THE COURIER.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING BY

JOEL H. SANDOZ.

Opelousas :

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1st, 1859.

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

☞ JOHN E. KING of St. Landry is an Independent candidate for the office of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, for the Third District.

Election in April next.

☞ We are authorized to announce the Hon. CYRUS RATLIFF as a candidate for the office of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court for the Third Supreme Court District, subject to the decision of the Democratic Convention. [Dec. 25, 1858.

☞ We are authorized to announce that a mass-meeting of the Democratic party of this Parish, will take place at the Court House in the town of Opelousas, on Monday the 3rd January next, for the purpose of chosing delegates to represent the Parish of St. Landry in the Convention which will be held at Baton Rouge, at the opening of the Legislature, in order to chose a candidat for Associate Justice of the Supreme Court for this District, in view of the election of April next.

It is considered the duty of all good democrat to attend this meeting and express his opinion on the subject matter.

☞ On Wednesday next is the day fixed for the sale of the large amount of property of the Estate of Mrs. Widow George King, 3 miles South of our Town: 70 slaves and a splendid plantation are the principal property which will change hands on that day. Besides, there are a fine lot of American work mules, oxen and other stock necessary to a plantation.

All this property will be sold upon a reasonable credit as will be seen by reference to the advertisement in another column.

We would advise all those who are in need of slaves, to attend this sale, as there will probably be good bargains to be made on that day.

Messrs. Lastrapes Brothers, whose sale was announced to take place on the 25th, have withdrawn their plantation, slaves, &c., for sale, leaving to those who want slaves, &c., very little chance to purchase negroes after the sale of next Wednesday.

SALE OF THE BELL-CRENEY SPRINGS.—As will be seen by reference to the advertisement elsewhere, this agreable Summer Retreat will be sold on the premises, on Monday next, as also five slaves and some moveable effects. The conditions will be favorable to purchasers.

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.—Those who pass through Main street, between Bellevue and Landry, do not fail to notice the Furniture Store lately opened by Mr. Vatter. About a month ago, he opened his store with a pretty good assortment; soon people flocked in and purchaced. Last week he started back for New Orleans in order to get another and better supply, and has just arrived on board the *Bayou Belle*, on Thursday last, with a new assortment, which, we have every reason to believe, he will sell as fast as the first assortment.

It is evident that there is a decided advantage in purchasing furniture at his store, instead of ordering or buying them in New Orleans, particularly when, as in the present case, the merchant contents himself with a small profit.

PROVISIONS.—Mr. C. Steel has just arrived from the city with a fresh assortment of family groceries suitable for the occasion. We would advise our friends to come and examine his stock, and then let us know whether they can resist the temptation of tasting all the good things he has in store, or else to testify to their good quality.

FIRE AT GRAND COTEAU.—On Sunday last, the corn crib of Mrs. Grimmer, in Grand Coteau, was consumed by fire, together with a full provision of corn, fodder, &c., for the St. Charles Hotel, kept by the lady just named. Luckily the calmness of the wind permitted the citizens in attendance to save the Hotel and adjoining buildings. Nevertheless the loss sustained cannot be less than $350.

The fire originated through the imprudence of a little negro-boy.

THE ROADS.—Owing to the rains which have fallen in our Parish since two or three weeks past, the Planters have stopped hauling their produce since last week and people are kept housed up by the inclemency of the weather.

☞ For the New Orleans Price Current, see the French side of to-day's issue.

We publish as a great curiosity the following characteristic letter, received by our friend Dr. J. C. AYER, of Lowell, Mass., from the "Rebel Chief," or usurping Emperor of China, in acknowledgment for quantities of his CHERRY PECTORAL and CATHARTIC PILLS, the Doctor sent him as a present.

To DR. AYER in America—

The great curing Barbarian of the outside country.

Your present of sweet curing seeds (*Pills*) and fragrant drops, (*Pectoral*) of the Cherry smell, has been brought to Hug-seu-Teene—the mighty Emperor (Kwangto) of the terriblest out Ming dynasty, by the grace of heaven revived after an interval of ages—Prince of peace (Ta-ping-wang) of China, the central flowery land. He directed his powerful Mandarines to give them to the sick according to what the Interpreters read from your printed papers (*directions*). Be profoundly happy, O wise Barbarian! for I, Yang-seu-Tsing, say it. Your curing seeds and sweet curing drops were given to the sick in his Army of the Winged-Sword, and have made them well. Be profoundly happy while you live for this is known to the Mighty Emperor of China, who approves your skill, and permits you to send more of your curing medicines for his fierce armies of myriads of men.

They may be given to Chiang Lin, Chief Mandarin of the Red Button at Shanghai, who will repay you with Tea or Silk or Gold.

The high Mandarins of China, have heared of your great knowledge, surpassing all other Foreigners, even aspiring to equal the keen wisdom of our own healing teachers, who make remedies that cure instantly. We are glad to know you bow in trembling terror before our Mighty Emperor.

