

Opolousas: SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1857.

DEMOCRATIC TICKET. For Auditor: E. W. ROBERTSON, For Treasurer: ROBERT A. HUNTER, For Superintendent of Public Education: W. J. HAMILTON.

We are requested to announce that the name of Mr. S. B. NOLLY, of Galveston, will be proposed as a candidate to represent this Judicial District in the next Legislature, at the Democratic Convention which will take place in Opelousas on the 20th June instant.

We are requested to announce that the name of Mr. THOMAS H. MASON, will be proposed as a candidate to represent this Parish in the next Legislature, at the Democratic Convention which will take place at Opelousas, on the 20th June instant.

A Democratic Convention will take place at the Court House, in the Town of Opelousas, on Saturday the 20th of June next, for the purpose of designating candidates of the Democratic party to represent the District and the Parish in the next Legislature, and also candidates for Parish officers.

The said Convention will be composed of one delegate, at least, from each election Precinct, and as many more as each may be entitled upon a ratio of representation of our Delegates to each Democratic vote polled at the last presidential election. Each Precinct to be elected by the Democrats of said precinct respectively at such time and place and under such restriction as they may in their discretion prescribe.

At a meeting of the Democrats of Bellevue, held at the residence of Mr. Jean F. Richard, on Saturday, the 13th June, inst., for the purpose of choosing Delegates to represent said Ward in the Convention which is to convene at Opelousas the 20th instant.

The following account of a runaway negro from Texas, is another gross imposition upon an honest and unsuspecting community: In 1843, a mulatto man bearing the name of John Sibly came into our Parish, with a woman remarkably fair and handsome, whom his mulatto passed off for a free woman of color and his wife. During a whole year John Sibly looked about from place to place conducting his wife by himself by the stage, and until the 16th September 1844, when the store of Messrs. Delafosse & Orteg was broken open, \$778 in gold and silver were stolen therefrom, and John Sibly suddenly left the Parish.

On the 31st of May last, John having again made his appearance, and being strongly suspected of the aforementioned burglary and theft, was arrested by Mr. Delafosse and lodged in jail under a commitment of Andie Meyer, Justice of the Peace, as a runaway negro, belonging to the estate of Roderick Sibly of Texas. The sequel of the affair will, we expect, make some strange developments, as to the history of the unfortunate woman who accompanied him, and who is since dead, until then we shall refrain from any further remarks on the subject.

A 310 calves.—Mr. W. A. Sheffer, of the Parish of Terrebonne, writes to the *Home* that he has raised a calf on his plantation, which weighed, when one year and one day old, 776 pounds. If that calf is not a hoax, we should like to know what it will weigh when he'll be an ox.

KNOW-NOTHING NOMINATIONS FOR STATE OFFICERS.—The Know-Nothing State Convention which assembled at Baton Rouge on Monday last, (8th), made the following nominations: For Auditor.—F. Hardy, of West Feliciana. For Treasurer.—Joseph W. Walker, of St. Mary. For Superintendent of Public Education.—W. A. Lacy, of Caldo.

At a meeting of the Democrats of Upper Plaquemine, held at the store of Carroll & Keogh, on the 4th inst., the following named gentlemen were chosen as Delegates to attend the Convention which is to meet at Opelousas on the 20th inst. to-wit: Abner Harman, J. James G. Hayes, Jos. E. Andrus, J. B. Smith, and J. B. Smith.

Pursuant to advertisement a meeting was held this day, 6th June, 1857, called in Grand Odeur for the purpose of appointing delegates to the Convention to be held in Opelousas, on the 20th June inst. When John F. Smith was elected Chairman, and Sylvester J. Barry, Secretary.

After the object of the meeting had been explained the following named gentlemen were unanimously appointed delegates, to-wit: P. M. D. Bonté, Theodore Devoeur, John H. Castle, J. B. Smith, Sr., Ouzé Guichard, Trévise Boudreau, M. J. Nimitz, Jos. E. Andrus, J. B. Smith, Sr., J. B. Smith, Sr., Jos. P. Colomb, Louis Marks.

