

ST. TAMMANY FARMER.

Official Journal of St. Tammany Parish.

ISSUED EVERY SATURDAY.

J. E. SMITH PROPRIETOR.
W. G. KENTZEL EDITOR.
And Business Manager.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One copy, one year \$2.00
One copy, six months 1.00
One copy, three months50

Rates of Advertising.

Ten lines of this (Brevier) type, or its equivalent in larger type, constitutes a square.

ONE SQUARE, FIRST INSERTION, ONE DOLLAR.

	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
One square	\$ 3.00	\$ 8.00	\$14.00	\$20.00
Two squares	5.00	12.00	20.00	30.00
Three squares	6.50	15.00	25.00	40.00
Quarter column	8.00	18.00	30.00	50.00
Half column	12.00	30.00	50.00	75.00
Whole column	20.00	51.00	75.00	100.00

Legal Advertisements—One Dollar per square for the first insertion, and Fifty Cents for each subsequent insertion.

Personal cards, when admissible, ten cents per line, payable in advance.

COVINGTON, LA.:

Saturday, May 24, 1879.

Mr. J. M. Thompson, delegate to the Constitutional Convention from this parish, has placed us under obligations for late papers.

Secretary McCrary will retire from the War Department in September next, to take a judicial position.

The legislative, executive and judicial bill will probably be sent to the President to-day. It is generally believed that a veto message is already prepared, holding that United States supervisors and deputy marshals are necessary to insure free elections.

W. H. Webb and Cyrus W. Field have been appointed, by the New York Chamber of Commerce, as delegates to the Paris convention to consider the various projects for an inter-oceanic canal across the Isthmus of Panama. They sailed for Europe on Thursday last.

Hon. E. W. Robertson, member of Congress from this District, has a Naval Cadetship at his disposal, which he proposes to present to the candidate who succeeds at a competitive examination to be held in Baton Rouge, June 10, 1879. All the applicants must reside in this (the Sixth) Congressional District, be between the ages of 14 and 18, and have testimonials of good moral character.

Captain Walker, of the steamer Abita, will please accept our thanks for appreciated favors during the past week.

The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections has called on Messrs. Spofford and Kellogg for information as to the points each expect to prove, and the number of witnesses they desire on each point. Mr. Spofford and his friends consider the outlook favorable.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

An unusual number of public executions have occurred lately. Perhaps hanging is the most effective means that could be devised for the suppression of murder and other heinous crimes which occasionally shock the public in various portions of our country. It is not our purpose in this article either to approve or condemn the method adopted for the infliction of the death penalty; but the almost universal bungling manner in which this method is carried out, is a disgrace to our civilization, and calls for public condemnation. When an unfortunate creature is condemned to suffer death for his crimes, it is not generally understood that he is to be tortured to death. Yet in the dark ages, when men were placed on the rack, broken on the wheel, turned over to the tender mercies of wild beasts, or stoned to death in the streets, we venture to say that their sufferings were no greater, neither did they last any longer, than were those of the several victims who have been executed recently in our own and other States.

In the usually quiet town of Plaquemine, parish of Iberville, Robert Cheney, who doubtless deserved the death penalty, was hung on the 16th inst. In this case the drop, in falling, struck at an angle against one of the uprights, affording a foothold for Cheney, who instinctively placed his feet upon it and struggled to keep them in that position. A cry of horror arose from the crowd, calling back the fleeing hangman, who removed the board. The fall being thus broken, Cheney's neck did not yield to the strain. He struggled desperately, twisting and contorting in all the agony of a slow death by suffocation.

In Hillsboro, N. C., on the same day, Henry Davis, (white,) Henry Andrews, (white,) and Lewis Carleton, (colored,) were hung. Accounts say the hanging was "badly botched up." The ropes around the necks of Davis and Carleton were too long, and their feet rested on the ground. They were raised again and the ropes retied, causing death from strangulation.

In Boonville, Mo., also on the same day, John West was executed. At a signal the trap was sprung, and as he swung off the rope broke and he fell to the ground in a half dead condition. He was taken up too weak to speak, but uttering a sound sickening to hear. He was taken to the scaffold and held up by four men till the noose was again adjusted, and he was swung off a second time and died in eleven minutes.

The above instances show how our public executions are conducted, as a general rule, the exceptions being of very rare occurrence; and these disgraceful scenes are not confined to any particular State, but occur, at one time or another, in all States that have adopted the death penalty.

We are not aware of the peculiar advantages claimed for hanging, over other methods of execution, but probably one of the objects which recommended it was the

apparent freedom from torture and lingering death which it was supposed to insure. Perhaps a well-conducted hanging accomplishes this; but in at least nine cases out of ten, the disgraceful bungling of a careless, inexperienced, nervous, half-frightened executioner, makes a mockery of the custom, and brings disgrace upon a country whose laws render such barbarous exhibitions possible.

If the death penalty is to be continued in Louisiana, under the new Constitution, we suggest that it might be advisable to provide for a public executioner, who shall be required to thoroughly understand the *modus operandi* of the hangman, according to scientific principles. If a man is sentenced to the Penitentiary, the State provides for his confinement; then if a man is condemned to die, why should not the State provide a suitable and competent officer to conduct the execution? A man who is to suffer the death penalty, certainly has a right to expect that the sentence will be intelligently executed by one who "understands his business." Otherwise, let the law expressly declare that he shall be "slowly strangled and tortured to death."

If every State in the Union which has adopted the death penalty would give this subject proper attention, there would be an end to public executions noted principally for their bungling hangmen, horrified spectators and horribly tortured victims.

