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For the New Orleans Republican: ROMANCE OF POLITICS IN THE BACKWOODS

Life in North Louisiana Since the War

BY W. JASPER BLACKBURN, EDITOR OF THE HOMER ILLAD.

7.—Infamy of the Presidential Campaign of 1868—Democratic Honor and the Democratic Conscience.

I come now to the most infamous political campaign that ever transpired in America, or in any other country—that is, the presidential contest of 1868, when Seymour and Blair were the Democratic candidates, against Grant and Colfax, the Republican candidates.

So, at least, the assassins thought. But only one proved to be dead. The ball had glanced around the skull of the other, and being thus stunned and feigning death to perfection he was left for dead, but soon recovered and slipped away and informed his neighbor, Greene, what had happened.

And there, upon the banks of this little stream, that poor, murdered freedman sleeps the long and quiet sleep of death, the murmur of the rippling water, and the wind's sad moaning in the thick pine-tops, mingled with a perpetual song of birds, being his only requiem; and there shall he rest until the last trump shall sound, when he shall arise again in his own proper person and appear before the judgment seat of God, face to face, in eternal condemnation of his base and black-hearted and cowardly murderers.

But the wonder is that men calling themselves honorable, and who are educated and refined to a high degree in some sense, and move in what is termed the highest circle of polite society, should in any way or to any degree indorse or countenance such infamous conduct. It is when contemplating this deplorable fact that the lamentation of wonder naturally comes in, and the deplorable romance of politics in the backwoods is verified and demonstrated when we remember that these things occur, and are countenanced, and not perpetuated, and openly indorsed by the so-called better class of our country, simply and solely because of the difference of political opinion—and that, too, upon the poor, helpless and unprotected portion of the community—the unlettered and unarmed freedmen, who, for ages past, toiled unrequited and without a murmur, and nursed, and even suckled many of those who have thus stain or permitted them to be slain.

It need not be attempted to be denied that colored men and white men have been systematically murdered by the scores and

by the hundreds throughout the South since the war because they were Republicans. This is a known and palpable fact, sworn to in thousands of cases, and of record from one end of the Union to the other, and could not be hid under a bushel from the Northern eye and the Northern mind. This I know from personal knowledge, has been the case throughout North Louisiana since the war, but was more particularly the case pending the presidential campaign of 1868.

The assassination of Meadows, of Claiborne, was about the beginning of it, followed almost immediately by the massacre in Bossier; but all along through that year, from April to the election in November, loyal men were slain by the wholesale and in detail—mainly colored men.

The mind rests now upon one single characteristic example and sample, to which I must allude specially and specifically. It occurred near the residence of Senator Allen Greene, on the road from Vienna to Homer. There were two colored families living together near a small stream called Walnut creek, about one mile and a half from Senator Greene's. These poor freedmen had a humble but frugal home, and were living happily, and to some degree prosperously. They had good land to cultivate, and had good health, and plenty to eat and wear." Senator Greene was to them a good neighbor, as he has been uniformly most kind and obliging to all freedmen within his reach.

So, at least, the assassins thought. But only one proved to be dead. The ball had glanced around the skull of the other, and being thus stunned and feigning death to perfection he was left for dead, but soon recovered and slipped away and informed his neighbor, Greene, what had happened. Assistance was procured and the dead man was buried on the identical spot where his brains were shot out by the midnight masked assassin, who had taken an oath that freedmen should not vote unless they voted the Democratic ticket.

And this is the party which Mr. Seymour headed for the presidency, and which the gallant Frank P. Blair represented on the ticket for the vice presidency. And the editorial of the *Oranchois Telegraph*, also took place for Congress the ticket of this honorable and most fair dealing and decent party in this noted campaign of 1868; and Judge William B. Egan, now of Shreveport, likewise took a prominent part on the Democratic side on these memorable occasions, encouraging prominent freedmen to desert their party and take the stump against the Republican ticket; and having found just one of this sort, hauled him from Homer to Monroe with himself in a buggy, and put into his mouth what to say of and against Blackbarn and other absent Republicans who were in the way of his political promotion.

