THE COURIER.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING BY
JOEL H. SANDOZ & ANDREW MEYNIER.

Opelousas :

SATURDAY, MARCH 7th, 1857.

INDUSTRY AND PUNCTUALITY.—By reference to our advertising columns, our numerous readers will perceive that Hon. L. J. Dupré does not calculate to be inactive after his withdrawal from the seat of the District Court, that he now occupies. He announces that he will practice law after the 1st of April next, the day on which his term expires, and believing, perhaps, in the common saying that "two minds united are better than one" he has formed a partnership with Mr. Henry L. Garland, the assiduity, perseverance and merit of whom are already well known.

This union of two men possessing merits, talents, industry and exactitude, will not fail to win the confidence of the people.

THE 4TH OF MARCH.— On Wednesday last was the day fixed by law for the inauguration of the newly elected President, Mr. Buchanan. From what our exchange papers say it was to be one of the grandest ceremonies ever witnessed in the United-States.

☞ William Elkins Esq., has been appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate, Notary Public for this Parish. He will keep his office in Pointe Noire.

SALES OF TO-DAY.—The Sheriff will sell before the Court House, to-day, 15 or twenty slaves, and a tract of land; the slaves upon a credit of one year and the land for cash.

Auctioneers Rogers & Thompson will also sell at the same place, an excellent house servant and her three children.

On Tuesday next, the 10th, Auctioneer Alph. Debaillon will sell, on Bayou Tèche, 4 slaves and some moveable, belonging to the Estate of Marie C. Mayer.

See advertisement in another column.

SHORT SERMON FOR YOUNG MEN.

Text:—Owe no man anything. Keep out of debt. Avoid it as you would war, pestilence and famine. Shun it as you would the devil. Hate it with perfect hatred. Abhor it with an entire and absolute abhorrence. Dig potatoes, break stones, peddle tinware, do anything that is honest and useful, rather than run in debt. As you value good digestion a healthy appetite, a placid temper, smooth pillow, sweet sleep, pleasant dreams, and happy waking, keep out of debt.

There is but little hope for the young man who can recklessly wear the chain of debt and speak with an air of humorous pity of his creditors, as did that brazen youth who on being asked how it was that he could sleep o'nights, involved as he was, replied that he could sleep well enough himself, but couldn't imagine how his creditors could contrive to do it. He who will incur debts, which he knows he can never pay, or neglect obligations which he has the means to meet, is but a thief in another form. Men live by their goods, and he who takes without paying, steals more than their value, for he has also the time and patience of the owner. He has to a degree destroyed honest credit, and injured some poor customer, more deserving indulgent aid than himself. Debts is the hardest of all task masters, the cruelest of all oppressors. It is a mill-stone about the neck an incubus on the heart; it spreads a cloud over the whole firmament of man's being. It eclipses the sun it blots out the stars, it dims and defaces the beautiful blue sky. It breaks up the harmony of nature and turns to dissonance all the voices of its melody. It furrows the forehead with premature wrinkles; it plucks out its light it brags all nobleness and kindness out of the port and bearing of a man. It takes the soul out of his laugh, and all stateliness and freedom from his walk. Come not under his accursed dominion. Pass by it as you would by a leper, or one smitten by the plague.

Touch it not. Taste not of its fruits, for it shall turn to bitterness and ashes on your lips. Finally, I say to each and all, but especially to you, young men, keep out of debt.

A LESSON FOR WIVES.—The following touching simple and sorrowful memorial of his wife was written by one of the greatest statesmen of England—Sir James McIntosh in a private letter to a friend: "She was a woman," he writes, "who, by tender management of my weakness, gradually corrected the most pernicious of them. She became prudent from affection; and though of the most generous nature, she was taught frugality and economy by her love for me. During the most critical period of my life she preserved order in my affairs, from the care of which she relieved me. She gently reclaimed me from dissipation; she propped my weak and irresolute nature she urged my indolence to all the exertions that have been useful and creditable to me; and she was perpetually at hand to admonish my heedlessness and improvidence. To her I owe whatever I shall be. In her solicitude for my interest, she never for a moment forget my character Her feelings were warm and impetuous, but she was placable, tender and constant. Such was she whom I have lost; and I have lost her when a knowledge of her worth had refined my youthful love into friendship—before age had deprived it of much of its original ardor. I seek relief, and I find it in the consolatory opinion that a benevolent Wisdom inflicts the chastisement, as well as bestows the enjoyment of human life; that this dreary and wretched life is not the whole of man; that a being capable of such proficiency in science and virtue is not like the beasts; that there is a dwelling place prepared for the spirits of the just; that the ways of God will yet be vindicated to man."

