THE COURIER.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING BY

JOEL R. SANDOZ.

Opelousas :

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☞ J. W. DOBE, is our authorized agent for the city of New Orleans, to collect advertisements, subscriptions and money due us.

☞ For reading matter see first page.

CONVENT OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OPELOUSAS.—We would call the attention of parents to the advertisement of this Institution, in the first side of this paper, which announces the resumption of its classes for the 20th of October instant.

☞ Our bilingagate neighbor of the Gazette accuses us of quackery, because we publish Dr. AYER's advertisements.—Now this same editor knows the Pharmacopeia itself is not more free from the suspicions of quackery than his medicines. He knows they are endorsed by the medical Journals of this country, are used and prescribed by our best physicians, and have the commendation of professors and eminent men of character too exalted for his comprehension, and he knows too that they have done and are doing in this community an amount of good which the utmost stretch of his ability can never hope to equal.—*Berks Co. Press, Reading, Pa.*

☞ The *Alexandria Democrat* of the 22nd ult., says :

Alexandria still remains remarkably free from fever of all kinds. We have had no case of yellow fever since the recovery of the imported case of Mr. Barstow, two weeks ago. No case has occurred in the town this season, notwithstanding we have had no Quarantine and been in daily intercourse with New Orleans, both by Stage and Steamboat.

The yellow fever has made its appearance in Plaquemine, Iberville parish. The Plaquemine Gazette, of the 18th, says:

There are now at this time, we learn, about twelve cases in town, all in one particular section—embraced between Greaud street, the Bayou levee and the river. Two deaths, the last about ten days since are reported to have occurred. All of these cases were foreign and unacclimated persons—with may be an exception of two with respect to the unacclimated.

In a subsequent paragraph, the Gazette says:

Four of the twelve mentioned above as sick have since died. At this time (Friday noon) the sick and dependent are receiving every attention at the hands of some of the warm-hearted ladies and gentlemen of our town, but they will soon require relief.

A meeting was held in Plaquemine on the evening of the 17th, to form a charitable association, for the purpose of taking care of the destitute.

The Gazette reports that Bayou Plaquemine has nearly got to its lowest stage.

The same paper has the following :

Mr. Toffier, of Tallyho Plantation, Bayon Goula, has sent us a sample of very fine sugar, which he informs us is a specimen of nine hogsheads, from nine and a half acres, old stubble, grinding twelve hours in twenty-four. Commenced on the 15th.

☞ There is a negro in Jail belonging to Mr. Daniel Walker, on Bayou Rapides, accused of putting a load of buckshot in the pillow and bed post of Mr. Allen, Mrs. Haworth's overseer, with the intention of murdering Mr. A. while asleep.

'Twas a narrow escape from a murderous blow.

Mr. Allen showed great presence of mind, for, being suddenly awaked by such a report right at his ears, the wonder is that he din't spring out of bed instinctively, but not so; for he had the presence of mind to lie perfectly still as if dead so as to deceive the assassin and thereby prevent a second shot. Lying thus still and keeping his eye steady on the open doorway for a few seconds, and, seeing nor hearing any one, he sprang to his feet and ran into the yard, but no one was to be seen.

The accused awaits his trial.

As these occurences are growing frequent it is to be hoped that planters will evince more interest in bringing the parties to justice. Much complaints is heard against jurors summoned upon a case, wishing to shirk from the responsibility by raising frivolous excuses, and wishing to throw the responsibility, upon others.—*Alex. Democrat, 22d ult.*

DEATH OF L. J. SIGUR.

LAURENT J. SIGUR is dead! Although the seeds of disease had for several years undermined his constitution, and his emaciated and wasted frame betokened the slow approach of the fell destroyer, the announcement of his demise was to all a quite unexpected event. A large concourse of our most respected citizens followed his corpse yesterday evening to its final resting place.

It will be, of course, quite supererogatory on our part to inform our readers who L. J. Sigur was in the social walks of life, in the councils of the State, in the political arena, in the profession of journalism, and at our talented bar, he ever occupied a foremost position. Louisianians were proud of him; for he was the embodiment of that high-toned chivalry, that amenity of manners, and that boldness of oratory which popularize and endear man to his fellow man. A warm and constant friend, his hand was always extended to soothe or assist; as an advocate, the victim of persecution never turned from him without obtaining ample redress; as a journalist, no menaces could deter, no blandishments betray him from the path which a stern sense of duty had marked out for his guidance. An integrity as incorruptible as that of Cato was the characteristic of the man.

In politics, Mr. Sigur belonged to the ultra section of the Southern State Rights' Democracy, and performed yeoman service in the cause. He had an invisible contempt for those dough-faced politicians of the North, who are constantly advocating a sacrifice of principle to expediency, and many a rude blow has he given, from the rostrum, against their partisan aspirations.

