

The Louisianian.

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THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 1871.



OUR CHOICE FOR PRESIDENT, 1872.

U. S. GRANT.

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WELCOME HOME BROTHERS.—We are glad to observe that our contemporary of the Feliciana Republican has "come to himself" and without any more ado has hurried home. Here's our

Don't forget that T. Morris Esq. lectures this evening at St. James Chapel, on Roman street between Customhouse and Bienville street. Admission twenty-five cents.

Our round friend, one of the Representatives of the parish of Concordia in the Louisiana Legislature, Hon. David Young has we are informed bid adieu to the realms of single blessedness, and taken to himself the charming widow Mrs. Harris formerly of Natchez. All happiness to you and the madame, "Dave."

We publish elsewhere a letter from our special correspondent "MATTIE." In it will be found several valuable hints with reference to the purchase of lands and securing of farms by laborers. The consideration of this topic will doubtless come up in the Southern Convention to meet in Columbia, S. C., on October 18th, and we commend the letter to the delegates from Louisiana.

Last Saturday evening "The United Sons of America" had a monster entertainment at the National Hall in this city. At an early hour the hall was well filled and the cry was "still they come." Dancing was the order of the evening and it was kept up with little intermission all through the night. A well furnished bar—a sumptuously prepared supper table, cakes, fruits, and all the et ceteras which complete a fine lay out were there; and we were very glad to find that the effort of Mr. Wm. Thompson and his coadjutors were so well recognized and their labors rewarded.

THE OLIVER CASE.

The New Orleans Times, driven desperate by its utter failure to fasten any unworthy or dishonorable action upon Governor Warmoth, through its friend Mr. Walsh or other means, resorts to unblushing falsehood. It charges upon Sheriff Oliver, of St. James parish, a gross abuse of power, makes up an imaginary case full of dramatic incident and vouches for its authenticity, and then tries to fix the responsibility for this spurious outrage upon the Governor.

The Times begins its attack by picturing Sheriff Oliver as a fiend incarnate, utterly without human impulses or sympathies, when the truth is that Mr. Oliver is represented by his neighbors as a charitable considerate and in every way a worthy citizen. Next charges the Governor with releasing Oliver from a prison wherein he was confined for the most heinous of crimes, when the fact was well known to our contemporary that the action complained of was simply releasing a man who had been fairly tried and acquitted from continued false imprisonment. The Times next accuses the Governor of appointing this "bloody minded and brutal negro" as sheriff, in face of the published election returns which show that the people of St. James elected him to that office, and that His Excellency simply performed the ministerial duty of commissioning him, which he could not have avoided had he even been so minded.

But the climax of Governor Warmoth's crimes in this connection originates in the hanging of three men for murder. Sheriff Oliver in executing the death warrant, is declared to have "made a grand scene," to have "collected a large number of armed negroes," and marched to the place of execution, dragging there a "very depressed looking and ironed colored man named Coleman, charged with murder, to witness the hanging, and subsequently reading him a moral lecture in which he cautioned him to prepare for a possible similar fate. Extraordinary, brutal, insolent outrage, and "outraged humanity and civilization" is the way in which the Times characterizes Oliver's conduct, and for which it holds the Governor queerly enough to account. Now even if the Times report of the attendant circumstances to the execution were correct, it would be difficult for any one but a Democratic editor to involve his Excellency in the wrongdoing; but it has no better foundation for its venomous outbreak in this than in the allegations previously alluded to, as will be seen by the subjoined dispassionate statement from Mr. Oliver himself.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE. Parish of St. James, Sept. 25, 1871. EDITOR THE LOUISIANIAN.

In consequence of the misrepresentations recently made in the New Orleans Times, in regard to the unpleasant part I was, as an officer of the law, compelled to act in the St. James execution, and of the false impression upon the public mind that will naturally follow in the train of misrepresentation, I deem it a duty I owe to myself, the Governor of the State, and humanity, to present to the people of the State at large the facts as they actually occurred.