On moving, the Opelousas Courier is requested to print above proceedings. The meeting then adjourned. JOHN F. SMITH, Chairman. S. J. BARRY, Secretary.

MASTERS KNOW-NOTHING COURT BY.—Our old friend, the Baton Rouge Advocate of the 2d inst., gives a beautiful Know-Nothing trick, which says to have been borrowed from our own Police Jury, as our readers will remember. Hear the Address: "That were not born to die."

Louis Napoleon must have his distinguished head for the flame that lighted up his December glory has been snuffed out, quenched, smothered, and its brightness suppressed by the explosion of a K. N. Police Jury. Just think of it. O. P. de la Roche in Saint Col. Lafayette Caldwell was elected by the people of his ward to represent them in the body. The Col. is a staunch Democrat—the only one in the body, we believe—and of course it was not a difficult matter for the majority to find means of conveying to him the contentment of his constituents in his right to a seat. The majority in which those who were elected to represent them in the body, we believe, was a happy idea. The colored was legislated out of the ward from which he was elected, and, with a tremendous show of liberality, the vacancy caused by his election was sent back to the people of the ward. The contentment of his constituents was secured. A change of the Police Jury was effected by this act of pure "Assumption." We have the facts from Col. C. himself, and do not doubt their accuracy.

THE INTERESTS OF THE SEVERAL STATES OF THE UNITED STATES now reaches the enormous sum of \$70,000,000,000, and the reports of the Secretary of the Treasury contain a statement that \$1,000,000,000 more will be required to complete any such amount as are now projected. Why should not money be tight throughout the country? and why should we not have a crisis?

THE BEEF MARKET OF THE TOWN OF OPELOUSAS.

It will be hailed with pleasure, as a new era, in the market of this place, by all citizens, that an energetic competition has sprung up and will be spiritedly maintained between the present competitors. Those who have lived here for years past, will gladly second the move, while they bear in mind the quality of beef furnished as well as the high price invariably exacted for it in our market.

For this, however, and all other impositions of a like nature, we are solely indebted to our own want of resistance to the monopoly of the past. At length, awakened in the community, a disposition and determination to break up the mal-practice of the present competitors, has been established and we trust forever, a system, which, while it ensures competition, and a consequent depression in price and improvement in the quality of the beef supplied, will at the same time, and in a more judicious manner, remunerate those who engage in it as a means of livelihood.

We owe it to ourselves and not less to the poor of our town—who look to the market house for a substantial portion of their daily subsistence—to sustain a fair and equitable competition which has already accomplished wonders and which promises to protect us in the future from further privations and exactions.

Unfortunately, we neglect to improve the present opportunity and thereby fail to secure to ourselves an immunity from extortion and imposition, which we deserve our bad fate, and perhaps, thousands like those living in the midst of the finest and most delicious grass-land for the world, be in danger eventually of perishing of the hollow-bell.

Opelousas, June 8th, 1857. BLIZZARD. GRAND ODEUR, JUNE 10th, 1857. Editors Opelousas Courier, Gentlemen.—According to previous notice a meeting was held in our town Saturday last, when a large number of delegates was appointed to the Convention. Our Ward will no doubt be well represented in the Parish Convention on the 20th inst. There was also a meeting, not long since, of our patriotic young gentlemen, relative to the celebration of our National Festival. When Mr. Edwin M. Smith was selected to deliver the oration of the day, and Mr. William Hardy to read the Declaration of Independence. Great things are expected from the orators by their anxious friends, and the crowd does not interfere. The young patriot, provided with a fine language on the occasion, is believed to have delivered a most substantial address. For such things made and provided.

Happening to meet with Mr. J. M. B. Castle in the woods, a few days since, I willingly accepted an invitation to join the party on the occasion of the Grand Traz, in the Bayou Bourneau. His success was complete; for, besides quantities of modish fish and five perch, he caught five enormous grass, a species of fish, the largest of which measured six feet eight inches in length, and two feet eight inches around the body.