In connection with Quitman and other distinguished Southern politicians, Mr. Sigur some years ago warmly, and at a sacrifice of his princely fortune, enlisted in the Cuban cause. All his energies were at that time concentrated upon that movement. The organization of the first expedition and the equipment and arming of the Pampero, were the result of his active efforts. Unfortunately in the, as in the subsequent expeditions, his hopes were destined to be blasted.

Few men have gone to the grave, attended by so many the sincerest heart-felt regrets. The community feels that it has sustained an irreparable loss. Louisianians feel that they have lost a distinguished compatriot. The South has lost a warm and devoted friend. May his virtues and talents ever live enshrined in the memory of the growing generation of this State.—*Louisiana Courier, 21st ult.*

During the search "instituted" by the editor of the Newark Times for female compositors, it is reported that the following dialogue took place: Bister—Good morning Mr. Hempck. Have you got any daughters that would make good typesetters? Hempck—No; but I've got a wife that would make a good devil.

THE QUESTION OF POLITICAL NOMINATIONS FOR JUDICIAL STATIONS.

We believe that our ancestors in framing our Republican Institutions were endowed with wisdom from on High—that the special Providence of God is seen throughout the whole frame-work—and that the subsequent innovations upon, and departures from, the original divine model, the American Magna Charta, have in the main been detrimental to public interest.

The political sagacity and foresight of the Statesmen of the Revolution, pointed to the policy of keeping the Judiciary free from, and independent of, popular control and influence. They, therefore, speaking and acting for "the people," placed the Judge-making power one remove from the immediate control of "the people," and lodged it in the hands of "the people's" Representatives; and, appreciating the value of experience, said, a Judge once made remained a Judge "during good behavior."

The sovereigns of the land, however, that have been raised up since those good old days, becoming tenaciously jealous of their immediate rights and powers, have time and again broken through those time-honored principles sanctioned and consecrated by our forefathers, and by questionable, but plausible and captivating innovations, have not spared the Judiciary, but have ascended to that elevated position, and struck at its independency by dragging it down and making it subject to the ever-changing caprices of the popular will; and weakened its ability by making its tenure also the subject and sport of popular caprice. They have inaugurated the system of the Elective Judiciary.

In our State this important change was made in the adoption of the Constitution of 1852.

Some were enthusiastic for the change; others were lukewarm, willing to see the trial; and others again were violently opposed to it, (old fogies, these were—behind the age). But there was ONE matter acquiesced in by all—by all parties, members of parties, and those who stood aloof from party; and THAT was that the election of Judges should be uninfluenced by party or political considerations.

And so universal was this sentiment that in the Convention the proposition to require "the Legislature to fix the time for holding elections for all Judges at a time which shall be different from that fixed for all other elections," was unanimously adopted without even a dissenting opinion. The Whig and Democratic parties were both pledged to this principle; and we must believe that if the state of parties had continued as it was at that time, the principle would have been religiously observed and as strictly adhered to, to this day, as it was at the first elections.

But soon after the adoption of this Constitution of 1852, the Whig party, and organization, crumbled to dust, its dissolution was complete.

Thereupon rose a strange organization, that instituted secret signs, grips and passwords for mutual recognition and protection. Its members repudiated former political attachments and pledges, and struck out for themselves a new course.

The first general Judicial election that took place after the sudden rise of Know Nothingism was to fill the Chief Justice's seat made vacant by the resignation of Mr. Thos. Slidell. The action of this K. N. party in that election is a part of the history of the State, and its pages a burning shame.

The Democratic party, true to its pledge, and anxious to try the experiment of an Elective Judiciary uninfluenced by party movements, made no nomination. A great number of legal gentlemen of New Orleans of the first order of talent, recommended to the voters of the State, our fellow-townsman, JOHN K. ELGEE, a shining luminary as far above any of his named competitors as the noonday sun is above the pale moon. Some other gentlemen of fair legal attainments were also named by their circle of friends. At this stage of the game when the claims of the various candidates were placed before the people and urged by their respective friends, it was expected of the two political parties that they should remain mute and inactive, and let the people without any suggestions or directions how to vote from their respective parties, exercise their own free choice. It was desired and hoped that no question would go before the people than that of qualification. In accordance with these wishes and expectations, the Democratic party took no action whatever. But what was the conduct of the opposition? Alas! Alas!! It was one of the first lessons taught us of its utter want of fair dealing, and was one of the many that are fast consigning it to an ignominious grave! The wigwams in the metropolis had a consultation and centered upon Mr. MERRICK, of East Feliciana. Forthwith runners were started all over the State to instruct the country brotherhood how to vote. In Alexandria the fraternity had agreed to vote for Mr. Thos. H. Lewis; but the swift-footed messenger arrived in town, called together that night a respectable number of the faithful, made them a speech, and delivered the instructions from the City Magnates ordering the country boys to cast their votes for the hastily made "*nominee*." This caused quite a fluttering among the warm friends of Mr. Lewis, but all considerations must yield to party necessity; they must place a "Native American," a sworn member of the Order, upon the Bench, and most of them went over to Mr. MERRICK. From the Central Wigwam at Alexandria heralds were dispatched to the various minor ones throughout the Parish, proclaiming MERRICK the choice of the party.