And these are the people and this the party which prate of social equality and cry out against Republicans for wanting to see the negro educated and his rights accorded him as a human being. This poor freedman, who was thus induced for the moment to take the stump against his party constantly came to me privately and protested that he was at heart a true Republican, and acted as he did only through fear. He said he had been threatened and frightened into seeming opposition to his party, and assured me that pistols had been put into his hands with which to stay his political opponents—or rather his real political friends, the Republicans—who had hid the pistols, had laid them away, and was afraid even to touch them. Thus did he frequently talk to me in secret and would even weep and beg my pardon and ask me to make explanations to his colored neighbors. I did so and assured him I fully understood and appreciated his predicament, and had no complaints to make against him and for him no hard thoughts.

THE HYMN OF A DEVOUT SPIRIT. BY C. P. CHASCO. "The time shall come when men no more shall blight the earth. A taint inherited at birth, A curse forever to endure— Shall see that from one common root Must spring the better and the worse. And down a slavish fear be lie, The tree that drops its wormy fruit.

For God must love, though men should hate The vine whose midday blights its grape. To live deformed by earthly fate, To live deformed by earthly fate.

No more remarkable article has appeared in any scientific journal for many years than one in the January number of *The Quarterly Journal of Science*, from the pen of its editor, Mr. William Crookes. It may be remembered that, several years ago, Mr. Crookes gave an account of certain experiments which he had made upon the so-called spiritual manifestations, as developed in the presence of Mr. David D. Home, and the latter into which the scientific community was thrown by the statements presented by this gentleman, in view of the fact that he is a chemist of high reputation, and his experiments acknowledged in London, editing not only *The Quarterly Journal of Science*, but also *The Chemical News*, the leading chemical publication of Great Britain.

In the present article he gives the result of continued inquiry into this subject up to the present date, and states that, during four years, during which time he has been subjected to the ridicule of some and to indignant outbursts from others, for his continuance in what was considered a preposterous investigation.

In the beginning of his article, Mr. Crookes remarks that the phenomena he is prepared to attest are so extraordinary and so directly opposed to the most firmly rooted articles of scientific belief—among others, the ubiquity and invariable action of the law of gravitation—that even now on recalling the details of what he had witnessed, there is controversy in his mind as to what is to be believed, and he is asked to awake. In connection with this he quotes the remarks of a friend, who writes to him that "any intellectual reply to his facts" he can not see. "Yet," he says, "it is a curious fact that even I, with all my tendency and desire to believe rationally, and with all my faith in your thorough truthfulness, feel as if I wanted to see for myself; and it is quite painful to me to think how much more proof I want. Painful, I say, because I see that it is not reason which convinces a man, unless a fact is repeated so frequently that it enters into the habit of mind, an old acquaintance, a thing known so long that it can not be doubted. This is a curious phase of a man's mind, and it is remarkably strong in scientific men, stronger than in others, I think. For this reason we must not allow ourselves to be misled by the fact that we have not yet had evidence for a long time. The old wall of belief must be broken down by much battering."

Mr. Crookes says that the subject is far more difficult and extensive than it appears; that four years ago he intended to write a treatise on the subject, but that whether certain marvelous occurrences had heard about would stand the test of close scrutiny. Having, however, soon arrived at the same conclusion as every other impartial inquirer, that there was something in it, he could not, as a student of science, refuse to follow the inquiry whithersoever the facts might lead. Thus the proposed labors of a few months were continued for several years, and the subject widened before him.

As the behavior of Mr. D. D. Home is not so good as it was, and as the marriage of Miss Kalk (now Mrs. Jencken) intended to prevent the further investigation, Mr. Crookes was obliged for the present to suspend his inquiry, and in the meantime he proposed to sum up, in the fewest possible words, the character of the results. He has seen a self-luminous crystalline body, which he has called "mediums" known to him, Mr. Crookes has been obliged for the present to suspend his inquiry, and in the meantime he proposed to sum up, in the fewest possible words, the character of the results.

