Public Meeting of the Members of the Bar, and Officers of the District Court of Bossier Parish, Louisiana.

At a meeting of the members of the bar, and officers of the court, on motion, Captain L. M. Nutt was called to the chair, and Hon. H. A. Drew and Robert J. Looney, Esq., were appointed secretaries.

On motion, J. H. Kilpatrick, District Attorney, explained the object of the meeting.

On motion of the Hon. T. T. Land, a committee of five were appointed to embody, in writing, a statement of facts, and present such resolutions as they in their discretion may deem proper and necessary.

Whereupon, the chairman appointed on said committee, Colonel Geo. Williamson, Hon. T. T. Land, Col. R. W. Turner, Captain L. B. Watkins, and T. M. Fort, Esq.

After retiring for deliberation, said committee reported the following preamble and resolutions, which were adopted by the meeting unanimously:

Whereas, At a term of the District Court of the 10th Judicial District of the State of Louisiana, begun and holden on the 4th day of Sept., A. D. 1865, at the town of Bellevue, in said parish, the Grand Jury of the parish aforesaid, found and presented to the Court a bill of indictment, in due form of law, against John, a free man of color, for the crime of larceny, to-wit: horse stealing—and the said John having been brought into the Court for arraignment, on the 7th day of September, and the Court having first appointed counsel learned in the law, to assist the said John in making his defence; and whereas, the said John having been arraigned, and, after consultation with his counsel, pleaded "not guilty," and elected to be tried by a jury; and whereas, after the trial of the said John in accordance with all the forms of law guaranteed by the law in this State, in cases of free white persons as well as free colored persons, and the said John having been found guilty of larceny, to-wit: horse stealing, by the verdict of good and legal men duly empanelled to try the said John—and after the said verdict was duly returned into the Court, and the Judge having first asked the prisoner John whether he had anything to say in his defence, and he, the said John, having nothing to say, the Judge proceeded to sentence him to be sent to the penitentiary of Louisiana, there to be confined at hard labor for one year, as a punishment for the crime of larceny, to-wit: horse stealing—of which he had been convicted in accordance with the law in such cases made and provided in the trial of the crime of larceny.

And whereas, On the 8th day of said month of September, when the Hon. James I. Weems, Judge of the District Court of the 10th Judicial District, was about to have the Court opened for the transaction of business, his Honor and the Sheriff of said parish were arrested by order of Captain Charles Berry, Provost Marshal of Freedmen's Bureau for the parish of Bossier, and whereas, his Honor, the said James I. Weems, is now a prisoner under bond for his appearance on the 9th inst., for having tried the said man John; and whereas, section VII, of circular No. 5, issued from the "Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands," dated May 30th, 1865, and approved by President Johnson on the 2d of July, 1865, has no application to the State of Louisiana, for the following reasons:

1st. Because there is no interruption of civil law in said State.

2d. Because the local courts have no old or new codes or laws in force, which make a legal distinction between the free white man and the free colored man, either in the trial of civil or criminal causes, or in the reception of testimony.

And whereas, The said Hon. Jas. I. Weems charged the Grand Jury, and notified the officers of the Court, and the members of the bar, that by the Constitution and laws of Louisiana, persons heretofore held to servitude as slaves, were free, and amenable to punishment for crimes as if white persons, and were competent witnesses in all causes as if free white persons; and whereas, the said Captain Berry has announced to the Hon. James I. Weems his intention to arrest all the petit jurors who were empanelled to try the said man John, and found him guilty of the crime of larceny, to-wit: horse stealing: therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Hon James I. Weems has not been guilty of any infraction of any law, or order, guaranteeing freedom to the colored persons of this State, or of any act in the trial, conviction or sentence of the said man John, which made a distinction between him and a free white person.

Resolved 2d, That the arrest of his Honor James I. Weems was unwarranted by law or lawful military orders, an unprovoked and unjustifiable attack upon the dignity of the judiciary of the State, and is subversive of the civil authority of the same. Be it further

Resolved, That as the Hon. James I. Weems is now a prisoner, and the business of this court interrupted by the illegal arrest aforesaid, and as there is no security against further arbitrary acts, that his own dignity and a proper respect for the position he holds, requires he should adjourn the court *sine die*, after signing the minutes and judgments already tendered.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be respectfully forwarded to the Governor of Louisiana, the commanding general of the department, and to the President of the United States.