The work accomplished here, the smooth-tongued city runner, mounted the furnished steed and was off for the adjoining Parishes; and thus every Parish in the State was notified; and on the day of the election, free (?) oath-bound Americans! all over the State, for the first time cast their ballots for a Judge, for Chief Justice, in accordance with party instructions. While Democrats—unsuspecting Democrats, were only brought, by the astonishing result, to see the double game played upon them by the unscrupulous opposition.

This, therefore, was an entire abandonment of the principle universally admitted in framing the Constitution of '52, and is of itself a sufficient justification—aside from many other reasons—for the adoption by the Democracy of the nominating policy—it is done in self defence.

However, Democrats were still unwilling to give up their cherished principle, and refused to go into a nomination in New Orleans pending Justice BUCHANAN's last election. Justice B., by the Wigwams in secret conclave, was pronounced their choice.

We do not know that Mr. Justice BUCHANAN himself had anything to do with this general selection among the Wigwams, indeed our individual opinion of him is that he would have condemned any movement of the sort; nevertheless his party did it, and by it he received their undivided support, and his election was considered by the Know Nothings of New Orleans a test of their strength.

Judge COLE's election is given as another case of the same sort. Judge LEA, the occupant, was a candidate, Democrat in principle, but, like Mr. ELGEE, solicited to run by a list of legal gentlemen without distinction of party. Judge COLE was not publicly nominated, but the secret action of the secret party by a general expression in their various secret assemblies, nominated him as the choice of the party. This Wigwam nomination, as in the previous instances, was regarded by the sworn faithful as a family secret, and as such carefully kept from the Democracy. The scheme was successful, and on the morning of the election, for the first time it was proclaimed by handbills and posters—in large letters, scattered over the city—

"J. B. COLE, American Candidate for Judge."

The District was decidedly Democratic, and yet by this manœuvre in secret in the city; and in the country making the issue between LEA the "*City* candidate," and COLE the "*Country* candidate," an immense number of Democratic votes in the Parishes out of the city was polled for Judge COLE.

Thus we find that ever since the existence of the Know Nothing party, it has *openly* rather favored the separation of Judicial elections from political influence where success was doubtful, and yet *secretly*, by means of private meetings, signs, grips and passwords, has named its candidate, and supported him to a man.

But in New Orleans recently they threw off their flimsy garb of concealment, and had the manliness to come out and make political nominations for the six District Judges of New Orleans, and elected them as "Americans" nominees.

Enough has been told to show that the policy of the Know Nothing party has ever been so—vacillate.

Where success has been doubtful, they have endeavored to deceive the Democracy by *openly* advocating "Independency," but *secretly* centering upon a candidate and secretly passing the word.

But where as in New Orleans they have been sure of success, they have deemed it not necessary to make their movements clandestine, and have openly nominated.

Why, even in this 12th District when Judge ODEN was nominated by a Democratic Convention, the opposition papers had bitters were loud in their clamorous and affecting denunciations of mixing up politics with Judicial elections, and yet the secret handbills, as if emanating by authority and purporting to speak for the "American party," were scattered among the true subjects and deposited at the different precincts, instructing the faithful for whom to vote.

And yet, after all this warning, there are those favorable to Democratic policy, and, other things being equal, would support Democratic Judges, who disapprove of the Democracy nominating a candidate for a successor to Judge Strawbridge.

In this article we have justified the nomination of Judge LEA not by any arguments in favor of the abstract principle, because we deem it, under the circumstances unnecessary to discuss that branch of the subject, inasmuch as the conduct of our opponents has forced us, *nolens volens*, for sheer self protection, to adopt the policy which in the first instance had been eschewed.

Nor can we be charged with inconsistency in condemning it in our opponents and, then adopting it ourselves; we know that two wrongs do not make a right; and yet there is another maxim equally clear, and that is, of two existing evils refuse the greater.

But in point of fact, our real complaint against our Know Nothing friends is not so much their *nominating* as their *manner* of doing it—their deception practised. Where they are weak they always cry against conventions—are loud in their desires to have the dear people exercise their free choice unbiased by any party move, and yet they always manage through their effective organization of secret meetings, signs and passwords to have it clearly understood, arranged and ordered who is to be voted for. With one breath a brother under oath is whispered the name ordered to be balloted, and with the next, freemen are warned against being dictated to by "packed Conventions."

And these oath-bound suffragans are those who keep up the cry of "independency."

They secretly pass the word among themselves and thus secure their whole party vote, and avow to Democrats that party questions are not known in the election—thereby getting the whole of their own vote, and drawing largely from the gulled Democracy.

It is time that Democrats awake from their fatal lethargy; and while the elective Judiciary rotation system continues, and the late practices of the opposition persevered in, let open, public nominations be made of the best men in their ranks.

