to the new President, but throw all responsibility upon him for the conduct of the national administration, even to the extent of "giving him sufficient rope to hang himself."

The Vets Passing Away.

The Grand Army is dying at the rate of 100 a day. Every fifteen minutes of the twenty-four hours the final tap sounds for some one who wore the blue. Each year puts under the sod more old soldiers than there are enlisted men in the entire United States Army. Time is carrying them off faster in the nineties than bullets did in the sixties. The war lasted four years to a month. In those four years 84,000 men fell in battle on the Union side. But now between 35,000 and 40,000 die in the course of nature each succeeding twelve months. And for every three Union Veterans who go to fame's eternal camping ground two Confederates are numbered with the dead. - [St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

NO CAUSE FOR COMPLAINT.

While the New Orleans merchants are bewailing their unfortunate fate in having lost the trade of North and Central Louisiana, there is really no cause for complaint. It is their own fault. The people of the sections mentioned, who have transferred their trade to St. Louis and other cities, are not to be blamed for it. They tried, year after year, to do business with New Orleans, until experience satisfied them that longer persistence in such a delusive idea, was rapidly making papers of the entire section mentioned. There are various causes for the transference of this trade to St. Louis, only one or two of which it is necessary to notice, in order to effectually refute the preposterous proposition that it is due to railroad discrimination against New Orleans. The most potent reason and the controlling one which induced the merchants and planters of this section to abandon New Orleans and purchase supplies in St. Louis, is because they could make better bargains in the latter, than they could in the former city. This is a well known fact which cannot be controverted. Hence, it is perfectly natural that—notwithstanding the ties of State pride and long business associations which bound them to New Orleans—they should sever these ties and seek a foreign market where better inducements were offered them and where they could purchase more for the same amount of money. Again, the people of Louisiana, and we presume of the entire section of country tributary to that city, could not readily forget the tyrannical manner in which they were treated—if not actually repulsed—by the cotton factors of New Orleans—upon whom they had been accustomed to rely in ante-bellum days—for supplies to carry on their annual agricultural operations. These people at this time were impoverished from the adverse termination of the war and were trying to keep their homes by paying off the indebtedness against them and at the same time support their wives and children, who had seen better days under a different regime. How did the merchants respond to their plaintive appeals for assistance? By either absolutely refusing the assistance requested or demanding a "cut throat" mortgage, the stringent nature of which every one is familiar with and under the rigorous terms of which the ownership of property, in Louisiana changed hands almost to the same extent as it did in Ireland, after the suppression of the rebellion and the passage of the general confiscation act.

Newspaper Litigation.

Two newspapers are now being published in Grant Parish, one at Colfax, by Mr. J. E. Dunn, and the other at Pollock, by Mr. E. A. Mathis, both claiming the right to the ownership of the name "People's Demands" and the prestige of being the official journal of the Parish and School Board. Unless one of the disputants renounces his pretensions, litigation must naturally ensue.

The controversy seems to have originated in a sale by Mr. Mathis to Mr. Dunn of the outfit of the "People's Demands," at Colfax, on March 11th, 1896, taking in payment therefor the promissory note of Mr. Dunn for \$325, payable January 5th, 1897. Mr. Mathis claims that default was made in the payment of the note at maturity and that he demanded and recovered possession of the plant, name and all privileges connected with it, having never parted with his title to same because of non-payment of the purchase price. Mr. Dunn, after surrendering the material of the "People's Demands" to Mr. Mathis, purchased another plant, that of the defunct Louisiana Reformer, in Alexandria, and is continuing to publish the "People's Demands" at Colfax, a proceeding against which Mr. Mathis protests and warns him to discontinue the use of the name.

—When a merchant has a good honest article to sell, he likes critical customers, particular people, for whom only the best is good enough. That's the way we feel. THE BUCKSKIN BREECHES are so good, so strong at every point, that we like to sell them to people who appreciate a good pair of pants. We make these pants with the idea of pleasing the most particular buyers, then we please everybody. We guarantee the fit and stitching.

WILEY POINT AND BIG ISLAND SCHOOLS.

Taught by H. B. Mercer, closed on March 12th. The patrons of the above named schools, and many others, were present at the closing exercises. The school was divided and a part of it taught at Big Island and a part at Wiley Point. Notwithstanding the scholars of the former did not attend the latter, they were invited to take part, which they did, in the exhibition.

The house was decorated with flowers and the word "Welcome," printed on the curtain.

First, a drill song was sung and marched; afterwards, going in double file, the pupils marched around their play ground. After marching was over everyone was invited into the house. Eager to hear what was coming next they quickly responded.