GEO. WILLIAMSON, Chairman.
T. T. LAND,
R. W. TURNER,
THOS. M. FORT,
L. B. WATKINS, } Committee.

JAS. I. WEEMS, Judge 10th Judicial District.
J. H. KILPATRICK, District Att'y.
PHILO ALDEN, Sheriff.
T. N. BRADEN, Clerk Dist. Court.
ROBT. J. LOONEY, B. F. FORT,
L. M. NUTT, WM. A. LACY,
H. A. DREW, J. R. GRIFFIN,
J. C. MONCURE.

On motion, it was further

Resolved, That each member of the bar and officer of the court should sign the said preamble and resolutions, and that J. H. Kilpatrick, Esq., District Attorney, be requested to present the same to the Court, and respectfully ask to file and spread the same on the minutes of the Court. It was further

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be handed to the "Bossier Banner" for publication, and that the N. O. Times be requested to publish the same.

Whereupon the meeting adjourned.

Bellevue, La., September 8, 1865.

L. M. NUTT, Chairman.
R. J. LOONEY, } Secretaries.
H. A. DREW, }

FREEDMAN'S BUREAU,
Shreveport La., Sept. 11, 1865.

U. S. vs JAMES I. WEEMS.

The defendant appeared in Court. Information by Capt. C. R. Berry, provost marshal of Bossier Parish, Louisiana.

Charge.—Violation of paragraph 7, of circular No. 5, dated Washington, May 30th, 1865; issued by Gen. O. O. Howard, and approved by the president of the United States.

Specification.—In this, that James I. Weems, acting as Judge of the tenth Judicial District of Louisiana, did on the 7th day of September, 1865, at the town of Bellevue, in the Parish of Bossier, Louisiana, arraign and try John Gaines, a freedman, for the crime of horse stealing; jurisdiction in said case, rightfully belonged to the bureau of freedmen, refugees and abandoned lands.

To this charge the defendant plead "not guilty," and expressed himself ready for trial.

He averred that he was not liable to the charge of "disregarding the "negro's right to justice before the "law, in not allowing him to give testimony;" and supported his averment by a quotation from his charge to the grand jury, both at Shreveport and Bellevue, as follows:

"The war which has just terminated, and the constitution of this "State, made in anticipation of that "event, have made the once negro "slave, a free man. He is now amenable to the same tribunals and "punishable in the same manner for "his crimes as the white man.

"Hence, the boundaries of your "duties will be greatly enlarged.—"Instead of confining your investigations as heretofore to crimes and "offences committed by white persons exclusively, and a very small "number of free persons of color; you "will now extend them so as to "embrace those committed by the "whole black population. The laws "of the State of Louisiana having "always made the free man of color "a competent witness in their tribunals, in any litigation for or "against a white man, he (the late "negro slave) being now free, is as a "matter of course," competent witness, equally with the white man, "in all litigations springing up before you. This we say of his competency. You are the judges of the "degree of credit to which this and "all other evidence is entitled."

Regarded as a support for the plea entered, this quotation is not available for the following reasons:

1. It begs the question in dispute; roundly asserting the possession of a power which is denied in this indictment, and so fails as an argument.

2. It merely asserts the competency of the witness, leaving the question of his credibility to the jury.

This is apparently very fair, and would be sound law if the negro and the white man were on an equality as citizens, and no more amount of popular prejudice existing against the one than the other. But such is not the case, especially in the parish of Bossier, La. The records of this bureau show a fearful list of well authenticated, deadly assaults committed on the persons of freedmen in that parish. To admit the negro's competency as a witness and leave his credibility to the judgment of men whose views of his right to life are very loose, will be in five cases out of six equivalent to throwing his testimony out of court, and will only give him the semblance of a remedy, when in reality he has none.

It is in vain that the bayonet has scattered to the winds, "old codes in violation of the freedom guaranteed by the president, and the laws of congress," when the principles and fellings which originated, sustained and carried out those codes, exist with undiminished power in the hearts of the people.