[*Alexandria Democrat.*

THE RUSH FOR OFFICE.

A thirst for office has become almost epidemic among the American people. The hosts of office seekers begin to rival the army of frogs that the ancient Hebrew lawgiver brought upon Egypt to subdue the obstinacy of Pharoah. They annually rush to Washington city, by thousands, from all parts of the country; they swarm in the State capitals after every State election; and they gather in crowds, even around those who can dispense small corporation favors, with obsequious mein and suppliant tone, begging for the privilege of serving the public in any official capacity.

In a country where the professions and the trades, and agriculture and commerce, offer a certain independence to all who labor, this inordinate desire for public station, however humble, while the tenure of office is so insecure and the loss of individuality of opinion, if not of self respect, is so certain, has come to be one of the anomalies of American life and manners.

The influence of this popular passion has, to some extent, corrupted all political organizations, and is fast converting them into mere patent machines for the distribution of public patronage. Gradually ceasing to be desirable agencies for the practical establishment of national policy or of sound principles of government, they already begin to present the spectacle of a contest of innumerable petty factions, each ready to follow any leader or give consent to any doctrines which promise the control of the public treasury. Fusion of parties and confusion of principles are unblushingly attempted, and if unsuccessful, a fear of an unequal division of the spoils and not inflexible adherence to principle, has defeated the unnatural union.

Taking advantage of this popular anxiety to be recipients of public favors, party is establishing an aristocracy of demagogueism. Primary assemblies are a mere blind for the eyes of the masses. They seem to rule, but, like the Roman Senate in the time of the first Cæsars, only record the edicts of masters. Nominally, the public voice calls some citizen from retirement into the service of the Republic or the State; but he who dreams the people have had anything to do with the result, labors under a pleasant but irrational hallucination. The aristocracy of demagogues have calculated the chances of success, have selected the agents through whom the nomination shall be made, as through the mouths of their idols of wood or brass the old priests spoke; and, by lavish promises of place from the proposed candidate, the assistance of a number of active aspirants is secured to carry what has been predetermined into successful execution. And then his host of office-seekers, like the Highland Chieftain, commences to fight, each for his own hand.

The picture is not flattering, but its truth will be recognised, whether applied to the political management of corporations, States, or the nation. But yesterday, in New York, old fashioned whiggery and native Americanism, protectionism and free trade, free soilism and nationalism strove to amalgamate for the election of State officers. The world when chaos reigned did not present a spectacle of more antagonistic principles or more heterogeneous elements; and yet it was not the difficulty of surrendering political distinctiveness of creeds, but of making a satisfactory distribution of the offices that prevented the fusion. Since the mad rush for office, parties have almost lost their discipline and boundaries, because the labor is not to sustain principles, but to gain victory. But all that they have lost of their ancient character has given greater power to the aristocracy of demagogues now becoming a power to the State.

The growing eagerness to hold federal office is also causing Washington to be regarded as a species of political Mecca, and the President as little less than a prophet, to be worshipped while he sits in the high place of power. The influence of the General Government in the local affairs of the States is hence most seriously felt—not, indeed, by direct interference with its legislation or in creating a conflict of jurisdiction, but indirectly by the manner of making appointments or the withdrawal of federal patronage. To such an extent has the habit of looking to Washington as the centre of all power increased, that, like Barney O'Regan, who thought the potato rot was owing to the union of the Green Isle to England, even extreme States Rights men attribute every evil of their particular section and every excess of excited people elsewhere to the policy of the President.

Let our young men for their own advantage, as well as that of the country, crush out the insane desire for office. In the field of professional labor there are higher honors and more sure independence to be gained. Better engaged in trade, or any of the industrial pursuits, where the dignity of self-respect can be maintained, the certainty of personal culture can be secured, and the integrity of individual principle will not be broken down.

The habits acquired in public office create unfitness for business pursuits. Its accidental acquisition has prevented, in a thousand instances, a career of distinction at the bar, and on 'change. It has dissipated the prospect of easy independence in fortune, which, in this country, opens before every young man of intelligence, economy, industry and perseverance. It has not brought moral obliquity and laxity of principle, it is say, not to the natural influences of the present morals of politics, but to the fortunate possession of an extraordinary love of honesty and truth.

The independence of the States of central influence will be secured when Federal patronage cannot intimidate. Cultivate home. Find in the multiform employments that open to every one who seeks a field of effort. Let office come, after experience has given extraordinary fitness for its duties, and personal reputation attracts the honor; let it not be sought as a temporary refuge from idleness, or a professional pursuit of life, and then the evils it threatens will be averted, and the honors it gives will illume a noble life.