The health of our section is excellent. The cerea crops are fine so far, but the dry weather begins to show in them. Yours to the end, S.

SOME OF THE REASONS.—Under this title, the Louisiana Courier of the 2d inst., says: It is, perhaps, due to our friends out of the city to explain in part the reasons why Democrats in New Orleans have made no nominations for municipal officers, and the reasons which they have, perhaps, anticipated.

That nothing like a fair election has been possible in New Orleans for years past is a fact that we have dwelt upon so much that there is scarcely a necessity of repeating it. It is not only a fact, but one of our readers to contemporaneous accounts of the brutality, violence and unscrupulousness of our opponents in the conduct of elections which have taken place during the past two years, to the choice of a municipal officer, that we are entitled to be proud of our own party—the extraordinary means taken by those commissioners to conceal themselves from public view while making votes—to the illegal obstacles thrown in the way of natural voters—to the constant presence of armed men, and the presence of men who chose to obey the dictates of the "paid patrollers" of the Know-Nothing party, rather than the plain requirements of the law—to the systematic and organized violence of the Democrats before each election, with the knowledge and connivance of a partisan police, whose places and pay depended upon the success of the party which appointed them—to attempts to stifle the liberty of the press, and to the monopolistic practices of the Know-Nothing party, and the public institutions, under the pretence of searching for arms.

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GREAT EXCITEMENT IN SAN ANTONIO. DESPERATE FIGHT WITH ROBBERIES.

The San Antonio (Texas) papers, 30th inst., are filled with the most exciting accounts of a recent fight with robbers, and of a number of robberies, in which several persons were killed and one wounded. As our readers will know, there has been, for a long time past, a desperate gang of thieves, robbers and house-breakers hanging about San Antonio, whose repeated villainies we have almost weekly recorded. On the night of the 29th, it seems, a horrible murder was committed by a few miles below the town. The wife of one Mr. Garza was killed in her own house by seven or eight assassins, and the house then robbed of money and valuables. A reward of \$300 was offered next morning for the apprehension of the murderers, and Sheriff Henry, with a posse, hastened to the place of the bloody scene. The Texas, 30th inst., adds: About 12 o'clock a gang of some dozen desperadoes collected in the city on the west-side of the river; many of them in a darkened room, as a sort of resort for the moment. Here the shooting commenced between the desperadoes and some three or four citizens. The desperadoes were the victors, and killed one citizen, Jim Taylor, than whom a braver man never lived. He gave orders to some three of his comrades to follow him—and at the same moment he broke through the window into the darkened room. He was followed by a number of his associates, and he himself through the breast, and at the same moment a man was pointed at Bill Hart by another person, who Taylor exclaimed, "he has shot me, let me shoot him" and fired. Both fell. Citizens composed themselves in well armed, as well as many of the desperadoes, and the shooting became general. The gang of robbers broke from the room by a back door; many of them who came up after the melee commenced, immediately fled—finding that they were out of their wits at least three hundred citizens had collected, all well armed—for it was well known that this gang of robbers could have at their command seventy-five or one hundred men within fifteen minutes. Many of them came in sight, and they were fired upon by the citizens, who were three or four in the number. Taylor may recover. At this stage of affairs, the city authorities commanded the multitude to disperse, and they immediately obeyed the command. In addition to the same affair, the Herald gives the following list of thieves who were recently arrested in this county, as made out by a member of the organized band: Bob Augustine, gone to Nicaragua; Bill Hart, killed in the King; Wash Russell; Miller, killed; Frank Johnson, gone to Nicaragua; James Valdez; Charles Edwards; Robert Adams; Jeff Wetzel; Bart; Sam Hughes, near Bastrop; Jack Rannella, Oakville, Live Oak county; John Morrison, Malheur Springs; Asa S. Decker, upon the river; Jack McDermott, back at the ordinance; Vale, Rio Rio; Wilkerson; James Conwell, now in jail at Galveston; Thomas Stephens, runaway thief; John, a tanner in Government employ; Bill Hart, now at Galveston; Harry and George Barzel, also; Avarad's mules; Lightfoot, horse trainer; James Parker; James Devers, has a blacksmith shop on the Leona, and makes bogus money.