The Paris correspondent of the *Boston Saturday Evening Gazette* relates the following thrilling scene at a recent trial: A woman named Vree had been arrested for selling matches which had no stamp. She was about to be discharged, for the offense was not grave, when the judge stepped back and, placing her hands on her breast, stared at Vree, and yelled: "What is only for selling matches that I am sure you are not guilty, but that you are a woman! Selling matches? What is that? You know that she is the potato-baker of Rue d'Alger, and she was vivandiere of the One Hundred and seventh Battalion of National Guards during the Commune, when she wore a General's hat, covered with fine feathers." Vree yelled: "You are a liar! You are a liar!" The police took her away, and she was taken to the hospital. It is a lie that you called him "carrier" and shot him down, and that you were rescued with his blood. The judge yelled: "I was there and saw you—say you with these two eyes—assassin, Commune!" Like a thunder-bomb on his march, Vree leaped on Leclerc, but the policemen had already watched the former, and they at once caught her. She yelled, she raved, she wept, she foamed at the mouth. There was no avail; the policemen held her firm. The police took her away, and she was taken to the hospital. It is a lie that you called him "carrier" and shot him down, and that you were rescued with his blood. The judge yelled: "I was there and saw you—say you with these two eyes—assassin, Commune!" Like a thunder-bomb on his march, Vree leaped on Leclerc, but the policemen had already watched the former, and they at once caught her. She yelled, she raved, she wept, she foamed at the mouth. There was no avail; the policemen held her firm. The police took her away, and she was taken to the hospital.

A Minister in Defense of Duelling. A short time ago a duel took place at Rastatt between two lieutenants belonging to the regiment in garrison at that fortress. One of them, Lieutenant Meyer, was shot through the head and died on the spot. He was buried with all military honors, and the gentlemen, all the officers of the regiment, and a large number of people being present. The chaplain of the division, Dr. Bauer, preached a sermon in which, according to the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, he said, among other things, "that honor was also by Christianity, declared to be a high and valuable good, that its defense by arms was a noble and honorable manner and custom of the time, and of certain social positions." The *Frankfurter Zeitung* remarks to this: "A defense of the duel, and the facts that it is the part of a clergyman, and on these grounds, has never been heard of before."

one of which is that darkness is essential to the phenomena. This, he says, is by no means the case. Everything recorded by him took place in the light, excepting in a few cases which he has specified, and when some degree of darkness was necessary conditions. Another error is that the occurrences can be witnessed only in the rooms of the medium, and at hours previously arranged. To show how far this is from the truth he assures us that, with two exceptions, the many hundreds of facts he is prepared to attest—facts the imitation of which by known mechanical or physical means, would baffle the skill of a Houdin, a Bosco, or an Anderson, backed with all the resources of elaborate machinery and the practice of years—have all taken place in his own house, at times appointed by himself, and under circumstances which absolutely precluded the employment of the very simplest instrumental aids. He remarks that although darkness is not essential, yet that when the force is weak, a bright light exerts an interfering action on some of the phenomena; but the power is strong to withstand this antagonistic influence, and he therefore always objects to darkness at his seances.

Mr. Crookes next proceeds to classify some of the phenomena which have come under his notice, passing from the simple to the more complex, and giving, under each heading, an outline of the evidence he is prepared to bring forward at the same time reiterating his assurance that, with the exception of cases specially mentioned, all the occurrences took place in his own house, in the night, and with only private friends present beside the medium.

In classifying the various phenomena that he presented themselves to him in the course of his inquiries, Mr. Crookes refers, first, to the movement of heavy bodies, with contact but without mechanical exertion. This he states to be one of the simplest forms of the phenomena observed, varying in degrees from a quivering or vibration of the room and its contents to the actual rising into the air of a heavy body when the hand of the medium is placed upon it. These movements, and indeed most of the phenomena, are preceded by a peculiar cold air, sometimes amounting to a decided wind, sufficient to blow sheets of paper about the room and to cause the extinguishing of the thermometer by several degrees.

The second class manifested themselves as percussive and other allied sounds; sometimes as delicate ticks, sometimes a cascade of sharp sounds, as from an induction coil in full work; detonations in the air, sounds like scratching, twittering or rattling, etc. These sounds were most prominently developed in the presence of Miss Kate Fox, and manifested themselves in all directions around her and in every variety. He assures the reader that with a full knowledge of the various theories in regard to the sounds, he has tested them, and is well satisfied that they are true objects of the senses, and not produced by trickery or mechanical means. The third class of phenomena consists in the alteration of the weight of bodies, which will be presented in detail in an early number of the *Quarterly Journal of Science*. The fourth class, namely, the movement of the lights, is developed in a variety of ways, the medium, he has seen in many instances, his own chair, he says, has been twisted partly round, while his feet were over the floor. A chair was seen by all present to move slowly up to the table from a far corner, when all were watching it. On the occasion, a chair was seen to rise, at his request, moved to the table, and was sitting about three feet, a distance of about three feet. He has repeatedly seen, in full light, the movement of a heavy table, about a foot and a half off, each occupant kneeling on his chair, with hands upon the table, but not touching the table. The fifth class consists in the movement of tables and chairs of the ground, without contact with any person. On five separate occasions a heavy dining table rose between a few inches and a foot and a half from the floor, under special circumstances, which rendered it very possible, the medium, in the act of the rising, being held by him during this movement.