(*Picayune.*)

THE MERCHANT'S FIRESIDE. — Napoleon never gave the vanity of the English aristocracy a harder or more telling thrust than when he described England as a "nation of shop-keepers." The stinging point lay in the fact that what the military man said was, is and ever must be true. The strength of England lies, and has ever lain in her *trade*. Take away that, and she would dissolve away into nothing, quick as the changes in a panoramic show. One would suppose, therefore, that instead of being ashamed of trade, her chief men, her "learned seignors," and doctors, whether of politics, laws or divinity, would take pride in that which they must know is the very corner stone of "all their greatness." This is far from being the case, however; and every sprig of nobility appears to regard contact with shop-keeping as a social plague, a badge of disgrace

In a recent debate upon the Indian bill as to the terms of the admission of cadets into the army, Lord Ellenborough took occasion to sneer at the "rich grocers and linen-drapers," meaning thereby the whole commercial class, as quite unworthy to be allowed to come into competition at all with the professional classes," and the elegant drones of society who consume but do nothing to create. Speaking of the influence of the institutions in which the children of the "professional classes" at home, his lordship went on to say:

"But the education obtained in these cramming colleges is not the highest species of education; that which is attained at *home by the example and conversation of good parents is by far the highest. You cannot compare for a moment the education which the sons of clergymen and officers get with the education obtained by the sons of rich grocers and linen-drapers*, who will be successful in these competitive examinations. Depend upon it, this is a great and most injurious social revolution."

Such a sentiment uttered in this country would fully entitle the speaker to a leather and an extra pair of long ears. Even in England the facts are against him. Many of the most cultivated and vigorous minds that England has ever produced, who have advanced her fame, her national prosperity, and exalted her literature, have sprung from those same shop keeping people. Sir Robert Peel, the greatest English statesman of modern times, was a trader and the son of a trader; Gobden and Bright are traders; Macaulay is the son of one of those whom his Flunkeyship would exclude even from the right to compete on equal terms with the pet classes. Grote the best historian of Greece, is engaged in mercantile pursuits; so was Rogers, the poet. Wakley, the chief thunderer of the London *Times*, and indeed the most vigorous, pushing minds of the kingdom, have sprung from the same class. When Lord Ellenborough shows himself competent to approach the shadow of Macaulay, or to write a leader in the London *Times*, it will be quite time enough for him to sneer at "rich grocers and linen-drapers."

But his sneer suggests an important thought for the thousands of American merchants of every kind and degree. What is the influence of the merchant's fireside in this country? Amid the whirl and bustle which the intense activity of American minds engenders, is not the fireside in this country in some danger of being overlooked, forgotten? Is it not already neglected to a degree that bodes no good to the country! The anecdote of a New York lady who congratulated her husband upon the failure of the chief part of his business during the late crisis, because he would thereby "have time to become acquainted with his family," puts the matter in a strong light. It may have been, and doubtless was, a joke but there is many a truth thus told, and we doubt if there are not many merchants and business men in all our large cities who, if not *unacquainted* with their families, at least scarcely know what the true and full significance of home is. Their lives pass in a perpetual and exhausting struggle that leaves them not a moment, or scarcely the power, to think of anything else. Is there any sense or philosophy in this? Shall a man make himself a mere drudge, a veritable packhorse and allow himself to be constantly spurred and booted on, for—what? If he takes no satisfaction as he goes along *cui bono?* When is he going to take it? Will they rise up to call him blessed even if he leaves them "a fortune," whatever that may mean, and at the same time by his neglect leaves them nothing else worth naming? How long will the said fortune last? Witness the prodigality, profligacy, and speedy descent into the shades of poverty and degradation which the sons and daughters of multitudes of men in this country who have made themselves miserable all their lives for the sole purpose of making these same sons and daughters rich, under the falacious idea that with wealth left to them they could want nothing else. This has been so often shown by the stern facts of practical life to be a mere chimera, that it is about time for so suicidal a course to be abandoned for one that promises better, more rational results. It is an *ignis fatuus* whose dim, false, flickering light leads its victim far into trackless and inextricably labyrinths of darkness and destruction.

The truth is, the American Home is our greatest, most sacred, most influential institution, and the American husband and father ought to devote to it a degree of attention of time, of care, commensurate to its intrinsic value, its certain and lasting power. Whatever leads a man to regard his home as of secondary importance will not only detract from the sum total of his happiness and the happiness of his family, present as well as in the future, but it will recoil at last upon the real good, the true greatness and honorable elevation of his country. It is the aggregated condition of all its homes which constitutes the real condition of the Republic at large. If these are refined, educated, united affectionate, that cannot be other than exalted and safe. The country will reflect the brilliant and chastened hues of its many homes, or exhibit their ignorance, their degradation, and the withering and lasting curses which they will inflict upon it.

Let patriots, countrymen and lovers look to their homes as they regard their own happiness and fair names, and whatever there may be of the beautiful and good upon earth to challenge their admiration, their affection and their devotion.—*N. O. Bulletin.*

EVADING THE LAW.—A cute Yankee in Kansas sells liquor in a gun barrel instead of a glass, that he may avoid the law, and make it appear, beyond dispute, that he is selling liquor by the barrel.