We are willing to believe that if Judge Weems were entrusted with the doing of every act in a legal process, no wrong would be done, but he is only one in a series of actors, of many of whom he can have no control, so that wrong may arise at other steps in the legal proceedings than those taken by him directly; this would require that all control of the negro be kept out of the hands of civil courts in this community. This argument by the defendant then does not sustain his plea fully.

Much time has been occupied showing that Judge Weems was regularly appointed judge, and that the constitution gave the governor the power to appoint judges, and that the constitution of 1864 abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, except for crime.

It was also shown that great care was taken at every stage of the trial, to conform strictly to the rules of legal practice, and that much merciful consideration was shown to the prisoner.

No doubt this was true, but it was beside the case in controversy. We do not deny the perfect formality of the trial in all its steps, but we deny the jurisdiction of the court in the case.

The point on which the whole case turns is in the question: Was there in the parish of Bossier on the 7th of September, 1865, *an interruption of civil law?*

If there was, then is the defendant guilty in manner and form as indicated, if there were not, he can claim a verdict of acquittal.

Was there an interruption of civil law?

It is admitted by all with whom we are concerned, that the constitution of Louisiana, made in 1852, has perished. Has the so-called constitution of 1864 succeeded to its seat and authority? That constitution provided for making itself effective. It says in substance that it shall be referred to a vote of the people, in their several parishes, on the first Monday of September, 1864.

We are not concerned at present with the question of the constitution within the Union lines. We are under no obligations to look outside of the parish of Bossier, for we have not affirmed an *interruption of civil law* anywhere else.

We repeat, the constitution of 1852 is gone, and the binding validity of the constitution of 1864 in that parish, depends on the answer to one question. Did the people of Bossier, on the first Monday of September, 1864, vote for that constitution or against it? If they did not, they never adopted it; for in specifying that it must be voted for, that constitution declares that it cannot become binding in any other way. Now *how stands the case?* On the day on which the constitution fixed that *it should be voted for*, the people of Bossier parish were in open rebellion against it, and against the government under whose protection it seeks to bring its friends. The people of Bossier had renounced their allegiance to their old government, and they let the first Monday of Sept., 1864, go by unimproved, and there never has been another day fixed on which they could vote themselves under the protection of the constitution. There is then in that parish, as in every other part of the State of Louisiana within the Confederate lines, on the first Monday of Sept., 1864, no constitution, no civil law. They sinned away their day of grace until no law left them but the bayonet in the hand of a negro. We find then, there was an interruption of civil law in the parish of Bossier on the 7th of September, 1865, and so that Judge Weems did violate Par. No. 7, Circular No. 5.

Great importance was attached to the President's proclamation, reorganising States that had been in rebellion.

With that document we have nothing to do at present. It ordains that delegates be elected and sent to a convention. The people of Bossier held no election, and sent no delegates. The constitution provides that it shall be made effective by being voted for by the people of the several parishes of the State, at the places designated by law for holding elections, and this voting must be done on the first Monday of Sept., 1864.

The particularity with which the constitution specifies the mode of its adoption, shows that no other mode of adopting it is possible. Did the people of Bossier so adopt it? If they did, there is no *interruption of civil law;* if they did not, for them it does not exist.

We had hoped to be able to avoid the discussion of the question of the validity of the constitution of 1864, in those parts of the State within the Union lines at the time of its adoption, but we find we cannot. The true state of the case appears to be this:

It was no part of the design of the government that the city of New Orleans and its dependencies, joined by a few refugees from various parts of the State, should give a constitution to the State. Accordingly, the voting was to be done for members of the convention, in the various parishes of the State.

It was no part of the constitution, that the people of a small section should foist it on the whole State; accordingly they were required to vote in the various parishes of the State; and to avoid the getting up of a traveling ballot-box, the voting must be done on the same day, all over the State; and to prevent a few persons from assembling in a secret place and voting, and then palming off their action as that of the parish, the voting must be done at the places designated by law for holding elections; and because these requirements have not been complied with, the constitution has no validity, and your State is not recognised as such by the general government.