Written by YANG-SEU-TSING,
Minister-in-chief of the restored Imperial Ming Dynasty, destined by the heavenly wisdom to rule in China.

(*Translated by the American Consulate at Hong Kong, China 3d May, 1855.*)

SOME musical publisher or teacher once wrote or said that "the art of playing on the violin required the nicest perception and the most delicate sensibility of any part of the known world." A country editor, commenting newspaper, and making it pay, beats the art of fiddling higher than a kite."

DEATH OF EX-CHIEF JUSTICE EUSTIS.

This morning, at his home in Victory street, Third District, George Eustis, Ex-Chief Justice of this State, gave up his soul to his Maker, and the place which so lately knew him shall know him no more.

He died in his sixty-third year, after a life honorably conspicious for personal habits of great purity, exalted talents, honorable ambition, successful professional exertion and the most elevated judicial distinction.

Judge Eustis was a native of Massachusetts, but removed in early life to Louisiana, bringing with him those high characteristics for which the true sons of New England are nationally remarkable—clear head, educated mind, indomitable energy and irresistible perseverance.

He married a creole lady of this city, eminent for those virtues and accomplishments which shed so brilliant a moral lustre upon the domestic hearth and family circle. Several sons and daughters blessed and hallowed his home by an exemplary fidelity to the precepts and example of their honored parents.

George Eustis, in spite of the manner cold and somewhat austere, conciliated the esteem of the most worthy of his fellow citizens, who respected him rather for the substantial beauties of his cultivated character than the mere amenities of his social nature; and his elevation to legislative trusts, and the responsible duty of aiding in framing the constitution of 1845, evinced on various occasions the high estimate placed upon his talents, his experience, and his integrity by the people.

On the adoption of the constitution of 1845, he was appointed by the first governor under that instrument Chief Justice of the State, to the entire satisfaction of the bar and the public.

The duties of this high judicial trust he continued to discharge until the adoption of the present constitution made the judges elective by the people, with singular satisfaction to suitors, and his decisions are models of style, clearness, and cogency. Entertaining New England notions of the almost sacred character of judicial station, the deceased gave cause at times of dissatisfaction by a rigorous exaction of courtesy and deference to the bench, and thus in some measure qualified the almost universal regret that was experienced on his retirement from a position so eminently fitted to be graced by his learning, his impartiality, and his assiduity.

We had the happiness of knowing the deceased well, and so far as we are competent to pronounce an opinion, we should claim for his memory the consideration due to great worth, faultless private character, spontaneous integrity, and pure patriotism

(*N. O. True Delta.*)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE IBERIAN.—As there is now some prospect that the New Orleans, Opelousas & G. W. Rail Road, will be continued on from Berwicks Bay towards Texas. It becomes proper to discuss the most advantageous manner of continuing that great public work. It is said that the Board of Directors came to the determination some time since to commence the work at New Iberia, and run the line to Opelousas first, or to commence at the Bay and New Iberia, simultaneously, either it is thought would be judicious, but it is thought that the construction from New Iberia to Opelousas first, will be highly advantageous, because the steamboat navigation between the Bay and New Iberia, is very good at all seasons, with steamers running constantly between the two points, and the bulding of that portion of the road first, will monopolize the passengers from Opelousas and intermediate country, and secure immediately a large share of the cattle trade, and transportation of produce and merchandize, and will give to the company a larger profit on the outlay, and make the lands granted to the company, along the line more valuable, as all the lands that will inure to the company, or nearly all south and east of Opelousas, lies between the latter place and New Iberia.

It is stated that it is the intention of the officers of the company to induce the Directors to commence by building a bridge for the road across Berwicks Bay. The cost is estimated at Two-hundred-and-fifty-thousand dollars. It is not probable that a substatial bridge, requiring a very wide draw, over a water course 1740 feet wide, and 60 feet deep can be constructed for under less than double that sum, but admit that the cost will not exceed the estimate made, why expend so large a sum, paying a high rate of interest, (for bonds must be sold to meet the payment) whilst that stream can be crossed for all useful purposes, with very little outlay, by means of a ferry flat, propelled by steam, as practised across the Susquehanna between Baltimore and Philadelphia, which will not cost over one seventh of the amount—most assuredly if a ferry flat answers the purpose on such a great thoroughfare, it can be made to answer across Berwicks Bay. There would be no detention for passengers, as Berwicks Bay is about mid way between Opelousas and New Orleans, a convenient point to eat and take recreation, and it may be so arranged as to eat and take refreshments, while crossing on board the ferry boat, and it may be so arranged also as to create no serious detention or danger for the freight cars—this can be demonstrated so that no doubt can be entertained.

A FRIEND OF THE RAILROAD.