THE GROSSE TETE AND OPELOUSAS ROAD. —We learn that the work of surveying the route of the Grosse Tete Railroad from the depot in West Baton Rouge to the Atchafalaya, has been completed, and the party have returned. The route, nearly the entire distance of 25 miles, runs through rich cane land, not surpassed in wealth by any in the State. It all lies in its primitive wilderness state, because of the want of roads leading to market. The terminus of the surveyed road in the Atchafalaya, is at Murdock's, plantation, between Cow Head and Muscle bayous. The distance from thence to the town of Opelousas, in the parish of St. Landry, is only about 16 miles. By this route the planters of that region will be within an hour and a halfs ride to the Mississippi river, at St. Michael, opposite this city. The road will be over a region at no time subject to overflow, and will have a decided advantage over that already constructed from Algiers opposite New Orleans.—*Baton Rouge Gazette, 7th.*

COMET OF 1858.—This remarkable comet, says the Albany *Argus*, is now visible to the naked eye, as predicted by Dr. Gould some weeks ago. It is now only one hundred and forty millions of miles distant, and is very rapidly approaching the earth, and although already shows through a common opera glass a well defined tail. We are told that during the first week of October the comet will be of the most striking brightness, possibly the largest of the century, and at that time will be seen near Arcturus perhaps even surpassing that brilliant star in splendor. It is now visible for about an hour after sunset and an hour before sunrise in a line with the two stars called the Pointers, and forming nearly a right angle between these and Arcturus. It is now best seen at four o'clock in the morning. Dr. Gould also suggested in the last number of his Journal that from the similarity of the elements it was possible that this comet was identical with the first comet of 1827, and also that of 1764. This fact seems now, from the recent observations, almost certain affording a reasonable presumption that it is a periodic comet, whose period is about thirty-one years.

SOMETHING NEW.—We read accounts of the successful invention of a plow for digging potatoes by Mr R. A. Allen, of New York, who is perhaps the largest manufacturer of agricultural implements in the world, by the by. Our exchanges say that it accomplishes the work of twenty men without having more than two per centum of the yield not turned up to the instant vision of the gatherers. If so, the invention is a matter of great importance to the interests of agriculture, the gathering of the large crop of potatoes grown in this country having heretofore been much more costly in comparison with its value (that of the crop) than the harvesting of the wheat crop grown in the United States. He who will enable one man and a horse or two to accomplish in that work as much as twenty men now do, will confer upon his fellow-citizens a benefit, the extent of which cannot as yet be estimated. We confess to great curiosity to witness the operation of this new machine.

SCENE IN A DISSECTING ROOM.—A correspondent informs us that a case similar to that of Magee is narrated in the *British Mercury*, June 12, 1790, with the remark of the editor: "Casuists may amuse themselves with settling whether the following action be ranged under the title of justice or humanity." The case is this:

A young gentleman who had studied at a celebrated university, and having a strong predilection for anatomy, took great pleasure in attending on dissections. One evening he, with many others, was anxiously attending on the commencement of that operation on the body of a notorious malefactor, who lay stretched out on the table before them; the surgeon who had been placing it in a proper situation, turned to the class, and addressed them thus: "I am pretty certain, gentlemen, from the warmth of the subject, and the flexibility of the limbs, that by a proper degree of attention and care, the vital heat would return and life in consequence take place. But, then, when it is considered what a rascal we should again have among us, that he was executed for having murdered a girl who was with child by him; and that were he restored to life he would probably murder some body else, when these things are coolly considered, I own it is my opinion we had better proceed with the dissection." With these words, he plunged the knife into the breast of the carcass, and precluded at once all dread of future assassination or hopes of repentance.

CAUGHT ON THE JURY.—The following, which we have heard told as a fact some time ago, may be beneficial to some gentleman who has a young unsuspecting wife;

A certain man, who lived about ten miles from K—— was in the habit of going to town about once a week and getting on a regular spree, and would not return until he had time to "cool off," which was generally two or three days. His wife was ignorant of the cause of his staying out so long, and suffered greatly from anxiety about his welfare. When he would return, of course his confiding wife would inquire what had been the matter with him, and the invariable reply was, "that he was caught on the jury and couldn't get off."

Having gathered his corn and placed it in a large heap he, according to custom, determined to call in his neighbors, and have a real corn shucking frolic. So he gave Ned, a faithful servant, a jug and an order to go to town and get a gallon of whisky—a very necessary article on such occasions. Ned mounted a mule and was soon in town, and, equiped with the whisky, remounted to set out for home, all buoyant with the prospect of fun at "shucking."

When he had proceeded a few hundred yards from town he concluded to try the "stuff" and, not satisfied with once, he kept trying until the world turned around so fast that he turned off the mule, and then he went to sleep and the mule to grazing. It was now nearly night, and when Ned awoke it was just before the break o'day, and so dark that he was unable to make any start towards home until light. As soon as his bewilderment had subsided so that he could get the "point," he started with an empty jug, the whiksy having run out, and afoot, for the mule had gone home. Of course he was contemplating the application of a "two year old hickory" as he went on at the rate of two-forty.