HOW TO MAKE BARRELS—ONE A MINUTE.—We attended, on Saturday last, the 22d inst., an exhibition of working of a series of apparatuses intented for the manufacture of barrels. The machinery consists of six distinct pieces of mechanism; the first being used for sawing the staves; the second and third for jointing them; the fourth for planing and jointing the heads; the fifth for making the heads, and the sixth for grooving the staves to admit the heads. The celerity with which the various essential actions may be performed can be known by the fact that thirty men can, in one day, make six hundred barrels, which, when completed, exhibit the most perfect workmanship.—*Phil. Journal.*

☞ To make a girl love you, coax her to love somebody else. If there be anything that woman relishes, it is to be contrary.

THE NICARAGUAN NEWS.

We are again without our correspondence from Nicaragua: why, we can conjecture no satisfactory reason. The fact is to be the less regretted, however, as we find that the dispatches forwarded to us on the arrival of the Texas, and published in our editions of yesterday, comprised everything of importance.—There are details which of course, possess more or less of interest, which we should prefer to have received direct, rather than to have to refer to the correspondence of the Picayune or the columns of the Central American for them. We choose to do this, however, rather than to take no notice of them.

From those sources we learn that on the arrival of the Texas hence at San Juan, on the 4th inst., a river steamer went alongside, and within an hour was hoing up the river with the men that the steamship had brought. Landing about six miles below Serapiqui, they joined other forces camped there, and the next morning preparations were made to attack 300 Costa Ricans, strongly posted at Cody's Point, opposite Fort Serapiqui. This was done on the morning of the 6th, a landing being made about three miles below the fort, and the force, in number about 300, being divided into three commands. They cut their way through a dense forest for some six or seven miles to reach the rear of the position. On their arrival the enemy were already making off on hearing of their approach, crossing the river to Hipp's Point, and after a sharp skirmish of about a quarter of an hour, they were completely routed with considerable loss, the assailants losing but four or five men, among whom was Lieut. Roman, and having ten or eleven wounded.

In the meantime an attack was made on the Serapiqui fort from two guns, one six-pounder and one nine-pounder, mounted on a flat and towed into position by the steamer. The guns of the fort were silenced; but an accident to the steamer rendered it necessary for her to withdraw for repairs.

The loss of the allies is variously estimated at from thirty killed and fifty wounded, to one hundred and fifty, all told.

Possession of the Point having been thus gained, preparations were made for a general attack on the whole allied forces on the river, to take place at midnight on the 11th. The Texas waited at San Juan till half past 2 P. M., on the 12th, in expectation of some intelligence respecting it, but it did not arrive. Cody's Point is a high commanding bluff, of first importance as a military position, fully commanding Fort Serapiqui, and the men had been at once set about strengthening it.

The conduct of the British is represented as very officious, arrogant and menacing, and fears seem to be entertained that they purposed joining their forces with those of the Costa Ricans, for the purpose of endeavoring to overcome Walker. They had been drilling on shore, practising with both small arms and guns, and at 4 o'clock on the morning of the 12th, a force of seven armed boats was seen entering and ascending the San Juan river, towards the American camp.

This is a concise account of what appear to be the facts with respect to the movements and state of affairs on the river. As regards the interior, the news from Rivas is to the 3d inst., taken from San Juan del Sur by the Orizaba, and by the British mail steamship Tyne, from Aspinwall.

It is stated that Walker had had no communication with the lake or river since the seisure of the boats. The Orizaba took down fifty or sixty men for him.

The date of the affair at Obraje we do not see given but it was probably about the 25th or 26th ult. The place is variously stated as being about eight, ten or twelve miles from Rivas, on the road to Granada. It lasted twenty-four hours, when Gen. Walker ordered Gen. Henningsen to retire to Rivas. The enemy was strongly fortified there, and had about 1500 men. The attacking force is stated at 300. The loss of the enemy is variously estimated at from 80 to 120 killed and wounded; that of the Americans to five killed, among whom was Capt. Finney.

On the 26th Gen. Henningsen, with a force of 400 men, was dispatched to attack the enemy who had advanced and taken up a position at San Jorge, which is about three miles on the Virgin side of Rivas, that is on the side opposite to that on which Obraje is situated. Gen. Walker's orders were that the place was to be taken only if it could be done without a loss of more than fifty men and that otherwise the forces were to be withdrawn. The advance, however, attacked precipitately, and the attack was then continued, one account says till sunset, another till midnight, when orders were sent to withdraw, which was done. The enemy were here 1500 or 1700 strong, under the command of Gen. Canas, and strongly barricaded. They are represented to have lost 200 killed and 400 wounded; among the former being, as has been supposed, though doubted, Gen. Bosquet, the Commander of the Costa Ricans. The loss of the attacking force is said to have been only 16 killed and 33 wounded. Among the former are Capts. Wilkinson and Russell and Lieut. Hyer; the only ones reported to be severely wounded are Captains Jaquess and Dusenberry, who, we regret to learn, were not expected to recover.

Panama accounts represent that on the 1st inst., Gen. Canas marched a force of 400 into Virgin, and after occupying the town a few hours, rejoined his forces at San Jorge.