And if these things have interrupted civil law in places within the Union army lines on the first Monday of September, 1864, and where they voted to adopt the constitution, much more will they interrupt civil law in places that were in rebellion on that day, and where people have never voted on the constitution at all.

In short, turn the matter whatever way we may, we are compelled to believe that on the 7th day of Sept., 1865, there was in the parish of Bossier *an interruption of civil law*, and so are compelled to conclude that in assuming jurisdiction over John Gaines, a freedman, Judge Weems did violate Par. No. 7, of Circular No. 5. No penalty is assessed. The high personal worth, the eminent legal attainments, the unfaltering faithfulness of Judge Weems to the government when all around him failed, are his sun and shield to-day.

It is no part of the design of this bureau to interfere with the business of Judge Weems' court, except in the matter contemplated in this case. White men may sue each other before him as much as they please, and we will not say one word. They may sell each other out of house and home by decrees from under his hand, and so far as this bureau is concerned it will be all right.

He may imprison and hang as many white men as he pleases, and no opposition will be raised by us, but during the existing interruption of civil law, he must not touch a negro. Jurisdiction over him belongs exclusively to this bureau, by act of congress, approved March 3d, 1865.

Judge Weems gave notice of appeal, and was granted thirty days in which to assign his reasons.

THOMAS CALLAHAN,
Assistant Superintendent
of Freedmen.

Sharp Correspondence.

W. C. Kain, who is awaiting his trial for murder and treason, has retained Geo. T. Curtis, ex-Judge of the United States Supreme Court, as his counsel. The following correspondence between Mr. Curtis and Gov. Brownlow explains itself:

NEW YORK, August 5.

His Excellency Governor Brownlow—Sir: I have been retained as counsel to assist in the defence of W. C. Kain, now under indictment in one of the courts of your State for murder and treason. No one has requested me to write to you, but when I last heard from Mr. Kain he mentioned the manner of his confinement, and I could not help being shocked by its unnecessary rigor. I am not ignorant of the state of feeling in Tennessee toward persons on the Confederate side, who may be, more or less justly obnoxious to popular indignation. Into the merits or demerits of their cases I do not wish to enter, excepting in the instance of Mr. Kain, as I may have a duty to discharge on the issues which the State has formally made with him in its legal tribunals. But I cannot think it unbecoming in me to suggest to the authorities of the State that indictment and trial on capital accusations, and the detention necessary therefor, are punishment enough in advance of the possible end of such proceedings; and that all unnecessary rigor attending the confinement, whatever the supposed provocations, is what all men may justly deplore. I am sensible that all the Union people of your State have endured great suffering, but the dignity and humanity with which it shall administer its laws and vindicate its sovereignty, will have much to do with its good name.

Let me beg you, sir, to use your influence or your authority, and to see that this person is treated with no more severity than his detention requires.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. T. CURTIS.

GOV. BROWNLOW'S REPLY.

STATE OF TENNESSEE, EX. DEP'T.
Nashville, August 18, 1865.

Geo. T. Curtis, Esq., New York—Sir: Your favor of the 5th inst. is received. Upon some letter or message from one W. C. Kain, a felon in jail at Knoxville, you are shocked by the unnecessary rigor of his confinement, and suggest that "the dignity and humanity with which the State shall administer its laws have much to do with its good name." I know nothing of the nature of the report your client may have made to you, but I know the Sheriff of Knox county, to whom your letter should have been addressed, and know him to be an excellent man, who has rendered gallant service as an officer in our army, and I am confident that any statements of your client, charging the Sheriff with barbarous treatment of prisoners are untrue. Your client, no doubt, thinks it very hard that he should be confined at all for the conscientious (!) discharge of his duty as an officer, in such insignificant matters as hanging and starving a few Union citizens, whipping others at the stake, or at the cart wheel, and stripping Union ladies who were passing through the rebel lines, of all their clothing, except what they had upon their persons, for the heinous offence of thinking the rebellion wrong. In this opinion you may agree with him. I, who do not profess to be so deeply versed in Vattel and Puffendorf, cannot.