Ned reached home about breakfast time and "fetched up" at the back door with a desidedly guilty countenance.

"What in thunder have you been at, you black rascal," said his master.

"Ned knowing his master's excuse to his wife, when he got on a spree, determined to tell the truth if he died for it, and said:

"Well, master, to tell the truth, I was ketch on the jury, and couln't get off."—*Nashville News.*

CLASP ME FONDLY.

Clasp me fondly, treat me kindly;
As a lily on the bosom
Of a lake reclines its blossom,
On my trusting breast recline;
Press your rosy lips to mine;
From your brown and waving tresses
Shake whole clouds of tenderness—
Kiss me madly, kiss me blindly—
Do not stop to droop or blush,
But go it with a perfect rush.

Mine you should be, mine you could be,
Fairest thou of female creatures,
None in eyes and hair can beat your's.
Cupid laughing over trips
The Norman Polka on your lips,
Where, antique like, grace reposes
Smothered, half, among the roses.
Dearest, mine you said you would be—
Say not no, with faltering tongue,
But go it, dearest, while you're young.

AWFUL.

Youngster, spare that girl!
Kiss not those lips so meek!
Unruffled let the fair locks curl
Upon the maiden's cheek!
Believe her quite a saint—
Her looks are all divine,
Her rosy hue is paint,
Her form is crinoline.

A young lady appeared in male attire in Baltimore, and one of the editors says her disguise was so perfect that she might have passed for a man, "had she a little more modesty."

There is an editor down east who has had the cramp, the doctor told him to rub himself with brandy, the editor drank it and rubed his legs with the bottle.

☞ At a parish examination, a clergyman asked a charity boy if he had ever been baptized. "No sir," was the reply, "not as I knows; but I've been *waxinated*."

SPECIAL TERM OF THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR THE PARISH OF ST. LANDRY.

THE public are hereby informed that a special Jury Term of the District Court in and for the Parish of St. Landry, will be holden at the Court House, in Opelousas, by the Hon. Albert Voorhies, Judge of the 14th Judicial District of Louisiana, commencing on the third Monday of November next, 1858, being the 15th day of said month.

L. LASTRAPES,
Clerk of said Court.

Opelousas, October 2d, 1858

New-Orleans and Opelousas Regular Packet.

The good and safe steamer BAYOU BELLE, Capt. JOHN LYONS, Master, will continue her regular weekly trips, leaving the landing at the mouth of Bayou Waxia, every Wednesday at 10 o'clock, A. M., and New Orleans every Saturday at 5, P. M.

The Bayou Belle being of very light draught, and well calculated for the trade, planters and shippers can rely on her making the regular trips, low water and sandbars to the contrary notwithstanding.

No extra charge will be made for lighters to convey her freight to Washington.

Thankful for the liberal patronage heretofore bestowed upon us, we hope to merit a continuance.

Washington, October 2d, 1858.

Public Sale.

Estate of Julien Léger, deceased.

WILL be sold at public auction, to the last and highest bidder, at the late residence of Julien Léger, deceased, by the undersigned authority, on

Wednesday, 3rd November next, 1858, the following described property belonging to the Estate of Julien Léger, deceased, to wit:

One hundred and thirty-three and a third acres of Land, situated on the Bayou Queue Tortue, in the Parish of St. Landry, being that portion of a tract of land belonging to the heirs of Michel Léger, deceased, containing 400 acres in all, and bounded in front by the Bayou Queue Tortue, above by lands of the deceased, below by lands of Henry Roach, and in the rear by public lands.

FOUR SLAVES, TO WIT:

ANDRE, a negro-man, aged about 43 years.

EUGENIE, a negro-woman, aged about 50 years.

ALELAIDE, a negro-woman, aged about 50 years.

ELIZA, a negro-woman, aged about 18 years.

A dwelling house, with all its furniture, two out houses, one corn mill, 1700 pannels of cypress fencing, 11 pair of gentle work oxen, 5 cows and calves, 10 head of two-year old cattle, 5 head of gentle horses, 7 mares, and one or two colts, 100 head of sheep, 6000 shingles, 600 pieux, 50 pannels pickets, 3 pirogues, 3 pair iron tired wheels, 3 pair wooden wheels, with cart bodies thereto, ploughs, hoes, axes, besides many other articles too tedious to mention.

The terms and conditions of said sale, as fixed by the advise of a family meeting, are a credit of one, two and three years from the day of sale, for all sums over five dollars, and for all sums of five dollars and under, cash, on the day of sale. Purchasers on a credit to furnish their notes, with security *in solido*, to the order of the Administrator, and made payable at his domicil, bearing interest at eight per cent per annum from maturity till paid, and the land and slaves to remain specially mortgaged until the final payment of the principal, and interest of the purchase money of the same.