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THE STEAMSHIP LOUISIANA. GREAT LOSS OF LIFE.

The steamship Louisiana, of the New Orleans and Galveston line, was destroyed by fire on Sunday morning when a few miles distant from the latter city. Between thirty and forty lives are supposed to have been lost. We take from the Galveston News (Extra) the following account of this terrible calamity: NEWS OFFICE, May 31, 1857. We have to record one of the most dreadful calamities that has ever happened in this country. The steamship Louisiana, Capt. Sheppard, is now a total wreck, having been burnt some six or eight miles to the south-east of this city, in the Gulf, about one o'clock this morning. Our citizens were aroused by the unusual fire alarm, as the fire was in full sight. The first intelligence received was by the arrival of a boat from the unfortunate steamer, about sunrise, bringing some dozen passengers, our fellow citizens, Mr. Grover, being among the number. Mr. Grover says that he had the berth on the starboard upper deck—that the first alarm at about one o'clock—he stepped out of his room and discovered smoke, but no fire—passed round the stern to the larboard side, where he saw from twelve to twenty persons preparing to launch the quarter boat. The engines were still running, but fortunately the boat was lowered down without filling—saw no one remaining on that side of the steamer. After getting adrift they looked to discover if they could find any person to take on board, but could see nobody. There were twelve in the boat, all passengers except the second mate, Andrew Smith, to whom Mr. Grover says they are greatly indebted for their rescue. Mr. G. learned from one on the boat that the tiller ropes had been broken—was probably burned off—in consequence of which the steamer was unmanageable at the commencement of the fire. The first efforts of the Captain and officers appeared to be to reach the fire engine, but did not succeed. All communication between the forward and after of the boat was cut off by the fire, which must have broken out near the furnace.

The larboard boat was being launched when he went into the other. He saw persons on the forward part of the steamer throwing things over, apparently the hatch doors, etc., for the purpose of saving themselves. The working of the engines caused the steamer to leave the boat rapidly, so that those in the boat were unable to see or hear anything distinctly. List of names of those who were saved by boat with Mr. G. over—Mr. Cleveland, wife, child and servant, of Lavaca; Dr. Arnold, of Mo.; Mrs. Elizabeth Hart, of Corpus Christi; W. R. Friend and servant, Richard Smith, second mate, Miss A. E. Frayne, of N. Y.; Mr. Kennedy, and G. W. Grover.

The steamship Galveston, reached her wharf about 7 1/2 A. M., and among others, brought Mr. Charles H. Hughes, of the Louisiana. Mr. Hughes confirms Mr. Grover's statement as regards the origin of the fire, which broke out in the fire room 20 minutes past one. He states that the passengers were all asleep when the fire broke out, that the larboard boat capsized and thinks some six or eight persons were lost at the time. Mr. H. and the engineer, Mr. Finn, jumped overboard upon the hatch door, which they had thrown over. He says, at that time, there were some 30 around him on boards and furniture he had thrown over. They all soon separated, Mr. S. Miller, of N. Y., was by Mr. Hughes floating with his life preserver. The Galveston came up to Mr. Hughes just at day-break, and picked up him and Finn, and also Mr. Miller. Subsequently the Galveston picked up the following persons: Mr. M. W. Garrison, Mr. Clarke, the mate, Mr. Dossou, the carpenter, Mr. Early, Sam Walker, the pantry man, and John Driscoll. Two women were also picked up by the Galveston.