I shall endeavor to see that the State vindicates its sovereignty, by administering its laws with dignity and humanity; and while profoundly grateful for the solicitude you manifest for the reputation of Tennessee, I must be allowed to say that, when fully convinced that I, or the subordinate officers of the State, need instructions as to the proper discharge of the grave official duties devolving upon us, from attorneys residing in other States, of your well known proclivities, I will give you due notice, but until that time such gratuitous patronizing lectures as yours can be regarded in no other light than as an unwarrantable impertinence.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. G. BROWNLOW,
Governor of Tennessee.

Alabama.—Judging from the following, Alabama is far ahead of Louisiana in the treatment of the negro. It seems that negroes in that State are tried and punished by the civil tribunals as white men are, and that too with the sanction of the military. We, in Louisiana, are yet in our swadling clothes, but we live in hope:

The Freedman in Mobile.—The Register of the 3d, says:

We learn that, in obedience to orders from Brig. Gen. Swayne, Mr. Richard Starr, Justice of the Peace, at 58 Conti street, has been appointed to hear the complaints of negroes, and "issue such process for the arrest of the guilty parties as may be deemed advisable."

In the proceedings before Mayor Forsyth, George, a negro boy, was brought up for larceny and resisting the officer attempting to arrest him. A negro soldier took the part of the accused and drew a bayonet. Several citizens were called upon by the officer for assistance, and the arrest was made, but the soldier made his escape. The latter will be arrested by the military and turned over to the civil authorities. George was sent to the City Court under bond of $1000

The Democratic Convention of Ohio has nominated the following ticket:

Governor, Gen. Geo. W. Morgan; Lieutenant Governor, Wm. Lang; Judges of the Supreme Court, P. Van Trump and Thomas M. Key; State Treasurer, George Spence; Attorney General, Daniel M. Wilson; School Commissioner, H. H. Barney; Engineer for the Board of Public Works, C. Basil; Clerk of the Supreme Court, H. S. Doner.

Speeches were made by Gen. Morgan, Hon. C. L. Vallandigham and Hon. G. E. Pugh.

The resolutions are dead against "negro suffrage," the continued suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, and military interference with elections, as of late in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Lord Palmerston, at eighty-one, has apparently no immediate intention of yielding up the pleasures of this life, whatever may be his purpose with regard to the cares of State. He has just entered one of his horses for the Derby of 1867.

Shreveport Prices Current.

We give the quotations as far as we can arrive at them. Our market, as regards prices, has not, as yet, settled down to anything like uniform prices.

Cotton—Middling.—@20c ℔ lb.
Sugar—12@18c ℔ lb.
Molasses—65@80c ℔ gal.
Flour—$12@15 ℔ bbl.
Bacon—18c @30c ℔ lb.
Coffee—40c@45c ℔ lb.
Whisky—Rectified, $3@—, Texas $4@— ℔ gal.
Candles—30c@35℔ lb.
Corn—50c@— ℔ bushel.
Bagging—34c@45 ℔ yard.
Rope—25c@— ℔ lb.
Nails—$10@— ℔ keg.
Hides—5c@— ℔ lb
Potatoes—$11@— ℔ bbl.
Oil—Lard, $ @— ℔ gal.

WOOL IN SHREVEPORT.

Full Blood—Clean, 20@25 ℔ lb
One-half to Three-fourths Blood—16@20 ℔ lb.
Native—10@12 ℔ lb.

Burry Wool, ½ price, according to quality and order.

Hides have declined in New Orleans 5 ℔ c. per pound; wet salted 8@9 ℔ lb.; for dry, not worm eaten, or damaged, ½ price.

New Orleans Prices Curren .

Cotton—Ordinary, 33@35; Good Ordinary, 35@39; Low Middling 41@42; Middling, 44@45.

Sugar—Common, 12c@00; fully fair, 16½c @00; white clarified 00c ℔ lb.

Flour—Superfine, $8 60; choice superfine, $9 37½c; low extra, $9; choice extra $12 ℔ bbl.

Hay—$33 ℔ ton.

Oats—56c. ℔ bushel.

Bran—$1.35 per 100 lbs.