The sixth class is that of the levitation of human beings, which has occurred in four instances in his presence. He has seen Mr. Home raised completely from the floor of his room in several instances. He has seen Mr. Home, establishing his own levitation, Mr. Crookes continuing to be present, and he thinks it greatly to be desired that some person, whose evidence will be accepted as conclusive by the scientific world, shall seriously and patiently examine these alleged facts, and examine the class of phenomena which consists in the moving of various small articles without contact with any person, which he has frequently observed, and where there could be no suspicion of trickery. He thinks that when he is in his own dining-room, seated in one part of the room, with a number of persons keenly watching him, and the latter could not, by any trickery, make an accurate record in his (Mr. Crookes') own hands, when the keys are held downward, nor cause the same according to float about the room, playing all the time. He thinks it impossible to introduce machinery which shall cause the keys to be pulled up, and the medium blind eight feet off the air, in a handkerchief and place it in a remote corner of the room; sound notes on a distant piano; cause a card-table to float about the room; raise a water-bottle and tumbler from the floor, and cause a neckless rise on end; move about a fan as if it were a company, or set in motion a pendulum when enclosed in a glass case firmly cemented to the wall. The eighth class is that of luminous appearances, which, according to Mr. Crookes, require that the room be dark, and that the lights are in many cases faint. He states that he has seen a self-luminous body, of the size and nearly the shape of a turkey's egg, float noiselessly about the room, being visible for more than ten minutes, and striking the table three times, with a sound like that of a hard solid body, before fading away. He has seen a self-luminous crystalline body placed in his hand by a hand which did not belong to any person in the room, and a luminous cloud floating upward to a picture. In the daylight he has seen a luminous cloud hover over a heliograph on a side-table, break off a spring, and cause a lamp to be extinguished. On several occasions he has seen a similar luminous cloud visibly condense to the form of a hand, and carry about small objects.

This leads him to the next, or ninth class, namely, the appearance of hands, either self-luminous or visible by ordinary light. Of these phenomena he gives numerous instances. In one case, a small hand rose up from an opening in the dining-table, and gave him a flower; it appeared and then disappeared three times, at intervals, affording Mr. Crookes ample opportunity of satisfying himself of its reality, as it occurred in the light, in his own room, while he was holding of the medium hands and feet. The hands and fingers did not always appear solid and lifelike, sometimes, indeed; seeming like a nebulous cloud, partly condensed in the form of a hand. He has more than once seen a luminous cloud appear to form about a hand, the cloud condensed into shape and become a perfectly formed hand. At this stage it was visible to all present. Sometimes it was life-like and graceful, the fingers moving, and the flesh apparently

THE SOVEREIGNS OF INDUSTRY. We have reviewed the constitution of the order of the Sovereigns of Industry, the by-laws of the order, and the various articles issued by it, and addressed to "the industrial classes, the mechanics and workmen and women everywhere." The organization of the order resembles that of the Patrons of Husbandry. Members of the subordinate councils take the degree of journeymen; members of the national council take the degree of masters, and members of the supreme council, which will not be instituted until 1875, will be craftsmen. The supreme council is to be open to any person engaged in industrial pursuits of the age of sixteen years, of good character. It is a significant rule that says: "No political or religious tests of membership shall be insisted upon, and all political purposes of the order are avowed. It declares itself to be in league with the Patrons of Husbandry. The circular says: "The Grangers have received one million dollars to the farmers. But, since the Grange admits only those who are interested in agricultural pursuits, it has been ordered that shall welcome to its membership all classes of laboring men and women. And this order will save to its members also millions of dollars, and will continue to be, in thorough sympathy and hearty co-operation with the Patrons of Husbandry, both being parts of one great whole, whose destiny is to work out a better future for the nation. Whether the Patrons of Husbandry started from industrial beginnings than the "Sovereigns of Industry."—Chicago Tribune.