On Friday, the 22d of September, 1871, between the hours of seven and eight o'clock, I entered the cell of the parish jail in which the doomed men were confined, and read, in presence of several competent witnesses, to John Williams, Alfred Decairo and Noel alias Madison Hamilton their death warrant, which I had received from the Governor. Between the hours of four and five o'clock of the same day, Randall Coleman requested the jailor and the chief constable of the parish to obtain for him from the sheriff permission to witness the execution, and his request was granted, but with the proviso that he was to be thoroughly secured, to prevent escape. The sixteenth day of September, 1871, and between the hours of ten and twelve o'clock, were the day and hours designated for the execution.

The citizens of the parish requested that the prisoners be executed upon the spot where their victim was murdered. I saw no reason for denying their request and it was granted. At half-past eight o'clock I ordered the prisoners to be dressed. They were dressed in white shirts, white pants, white caps and white socks, and their arms tied behind them with white cotton rope. The coffins were loaded into a large cane cart, drawn by three mules, and the prisoners were placed in the cart, each upon his own coffin. Coleman was placed in the same cart, as there was no other conveyance at hand under the control of the sheriff's posse. The prisoners to be executed sat in the front, and Coleman in the rear of the cart upon the foot of one of the coffins; that seat appeared to be his choice, as I told him to sit down on the edge of the cart.

At exactly eight minutes before nine o'clock A. M., I ordered the cart to move forward, with a sufficient guard to protect the prisoners and prevent escape. The place selected for the execution was about three miles from the parish jail, and we arrived upon the spot about fifteen minutes after ten o'clock. Preparations were immediately made for the execution, which was conducted strictly according to law. The gallows had already been put up early in the morning. Coleman was taken out of the cart and seated on a box about twenty steps in front of the gallows. The prisoners and their coffins were taken out of the cart, and placed upon the scaffold. Each prisoner was allowed fifteen minutes to address the spectators, when their caps were drawn down, and prayer was offered up to heaven in behalf of the prisoners. After prayer by the minister, I turned to Coleman and addressed him as follows:

"Take a good view of what is before you, and see how these three men are going to die for taking what they could not give, and which is given by God alone. And you have committed the same crime, willfully, in cold blood, which is called murder in the first degree, for you have already confessed your crime to me in the presence of witnesses. I hope this spectacle will be a warning to you, and to all citizens here present. You had better look within yourself and repent of the crime you have perpetrated, for God only knows but that you may die the same death."

The trap fell at eleven o'clock, and the dead bodies were cut down in thirty-seven minutes afterward. I endeavored to discharge my duty as the law directs and if I did commit any act of indiscretion it was certainly unintentional, and the Times has done me great injustice in attributing motives to me which never entered my brain. The Times has raked up the murder of Marx Schonberg and William C. Laws, and notwithstanding I was arrested, tried and acquitted by a jury of my countrymen, insinuated that I was either the actual murderer or accessory to the crime. From what the Times has stated, I know that it does not know the facts in the case, and really has no grounds for such an unjust charge; and I know, further, that I am as innocent of the charge preferred as the editor of the Times, or any other man.

J. C. OLIVER, Sheriff of the Parish of St. James.

In conclusion we may be permitted to congratulate His Excellency upon the fact that the Times is rapidly teaching even the Louisiana Bourbon Democracy to receive its attacks upon the State Administration cum grano salis.

THAT'S THE WAY THE MONEY GOES.

It is well that "Uncle Sam" is rich enough to give us all a farm, and that his children are the most uncomplaining tax-payers in the world, otherwise the devil of a row would be kicked up over such expensive vagaries as are indulged in by Casey, Carter, Packard & Co. Not content with calling into service U. S. troops and employing a regiment of Deputy Marshals to overawe the people's representatives in Louisiana, Messrs. Casey and Carter have headed a "chosen band" of Customhouse employees on a political incursion into Texas to ascertain if the people of the Lone Star State are "for Grant" or in other words, have taken the Customhouse brass band to Texas to assist in electing Grant men at the approaching contest. This would be well enough, as a Texas contemporary puts it, but for the fact that these musicians hold appointments in the New Orleans Customhouse, and draw salaries on the pay roll of "Uncle Sam," but as it stands the cause they would subvert is damaged rather than benefited by the misuse of the government patronage. Such "indiscretions" bring just indignation and disgrace upon our party far and near; and it is time the Washington authorities undertake to curb the zeal of such recent converts to Republicanism as Messrs. Carter and Casey.