EFFECTS OF THE BELL CREVASSE.—We have been permitted to examine sketches of the Bell crevasse, presenting the direction and depth of the current from the levee back about a quarter of a mile, made at the instance of the Government. According to the soundings marked upon the sketch, the deepest water was fifty-four feet. The average depth for three hundred yards from the river was twenty feet.

These soundings exhibit the great power of the Mississippi river in cutting a channel for itself in our alluvial soil. Flowing out, without being compressed by banks, but having freedom to spread laterally, the current of the crevasse commenced to dig for itself a water way through the level fields, and succeeded beyond all our ideas of its power to effect such an object.

The view presented by the level over which this current flowed has been before described. The smooth surface is plowed into ridges. The earth presents the appearance that those who have witnessed northern fields covered with snowdrifts can easily conjecture.

The drawings and soundings taken of this and other crevasses which occurred last summer, demonstrate the power of our river to dig a channel for itself wherever its waters are compelled to flow, though this additional proof of it was scarcely necessary for those who find in the whole lower Mississippi valley evidences of many changes of its bed, and, indeed, more astonishing than those in the manner of the discharge of our rivers into the Gulf.—*Picayune of the 17th.*

To some men it is indispensable to be worth money, for without it they would be worth nothing.

ARTESIAN WELLS IN TEXAS.—Human genius seems to be equal to all energies. We measure, weigh and map out the sun, moon and stars. We sail through the air. We descend to the ocean's depths and walk about on its bottom as upon dry land. We talk to each other familiarly at a distance of thousands of miles. We paint with the sunbeams. We have almost annihilated time and space; and, putting a girdle around the earth, we shall send a stream of electricity under the oceans and through the air, charged with human thought, which shall perform its mission "in forty minutes"! We make wells to spring literally out of the dry ground. Every desert will yet, in consequence, become an oasis, spreading out till the arid sands shall disappear and flowers bloom in their places. The question as to what use the great wastes of Africa, of Asia and of America can be put, has already been answered in theory, and will be, as soon as there shall be any need of it, in practice.

We are led into this train of reflection by the arrangements which the people of Southwestern Texas have made to shield themselves from the evils to which they have for years past been subjected through the want of rain. The plan is to sink Artesian wells within twenty miles of each other from Corpus Christi to the Rio Grande. They have already contracted for eighteen, and Mr. Perram, the contractor, will enter immediately upon the execution of the work, expecting to arrive on the ground during the present month with his machinery and hands. The work will hardly stop with the sinking of these eighteen wells, but will, without doubt, continue till every neighborhood, not abundantly supplied by natural streams will be by these artificial ones. The amount of water that may be obtained, as facts have demonstrated, by the means of these artesian wells, is surprising. It is sufficient to run mills, drive machinery, etc, and of course can be used for irrigation. The wells, that have been sunk in Alabama, whence Mr. Perham, the Texas contractor hails, prove this, and that at Louisville, scarcely yet completed, adds another proof, if more were wanting. That well according to the statement of Prof. J. L. Smith, discharges at the rate of two hundred and thirty gallons per minute, or about three hundred and thirty thousand gallons per day Its present depth is 2086 feet. The quality of the water varied at different strata. It rises in pipes one hundred and seventy feet above the surface, and the power thus obtained for the propulsion of machinery, if it is wanted for such a purpose, can be adequately conceived of only by those who have seen machinery driven by a stream of water falling some fifteen or twenty feet.

This enterprise of the people of Southwestern Texas will be of great benefit to them, as it will remove the only obstacle to the developments of the resources of that portion of the State. One cannot help admiring the sagacity and energy which the citizens of Texas are exhibiting for the purpose of making it what nature evidently intended it should be, the abode of a numerous, prosperous and happy people. Nothing seems to escape their attention.—They are founding schools and colleges, building railroads, taking measure to ascertain the extent, kind, and localities of the mines within their borders; are turning their attention to wool growing, grain raising; grape culture, as well as sugar culture, and the encouragement of almost every other kind of agriculture industry. if they keep on at this rate, and in the spirit they have already exhibited, it is difficult to assign any limits to the greatness which their State may acquire. Population is pouring in upon it at a rapid rate, and the tide will undoubtedly rather increase than diminish. At the next census it is thought she will be entitled to four representatives in the lower house of Congress, and perhaps more. All these considerations are so many powerful reasons why New Orleans should have direct railroad communication with Texas, and within the least practicable time. The immense wealth of her yet comparatively undeveloped resources lies within our grasp. We have but to put forth our hands and take it. But if we do not act in the premises, others will. The prize is too splendid to go begging. If we do not bestir ourselves, New York, Boston and other cities will be in the field, and we shall regret our supineness when it is too late to remedy the evils that we shall have permitted to come upon us.—*N. O. Bulletin.*