A Costly Commemoration. The importance of careful congressional punctuation was strongly illustrated to-day at the meeting of the Ways and Means Committee, where it was shown that a comma in one place was worth \$2,000,000. In the tariff bill which went into effect August 1, 1872, it will be remembered that the free list was extended by the addition of several hundred articles. Among the number added was "fruit plants, tropical and semi-tropical." In the purpose of propagation and cultivation. In engrafting the bill, or printing, a comma copying it for official use, was inserted after "fruit," and all fruit was thereby placed on the free list. The customs officers, however, noticing the change, continued to collect duty on fruit, and, lastly, the committee discovered. The Ways and Means Committee to-day agreed to report a bill to remove the comma, in accordance with the intent of the law of 1872. The amount of tax illegally collected is not far from \$2,000,000.

as human as that of any person in the room. At the arm or wrist it became lazy, and passed off into a luminous cloud. To the touch the hand appeared sometimes icy cold and dead, at others warm, grasping like his own with the pressure of an old friend. In one instance he retained one of these hands in his own, firmly resolved not to let it escape. There was no struggle, no effort to get loose, but it gradually seemed to resolve itself into vapor, and faded in that manner from his grasp. The next or tenth class of phenomena comprised those of direct writing, exhibited sometimes in darkness, sometimes in light, sometimes without any apparent agency, at others through the medium of a hand. The eleventh class embraces the rarest phenomena, namely, those of phantom forms and faces, which he has presented in a very few instances only. The twelfth class covers phenomena that seem to point to the agency of an exterior intelligence, other than that of the medium or some person in the room. Although the hypothesis has been suggested that the medium is the source of this intelligence, by those who have seen the phenomena, and the explanation of many of the facts, yet Mr. Crookes has reason to believe that in certain instances, at least, they result from the agency of an outside intelligence, not belonging to any human being present. Under the thirteenth head, Mr. Crookes includes a variety of anomalous occurrences of a complex character, not easily grouped under any of the preceding divisions, to which, however, he refers only briefly, reserving the details for the volume which is now preparing. He then proceeds to indicate the theories that have been brought forward to account for the phenomena observed.

The first theory, that the phenomena are all the results of tricks, clever mechanical arrangements, or legerdemain, the mediums impostors and the rest of the company fools—he considers inadequate to explain more than a very small proportion of the facts. He has throughout given a true account of what he himself observed, and has taken occasion to prevent any collusion or trickery. He furthermore states that although professional exhibitors frequently simulate many of the phenomena referred to, it usually requires an apartment specially prepared, the lights properly arranged, and placed in a room of a certain size, a variety of machinery and confederates. In the most striking of the cases mentioned by him, the experiments took place in his own house, and under circumstances precluding the possibility of trickery.

A second theory is that the persons at a seance are the victims of a sort of mania or delusion, and imagine phenomena to occur which have no real objective existence, a third that the whole is the result of conscious or unconscious cerebral action. These two theories Mr. Crookes considers incapable of embracing more than a few of the phenomena, and dismisses them.

The spiritual theories are next presented that the phenomena are the result of the action of the spirit of the mediums perhaps in association with the spirits of some or all of the people present; that they are the actions of evil spirits or devils personifying whom or what they please in order to obtain a variety of mania and ruin men's souls; or that they are the actions of a separate order of beings, living on the earth, and invisible, but occasionally able to manifest their presence. Another of the spiritual theories is that they are the actions of a sort of human beings, which is the spiritual theory propounded by Mr. Crookes comes to the "Psychic Force" theory, which is a necessary adjunct of the others rather than a theory of itself. According to this, the medium or the circle of people associated together as a seance, are supposed to possess a force, power, influence, virtue, or gift, by means of which intelligent beings are enabled to produce the phenomena observed.

The view held by Mr. Crookes himself in regard to this subject he proposes to present in the volume to which reference has already been made, which will probably make its appearance in a few days, and which will undoubtedly be the subject of careful consideration on the part of persons interested in the phenomena referred to.