Mr. Hughes thinks there were about fifty passengers and seven negroes, in all; 25 of them in the cabin. The books and everything were lost, and Mr. Hughes can only remember a few of the names, viz: Lacey Jones and wife; Mrs. Mitchell; Mrs. E. Hart; Miss Frisbie; Mr. Milhouse and brother; Mr. Cleveland, of Lavaca; lady, child

and two servants; Mr. Mills, of Lavaca; Col. Bainbridge, U. S. A.; Mr. Erickland; Mr. Aaron Clark; J. Ezel and the steward of the boat, (who was also served by the Galveston).

Officers.—Henry Sheppard, Captain; S. D. Clark, mate; Andrew Smith, second mate; Richard Finn, engineer; John Thompson, second engineer; James Brown, watchman; steward, (saved), Ed. McManus, second steward; Lydia Travers, chambermaid, (drowned); twelve scamen and six firemen, six boys in cabin and three cooks, supposed to be lost.

Mr. H. says there are now some fifty or sixty persons missing. When the Galveston left the scene of disaster, there were some few dead bodies and pieces of the wreck in sight. A Mr. Hamilton, an old man, was picked up drowned. The Galveston also picked up the dead bodies of Mr. Mills, brother-in-law and partner of Mr. Cleveland, and a Mr. Millhouse. The pilot boats and several other sail vessels are still reconnoitering the Gulf in the vicinity of the unfortunate steamer, in hopes of finding some others of the passengers.

There was a large mail on board, and we heard of several large sums of money also lost, belonging to passengers. Dr. Early and his brother, of Green County, Virginia, were both saved by the Galveston, and are at the Washington hotel. Mr. Mills, whose dead body is here, was just resident here in Galveston. He was in the small boat with Mr. Grover, until the rope was cut, when he was knocked overboard by the tackle block swinging around and striking him on the head.

Some are of the opinion that the fire originated in the hay stowed away between decks. The bodies of Messrs. Mills and Millhouse have been laid out and enclosed in caskets, and will be sent on by the Galveston to New Orleans. The body of Joseph Hamilton is also appropriately shrouded and coffined, and will be buried at 5 o'clock to day. He was a resident of Trespasland, Texas, and owned considerable land in the vicinity of Lavaca. Mr. Millhouse was from Dallas, Ala., where his family reside. The following survivors of the disaster are at the Palmetto House: Daniel Sullivan, St. Louis, Mo.; John Ezel, St. Louis; G. W. Early, Virginia; John E. Wheeler, Powderhorn, M. W. Garrison and P. S. Miller, of New York, are at the Tremont House.

LATER.—Captain Sheppard Safe.—The Revenue Cutter is just in. She brings Captain Sheppard safe! He was picked up clinging to some life-preserving chains, nearly exhausted. Great joy is manifested at the news of his safety.

The Cutter also brings in alive James Brown, watchman of the Louisiana; Samuel Wells, passenger, Wisconsin. She brought no dead bodies. The Pilot boat is also just in. She brings three persons alive and six dead bodies. The names of the rescued persons are, passenger S. W. Fitchell, of Virginia; John Sanford, Texas, and John Howley, fireman. The dead are three German women, and one boy two years old, names unknown, and Colonel Bainbridge, of the U. S. A.; also a young American lady, name unknown.

The efforts of Capt. Sheppard to do all that could be done to save the lives of his passengers, are spoken of by all as deserving of the highest praise. He was the very last man to leave his vessel, and could scarcely have survived ten minutes longer when picked up. The last words he was heard to utter, when he threw himself in the water with only a chair to support himself, were inquiries for the safety of the passengers.