The state of affairs at latest accounts appears to be as follows: The command of the river was manifestly in the hands of the Nicaraguan forces as far up as Fort Serapiqui—which may be called half way up. The other half could not well long remain in the hands of the allies, for there is but another point on it at which they could not offer any serious resistance—Castillo Viejo. That and Fort San Carlos, at the debouché of the river from the Lake, communication with Walker would be reopened on that side, and means of putting the allied forces at St. Jorge between an attack from Rivas and one in the rear from Virgin; and those at Obraje between a simultaneous attack from front and rear. On the Lake side and on the side of the Pacific, Walker's position was manifestly clear, with the possession of the port of San Juan del Sur.

It is clear enough that to accomplish what has to be done, no little energy will be necessary; but not more than we believe to be at command. Walker was evidently expecting this course to be pursued. He was most judiciously husbanding his men and resources, but at the same time keeping the allies in his neighborhood too well employed to allow of their weakening themselves to send reinforcements to their forces on the river.

The number of his forces is estimated by those on the spot at from 1200 to 1300, with 1100 in first-rate fighting order: by those very particular friends of his at Panama at 600, with not more than 500 available out of Rivas. They are said to be in the best health, and the highest spirits, sanguine of success.

The allied forces appear to be about 3,000 strong. They are said to have been allowed to starve and go naked, and disease is said to have thinned their ranks as much as General Walker's rifles. The Panama papers, indeed, tell us that "it is supposed" they have 1000 more men available, and that "it is reported" that 1100 Guatemalan troops had landed at Realejo. Granting this to be so, there is nothing to fear. It will take them some time to get from Realejo to the seat of war, and when there they will but share the position we have already pointed out as that into which Walker was evidently endeavoring to draw the whole of them, and their fate!

It would take but little of exertion here to "render assurance doubly sure" as to the result. Shall it not be made?—*Louisiana Courier.*

DISASTROUS EFFECTS OF THE FLOOD IN CONNECTICUT.—On the night of Sunday, the 8th ultimo, the town of Derby was visited with the most disastrous flood ever experienced in the Housatonic and Naugatuck valleys. So sudden was the rise that the inmates of the houses near the rivers had barely time to escape with their lives. Some families have had all their furniture destroyed, and many of the manufactories have suffered greatly by the destruction of their goods.

The Housatonic bridge, which connects the village of Birmingham with the town of Huntingdon, was entirely swept away. The bridge cost about $10,000, and it is doubtful wether it will ever be replaced.

Bennett's and Downe's bridges are also reported to be carried away, and the Nuagatuck bridge, which connects the village of Birmingham with Derby, is so badly damaged by the flood as to be impassable.

All the houses on the Huntingdon side, along the margin of the river were submerged. In the village of Birmingham all the factories sustained much damage, and it will be a number of days before operations can be commenced. The loss of property is estimated at about $100,000.

☞ A young lady engaged to be married, and getting sick of her bargain, applied to a friend to help her untie the knot before it was too late. "Oh, certainly," he replied, "it's very easy to untie it now, while it is only a *beau* knot."

MEXICO.

The condition of Mexico is one that so nearly concerns this country that much interest is felt in it. Whether she is tyrannized over by a despot, torn by intestine faction menaced by foreign powers, becoming more miserable, or marching towards prosperity, are all points on which citizens of the United States except to be kept informed, and with which they never fail to feel sympathy in accordance with the facts.

At the present moment it is well understood that she is struggling through one of the most eventful periods of her history, and corresponding anxiety is felt for her success. The Plan of Ayotla has been borne to a constitutional consummation: the law abolishing mortmain has been put into execution with complete success: the class privileges of the clergy and the army have been utterly abolished: a Federative form of Government, very nearly allied to our own, has been established: and efforts, apparently the most sincere and judicious, are being made to place her in that position among the States of the world, and to bring her to that degree of prosperity to which she is, by nature, so clearly entitled to expect to attain.

Difficulties of much the same character as heretofore, however, still beset her. The disappointed partisans of the exiled Santa Anna plot continually against her progress in her present course, because it precludes the possibility of their ever enjoying, under it, the same unworthy advantages as they had under their patron. The army men, deprived of their privileges, pursue a similar course, joining with any or all of the others, as for the time being may seem to promise the greatest chance of success in the endeavor to overthrow the present Government. The clergy exert themselves with equal bitterness and greater power than either of the other classes. The depth of the *odium theologicum* is proverbial; the power of the Priesthood, of the Catholic Priesthood in a Catholic country especially, is not less so. The disaffected, the disappointed, the ambitious, the greedy and unscrupulous of all classes and parties, are united in a determination to gain their own unworthy ends. There is no wrong they would not do, no cruelty they would not inflict, no misery they would not cause, to secure their aim.

Beyond this, Mexico unfortunately has foreign questions of difficulty to contend with England, the United States, and Spain, especially, have claims to press against her, which, whatever their intrinsic character must very materially increase her embarassment. The two first named countries have, indeed, refrained, with a proper consideration of her unhappy circumstances, from at all troubling her. But not so with Spain. That weakest, but most amusing, most avaricious but most poverty-stricken of European nations, is at this moment seeking with her utmost cunning and meanness of operating upon the fears or the prudence of the Government, for the purpose, of attaining some yet hidden end, or at least of making a parade of her affected consequence.