In conclusion, we will repeat that Mr. Crookes is a gentleman well known in scientific circles as a chemist and physicist, and the editor of two prominent English scientific journals, from the advanced sheets of which we are enabled to give this summary of his paper.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA. Twenty-Seventh Day's Session. New Orleans, February 6, 1874. The Senate met pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by Hon. C. A. Antoine, Lieutenant Governor of the State and President of the Senate. On call of the roll the following Senators answered to their names: Messrs. Anderson, Alexander, Barber, Beeden, Blackburn, Blunt, Butler, Cane, Chadborn, Detigee, Daigle, Glady, Greene, Harris, Ingraham, Mascot, Rey, Stamps, Thomas, Whitehead—29. The President announced a quorum present.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Root. The reading of the journal of yesterday's proceedings was dispensed with, and the journal corrected and adopted. MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, New Orleans, February 6, 1874. To the Honorable President and Members of the Senate: I am directed by the House to ask the concurrence of your honorable body in the following House bill, viz: The bill, entitled an act authorizing C. F. Estlin to sue the State of Louisiana. Very respectfully, JOHN W. ROXBOROUGH, Assistant Clerk.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES. Mr. Anderson, chairman of the Committee on Judiciary, submitted the following report: Senate bill No. 327, an act to authorize the police jury of the parish of Plaquemine to issue bonds and to provide for the redemption thereof. Favorably. Senate bill No. 328, an act to expedite the cause of the parish of Iberville, Louisiana at New Orleans, and to regulate the same for a limited period. Favorably. Senate bill No. 191, an act to amend and re-enact section 2749 of the Revised Statutes. Favorably. Mr. Whitehead, chairman of the Committee on Finance, submitted the following report: COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, New Orleans, February 6, 1874. To the Honorable President and Members of the Senate: Your Committee on Finance, to whom was referred House bill No. 12, an act to exempt from State and municipal taxation certain property of the St. Patrick's Hall Association in the city of New Orleans, and to remit back taxes on the same, beg leave to report the same with the following amendment: In line eleven, after the word "association," insert "and be in actual use for charitable or religious purposes." With this amendment, we recommend the passage of the bill. M. H. TWITCHELL, Chairman; T. B. STAMPS, C. D. ANDERSON, NOTICES OF BILLS. By Mr. Wharton: A bill entitled an act to amend act No. 3, approved January 24, 1873, to provide for testing, at the instance of any taxpayer, in the courts of this State the legality and validity of any of the items of State indebtedness, the legality and validity of which may have been or may be hereafter questioned; prohibiting the board of liquidation under said act No. 3 of 1874 from funding the questionable or doubtful obligations of the State named in this act until the same shall have been finally declared legal and valid by the Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana, and to provide means for carrying into effect the provisions of this act. By Mr. Crawford: An act to authorize the district judges throughout the State, to order, either before or after arrest, any person charged with committing a crime, to any jail or prison within the State for safety, whenever the crime was committed or warrant of arrest issued is unsafe or unfit for the security of prisoners. INTRODUCTION OF BILLS ACCORDING TO PREVIOUS NOTICE. By Mr. Glaudin: A bill to be entitled an act making All Saints' Day a day of public rest. The bill was read the first time. The constitutional rule was suspended by a four-fifths vote, the bill read the second time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary. By Mr. Butler: Senate bill No. 259, an act fixing the fees and charges of the criminal sheriff for the parish of Orleans in certain cases. The bill was read the first time. Lies over. By Mr. Daigle: A bill to be entitled an act to incorporate the town of Bayville, in the parish of Lafayette. The bill was read the first time. The constitutional rule was suspended by a four-fifths vote, the bill read the second time and referred to the Committee on Corporations and Parochial Affairs. By Mr. Pollard: An act to repeal act No. 106, an act to amend an act to incorporate the Crescent City Gaslight Company, approved April 23, 1870, and to fix with more precision the time when said company shall go into operation, and to authorize the issue of mortgage bonds; to change the time for the election of directors; and to limit the price to be charged for gas, approved July 10, 1873. The bill was read the first time. The constitutional rule was suspended by a four-fifths vote, the bill read the second time and referred to the Committee on Corporations and Parochial Affairs. By Mr. Kelso: An act to amend and re-enact an act entitled "an act relative to the Supreme Court, and to regulate the terms thereof, the proceedings therein, appeals thereon, and processes against the sureties on appeal bonds," approved March 16, 1870, and for other purposes. The bill was read the first time. The constitutional rule was suspended by a four-fifths vote, the bill read the second time and referred to the Committee on Judiciary. By Mr. Brewster: Senate bill No. 353, an act to fix the terms of the District Court of the State of Louisiana in the Fourteenth Judicial District. The bill was read the first time. The constitutional rule was suspended by a four-fifths vote, the bill read the second time. The bill was considered engrossed. The constitutional rule was suspended by