Corn—Yellow, 90c; white, $1.00 per bushel.

Pork—Mess, $31@— ℔ bbl.

Bacon—11c

Bagging—India, 25c ℔ yard.

Rope—15¾c ℔ lb.

Coffee—Rio, 32c ℔ lb.

Salt—Liverpool coarse $5 ℔ sack.

CATTLE MARKET.

Beef—Western choice, @10c ℔ lb.
Western 1st qual'y—@19c. " "
Western, 2d and 3d quality, } 7c. @— " "
Veal Cattle—$8@15 ℔ head.
Hogs—10@12c. ℔ lb. gross.
Sheep—$3 25c@ $3 75c℔ head.
Monetary.—gold 144@144½; silver 140@141½.

The following are the quotations for bank notes;

Bank of Louisiana, 37½ @40
Louisiana State Bank 58@ 60
Bank of New Orleans 68 @70
Crescent City Bank, 80@85
Merchants' Bank, 60@63
Union Bank 78@82

Mechanics' and Traders' Bank redeem in legal tender United States notes; Citizens' Bank notes paid in legal tender notes; Canal Bank notes paid in the same; Corporation issues range from ½ to 1½ ℔ ct.

GAIETY THEATRE.

LAST NIGHT OF

RUSSELL'S VARIETIES.

Benefit of
DAN. RUSSELL.

W. E. THOMAS.....Manager.

Will give a varied performance consisting of
DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENTS,
SINGING AND DANCING.
ETHIOPEAN DELINEATIONS.
ACCROBATIC FEATS
OF AGILITY AND STRENGTH, &C.

Admission.....$1 00
Children.....75

Doors open at 7 o'clock. Curtain rises at 8 p. m.

☞ Tickets can be purchased during the day at the different Drug Stores, Coffee houses and at the door.

Arrangements have been made by which the strictest order and decorum will be preserved.

WANTED,

THREE good Musicians. Apply at the Gaiety Theatre.

J.S. SCOTT. D. S. CAGE. C. H. TANEY, JR.
T. T. EGGLESTON.

SCOTT, CAGE & CO.

Cotton Factors and Commission Merchants,

9.....UNION STREET.....9
sept16 1m] New Orleans, La.

U. S. TAX NOTICE.

U. S. DIRECT TAX COMMISSION FOR THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.
Office, 186 Common Street.

THE Tax Roll for the Collection of U. S. Direct Tax for the Parish of Caddo, is completed, and the Taxes thereon levied, under and by virtue of an act entitled "An act for the collection of direct taxes in insurrectionary districts within the United States and for other purposes," approved June 7, 1862, will be payable at the Court House, Shreveport, La., within sixty days from the 1st. of September, 1865.

All lots and parcels of land within said District on which the taxes shall not be paid within said sixty days will be forfeited to the United States.

E. M. RANDALL,
G. AMES,
D. UREAN,
Direct Tax Commissioners for Louisiana.
Attest. K. S DERICKSON, clerk.
CHAS. F. HUESMAN,
sep16—tf Collector.

A GREAT INDUCEMENT,

IS offered to buyers. The undersigned offers for sale the E. K. Hall Place, on Red river, situated about 28 miles by water and 14 miles by land from Shreveport, containing 640 acres, 300 under high cultivation, two fine orchards. Good gin house, dwelling and out houses, three cisterns, etc. Inquire of M. LEVY at Dreyfus & LeRosen's Store. sept 16 2m

ATTENTION PLANTERS.

MESSRS. PHELPS & CO., have ample room to store all cotton sent to them, and advise planters, now that the roads are good to bring in their cotton as fast as possible, and have it ready for shipment on the resumption of good navigation.
sept. 16 tf

S. M. SWENSON,
(Late of Austin, Texas.)
General Commission Merchant,
NO. 48 Carondelet street, corner Union,
NEW ORLEANS.

PERKINS & CO. respectfully solicit the patronage of their former correspondents and their friends generally, for Mr. S. M. SWENSON, who continues the General Commission business at their Old Office, assisted by the undersigned and others formerly connected with the house.