As our readers already know, the Spanish minister has already withdrawn from Mexico. This does not, indeed, necessarily premise a war; but it is a step never taken by any nation but some such braggart and unscrupulous one as Spain, unless the circumstances are such as, gravely treated by the nation showing this mark of offence having been taken, might without injustice lead to that calamitous result.

Now, what are the grounds on which Spain has taken such a step as this? As our readers will see, they are shamefully unjust, not to say utterly inadequate and trifling.

On the 18th of December last a horde of bandits attacked an estate called San Vicente, situated in the District of Cuernavaca, and in a most cruel manner killed five Spaniards employed in the place. As soon as the Government was informed of the circumstances, it resorted to all the means in its power to cause the arrest and severest punishment of the murderers, the authorities of all branches, civil, military and judicial, seconding its efforts with great zeal, and with such promptitude and effect, that on the very same day a man named Bernal, belonging to the place, was taken into custody as an accomplice. Fifty men were sent to protect the estate, and every possible aid and sympathy was extended the Spanish Consul sent by the Spanish Legation to inquire into the circumstances. The Spanish Minister's demand for the punishment of criminals and his notification that the Spanish Consul would be sent to San Vicente, were treated with the most courteous approval. The efforts of the Government did not relax, and in the early part of last month the Commandant of Cuernavaca proceeded, with the Spanish Consul-General and Vice-Consul, to Sochitepec, and there arrested several individuals who had been secretly denounced as parties to the assassinations. Some of the property plundered from San Vicente was found there, and was restored to its owners. Other alleged offenders were afterwards seized, and by the 13th of last month there were, altogether, nine of them in custody.

To every reasonable mind, this would seem as great a proof of a determination to do justice as could be expected in any country, and most creditable to one in the condition of Mexico. The Government still continued its efforts. It had directed the Judge inquiring into the affair to forward a copy of the testimony. This being so voluminous that it was impossible to have it sent at once in full, a condensed report of it was forwarded. Determined that all practicable activity should be exercised in the case, a judge—Sr. Contreras, one of the most intelligent and energetic magistrates in the country—was specially appointed to go down from the capital to continue the inquiry. In fact, the efforts of the Government to discover and convict the murderers, were really of the most urgent and determined character.

But they were not sufficient to satisfy the high and mighty representative of the great and powerful Spain, the immortal Spanish *Chargé d'Affaires*, Senor Sorela. He was not to be satisfied by any such proceedings as these. He addressed a note to the Government on the 10th January, complaining, with magniloquent bitterness, that there was not sufficient activity being manifested in the matter, urging that the crime was no ordinary one, declaring that not one of the criminal had been apprehended, and that this showed the Government to have little or no desire to punish them, concluding hyperemtorily requiring their arrest, trial, and punishment within eight days, and announcing that if, by the evening of the 18th, he had not been accorded this satisfaction, he should, on the 19th, declare diplomatic relations suspended, demand his passports, and leave the Republic.

The Government of Mexico could not suffer itself to be affected by any such presumptuous and thoroughly unwarranted pretensions as these, and so assured Sr. Sorela, in terms of far more consideration than he merited, and with full justice to its dignity. Sr. Montes, the Mexican Minister of Foreign Relations, had two personal conferences with Sr. Sorela, and notes were exchanged on the subject. Sr. Sorela was not able, in either way, to impeach the facts alleged by the Mexican Government or to show any errors in its views. But with the characteristic intractable self-sufficiency of the country he represented, he persisted in carrying out his threat, and accordingly demanded his passports on the 19th ult. They were sent to him, the Government, in the most conciliatory manner, protestesting against his conduct in demanding them, solemnly declaring that it could not consider the diplomatic relations between the two countries broken, that for whatever evils might come upon the two countries for steps thus taken without instructions from his Government, M. Sorela would alone be responsible, and that, under the protection of the French Minister, Count de Gabriac, the Spanish residents in Mexico should enjoy all the guarantees accorded to them by the laws of the country, and all the rights secured to them by treaty. Sr. Sorela, nevertheless, left the Capital, *en route* for Vera Cruz, on the 23d ult.

In a circular issued on the 26th ult., after referring to the fact of the case as related and commented on in the *Estandarte Oficial*, the official journal, Sr. Montes repeats the assurance that every effort is being made to bring those in custody to speedy judgement, to discover the authors and perpetrators of the shameful and inhuman assassinations, and to restore tranquillity to the disturbed districts; and that those who may be found guilty, shall very promply suffer the chastisement due for their crimes. On the 1st of this month Sr. Lafragua was dispatched as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Spain with instructions and documents in reference to the affair, and Government naturally expects that the conduct of Sr. Sorela will not be sustained at Madrid.