MURDER IN CATAHOULA PARISH.—Near two months ago, a peddler named Posenor, who had his domicil in this Parish, disappeared under circumstances which rendered it highly probable that he had been murdered. A man named Davis, then living in the Parish of Catahoula, had become indebted to Posenor in no great amount, and having started to remove permanently to parts unknown without paying his debt to Posenor, the latter followed him; and overtaking Davis in the western part of this parish on the Natchitoches road, a settlement was effected, and Posenor left to return home. Not many days afterwards, his horse was found shot near the road, a mile or two back from the place where he had overtaken Davis. Dilligent search was made to a considerable extent around, but no trace whatever of the body of the man could be found. Recently, however we learn, his remains have been found in a small creek bottom at the distance of a mile or more from where the horse lay, making it probable that the murderer after killing the man, at first concluded to appropriate his horse, and afterwards fearing to be seen with the horse decided on killing him also. Facts are known which now throw strong suspicion on Davis and perhaps an accomplice or two, as the perpetrators of this dark crime. Posenor was known to have several hundred dollars in cash with him at the time he was killed. The deceased was a native of that part of Poland held by Russia, and, before his emigration to this country, lived near the city of Warsaw. He was esteemed by those who knew him as an honest, inoffensive man. —*Harrisonburg Independent, Dec. 15.*

A gay young gentlemam in St. Louis entered a daguerrean establishment a few days ago, and prepared to be done in the highest style of art. Pending the preliminary arrangements, he suggested that he would look better if he had a gold chain on, whereupon the operator kindly took out his watch and accompanying pendant, which he handed over with a very patronizing air. The likeness was taken, the plate removed from the instrument and taken to the darkened chamber where certain mysterious enchantments are supposed to be pronounced. At this critical moment the gay young gentleman took his hat and departed, forgetting to leave behind him the watch and chain. The daguerreotypist has abandoned himself to despair.

At a baptizing in Virginia, the parson, dipping an old negro convert, dropped him. The darkey floundered out, puffing and blowing, sat down on a stump, and remarked, "Some gemman's nigga got killed by dis foolishness yet."

JAPAN AND HER PEOPLE.

The following entertaining letter was addressed by Mr. Harris to Commodore Perry:

CITY OF YEDO, March 8, 1858.

My Dear Commodore Perry: In my letter to you dated October 27, 1857, I informed you that I should go to Yedo during the then next month. I accordingly left Simoda on the 23d of November, and arrived here on the 30th of the same month, having passed the intervening Sunday at Kawaski, the place that Chaplain Bittinger reached when he made his dash at Yedo. Before leaving the United States the President gave me special full powers to negotiate a commercial treaty with the Japanese, which fact I made known to the Council of State.

I was, accordingly, received and entertained on my journey as the representative of the President of the United States, and every possible honor was paid to me in that character.

I did not have occasion to complain of any omissions of marks of respect; on the contrary, I would very gladly have dispensed with many of them. All the way from Simoda the bridges were repaired and many new ones built, the road put in order and swept clean a few hours before I passed. The authorities of each town and village met me at their respective boundaries and walked before me quite through their little government. Travel on the road was entirely suspended; so I did not see those crowds of travelers, priests, nuns, etc., etc., mentioned by Kempfer. Business was suspended in all the towns and villages, only the cook-shops and tea-houses being open. The people, in their holiday dresses, were kneeling on mats in front of their dwellings. Not a sound was heard, nor a gesture indicative of curiosity was seen—all was respectful silence.

From Odowara, the villages and hamlets are very numerous, and after crossing the river Logo at Kawasaki they form a continuous street. From Singagawa it is five miles English to the Nepon Bas, and nothing particularly marks the line of separation between the two places. I should not have known when I entered Yedo had the place not been pointed out to me. I was conducted to my quarters, situated in the fourth or outer circle of the castle, and found there all I could reasonably expect in the way of comfort. The Japanese had constructed chairs, tables, bedsteads, bath rooms, &c., &c., all copied after the same things at my residence. Three days after my arrival I paid a visit of ceremony to Hotta, Prince of Bittsu, one of the hereditary "Dimios" or landed Princes of Japan. He is President of the Council of State, and has recently been created Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Eight days after my arrival I had a public audience of the Ty-Coon, (not Tie-goon, of which more anon,) when I made an address to his majesty, received his reply and delivered the letter. The ceremony, so far as I was concerned, was precisely that of an European Court; three bows as I entered, and the same on leaving. I stood during the whole audience, and wore new, unsoiled shoes. In the chamber, only the six members of the Council of State and three titular brothers of the Ty-Coon were present; they were prostrate on their faces. In an adjoining room some 300 to 400 of the Princes and high officers of the State were present. The "Camis-simo," or dress of ceremony, is different from other occasions, but, except the breeches, there is nothing worthy of particular note. The breeches are quite a yard longer than the leg, and when the wearer walks they trail out behind, which gives him the appearance of walking on his knees. They were a black laced cap, which cannot be described in words, but is something like the caps worn by the Sinton priest which you saw when in Japan. The Ty-Coon wore a black laced cap of an inverted bell shape. He was clad in robes of yellow silk. Not a single pearl, diamond, or jewel, or any gold or silver (except the small gold ornament of the sword) was visible. All was plain as possible, and from its very simplicity was most striking. None of the golden roofs, the fretted ceilings and gilded columns which old writers describe as being seen by them, were seen by me. The interior wood-work of the palace was unpainted. Three days after my audience I had a business interview with the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