OFF WITH THEIR HEADS.

It is not our custom to cry out "we told you so!" when our prophecies are realized, but men who were weak enough to sell their Republican principles for place in the Customhouse cannot deny that the LOUISIANIAN gave them due and explicit warning of what would be their lot. The following Washington telegram gives point and finish to several cautionary articles which appeared in this paper just before the State Convention sat:

A large number of changes of subordinate officials in the New Orleans Customhouse, will be made to-morrow. Of course Casey, Packard & Co. have no further use for the tools with which they tried to split the Republican party, and consequently restore the loaves and fishes to their personal adherents. The dupes who now on street corners curse their own stupidity, may possibly profit by the lesson. We hope so.

POOR BURCH'S MANIA.

The last issue of The Grand Err contains one of the most refreshing articles of the season, from the pen of its admirable proprietor. We won't dwell long on it, for beyond an old womanish repetition of a statement which Mr. Burch knows to be utterly groundless, there is nothing of the original dispute left to discuss. But there are just two points raised which we will say a word about. The first is that Mr. Burch was "one of the original founders of our paper," and as such aided to secure our services as its editor. The effrontery of such a statement requires that we should inform the reader, Mr. Burch never invested a cent in the purchase of, and conducting of THE LOUISIANIAN. He promised to contribute, but let him say what he did at the maturity of his note. We were employed to edit the paper, and Mr. Burch knows that we can abundantly refute his ridiculous and unfounded statements of our non-entity by reference to the gentlemen associated at the time of the purchase and till to-day. And for all the disgrace he can manufacture against us except it be in the fact that we consented to be associated with Mr. Burch, for working with our head and with our hands for our "daily bread" he is fully welcome to it. We are accustomed to labor and we can in common with every other "working man" afford to despise Mr. Burch's contempt for labor, and his assumption of unwarrantable airs of superiority. But no! we beg pardon. We are reminded that his pretensions are well grounded, that his haughtiness "runs in the blood." We look back down a long vista and we see the line of his illustrious ancestors, all "Representative men." Men, as Dewitt Talmage would say who were hail fellow well met with Thomas Jefferson; accustomed to slapping George Washington on the shoulder and calling him "George." "Representative men" whose scion is intimate with "Ulysses" and knows Charles, and Wendell, and Horace, and perhaps Fred Douglass and Langston; and who "knows how it is himself" in everything that is aristocratic, and grand! Now to be candid we are ignorant of these things. We were not born great, we certainly are not achieving much greatness (in this silly dispute) and people seem hesitating about thrusting it on us, as they were bound to do on natural, born "Representative" Burch. We once joined in a number to hunt up the root of our family tree, and the way we fell into beds of mortar, brushes and blacking, soap and towels, over itinerant minstrels even, was so great a caution that we can never be tempted into that field of research again.

Now quit it "Representative." We can never reach the altitude you have attained. The avenue that you passed was opened for only such as you, and will admit none not "to the manor born." You are beyond all dispute one of "mine anointed," a political and aristocratic Priest, that we must do no harm to.

Oh, this age of homespun and mushroom pretensions!

There is every indication that the Carondelet street cars will ere long run through to Carrollton. Every one who has traveled on the Baronne and Carrollton cars knows that the accommodation is entirely inadequate for the travelers. It is a common occurrence to find crowds of persons continually waiting for "the next car," while the passing one is literally packed with a "standing" crowd.

The Picayune a few days ago advised the public not to take car tickets as change, because they were the vehicle of filth and pestilence. Yesterday it recommends that nickels be refused in order to repress the counterfeiting of that useful little coin. What then are we to do for this smallest denomination of our circulating medium? May we not hope for a Picayune substitute?