Song of "Welcome," school.

"Welcome," John L. Deville.

"The Little Orator," Polite Deville.

"How to tell News," Donie Bobeff and Ida Belgard.

"A Little Boy's Speech," Jeff Deville.

"Old Shoes," Warren Dodge.

"It finished Him," Alins Deville.

"Spring," Hanna Woodson.

Song, "Co ca cha lunk," school.

"Woodchucks," Rez Lucas.

"An Old Hen," Emma Dodge.

"A Tea Party," Dattie Lapraire.

"Somebody's Darling," Donie Bobeff.

"Girls," Michael Bobeff.

"Goodby," (on board), Ida Belgard.

"The Owl and Pussy Cat," Jose ler Crews.

"A Little More," Mattie Deville.

Song, "Shelter in Storm," school.

"We are Seven," Lavinia Mor ace.

"The Pet Chicken," Sid Bobeff.

"Living in a Shoe," Annie Reed

"Grand Mother," Manuel Lapraire.

"Young Soldiers," Wesley Cain.

"Good Night," Barbary Bobeff.

Cross Jokes by Tampe and Jimpson, kept the house ringing with laughter for at least one hour and forty minutes, after which an Essay was read by Mr. Adolph Morace, which was good, on the duties of parents to their children, as to their education.

The school has been a success as to progress and satisfaction of parents.

Postmaster's Will Not Be Disturbed.

Post Master General Gary has publicly announced that it is the policy of the administration to permit all Postmasters to serve out the full term of four years for which they were appointed and commissioned, subject only to removal on account of incompetency, delinquency or other acts of maladministration. It thus seems that the new President, disregarding entirely the political maxim that "to the victors belong the spoils," intends to respect and follow the precedent established by his illustrious, but much abused predecessor. The "victors" will naturally endorse the determination in this particular of the President, while the "outs" who want to get in, will as vehemently censure such an unwise conclusion.

—Dickens has immortalized, or possibly it were better to say "infamized," the English court of chancery in Bleak House by following the famous suit of Jarndyce vs. Jarndyce. But the Mount Sterling Democrat relates a case tried in a Kentucky court which rivals that recorded by the great novelist. Dr. J. H. Spratt has just put the finishing touches to a lawsuit which has been in court for fifty six years. The suit grew out of a settlement of the estate of his grand father, who died in 1840. The original suit was for \$1,000 and the case has been so conducted that Dr. Spratt only received a note for that sum. He has had charge of the suit for twenty-four years. The defendants have had possession for fifty-eight years, paid no rent for all time and get one half of the land for nothing. - [States.

The Deutsche Zeitung, Mexico, publishes some statistics showing that, taken altogether, it is rather unhealthy business to be President of Mexico. Mexico has had 55 rulers since 1821. Four of these were executed, one poisoned, four murdered, and seven killed in battle.

Presidential Nominations.

President McKinley last week nominated, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, John Hay, of the District of Columbia, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at London, England.

Horace Porter, of New York, at Paris, France.

Powell Clayton, Arkansas, Minister to Mexico.

W. M. Osborne, Massachusetts, Consul General at London.

J. K. Gowdy, Indiana, Consul General at Paris.

J. H. Bringham, Ohio, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

P. S. Heath, Indiana, First Assistant Postmaster General.

Captain Charles Shaier to be Major.

H. L. Marindin member of Mississippi river Commission.

Henry White, Rhode Island, Secretary of Embassy United States, Great Britain.

To be Assistant Surgeons in the Marine Hospital Service: Hill Hastings, Kentucky; C. H. Lavinder, Virginia; Taliaferro Clark, District Columbia.

Major H. H. C. Dunwoody, signal corps to be Lieutenant Colonel signal corps; First Lieutenant L. P. Brant to be Captain; Second Lieutenants H. M. Powell, F. W. Slaeden, H. H. Bandholtz, H. T. Ferguson, H. G. Learned and M. Rowell to be First Lieutenants; Corporals Preston Brown, W. D. Conrad, Louis H. Gross, Geo. H. Steel and Sergeant Thos. Franklin to be Second Lieutenants. Past Assistant Engineer E. R. Freeman to be Chief Engineer. Commander C. V. Grigley to be a Captain. Ensigns F. Cooper, Edward T. Witherspoon and B. C. Decker to be Lieutenants, junior grade.

Ward Seven Claims the Honors With Ward One.