This was very long and highly interesting. From this time I was constantly engaged in giving instruction to the Japanese—on the laws of nations—on Political Economy—on the operations of Commerce, and the manner in which it aids in developing the resources of a country, with all the matters that naturally flow from or are connected with these important subjects. The present state of Europe and America came in for its share of attention.

The labor has been almost beyond belief, for as I gave them new ideas, for which they had no descriptive terms, I had to convey the true meaning by a variety of illustrations, added to which, Moriama, who was the interpreter, was quite ignorant of the Dutch terms used for most of the foregoing, so that he had first to be instructed. Sometimes I almost despaired of ever succeeding in conveying any meaning, but I persevered, and I am rewarded for my patience beyond the most sanguine expectations, for I have succeeded in making a commercial treaty that effectually opens Japan to a free commerce with the United States. You are aware that I am not permitted to divulge the particulars of my negotiations until the treaty is ratified. One point, however, I may venture to state to you, and that is on the subject of religion. The treaty secures to Americans in Japan the free exercise of their religion, with the right to build churches. It also declares the custom of trampling on religious emblems to be abolished. I think you will consider the treaty, as a whole, as satisfactory as that made with Mr. Cushing with China. No one so well knows as you do the serious obstacles to the making of a treaty with this singular people.

It would also be borne in mind, that I have only had arguments to use; I used no threats; I had no force to point to as irresistible arguments; and, lastly, that I was entirely alone, with the single exception of Mr. Heusken, Dutch interpreter to the Consulate, (for I did not even bring my Chinese servants with me.) I am proud to have thus connected my name with your great work of 1854. It is an honor I have always coveted, but I had not the most remote idea that I should succeed in less than twenty months after my arrival in Japan, in attaining this object of my ambition.

For more than a year after my arrival, I used the name or title of Zio-goon to designate the ruler of Japan, so also, when speaking of the residence of their "Spiritual Emperor," as they called him, I named it Miako. It shows the perfect system of concealment of this people, that during all this time they never informed me that both the terms were erroneous, and it was not until a short time before I started for Yedo that they informed me that the title of their political ruler, was Ty-coon-ie—"great ruler," and not Zio-goon, which means "Generalissimo," so also "Miako" means "The Court," the true name of the place being *Kiota*. You are aware that with the Japanese, seclusion and rank are equivalents. Before I had arrived here I had determined on the course I would follow here.

Before I left Simoda, they wished me to engage that I would not visit their shops, or the business part of Yedo, as they express it, "not to go where common people lived."

I declined making any such engagement, and told them I must be entirely free to go out from my residence when I pleased, and it was with this clear understanding that I began my journey.

At the same time I had no intention of exercising that right, and except on the occasions of my audience and three interviews with the Foreign Minister, I have only been out twice, and that was merely for a horseback ride in a *Ca-Ca*, or "*Champ-de-Mars*" in the vicinity of my residence. All the interviews (except those above noted) and the negotiations took place at my quarters. From all this you will at once infer that I cannot give you more than a very imperfect account of this truly large city. The Castle is the chief feature, and consists of four irregular circles, all surrounded with moats or ditches, the three inner circles have stone walls, being a bank of earth faced with stone, and varying in height from twelve to thirty feet according to the nature of the ground on which it is built. The gateways through the walls open into a quadrangle of some 50 to 60 feet, the gate of egress being placed at right angles with this entrance gate. As a means of defence it is unworthy the name except against assailants armed with bows and arrows. The moats are formidable, and are from eighty to one hundred and fifty feet wide, spanned with neat wooden bridges. The inner circle is occupied exclusively by the Tycoon and his sons; the second by the Council of State and Princes; the third and fourth are occupied by the Dimios, titular princes, and officers of the government. I could not get any satisfactory information as to the population, number of buildings, or extent of either the castle or city. They pretended the most profound ignorance on all these points, and unblushingly declared that a census was never taken in Japan. They gave me a plan of Yedo, but as it is drawn without reference to a scale it is impossible to form any satisfactory opinions from it. If I can place any reliance on their statements, the city is about fifty miles in circumference; the outer circle of the castle varies from seven to five miles in diameter—all English measure. From the best information I can get, I place the population at two millions, and I think this to be rather within the actual amount. The houses are all built of wood and covered with tile; none are more than two stories. The streets through which I passed were from 50 to 80 feet wide, but I am told they are much narrower in the parts outside the castle. I have not seen a sing: company of soldiers all the time I have been here; they appear to have studiously concealed them from me. The police are numerous and sufficient. Yedo, like the other cities of Japan is divided into streets, *i. e.*, a distance of 360 feet, where a strong barrier is erected across the street, with gates, which are closed at an early hour in the evening. Each of these divisions has an "Ottono," or Captain, and is responsible for its own tranquility. In many places the barricades are double, being placed some thirty feet apart, and form a little impregnable stockade against any force without artillery. I am told that Yedo contains between 8000 and 9000 of these streets. From this an approximation to the population might apparently be formed; but owning to the very great difference of the interior size of the squares, the estimate would at least be very imperfect. I will now close this letter, which has become so unreasonably long, I fear it will weary you to read it. I remain, my dear Commodore,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) TOWNSEND HARRIS.