W. M. PERKINS,
D. S. KERNION.

Liberal Cash Advances made on Consignments of Cotton and Wool by.
C. G. PALM, Agent,
No. 29 Texas street, Shreveport, La.
sep 16—6m

FOR SALE,

A comfortable dwelling house and lots in one of the most desirable neighboods in the city. There is a fine under ground cistern and good well on the place. The household and kitchen furniture can be had also, if desired.

M. LEVY.
at Dreyfus & LeRosen's store.
sep 16—2m

United States of America.

STATE OF LOUISIANA—Parish of Caddo.

BE IT KNOWN:—That on the first day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty five, and the Independence of the United States of America the eithty-ninth

Before me Thomas Francis Beale, a Notary Public in and for the Parish of Caddo duly commissioned and qualified, and in presence of the witnesses hereinafter named, and undersigned personally came and appeared; the several parties whose names are hereunto subscribed who declared.

That availing themselves of the provisions of an act passed by the legislature of the State, entitled: "An Act for the organization of corporations for works of public improvement and utility, approved March the 14th, 1855," they have covenanted and agreed, and do by these presents covenant, and bind, themselves and those whom they represent to form themselves into, and constitute a corporation for the objects and purposes, and under the stipulations and regulations following—to wit:

ARTICLE, 1st—The name and title of said corporation shall be the *Postera Bayou Navigation Company*, and its domicil is hereby established in the City of Shreveport, State of Louisiana. It shall commence business under this act of incorporation, as soon as the requisites of the law for organization shall have been fulfilled, and it shall exist and continue for the term of twenty five years, from the date hereof, unless sooner dissolved, as hereinafter provided for, during which said period said corporation shall have power and authority in the corporate name aforesaid, to have and enjoy succession; to contract, sue, and be sued, to make and use a corporal seal, to hold, receive, purchase and convey property, both real and personal; moveable and immoveable, in order to carry out the intents and purposes, for which said Association was formed; to name and appoint such officers, servants, and employees as the interest and convenience of said corporation may require; and to establish by-laws for the regulation of its affairs; and to exercise and enjoy all such other rights, powers and privileges, as are by law granted to corporations.

ARTICLE, 2d. The purpose for which this Corporation is formed, is to enable the citizens, residents, and planters of the City of New Orleans and Red River, below and above, the great raft, to open navigation, now closed by said raft, above the head of Red Bayou, by digging out canals, and by cleaning out Bayous and Lakes

ARTICLE, 3d. The object for which this Corporation has been formed is to create a fund for the purpose of opening navigation; by constructing a navigable passway around the great raft, for steamboats, flats, or other craft for transportation, for compensation of freight, passengers, United States Mails, &c., by toll, it being hereby expressly understood, that this Corporation will not be responsible, or become liable in any way, for any damages, losses or delays, sustained by any steamboat, barge, keel, flat, or other craft, in passing through this Corporations improved navigation; unless insured by said Corporation.

ARTICLE, 4th. The respective interests of the parties hereunto, are hereby declared to be as follows, to-wit:

Geo. Alban,	144 shares,	$100 each,		$14,400
T. Moore,	144 "	$100 "		$14,400
Jas. Crook,	5 "	$100 "		$ 500
J. W. Wheaton,	3 "	$100 "		$ 300
Wm. Robson,	1 "	$100 "		$ 100
Jas. L. Phelps	3 "	$100 "		$ 300
	300			$30,000

making a total capital of thirty thousand dollars to be divided into three hundred and shares of one hundred dollars each which amount has been paid up in full.

It is distinctly understood and agreed that no stockholder, shall be held responsible for contracts, faults, or acts of the Company, in any further sum than the amount of his stock, nor shall he be subject to any further call, nor shall any informality in organizing, or any other circumstance, have the effect of exposing the stockholder to any liability, beyond the amount of his stock; nor shall any informality or delay in the organization of the Company, nullify the charter

ARTICLE, 5th. All the corporate powers of this company, shall be exercised by a board of three directors, two of whom shall constitute a quorum; the first board shall be composed of George Alban, James Crook and John W. Wheaton, to serve until the 2nd Monday of August 1866, or until their successors shall be duly elected. And on the 2nd Monday of August, 1866, and every succeeding year, during the existence of this charter, an election shall be held for a new board of three directors, who shall serve for one year from said date or until their successors in office shall be elected. At each election of the stockholders, each stockholder shall be entitled to one vote for every share he may own in said company.