We have been thus minute in noticing this matter in order that our readers may be informed of the paltry grounds upon which the representative of the Spanish Government has sought to bring on a war between the two countries; and, further, because in view of this conduct of Sr. Sorela, it has been foisted into importance as the most serious foreign difficulty with which Mexico has to deal, although in fact quite insignificant. We have no fear that Spain will dare to declare war against Mexico on any such account, and really think that if Mexico has been at fault at all in the premises, it is in having encouraged the swelling arrogance of Sr. Sorela by the extreme consideration bestowed upon him, and by the consequence attached to his conduct in closing his legation and leaving the country. Contempt would have been its proper, or, at least, its most justifiable and in all probability most effective treatment.

There is a report that Gen. Concha has been the actual moving power in this affair. We doubt that, however, very much. We believe that nobody understands more clearly than he, the danger of Spain's venturing on a war with Mexico, and above all, on so absurdly flimsy a pretence.

We purposed noticing a few other points in connection with the present condition of Mexico, especially our treaty pending with her, and some other foreign reclamation likely to arise out of late events, but our time and space are for the present exhausted, and we must defer doing so.

[*Louisiana Courier.*

A BANKRUPT CONCERN.

The Kentucky Statesman has got hold of a circular recently issued by the "Grand Council" of Kentucky Know-Nothings, which it publishes for the world to look at and ponder over. We copy it below, so that the Catholic K. N.'s of Louisiana, if they have any spare change, may come to the rescue of their Pope-fearing brethren of the good old "bloody ground". Mr. Blanton Duncan, "Secretary of the Grand Council of Kentucky," whose signature is appended to the document, should hold a place in the militia, for the prompt and direct manner in which he comes to the point of his subject. He very bluntly and pithily says: "The Grand Council is in debt, and has no funds to pay its indebtedness." There is no circumlocution about the acknowedgement—not the least; and if, from "*want of resources with which to prosecute a vigorous campaign*," the great brotherhood should fail of carrying the State at the next election, it is not difficult to see that Mr. Secretary Duncan, of the "Grand Council," intends to wash *his* hands of the whole blame.

This official bulletin develops the fact that "subscriptions from a dime upwards" are just now of vastly more importance to the welfare of this poverty-stricken organization than any consideration about "Americans ruling America," or any other of the unmeaning cajoleries and humbuggeries that characterized the asthmatic order of "Sam" in the heyday of its youth. It is a sorrowful tale, but must related: The Great National Know-Nothing One, State Party of Kentucky no longer looks at the Vatican for food to satiate its hunger. Poverty, is now the disturber of its dreams; Money is its mission, and the purse-strings of the faithful its principles! It is not ashamed to beg for the "smallest subscriptions;" aye, even those "from a dime upwards" will be greedily taken by the miserable straving to perpetuate a while longer an existence which the humblest victim of the Louisville riots would, if it could again be imbued with life, spit upon and scorn.

Charity would prompt us to publish the confession of a dying criminal, and this feeling compels us to give space to the degrading appeal below, although we are perfectly aware that the money thus obtained will be used in publishing slanders against the Democratic party, and circulating harmless little misstatements going to convince the people it is we who resort to money for election purposes. We give the circular free insertion, with the hope if it meet the eye of any who consider the Pope of Rome a "roaring lion" ready and willing to gulp down every particle of our land and liberty, that he or they will immediately send along their little remittances to Kentucky, where they will be appropriated to the worthy object of strangling the monster in his hair. Remember that sums from "a dime *upwards*" will be thankfully received, but take care and not insult the "Grand Council" by remitting anything below that specified amount. It should be particularly understood that half-dimes will not be received. But here is the circular, and it is fully capable of speaking for itself:

SECRETARY'S OFFICE OF GRAND COUNCIL OF KENTUCKY, Louisville, February 1, 1857.

DEAR SIR: By request of the Frankfort Committee, the Grand Council on the 21st January released them from further duty, and located the Executive Committee at Louisville, composed of the following persons: Curran Pope, H. J. Billings, T. C. Pemeroy, H. W. Norton, Blanton Duncan, W. K. Thomas, D. Spalding, Jr., S. A. Foss, L. A. Whitely, Jos. P. Chambers, Thos. Shanks, James Ficklin, J. B. O'Bannon.

A resolution presented by A. G. Hodges, was unanimously adopted: "*That each Council in the State shall collect as much money* as their individual members will *voluntarily contribute*, which shall be forwarded to the Secretary, to be placed under the control of the Executive Committe, as a general fund, to be used by them in the payment of debts due by the Grand Council, for the advancement of the interests of the party as may be deemed by them most proper.

The Grand Council is in debt, and has no funds to pay up its indebtedness. With a very little exertion upon the part of individual members of each subordinate council, a fund can be raised which will enable the Committee to effectually canvass the State next summer, and bring her back into the warm embrace of Americanism. If from apathy, and neglect, and want of resources with which to prosecute a vigorous campaign, the American party should fail in the next struggle, our State will be hopelessly lost, and forever stricken from the list of purely American States.