IMPORTANCE OF THE TEHUANTEPEC ROUTE. It is of the very highest importance to the safety of the country that we should possess a communication with that portion of the Union lying along the Pacific seaboard, and that such communication should be completely under our control, so that at all times and all seasons we may feel certain of commanding it and keeping it open. In the event of a war we might easily be cut off from access to the Pacific by the Panama route, since Panama is situated in the Caribbean sea, which is dotted all over with British colonies and a squadron of English vessels would be able to blockade our passage to the interoceanic railway. Tehuantepec, on the contrary, is within the Gulf of Mexico, remote from the Caribbean sea, nearer to Texas and Louisiana than to Panama, and therefore, readily placed within our reach, and susceptible of immediate protection and defense. Hence the permanent necessity of securing the advantages of this route at an early day, while we are at peace with the whole world, and may avail ourselves of this great project to secure in perpetuity a practicable and speedy transit to the Pacific, which will remain under our undivided control.

The New York Times has an elaborate article on the Tehuantepec route, in which its history is set forth, and its importance to the country clearly demonstrated. As appropriate to our purpose we take the following extract: The route by Tehuantepec seems to be at present attracting most attention, from the circumstance that a wagon road has been recently completed, and that the owners of the right are seeking government patronage in the transportation of the mails. This is the most Northern of all the Isthmus routes, and, excepting the overland continental routes through our own territory, is the most available, as well for our commercial as for our governmental purposes. Its peculiar advantages are found in its being so much nearer than any other, and that in time of war we can command it as great as from Lake Superior to the Gulf of Mexico, that is, the whole breadth of the United States along the valley of the Mississippi; and the Atlantic termini of the Tehuantepec route lie within those of the Gulf of Mexico. Of this we possess half the coast, and in time of perilous command the whole, while the terminal of all the other Isthmus routes, Panama, Nicaragua and Honduras, are equally commanded by England. The Caribbean sea, on which the Atlantic termini of the Nicaragua, Panama and other projected routes further South, is completely surrounded by British possessions; from Jamaica, lying right in front, through the whole chain of the Leeward and Windward Islands—all this without considering the further advantages of the claimed protectorate of the Mosquito coast, which flanks the sea, and her influence at St. Juan river, where the Nicaragua route begins. A reference to any map will exhibit this at a glance.

We may now readily understand that it was that when our capitalists, in their mercantile benefits, pursued to the Pacific, they were on English assistance.

OUR AGENTS. The following gentlemen are authorized to collect and receive subscriptions and advertisements for the Opelousas Courier, in their respective towns and Parishes: AUGUSTE MARAIST, St. Martinville, (La.) ARTHUR BULLIARD, Breau's Bridge, (La.) A. MILLER, Washington, (La.) E. E. COCHRAN, Marksville, (La.) MICHEL ENOCH, Lousville, (La.)

CANDIDATES. Editors of the Opelousas Courier: GENTLEMEN.—Please announce E. R. GANTT as a candidate for State Senator at the next November election to represent the Parishes of St. Landry, Iberville and Lafayette, subject to a Democratic Convention of said Parishes, to be held in Opelousas on the 20th of June next. JOHN KING, M. D., Don.

THE College Journal of Medical Science. A MONTHLY MAGAZINE of 48 pages, conducted by the Faculty of The Eclectic College of Medicine, published at One Dollar a Year, in advance. Communications for subscription, or for specimen numbers, should be directed to Dr. C. H. CLAYVELAND, Publisher, 139 Seventh Street, Cincinnati, Ohio. June 13, 1857.

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LOCAL AGENTS Wanted in every town in the United States to whom liberal inducements are offered. N. B.—We have made arrangements with many editors and publishers to receive for us, at a price similar to that of the original, and wish to make similar contracts with every newspaper and magazine in the country. For full particulars apply to I. M. SINGER & CO., 233 Broadway, N. York. June 12, 1857.—3m

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To Owners of Dogs. THE undersigned hereby informs the public that on Monday, the 22nd June instant, he will commence killing, or cause to be killed, all dogs found running at large in the streets of the town of Opelousas, without the collar required by law. Collars can be had by applying to the undersigned. M. MUSSAND, Custodian. Opelousas, June 13, 1857.—2t

NEW BOOKS. THE 23rd annual of the Eclectic College of Medicine, published by Dr. C. H. CLAYVELAND, Cincinnati, Ohio. June 13, 1857.