Should any circumstance prevent the election of a new board of directors on the day named for that purpose then a new order shall be issued by the President calling the stockholders together for that purpose, as soon thereafter as circumstances may permit.

The board shall elect one of their members to be President of the Company.

The board of directors shall meet once every three months, viz. on the second Monday's of January, April, July, and October; and the President shall call special meetings, whenever, in his opinion the interest of the Company may require the same. Meetings of the Board of directors may also be called at the request of any one director, or of any two of the stockholders of the Company.

The Treasurer shall make out every quarter, viz., on the second Monday's of January, April, July, and October, a statement of the business affairs of the Corporation to be submitted to the board of directors, who shall make a full annual report to the stockholders on the second Monday of August, of every year.

The board of directors, shall elect a Secretary and Treasurer. The Secretary shall keep an exact record of the proceedings of all meetings of the board of directors and of the stockholders, and the same shall be at all times open to the inspection of the stockholders.

At all elections each stockholder shall be entitled to one vote for each share of stock owned by him.

Provided, that such stock shall not have been transferred to him within thirty days prior to said election.

Stockholders may appoint other stockholders to represent them at any meeting of the stockholders of the Company, and such representative shall have power to cast what ever vote said stockholder would have been entitled to, had he been present himself at such meeting.

The board of directors shall fix the amount of compensation of all persons employed by them in the service of the Company, they shall make such By-Laws, Rules and regulations as they may deem necessary for the government of the company, and the transaction of its affairs—provided the same shall not conflict with this charter or the laws of this State; and they may alter or amend the same as occasion may require; they shall have power to buy and sell real estate, for the uses and purposes of the Company; to make contracts, leases, mortgages, hypothecations, and compromises, and borrow money for the use of the Company.

ARTICLE, 6th, In the event of the death or resignation of any of the directors, the vacancy shall be filled by an election by the stockholders after notice of thirty days, to be posted at the office of the Company. A vacancy in the office of President, shall be filled by the board of directors at the first meeting of the board after such vacancy occurs, by the election of one of its members to fill the vacancy.

Vacancy in the office of Secretary shall also be filled by the board of directors, at the first meeting of the board, after such vacancy occurs. The President of the board shall have power to appoint a Secretary *pro tem.* to act until the election of a Secretary as herein provided for.

ARTICLE, 7th. Certificates of stock shall be issued to the stockholders, as soon as the board of directors shall organize, under this act; and such Certificate shall be signed by the President and Secretary of the board, and no transfer shall be valid, unless made upon the stock book, and by the surrender of the Certificate.

ARTICLE, 8th. The capital stock may be increased from time to time in such manner, and to such extent, as may be recommended by the board of directors, and determined upon by a majority of the stock held by the stockholders, at a meeting held for that purpose, after thirty days previous notice, in one of the newspapers published in the city of Shreveport.

ARTICLE, 9th. The Company shall make dividends, as often as the board of directors shall deem expedient,

ARTICLE, 10th. The stockholders at a general meeting held for that purpose after thirty days notice in one newspaper shall by a vote of three fourths of the amount of stock represented at such meeting, have power to make any modification, additions or changes, in this Charter, to dissolve the same entirely.

ARTICLE, 11th. At the close of Charter, or sooner, if the majority of stockholders determine to close, they shall elect three of their [illegible] dating commissioners, who shall [illegible] to close the corporation, sell its [illegible] divide the proceeds amongst [illegible] holders.

This done and passed in my office, city of Shreveport, in the presence of Henry E. Allen, and A. W. Royston, competent witnesses of this city, who hereunto signed their names as such, [illegible] with the said parties, and me the Notary, this the *first* day of August A. D. 1865.

Attest. Henry E. Allen, A. W. Roysdon, } Geo. Alban, Thos. Moore, James Crook, James E. [illegible], J. W. Wheaton.
THOS. F. BEALE, Notary Public.
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