SOMETHING STRANGE.—Dispatches from London of Sept. 26, says that Disraeli at a banquet proposed to assist the Queen and fervently eulogized her majesty and said that "no Englishman had such complete control of the political traditions of the county as its sovereign," and yet strange the latest telegram says that "Disraeli declared that the Queen is physically and morally incapable of reigning."

Telegraphic dispatches say that the contest in the convention for nomination for Governor of Massachusetts between Gen. Butler and three other candidates waxed warm. Yesterday evening's dispatches say that at midnight of Tuesday the opponents of General Butler were consulting. The General had at the start 432 out of 1051 delegates. His cause is by no means hopeless.

LOUISIANA PROGRESSIVE CLUB.

RECEPTION OF T. MORRIS CHESTER, ESQ.

The visit of Mr. Chester to our city afforded the above named organization its first opportunity of extending its hospitality to a stranger.

There were gathered together quite a large number of prominent gentlemen as guests, while the Club itself was well represented. Among the guests we may mention Hon. L. T. Delassie, Administrator Water Works; Hon. Harry Lott and J. Henri Burch, Reva. O. H. Thompson, D. D., of Straight University; J. R. V. Thomas, of the St. James Chapel, and J. M. Vance; Professor P. M. Williams, Dr. J. T. Newman, M. D., Messrs. A. P. Williams, G. Harris Payerweather, R. Baquie, P. Z. Canonge, R. C. Howard, Carter Love, William Dunn, L. Porie, John Roxborough and Mr. Ruby, of Texas. Of the members, there were City Administrator James Lewis, Hon. A. E. Barber, J. H. Ingraham, J. W. Quinn, R. M. J. Kenner, F. C. Antoine, Messrs. Wm. Weeks, H. A. Corbin, G. E. Paris, W. R. Mason, C. A. Baquie, J. J. Ross, W. W. Johnson, Joseph Roberts, F. McK. Dunn, J. Pinta, Wm. G. Brown and others.

A sumptuously laid supper invited the indulgence in gastronomic and other arts, and the good things were well enjoyed.

When the period for regular toasts arrived, they were led off by "The President of the United States," by Wm. G. Brown. "Our Guest," by the President of the Club, Colonel James Lewis.

Mr. Chester then rose and responded as follows:

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Progressive Club:

Never have I regretted my poverty of language, as I do at this moment. Never have I experienced more, the inadequacy of my ability to do justice to my feelings than upon this occasion. My position is also embarrassed by a severe indisposition which I had this morning, the effects of which scatter thoughts and render the mind chaotic. Throwing myself upon your indulgence, I feel that you will excuse me from making any extended remarks, under such inauspiciousness, but I hope you will accept of my unqualified thanks for the compliment paid and the honor conferred. (Applause.) It has been my good fortune during my experience, upon two distant continents, to be the guest of Sovereigns and Princes, upon the broad principles of human brotherhood, but in no instance, whether at the table of the Czar of Russia, or in the throne room of the Queen of England, or in the charmed circles of aristocratic intercourse, have I been so deeply moved as I am by this partiality, which deems me worthy of such a reception, by the citizens of New Orleans, tendered through the Louisiana Progressive Club. (Loud applause.) I appreciate the courtesy, not so much because it has marked me out for this distinction but for the significance which it manifests and the results that it forebodes. The day of our unqualified deliverance from every species of proscription and prejudice is not far distant, when the spirit which have exemplified this evening you will have permeated our people throughout the land. (Applause.) We are a political power in this Country, and when we shall have realized our strength, we shall make our enemies not only respect our rights but acknowledge our manhood in all their various public and corporate relations. (Loud applause.) The man who respects himself will find but little difficulty in having his worthiness recognized by his neighbors; and the people who are imbued with a proper degree of self respect and pride of race, honor themselves in the compliment which they pay their representative men; (applause) and they will not be long, however humble they may have been, in inspiring the admiration of those who have been accustomed to look upon them with different sentiments. While I regret my unworthiness for the distinction, I am proud to feel that the good people of New Orleans are so hospitable in their impulse, and are so deeply impressed with the exalted sentiments of public appreciation, as to bestow this honor wherever, in their judgment, it may be merited. (Applause.)