DOUGLAS AND WISE.—We gave some days ago the letter addressed by Mr. Buchanan to the committee who invited him to participate in celebrating the hundreth anniversary of the capture of Fort Duquesne. This is the answer of Mr. Douglas:

Chicago, Nov. 7, 1858.—Gentlemen:—Accept my thanks for your polite invitation to be present at the Centennial Anniversary of the capture of Fort Duquesne, on the 25th inst. I regret exceedingly that my engagements are such as to deprive me of the pleasure which I should feel on being present on that interesting occasion. It is proper that so important an event in the history of this continent should be celebrated in a manner commensurate with the consequences which have resulted from it. Each succeeding century will add, as the past has added, grandeur to the scheme of the French Cabinet, which contemplated a great North American French Empire, occupying the valley of the Mississippi, the Ohio, and the St. Lawrence, and confining the English Colonies to the Atlantic coast. The scheme was destroyed, and the hopes of its projectors dissipated by the campaign which resulted in the capture of Fort Duquesne. The great importance of this event will not be fully realized until the Mississippi valley shall have doubled and trebled its population and become the heart of the Republic, more extensive, powerful and glorious than any empire that the world ever beheld. For these reasons the anniversary which you propose to celebrate is of peculiar interest to those of us whose fortune it is to have their homes in the valley of the Mississippi and the great lakes.

Renewing my regrets that I am not able to accept your polite invitation, and the assurance that I appreciate the honor which you have conferred upon me,

I remain, very truly
Your friend and servant,
S. A. DOUGLAS.

UNEMPLOYED LABORERS.—The early setting in of winter has led to the dismissal of a considerable number of men who were employed on the various public and private works in the city and the neighborhood. A considerable number have been discharged from the Croton Reservoir, and those that have been retained have had their wages reduced to eighty cents a day—a lower rate than has been paid in many years. About fifteen hundred men have been dismissed from the Central Park, but those that remain are still paid ninety cents for nine hours' work.

There is very little prospect of any work offering for these unemployed laborers during the next three months, and unless something can be provided for them to do they will become a burden upon the city, and the private charities of our citizens will be severely taxed to relieve their necessities. A much greater number of men have been suddenly deprived of work than was the case last winter, when so much distress was anticipated, and such earnest endeavors were made to provide against a season of suffering.—*New York Times.*

A YOUTHFUL MOTHER.—The official return of the overseers of the poor, in the town of Taunton, Mass., mentions that Elizabeth Drayton was eleven years old on the 24th day of May, 1858, and became the mother of Horace White Drayton on the first day of February, 1858—three months and twenty-four days before she was eleven years old. Did you ever!

BLOWING OUT A CANDLE.—There is one small fact in domestic economy which is not generally known, but which is useful as saving time, trouble and temper. If the candle be blown out holding it above you, the wick will not smoulder down, and may therefore be easily lighted again; but if blown upon downward, the contrary is the case.—*Scientific Artizan.*

It is stated that a young lady on Boston Common, dressed in the extreme of fashion, was mistaken by some boys for a circus tent, and they actually crawled some distance under the canvas before they discovered their miss-take.

DIED,—At Washington, in this Parish, on Tuesday last, the 28th ult., MRS. MARIA ANTELMIE LACOMB, wife of Mr. Joseph Lacomb.

PROVISIONS, PROVISIONS.

THE undersigned has just arrived from New-Orleans with a full assortment of

Fresh Family Groceries,

such as FLOUR,
SUGAR CURED HAMS,
SMOKED SHOULDERS & SIDES,
FRESH PORK, DRIED BEANS,
BRANDIES, WHISKY,
LOBSTERS, SARDINES,
WINES, ABSINTHE,
PICKLES, CHEESE,
SMOKING & CHEWING TOBACCO,
SWEETMEATS,
IRISH POTATOES,
A FULL ASSORTMENT OF TINWARE

and many other articles, which he will sell cheap for cash, or to punctual customers on a reasonable credit. C. STEEL,

Opelousas, January 1st 1859.

State of Louisiana.