Americans should remember that they have pledged "their lives, *fortunes*, and sacred honor" to the advancement of our cause, and their contributions would not be felt by them, and would, like "bread cast upon the waters," be returned to them a thousand fold in the universal prosperity and harmony, which the success of our principles would surely establish.

The smallest subscriptions should be received, from a dime upwards, and these fractions, when collected together, will make a handsome aggregate, if the 70,000 Americans and their sympathizers in the State will respond to this call. Upon receipt of this please convene your Council, if possible, and urge upon its various members the importance of contributing something to this general fund. Let each give what his means and devotion to the cause will justify, and remit the amounts to me at Louisville, in letters registered by the postmaster. It would be very gratifying to have these collections forwarded by the 2d of April, so that a finance report could then be submitted to the Grand Council, which meets here on the day.

Fraternally,
BLANTON DUNCAN,
Secretary of the Grand Council of Kentucky.

PURSE SNATCHERS ARRIVED.—For a day or two past we have had evidences of purse snatchers in our midst, and the probability is that garroters will soon make their appearance also, for one by one the crimes and follies of all other cities find their representatives in New Orleans. As to the purse snatchers, we understand that at about 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, a reckless ruffian of the tribe walked up to a well dressed lady, who was toying with her purse as she passed along Chartres street, and snatching the silken tissue with its contents of gold, ran off with remarkable fleetness and succeeded in effecting his escape. Now this, be it known, took place in the middle of the afternoon, on one of our most public thoroughfares, and we may well ask with the wonder-stricken Thane, "can such things be," &c.—*Picayune.*

UNPOETICAL WIFE.—Siebenbas could never inspire Lenette with a lyrical enthusiasm of love, in which she could forget heaven and earth and everything else. She could count the strokes of the clock between his kisses, and could listen and run off to the saucepan that was boiling over, with all the big tears in her eyes which he had pressed out of her melting heart by a touching story or a sermon. She accompained in her devotion the Sunday hymns which echoed loudly from the neighboring apartment, and in the midst of a verse she would interweave the prosaic question. "What shall I warm up for supper?" and he could never banish from his remembrance that once, when she was quite touched, and listening to his cabinet discourse upon death and eternity, she looked at him thoughtfully, but toward his feet, and at length said, "don't put on the left stocking to-morrow; I must darn it."

FANNY FERN ON MOUSTACHES.—Fanny writes to the New York Mirror, from Newport:

"I have never known fashionable ladies to set their faces against whiskers! I for one rather like the feeling of them; and think a handsome mouth, fringed with a soft, silky moustache, has a *moss rosy* look that is rather inviting. If I was a man I would never have my face scraped. It is a *barber*-ous business altogether.

A taste for trees, plants and flowers, is a peculiar attribute of woman, exhibiting the gentleness and purity of her sex; and every husband should encourage it, for his wife and daughters will prove wiser and happier and better for its cultivation.

HEROIC CONDUCT OF A WOMAN.

Account of Mrs. Martha Ann Patten, a young lady twenty years of age, who commanded a vessel fifty-six days, during her husband's illness.

The readers of the *Herald* will remember account taken from one of the California papers, relative to the heroic conduct of Captain Patten, of the ship *Neptune's Car*, who during her husband's illness, took charge of the vessel and navigated it safely into San Francisco. This lady, together with her husband, who is now so sick that he is not expected to live, arrived in this city in the *George Law*, and are now stopping at the Battery Hotel. Her story is an interesting and painful one, and shows how much a weak, delicate woman can do when a great emergency calls out her powers.