There are many things which we as colored men must accomplish, and though we have the power, we will never effect our object unless the spirit of self-respect, which has been weakened by circumstances for which we are in no way responsible, becomes as prevalent all over this land as it is here manifested, which will enable us to move in one solid column, in advancing the best interest of our prescribed race. (Applause.) The humiliations and degradations which are now daily imposed upon us, our wives, daughters and sisters in Louisiana and other coterminous states, by corporations that are common carriers, in violation of every principle of justice and revealed law, should no longer be allowed to disgrace a state where colored people are in the majority. (Prolonged applause.)

If the powers that be do not realize that they hold their positions in Louisiana by permission of the people, and if they do not teach these railway and other corporations a judicial lesson, that will put an end to the infamous treatment to which we are now subjected, you should revolutionize this state, making such supplements to the laws or amendments to the constitution if necessary, as will place colored men upon the bench in all the courts; (continued applause) and then by a writ of *scire facias*, or still better a *quo warranto*, you would bring these corporations into court, demanding their dissolution upon the grounds of having transgressed their charters, by an abuse of their franchise, in which case the law determines that the corporations have violated the conditions upon which they were incorporated, which forfeits their charters, and renders the act of incorporation void. (Loud continued applause.)

It may be well enough for the judges of the courts and these wicked incorporations to realize that we understand the situation, and unless there shall be a more just construction of the law and less barbarous treatment upon public conveyances, their repentance will come too late to save them from the judgment of an outraged people. (Great applause.) This, gentlemen, is a subject dear to every man in whose veins runs one drop of negro blood; [continued applause] and if we were only united, we could sweep from the bench, the unjust judges, and teach incorporations by dear bought experience, that they must carry humanity as angel-waft spirits to Heaven, or as demon-hurl them to perdition, irrespective of race or color. (Great cheering.) If under the administration of white men courts do not answer the end for which they were instituted, then in God's name let them be abolished and reorganized under the inspiration of that justice whose fountain is in Heaven. (Loud applause.) When the great purposes for which this nation was founded shall have been attained and observed all over this land and in every department, then from hill and dale, from plains and cities, from mountains and valleys will go up the grand shouts of jubilee, in recognition and worship of the undimmed star of empire in the west, which will be a continuation of the celestial anthem which the seraphs first chanted over the plains of Bethlehem, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. (Prolonged cheering.)

The next toast, "Our absent friends," was proposed by Hon. R. M. J. Kenner.

There being several ministers present, "The Church" was proposed by Mr. Brown, and responded to in an exceedingly appropriate and felicitous manner by both Rev. C. H. Thompson and J. R. V. Thomas.

After withdrawing from the table, conversation was resumed with a cheerfulness, a complete harmony, and an intelligence which were admirable. The members of the Club are justly proud of their infant social organization, and the sympathies awakened, and the laudable ambition quickened by such association and mental attrition, promise much good, and we hail with unqualified gratification the meeting of Monday evening.

LETTER FROM OUR LADY CORRESPONDENT, MATTIE.

SHE EXPRESSES HER VIEWS OF THE WEATHER—THE CROPS—THE SCHOOLS—AND MAKES A SUGGESTION FOR A LAND ASSOCIATION, FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUYING SMALL PLANTATIONS.

THIBODAUX, Lafourche Parish, September 23, 1871. EDITOR LOUISIANIAN:—

As I do not see any one else from this section who claims the post of correspondent for you, I venture to send a few items, hoping they may prove of interest to your readers.

The weather has been very rainy during the past month, but it has not seriously impeded the gathering of the rice crop, which has been unusually large, even for this parish. Complaints are made by some of the larger planters that they are unable to haul their wood for the coming "rolling;" but the last few days of dry weather has somewhat dried up the mud, and hopes are entertained that the roads will be in a passable condition before the time for "cutting," which generally commences on or about the 10th of October.