DISTRICT COURT, *Parish of St. Landry.* } No. 8646.

Estate of Priscilla Ann Fontenot.

JOHN FAHEY, of the Parish of St Landry, Administrator of the Estate of Priscilla Ann Fontenot, deceased, late of the Parish of St. Landry, having filed a Final Account of his 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 31st December, 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 Account should not be homologated, that the Administrator be discharged of all further liabilities and his bond cancelled.

L. LASTRAPES, Clerk.

Opelousas, January 1st., 1859.

Public Sale.

By the undersigned, Administrator.

THE public are hereby informed that there will be sold, at public sale, to the last highest bidder, by the undersigned, Administrator of the Estate of the late Aminthe Fontenot, at the last residence of said deceased, on Plaquemine Brulée, on

Tuesday 1st February next, 1859,

the following property belonging to the Estate of said Aminthe Fontenot, deceased, late of the Parish of St. Landry, to wit:

A TRACT OF LAND,

measuring three arpents front by forty arpents in depth, situated on Upper Plaquemine Brulée, in this Parish, bounded North by Public Lands, South by said Bayou Plaquemine, East by Martin D'Aigle, and West by Leufroy Fontenot.

ANOTHER TRACT OF LAND,

measuring six arpents front by forty arpents in depth, also situated in Upper Plaquemine Brulée, in this Parish, bounded North by Public Lands, South by said Bayou Plaquemine, East by Don Louis Carrière, and West by Public Lands.

MARCELITE, negro-girl, aged about 11 years.

All the Buildings and Improvements erected and situated on the Public Lands in Upper Plaquemine Brulée.

Forty-eight head of gentle horned cattle, 5 work oxen, about 12 head of horse creatures, 8 gentle horses, 70 head of sheep, plantation implements, and many other articles too tedious to enumerate.

Terms and Conditions:—All sums of five dollars and under, cash; and all sums upwards of five dollars payable in three equal payments, that is to say one third on the 1st of March 1860, one third on the 1st of March 1861, and the last third on the first of March 1862.—Lands and slave remaining specially mortgaged unto the said Estate, until full and entire payment of capital and interest which may accrue thereon at 8 per cent. per annum from time each instalment becomes due. Purchasers furnishing security to the satisfaction of the Administrator.

JOSEPH E. D'AIGLE,
Administrator.

Opelousas, January 1st, 1859.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

STATE OF LOUISIANA.

John Posey, Agent, vs. Archibald Mathews & als., } District Court, Parish of St. Landry, No. 7622.

BY virtue of a writ of fi. fa., issued in the above entitled suit, by the District Court, acting in and for the Parish of St. Landry and State aforenamed, and to me directed, will be exposed at public sale, for cash, at the Court House of this Parish, on Saturday the 5th day of February 1859, commencing at the hour of 11 o'clock, A. M., and continuing from day to day, if necessary, all the right, title, interest and demand of Robert R. Harwell, in and to the following described property, seized to satisfy said writ, to wit:

The Plantation or Tract of Land on which Robert R. Harwell last resided, with all the Buildings and Improvements thereon, being the same purchased by said R. R. Harwell from Dr. E. W. Moore, as per act passed by H. L. Garland, Notary, and described as follows: A certain Tract of Land, situated on the Bayou Teche, in Praire Laurent, in the Parish of St. Landry, bounded on the upper side by land of widow Ludger Lemelle, containing 12 arpents front, on the said Bayou Teche, by or about 75 arpents in depth; 8 mules, 2 creole horses, 4 work oxen, 1 mule-cart, 2 ox-carts, 9 slaves, as follows: Cain, aged about 53 years; Joe, aged about 25 years; John, aged about 28 years; Handy, aged about 38 years; Winny, aged about 35 years; Margueret, aged about 20 years; Sarah Ann, aged about 29 years; Cornelia, aged about 28 years; Jenny or Jerry, aged about 28 years.

L. V. CHACHERE, Sheriff.

Sheriff's office, St. Landry, January 1st, 1859.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

STATE OF LOUISIANA.

Miller & Forestier, vs Robert R. Harwell,—4th District Court of New Orleans,—Parish of Orleans,—No. 11217.

BY virtue of a writ of fi. fa., issued in the above entitled suit, by the 4th District Court of New Orleans, acting in and for the Parish of Orleans, and State aforesaid, and to me directed, will be exposed at public sale, for cash, at the Court House of this Parish, on Saturday the 5th day of February 1859, commencing at the hour of 11 o'clock, A. M., and continuing from day to day, if necessary, all the right, title, interest and demand of Robert R. Harwell, the Defendant, in and to the undivided half of the following described property, seized to satisfy said writ, to wit:

The Plantation or Tract of Land on which Robert R. Harwell last resided, with all the Buildings and Improvements thereon, being the same purchased by said R. R. Harwell, from Dr. E. W. Moore, as per act by H. L. Garland, Notary, and described as follows: A certain Tract of Land, situated on the Bayou Teche, in Prairie Laurent, in the Parish of St. Landry, bounded on the upper side by land of widow Ludger Lemelle, containing 12 arpents front, on the said Bayou Teche, by or about 75 arpents in depth; 8 mules, 2 creole horses, 4 work oxen, 1 mule-cart, 2 ox-carts, and 9 slaves, as follows: Cain, aged about 53 years; Joe, aged about 25 years; John, aged about 28 years; Handy, aged about 38 years; Winny, aged about 35 years; Margueret, aged about 20 years; Sarah Ann, aged about 29 years; Cornelia, aged about 28 years; Jenny or Jerry, aged about 28 years.