Mrs. Patten was born in East Boston of wealthy parents, and received an excellent education, and was in every respect tenderly nurtured and cared for. She is now but twenty years of age, *de petite taille*, has small hands and features, delicate blonde complexion, soft blue eyes, and, altogether, gives one an idea of feminine softness and womanliness that it is impossible to associate with the daring nerve and decisive qualities she exhibited in a remarkable degree. At eighteen years of age she married Captain Patten, then but twenty-five years of age, he having been master of a vessel—the bark *St. Andrew*, which plied between New-York and the South American ports—and was then off duty, waiting until the *Cornelia Lawrence*, a new ship, was ready for sea. Shortly after he was married the master of the ship *Neptune's Car* sickened as she was about to put to sea for a voyage around the world, and the owners, Messrs. Foster & Nickerson, offered the post to Captain Patten, but he hesitated, as he did not wish to leave his young bride. The owners, however, gave him permission to take her with him: and in twelve hours after the first notification the young couple were on board, and the vessel getting ready to leave the dock. The *Neptune's Car* first sailed for San Francisco, thence to China, from China to London, and finally arrived in New-York, after an absence of seventeen months. During this time Mrs. Patten amused herself by helping her husband in his nautical observations, worked up the time from the chronometers, and occasionally kept the reckoning of the ship. Last August the *Neptune's Car* again put to sea, and it was on this voyage that Mrs. Patten's misfortunes commenced. As the vessel neared the straits of Magellan, her husband was taken with a disease in the head, which finally developed into a brain fever. He attended to his ship as long as he was able, and when it was impossible to give any personal orders he found, to his dismay, that his first mate was wholly incompetent to take charge of the ship, and that there was no officer on board qualified to take the vessel into port. He found that the first mate was anxious to run the vessel into Valparaiso, but this he earnestly forbade, as the crew might all leave and the cargo be destroyed before the consignees could send for the vessel. In this emergency Mrs. Patten's rare qualities developed themselves. She assumed command of the vessel herself, and the nautical observations she once made in sport and for a pastime she now undertook as a duty. Her time was spent between the bedside of her delirious husband and the writing-desk, working up the intricate calculations incident to nautical observations, making entries in the log-book in her own delicate penmanship, and tracing out with accuracy the position of the ship from the charts in the cabin. The rough sailors all obeyed the "little woman," as they called her, with a will, and eyed her curiously and affectionately through the cabin windows while deep in the calculations on which her life and theirs depended. There was one person on board, however, who viewed her course with jealousy and mistrust. This was the first mate. He wrote her a letter warning her of the responsibility she was assuming and proferring advice, but she spiritedly replied that "her husband would not trust him when he was well, and she could not do so now that he was sick." For fifty days Mrs. Patten did not undress herself, and took very little sleep, working day and night, and never leaving her sick husband's room. Her labours are the more surprising in view of the fact that she was all this time in a delicate condition, and soon expects to give birth to her first child.

The *Neptune's Car* arrived safely at San Francisco on the 15th of November last, it having been for fifty-six days under the command of a delicated femal not twenty years of age. What a splendid text for the women's rights people.

Mrs. Patten is now at the Battery Hotel with her husband, who, it is supposed, is in a dying condition. The fever has never left him, and for some time past he has been blind and deaf. They did expect to leave in the boat for Boston yesterdy for her own home, but he was too sick to be moved.

Mrs. Patten's case is one of the most remarkable on record, and adds one to the many instances that history records of female devotion and heroism.—*N. Y. Herald.*

HARNESSED WOLVES.—A span of wolves, regularly trained to harness, were driven through the streets of St. Louis a few days ago. The people wondered and all the dogs barked indignantly.

DESCRIPTION OF A PARTY OF PLEASURE.—"We went out clean—we came home dirty; we went out sober—we came home drunk; we went out well—we came home sick; we went out laughing—we came home crying; we went out with cash—we came home moneyless; we went out for air—we came home full of dust."

A DOUBLE WIFE.—A sailor being asked how he liked his bride, replied:—"Why, d'ye see. I took her for to be only half of me, as the parson says; but dash me if she isn't twice as much as I. I'm only a Tar, and she's a Tartar."

A lady, whose husband had for several Sundays following been jeeringly telling her that the great motive with women in going to church was merely to display their bonnets, at last lost all patience, and said to him, "Then, sir, I suppose the reason why you gentlemen so rarely come to church is because you cannot show your hats?"

☞ The first clause of the will of the late Senator Clayton is as follows:

First. I leave to my friends and relatives, as well as to all others who may think my opinion of any value, this testimonial, that the religion taught in the New Testament is the best that has been offered for our adoption, both for this world and for that which is to come, and that Jesus Christ was the true Messiah, and will remain, forever the Redeemer and Saviour of fallen man. [illegible] testimony stand in favor of the Christian [illegible] —I am deeply, thoroughly convinced of [illegible]

☞ "The constitutions of [illegible] excellent," says a celebrated [illegible] an ox, or a horse, and [illegible] and he would labor indeed, [illegible]

☞ A bill has been presented in the legislature of Pennsylvania [illegible] the sale of the state line of the state's internal improvements, at the price of $10,000,000 [illegible] a subscription by the state of $2,500,000 to the Sunbury and Erie Railroad; and the third, the repeal of the tonnage tax on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

(*For the Courier.*)

THE PIANO'S LAMENT.

BY C. F. V. HASKELL.

From infancy up, I've heard nothing but scales,
Leger lines above, and below with their spaces,
And if e'er by ill usage one vital chord fails,
I'm accosted by naught but thumps and wry faces;
My heart is broken by constant drummings
My ears are pained with ceaseless hummings,
"One and—two and—three and—four and—"
Ever tortured by some rough hand.

In youth my graces and beauty were admired,
And not unfrequently was I newly polished
But now I am spiritless worn out and tired,
My sweetest attractions long since demolished;
Yet I'm still annoyed by incessant drummings
And my ears are weary of ceaseless hummings
'One and—two and—three and—four and—',
Ever tortured by some cruel hand.

My voice is now feeble inaudible, low
The notes that used to be so promptly spoken,
And "*such an ado*"—others laugh at my woe
Nor pity the heart they've *unconsciously* broken.