THE CONVENTION.—Monday—The apportionment ordinance, as reported by the committee, was adopted. It continues in force, until 1890, the present apportionment of the State, and provides for a new apportionment every ten years thereafter. A resolution was adopted declaring that the Convention has no intention of taking any action calculated to influence the collection of taxes or licenses for the present year. The balance of the day was spent in considering the report of the committee on limiting the powers of the Legislature.

Tuesday—The Convention was engaged with the report of the Committee on Limitations. A number of articles were adopted, and others sent back to the committee or referred to other committees.

Wednesday—The Committee on Military presented a report, which was ordered printed. The day was then consumed in considering the contested election case of Rivet vs. Augustin, from the Fifth Ward, Parish of Orleans. After a very animated discussion, a new election was ordered.

New York has received the first barrel of flour of the wheat crop of 1879. The wheat was grown in Sumter county, Georgia. It was received at the Produce Exchange from Americus, Georgia, and is to be sold for the benefit of a church in that town. The grain was cut April 30, and threshed and ground May 2.

A bill has been introduced in Congress providing for the establishment of a number of dead-letter offices throughout the country.

Contributors' Column.

(Wishing to give the spice of variety to this department, we invite contributions from our readers in all portions of the parish, on all subjects ranging from grave to gay, useful or humorous.

We can not return rejected manuscript. The real name of the author must invariably accompany contributions. Address: Editor FARMER, Covington, La.]

EDITORIALS.

EDITOR ST. TAMMANY FARMER:

Please be kind enough to read this letter before you toss it into that capacious basket under the table, which I have no doubt has been the tomb of many a sheet of foolscap. The reason I ask you to read it is that you might possibly be startled at the heading, and think that Aunt Tammany would wish to usurp the privileges of the *sanctum sanctorum*, and give the intelligent readers of our bright little FARMER an editorial. She leaves that to the able hands that are at present steering the little bark safely among the breakers, and hopes that the eye of the helmsman may be steadily fixed on the "lights along the shore," which lights are the beacons of success that loom up in the pathway of every honest and well-conducted enterprise. And, *en passant*, I would say, may these lights, in the way of subscriptions for the FARMER, often cheer all the occupants of the printing office; and when the last type is "distributed," and the "form locked up" for aye, may they see, far away on the headlands of the other shore, the "lights that never grow dim."

What a long digression! I began about editorials, or the "leading article." I was trying to trace up the beginning of them, and thought some of your readers might also be a little interested. When the disciples of Faust and Gutenberg first started newspapers, they were news papers only, and everybody wanted the news, and nothing but the news. But often, in the early history of the press, (as is sometimes the case in these latter days,) the "mails" failed to arrive, and per consequence, there was a dearth of the very thing the people wanted most, the "news." If there had been no highway robberies, no riots, no wonderful phenomena, in or around the town, then the man in the "easy chair" was rather "uneasy." He must supply the lack of intelligence. Then came the tug of war perhaps to some, who had before did nothing but use the "sci-sors," or call for "more copy." But it required brains in those days, as well as in these, to get up a good paper, and the brains were there, and the head man in the office sat down to write a "leading article," or editorial. We can imagine the surprise of the astonished villagers, when they opened their "news" papers, some fine morning about two hundred years ago, and found, instead of a page of "news items," a long, prosy article on "The Situation," or "What a Printer knows about Farming." Whatever their thoughts were, the custom has been handed down from one generation to another, and now a newspaper without a "leading article" is not often seen, thus proving the old adage true, that "necessity is the mother of invention."

tion,"—and one might well add, the "father of editorials."

AUNT TAMMANY.

FOR THE FARMER.] THE FARMER.

Who are among the happiest and most upright of our land, but the honest, hard-working farmers? It is refreshing to see their genial, merry faces, as they bid you a cordial welcome to the best their table affords. No grudging or inhospitality is ever shown to the tired, hungry traveler, by our true farmer. He has a thousand traits which are noble and serve to light up his character. He is honest and sincere, free from vanity and pride—except the honest pride he may feel in knowing that he is independent, through his own industry. Ever kind and obliging, he is willing to assist anyone in affliction and distress. When one of his neighbors needs assistance in his daily labor, it is freely given, without thought or wish of recompense. Thus they mutually assist each other, and follow the "golden rule."

As a general thing, the farmer is never guilty of a low action—does not deal in cunning or over-reaching. His dealings are generally honest and upright. True, pure, religious principles seem to be his guide in all his ways.

Visit our farmer in his neat, comfortable home, acquired by the honest labor of his hands. Observe the thrift and management of his household; the evidences of prosperity in his well-cultivated fields; his fine horses, cattle and sheep, his well-filled corn-cribs, etc.; look at the rosy cheeks and smiling faces of his children, and be convinced that true happiness is found in our farmer's cottage. M.

Covington, La., May 20, 1879.

The recent troubles among the operatives in some of the Northern cotton factories, notably those of Fall River, have turned attention to our Southern factories, and the eyes of many of the Eastern people have been opened to the fact that cotton can be manufactured more economically at the South than at Providence or Fall River. The Boston Herald, in stating that since the war 183 factories have been erected in the South, says: "This is the opportunity for the South. Let principles of economy be observed in State and municipal government; let capitalists be assured that they will not be burdened by enormous taxes; let law and order prevail as in New England, and there is no reason why the region where cotton grows at the factory door, where the rivers turn the mill wheels, and the adjacent fields furnish the operatives with the staff of life, cannot compete successfully with the territory east of the Hudson, which brings its cotton a thousand miles for manufacture, buys its fuel five hundred miles away, and transports the food of its laborers halfway across the continent. The outlook in the Southern States is hopeful, and they must have a great future before them."

Wheat harvesting has commenced in Southern Texas.