L. V. CHACHERE, Sheriff.

Sheriff's office, St. Landry, January 1st, 1859.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

STATE OF LOUISIANA.

Clement Hollier Jr., vs. Joseph Bertrand, } District Court, Parish of St. Landry, No. 8456.

BY virtue of an order of seizure and sale, issued in the above entitled suit, by the District Court, in and for the Parish of St. Landry and State aforesaid, and to me directed, will be exposed at public sale, for cash, at the Court House of this Parish, on Saturday the 5th day of February, 1859, commencing at the hour of 11 o'clock, A. M., and continuing from day to day, if necessary, all the right, title, interest and demand of Joseph Bertrand, the Defendant, in and to the following described property, seized to satisfy said order, to wit:

A certain half Lot of Ground, lying and situated in the Town of Opelousas, bounded on the West by Court street, on the North by the Land formerly belonging to Andre Meynier, on the East and South by Land of Edouard Fayolle, containing about one half superficial arpent.

L. V. CHACHERE, Sheriff.

Sheriff's office, St. Landry, January 1st, 1859.

NOTICE.

DEMOSTHENE DAIGLE, of the Parish of St. Landry, having applied by his petition to be appointed Administrator of the Estate of Eugene J. Daigle, deceased, late of the Parish of St. Landry;—

Now, therefore, any person intending to make opposition to said appointment, will file the same, in writing, if any they have, at my office, in the Town of Opelousas, within ten days from the date of the present notice.

L. LASTRAPES, Clerk.

Opelousas, January 1st, 1859.

STOP THE REPORT!!

RUMOR with her hundred tongues is circulating the report that "the *Bayou Belle* will not remain in the trade the entire season." I deny the assertion and assure the public that she will remain permanently in the trade. C. C. BRIDGES, Master.

December 25th, 1858.

State of Louisiana.

DISTRICT COURT, *Parish of St. Landry.* } No. 8644.

Estate of Don Louis Clément fils.

DRAUZIN BREAU, of the Parish of St. Landry, Administrator of the Estate of Don Louis Clément fils, deceased, late of the aforesaid Parish, having filed a Final Account, Tableau and Partion 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 December 27th, 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 authorized to pay in conformity therewith, and that he be discharged of all further liabilities and his bond cancelled.

L. LASTRAPES, Clerk.

Opelousas, January 1st., 1859.

FURNITURE STORE.

THE undersigned takes this method of informing the public that he has just opened a furniture store, in the building formerly used and known as John Cockrau's Coffee House, Main street, Opelousas, where he will constantly keep on hand a good assortment of household furniture, among which

BEDSTEADS, in Mahogany;
BEDSTEADS, in Black Walnut and other wood;
TABLES, in Mahogany, Black Walnut and other wood, for parlors, bed-rooms, &c.;
ARMOIRES, in Mahogany, Black Walnut, &c.;
SOFAS, BUREAUX;
SIDEBOARDS, SAFES;
ROCKING CHAIRS, WASHSTANDS;
CHAIRS, for parlors, dining-rooms, &c., and many other articles too tedious to enumerate.

He takes this opportunity to announce to his friends and the public that he will continue to make new furniture, repair old ones and exchange new ones for any article of old furniture, which may be repaired.

Hoping to merit a share of the public patronage, he invites ladies and gentlemen to come and give him a call and examine his lot of furniture.

LOUIS VATTER.

Opelousas, December 11th, 1858.

WANTED.

INDUSTRIOUS and good Agents in every town and country of the Southern States, to sell the patent right for a recent invention, "A Thief Detector, or Burglar Alarm." Persons wishing to act as agents must have from fifty to five hundred dollars. Upon the receipt of $5, I will send by return of mail a specimen sample of the Thief Detector, giving full particulars in regard to agency and use of the article. It is a durable and simple affair, and should be in every house. Also, agents wanted to sell a valuable book "of recent publication," containing many valuable and useful receipts, some of which are worth to any one ten times the price of the book, "titled" Jackson's Commercial Cyclopedia of Useful and Profitable Knowledge. One copy of this book will be sent to any part of the country, upon the receipt of two dollars, by return of mail.

For sale, several patents of recent date. Copper