I have long been oppressed by the ponderous weight
Of quadrilles, schottishes, mazurkas and marches
And dear me; all dabblers in music I hate
For they bend over me like so many arches
They broke my heart by their merciless drummings.

I've long since become used to the worlds 'wear and tare'
Which I've born until now, without a murmur,
Let any one abuse me now if they dare,
I've learned from misfortunes past to be firmer
Cease, cease those harsh and discordant drummings
Hush, hush your inharmonious hummings,
'One and—two and—three and—four and—'
And sweep my chords with a gentler hand.

What song soothes my ear? is it sweet "Happy Land"
Where that can be I've not the faintest idea;
O! tell me dear lady, is it where no rough hand
Will torture me e'er as since I've been tied here?
Play on lady, I mind not your drummings—
Your softly tender musical hummings
'One and—two and—three and—four and—'
For you sweep my chords with a skillful hand.

ST. MARY'S HALL, Washington, La., March 2, 1857.

☞ Bell, of the Georgetown Gazette, throws off the following gem:

If you want to kiss a pretty girl,
Why kiss her—if you can.
If a pretty girl wants to kiss you,
Why let her—like a man!

ONE EACH.—We read in the *Normandie* "A most extraordinary fact has just occurred in the neighborhood of Conteville, for which scientific men will find it difficult to account. The daughter of a fisherman, Marie C——, who married about a year ago John D——, a negro sailor, native of an English colony, has just given birth to twins, a girl and a boy. The former is white like the mother, and the latter black like the father."

OUR AGENTS.

The following gentlemen are authorized to collect and receive subscriptions and advertisements for the *Opelousas Courier*, in their respective towns:

AUGUSTE MARAIST,	St. Martinsville, (La.)
ARTHUR BULLIARD.	Breaux's Bridge, (La.)
A. MILLSPAUGH,	Washington, (La.)
E. E. COCHRANE,	Marksville, (La.)

CANDIDATES.

Messrs. Sandoz & Meynier.

Be so good as to announce in your paper that, yielding to the solicitations of his friends, Honorable JOHN H. OVERTON has consented to become a candidate for the office of Judge of the 15th Judicial District, comprising the Parishes of St. Landry, Lafayette and Calcasieu, at the election which will take place in April next. P.

☞ We are authorized to announce Mr. CHARLES BOURQUE as an Anti-Know-Nothing candidate for Assessor, at the next election.

Opelousas, August 30th, 1856.

☞ We are authorized to announce that B. A. MARTEL Esq., is a candidate for Judge of the District Court of the 15th Judicial District, at the next election.

☞ We are authorized to announce to the voters of the town of Opelousas, that Mr. ARTHUR PERRAULT has become a candidate for Town Constable, at the election which will take place on the first Monday in April next.

January 3d, 1857.

☞ We are authorized to announce that Mr. J. BAPTISTE COMEAU is a candidate for the office of Sheriff of the Parish of St. Landry, at the election which will take place in November next.

Opelousas, February 14th, 1857.

BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION OF OPELOUSAS.

THE members of said association are informed that a general and regular meeting will take place, on Monday, 6th of April next, 1857, at 6 o'clock, P. M., at the residence of Mr. A. De St. Cyr D'Arthun, in Opelousas, to transact important business.

By order of the Committee,
ANDRE MEYNIER, President.

Opelousas, March 7th, 1857.

NOTICE.

AFTER the first of April next, I will resume the practice of Law in partnership with Henry L. Garland. Our office will be the one now occupied by Mr. King.

LUCIUS J. DUPRE.

Opelousas, March 7th, 1857.

NEW COFFEE HOUSE.

THE undersigned has just opened a Coffee House at the corner of Main and Landry streets, late stand of J. J. Beauchamp, where, besides, a Billiard Table a good Bar, private rooms &c., he will also keep fresh and pickeled oysters, sardines, cheese and crackers, lobsters and such like.

He solicits the public patronage.

JOSEPH HOLLIER.

Opelousas, March 7th, 1857.

For Sale.

A TRACT OF LAND situated on Bayou Mallet, and measuring 600 superficial arpents, one half of which well timbered.

For particulars, apply to Sydoine Lavergne, on Coulée Croche, or at this office.

Opelousas, March 7th, 1857.

RAN AWAY

FROM the undersigned, in Opelousas, about the 1st of February last, a mulatto woman, named FANNY, aged about 22 years, rather low stature, and stout built, round face, has a scar on one of her legs, from a bile, speaks english only.

A griffe girl, named EULALIE, aged about 24 years, slim face, tall stature, speaking French and a little English, one of her fingers has been damaged by a fellon, she is a creole girl.

A libe[illegible] [illegible] or lodge them in Jail [illegible] them back. B. NEY.

[illegible] March 7th, 1857.

☞ The Register of Franklin will please copy the above till forbid, in French and English.

For Sale at Private Sale.

SIX Arpents of Land, situated within the limits of the Town of Opelousas: a good situation for a residence.

This land will be sold either for cash or on one years credit, at a moderate price.