All Natchitoches is proud of the honor of being the birth place of a trio of as fine children as ever made their appearance upon this mundane sphere one at the time instead of three. Mrs. I. Lucas of Provencal, nee Miss Fannie Simon of this city, is the mother of the trio, two lusty bouncing fair haired boys and one dark haired girl, who arrived early Tuesday morning and who since the time of their arrival have made themselves heard each and every one trying to claim undivided attention of the whole family, from the dozing grandfather down. The Enterprise extends hearty congratulations and hopes like old Bip that they "May live long and prosper." Natchitoches Enterprise.

—Thomas B. Reed will be "the father of the House" in the Fifty fifth Congress, having served continuously for nineteen years, or since his election to the Forty-fifth Congress in 1877. Judge Culbertson, of Texas, was elected in 1875, and was "father of the House" in the session of the last Congress, but he has given way to another Democrat, John W. Crawford. Congressman Harmer, of Philadelphia, was elected in 1871, but he was out in 1875. Gen. Bingham, of Philadelphia, was elected in 1879, two years later than Reed. Benton McMillin, of Tennessee, was elected in 1879. Joseph Cannon, of Illinois, was elected in 1873, but he failed to be returned for the Fifty-Second Congress. Galusha A. Grow, of Pennsylvania, was a member of Congress as long ago as 1851, and was Speaker of the House in 1861. Mr. Grow, however, was out of politics from the Thirty-seventh to the Fifty-third Congress. If Mr. Reed is chosen Speaker after this term, he will be the first "father of the House" to be at the same time Speaker of the House. - Times Democrat.

—While the agricultural sections of the country are cramped in their operations on account of the scarcity of the circulating medium, the banks of New York are financially constricted with the pressure of money lying idle in their vaults. Report says there are \$200,000,000 in the clearing houses and \$563,000,000 in the banks. If some plan could be devised by which confidence—so badly shaken by the constant agitation of the free silver heresy—could be restored and this vast volume of idle money be again placed in circulation, the ills of the body politic would soon be relieved. But there is no hope for such a beneficial contingency—we might as well look for the millennium—until agitation—financial and otherwise—has entirely ceased.

TO - THE - PUBLIC.

DON'T READ THIS SUPERFICIALLY

But think and digest fully, for we mean what we say, and it will benefit you.

THE GLOBE

In the Building Known as the FLAG STORE.

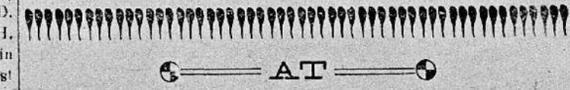
Has just been opened with one of the best assorted stocks of

Dry Goods, Clothing, Shoes, Hats, Furnishings

Goods, Trunks, Valises, Traveling Bags and thousands of other articles belonging to a Mammoth Emporium.

We solicit a share of your patronage and mean to deserve it. Notice the GLOBE on the wall.

THE GLOBE, Front Street, - - Alexandria, La.



L. A. STAFFORD'S

A LARGE STOCK OF CORN, - OATS, - BRAN, SHIPSTUFF, MEAL,

Lime, Cement, Fire Brick, PRAIRIE AND ALFALFA HAY.

SOLE AGENT FOR SEARS' STOCK CONDITION FOOD

For Horses, Mules, Sheep, Hogs, Cows and Poultry.

NEW WAREHOUSE, FRONT STREET, ALEXANDRIA, LA.

March 24-3m.

\$10,000.

BANKRUPT SALE.

Clothing, Hats, Shoes and Gent's Furnishings.

Having purchased the entire stock of Meyer's Star Emporium, on Second street, next to Ferguson's Jewelry store, at Sheriff's sale at a great sacrifice, we will offer the same

Regardless of Cost or Value, for Cash Only.

Special sacrifices will be made in Winter Clothing, Overcoats and Heavy Underwear. Planters will find here the best and cheapest stock from which to select Clothing to furnish their employees.

Not having had time to go over the stock and mark it down, we will quote no prices, feeling that it is only necessary to make this announcement to convince any one that this is a genuine bona fide clearing sale. Don't wait till the stock is picked, but come while every department is complete. The prices will be so low there will be no trouble in selling the goods.

MEYER BROS

Old stand Meyer's Star Emporium, Second St., Next to Ferguson's, ALEXANDRIA, LA.

JOHN J. FERGUSON,

Practical Watchmaker & Jeweler ESTABLISHED IN 1865.

Watches, Diamonds, Jewelry, Silverware, FINE WATCH WORK A SPECIALTY, KEY WINDING WATCHES CHANGED TO STEMWINDERS.

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