But the query is here, "how about the tidal wave;" and what if the big wave washes all the cane a few miles up the river. In that case who is to cut it?

The political prospect of Lafourche (although rather unsafe to predict for a year in advance,) is entirely for Governor Warmoth as leader of the Republican party. The cause of Warmoth's popularity in this Parish may be ascribed to the feeling of the colored people in favor of free schools; and the undisguised expression of the opinion that if the fac-

tionists of the Customhouse, or the Democratic party should gain the ascendancy, all the free schools would be stopped at once.

Not is this feeling unreasonable. The party who is supposed to know all about the Gatlin gun crowd, and who led the party to defeat last year, has openly avowed this contemplated affiliation with the Democratic party, rather than live under Governor Warmoth, and the little wash tub organ of the Democratic ilk has already piped its little note against "free negro schools" and against the tax for schools.

This, in connection with the fact that last year nearly every elective office was given to the Democrats, has convinced the colored element that the Customhouse Republicans are simply a bait on the hook of old time slave-holders; and that self-protection demands fidelity to those who have already led us out into the light so far; or, to use the homely but expressive phrase of the field, "we praise the bridge that carries us safely over;" and that, so far as we understand the political future, is the party now led by Henry Clay Warmoth.

The school system of Lafourche parish is not excelled by any county parish in the State. Our President of the Parish School Board, Hon. Oscar Crosier, is working in full harmony with the Division Superintendent, Hon. E. S. Stoddard, and has nearly a thousand children attending the daily public schools. Of this number, one hundred and sixty are attending the Stoddard, many of whom are fitting themselves for teaching, under the efficient training of the most able principal we have ever had in the parish.

The Hon. Oscar Crosier, and his able coadjutor, Rev. William Murrell, also on the Thibodaux School Board, do not forget their race nor the duties they owe to them; and they lose no opportunity of impressing the rising generation with the necessity for education, and self-improvement.

It seems as if something might be done to show a large majority of our race, the necessity of owning houses, and especially their own small farm. In the present system of large plantations, the laborer gets \$20 per month and a ration of meat and meal. Of course a portion of these wages must go for food and clothes, so that when the end of the year comes round they have not much more than they had when they began. It seems as if the great trouble with them, (and I have talked with many of the most intelligent of the laborers of the parish about this subject,) is the ignorance of where to buy, and how to buy land for their homes.

For example, there are at least a hundred or more colored men in this town (Thibodaux,) who have bought and paid for their lots; built neat and substantial dwelling places on them, while their "work" is perhaps six, or seven miles distant from their homes.

Their lots cost from \$75 to \$150 and houses and fences from one hundred to a thousand dollars.

Now if they could have purchased, say twenty arpents of land to cultivate with this same money, they would have a certain source of revenue their entire lives.

If the columns of the LOUISIANIAN were to take up the matter, it would be certain to succeed, and our race would have confidence to buy a farm and pay for it gradually, if they were assured that the proprietors of the LOUISIANIAN had the management of the purchase and their money was in their hands instead of some of the irresponsibles, who occasionally gull them out of their labor and their money.

Perhaps I have made my letter too long, but I feel warmly on this subject and wish to hasten the time when my race will own their own plantations, and work for themselves. For I cannot help believing with a writer of the North, who alleges that "the colored people will never be fully independent until they are landed proprietors, and are liberally educated."

Then we shall see the death, and burial, of the senseless caste and prejudice now so common in the South. Truly Yours, MATTIE.

HALL FOURTH WARD R. R. CLUB, New Orleans, Sept. 26, 1871.

Whereas, Some mis-apprehension seems to prevail with reference to the extent of endorsement which a resolution deploring the holding of office under the City Council by Democrats received—Therefore, Be it Resolved, That the Secretary be requested to read the resolution so misconstrued and that this club endorse its sentiments unambiguously. (Signed) JNO. W. MASON, R. C. HOWARD, President.

John W. Roxborough, Secretary.