THEOGENE LEGER,
Administrator.

Opelousas, October 2d, 1858.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

STATE OF LOUISIANA.

Paulin C. Lesleu, vs. François Richard & als. } District Court, Parish of St. Landry, No. 8434.

BY virtue of a writ of fi. fa., issued in the above entitled suit, by the District Court, in and for the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, and to me directed, will be exposed at public sale, for cash, at the Court House of this Parish, on Saturday the 6th day of November next, 1858, commencing at the hour of 11 o'clock, A. M., and continuing from day to day, if necessary, all the right, title, to the following described property, seized to satisfy said writ, to wit:

A Tract of Land (Cypress Swamp) situated on the Bayou Nezpique, in the Parish of St. Landry, measuring 213 acres, and being Lots No. 1 and 2 of Section 30, Township 9 South, Range 2 West, in the Southwestern Land District of Louisiana.

L. V. CHACHERE, Sheriff.

Sheriff's office, St. Landry, October 2d, 1858.

State of Louisiana.

DISTRICT COURT, *Parish of St. Landry,* } No. 8562.

Estate of Zéphirin Lambert, dec'd.

SOSTHENE LAMBERT, of the Parish of St Landry, Administrator of the Estate of Zéphirin Lambert, deceased, late of the Parish of St. Landry, having filed a Tableau of the Administration of said Estate, accompanied by his petition praying that the same may be homologated;—And whereas the prayer of said petition has been granted by an order of Court, dated 30th September, 1858.

Therefore, notice is hereby given to all interested, to make opposition in writing, in my office, within thirty days from the date hereof, why said Tableau should not be homologated, the Administrator be released from all responsibility arising from said Administration.

L. LASTRAPES, Clerk.

Opelousas, October 2d, 1858.

State of Louisiana.

DISTRICT COURT, *Parish of St. Landry,* } No. 8563.

ESTATE OF THOMAS JEFFERSON JOHNSON.

JOHN F. MORROGH, of the Parish of St. Landry, Administrator of the Estate of Thomas Jefferson Johnson, deceased, late of the aforesaid Parish, having filed a Final Tableau of Settlement and Distribution of the funds of said Estate, accompanied by a petition praying that the same may be homologated;—And whereas the prayer of said petition has been granted by an order of Court, dated 30th September, 1858.

Therefore, notice is hereby given to all interested, to make opposition in writing, in my office, within thirty days from the date hereof, why said Tableau should not be homologated, that the Administrator be discharged of all further liabilities as such and that his bond be cancelled.

L. LASTRAPES, Clerk.

Opelousas, October 2d, 1858.

DR. CASADAVANT,

SURGEON DENTIST,

FROM THE PARISH OF IBERVILLE.

WOULD respectfully announce to the citizens of Opelousas, that he has established himself in St. Martinsville, and intends to visit Opelousas occasionally, for the purpose of practising all operations in Dental Surgery in the most scientific manner.

He will be, in a short time, at Hays' Hotel, as soon as he gets through with all his engagements, and remain fifteen days. All those who have had operations which have not been executed in a proper manner, will be performed by him in a superior like manner.

Having had an experience of ten years, he feels confident to be able to give perfect satisfaction. His reputation being so favorably known in the parishes of West Baton Rouge and Iberville, he refers to the principal citizens generally of those parishes.

He will also visit Washington in a few weeks, and will remain fifteen days at Greenlee's Hotel, and will inform the citizens of that place of his arrival. All orders left at Hays' Hotel, Opelousas, and Greenlee's Hotel, Washington, will be attended by him. [September 25th, 1858.

Medical Notice.

DR. VALINCOUR, practitioner in midwifery, Surgeon-Dentist, having established himself permanently in Opelousas, offers his services to his fellow-citizens. He will fulfil all his functions with zeal and prudence, and dirt-eaters will be cured by him in about two weeks.

Gratuitous consultations for the indigent, on Monday and Friday, from 8 to 9 o'clock A. M.

References:

Dr. F. Acher, Adolphe Garrigues,
Révillon & Taylor, Agérin Arceneaux,
Joel H. Sandoz, Jean P. Arceneaux,
Onézime A. Guidry, Ramon Riu,
Opelousas 25th Sept. 1858.

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY,

For Boys.

Opelousas, St. Landry, La.

THIS Institution, lately established in the town of Opelousas, to bestow upon the boys and youths of the Parish the incomparable blessing of a solid education, will resume its duties on the 20th of October.

The course of instruction will embrace such branches as will be most useful to the pupils; the utmost care will be paid to their rapid improvement.

The best Teachers will be selected; their number will be increased, to suit the increasing number of the students.

The very great success of the Institution from the beginning, the long experience of those at the head of it, their unconquerable determination to carry out the noble work, are the best pledge they can offer to parents for the improvement of their children.

For terms and other particulars apply to

REV. GILBER