THE OPELOUSAS COURIER.

Official Journal of the Town of Opelousas.

OPELOUSAS:

SATURDAY, : : : : : APRIL 2, 1870.

☞ We would call the attention of those interested to the sale of a large plantation at Barré's Landing, which will take place on the 27th inst. The importance of this point to our town, Grand Coteau, and in a word to all that portion of the parish situated south of Barré's Landing, should naturally attract the attention of speculators and of those who desire to make of this location a town which would improve and progress very rapidly. A warehouse is established there, where freight is stored for Petit Bois, Prairie Gros Chevreuil, Arnaudville, Grand Coteau, &c. This plantation contains twelve hundred and fifty acres, is situated on the Courtableau, at the mouth of Bayou Tèche, and may be called the head of navigation in the low water season. It will be divided into lots, so that twenty or more individuals may become purchasers. For other particulars and the terms, which are accommodating, see the advertisement, which will be found on our first page.

RACE.—We are authorized to announce that a race of four arpents will take place at Pointe Claire, (Prairie Laurent,) on Saturday, the 16th inst., between "Parrott," belonging to Michel Johnson, and "Jackson," belonging to Philippe Richard, for $500.

☞ Mr. O. A. Guidry has been appointed, by the Governor, Justice of the Peace for the first ward of our Parish.

Mr. D. C. Sittig, Justice of the Peace in our town having resigned, it is to be presumed that Mr. Guidry is his successor.

☞ We made a slight mistake last week, in stating that the Public Administrator in each Parish would administer the Estates of all those who die intestate. He will administer the Estates of those who, not having made a will, leave neither heirs nor representatives in the State; he will temporarily administer the Estates where two or more individuals apply to be administrators; and when, for any reason whatsoever, the Testamentary Executor of an Estate is unable to administer it, the Public Administrator will do so.

See the law elsewhere.

☞ We had the pleasure, the other day, of meeting ex-Judge C. H. Monton, formerly one of our parishioners, who, we presume, is travelling in the interest of the commission house of C. H. Monton & Co., whose card will be found in our advertising columns.

"Homère" is enjoying very good health, and his many friends will no doubt be delighted to see him.

DEATH OF PIERRE SOULÉ.—This great orator, learned jurist and eminent statesman died of apoplexy, in New Orleans, on the 26th ult. Mr. Soulé was sixty-nine years of age.

RATHER MIXED.—The New Orleans *Commercial Bulletin*, of the 30th ult., has got things pretty well mixed. It copies two articles from our last issue and credits them to the Thibodaux *Sentinel*, and then, to "square accounts", gives the *Courier* credit for an article copied from some other paper.

☞ Prince Pierre Bonaparte has been acquitted. This verdict caused such great excitement in France that the Emperor has requested him to leave the country, and it is said that he is coming to America.

☞ The St. Louis HOME JOURNAL comes to us this week in a new dress throughout, looking better than ever. It is splendidly illustrated, and contains the opening chapter of Marion Harland's great story, entitled "FOR YEARS AND YEARS." We advise all of our friends to subscribe for the HOME JOURNAL. It is only $2.50 per year; $1.25 for six months, and much less in clubs. Send for specimen number of HOME JOURNAL, St. Louis, Mo.

PETERS' MUSICAL MONTHLY.—No musical family can afford to be without *Peters' Musical Monthly*. It is printed from full-size music plates, and contains in each number at least twelve pieces of choice new music. Price, $3 per year. Subscriptions received at this office, where a sample copy can be seen. The *Opelousas Courier* and *Peters' Musical Monthly*, one year, for $6.

☞ The National Watch Company, of Elgin, are now turning out over one hundred finished watch movements daily, or, three thousand per month—or *thirty-six thousand* per annum—and even at this rate, so general is the reputation of their watches for accurate timekeeping, they are not able to fully supply the demand. It is expected that their production this year will reach 50,000 movements. Well may the question be asked, what becomes of all the Watches

THE LADY'S FRIEND FOR APRIL.—The April number of this popular magazine comes to us with the freshness and life of spring. In the steel plate "On Guard," the alert watchfulness of the dog contrasts finely with the repose of the sleeping boy. The Colored Fashion Plate is gay and graceful as usual; and the profusion and variety of illustrations of articles of feminine use and adornment give the ladies every opportunity to know how to dress well. Those who like to make for themselves will find assistance in the work-table department. Music, "Tapping at the Garden Gate." The stories are very good. Mrs. Moulton concludes the deeply interesting serial, "Did He Forget Her?" Miss Prescott carries on "The Cascannon's Aunt" in her usual lively style; Harrie Boyer's "School-Girl's Story" will be found especially attractive, and there is a rich variety besides in prose and poetry.

Published by Deacon & Peterson, 319 Walnut street, Philadelphia, at $2 50 a year (which also includes a large steel engraving). Four copies, $6. Five copies (and one gratis), $8. "The Lady's Friend" and "The Saturday Evening Post" (and one engraving), $4.

Specimen numbers sent for ten cents.

☞ The following is the list of Jurors drawn for the next term of the District Court, which will begin in our town on the 25th inst. We understand there are nine colored men in the number.

E. F. Dupré; R. J. Smith; Don Louis Richard; W. J. Offutt; D. H. Quirk; L. D. Prescott; John A. Morrogh; S. W. W. Taylor; Christoval L. Dupré; Joachim Prévost; Louis Charlot; R. A. Donato; W. A. Robertson; J. Bte. Rideau; John Colligan; Eugène Petetin; John Simmes; Laurence Carrière; François Savois; F. Simien; B. F. Hardesty; Geo. Malveau; Théogène Daigle; Pat. Prescott; Onézime Boudreau; Louis V. Richard; D. W. Rutledge; E. A. Dickey; Ludger Lemelle; Antoine Christman; Ozémé Fontenot; Jas Houston; Charles Belfour; J. N. Thibodeau; Joseph Bergeron; Philippe Stagg Jr.; Jean Trahan; Ambroise Valin; Jas. S. Swords; Gilbert Baillo; François Brignac; Valentin D. Lassu; Lastie Doucet; M. Bihm; Gilbert Harleigh; C. B. Spence; Charles A. Perrodin; Jesse B. Clark.

☞ The caucus of negroes, carpet baggers and other thieves—a few decent but misguided citizens lent it their countenance, we believe—which, under the name of the Louisiana Legislature, has been for some time months engaged in hatching devilry in New Orleans, adjourned two or three days ago. The schemes of public robbery authorized by these rapscallions are of amazing proportions—covering, in the aggregate, not less than $13,000,000. Persons negotiating the State bonds issued under this wholesale system of robbery should be fairly warned that the chances are a hundred to one against the payment of a single dollar of the bogus debt. The time must come, and that speedily, when the people of the State will resume control of their own affairs, and hunt the whole horde of loyal and rapacious robbers into the penitentiary or out of the State. A continuance of the Radical *regime* is simply impossible, for it would, in another year or two, utterly disorganize all business and social institutions.—*Cincinnati Enquirer, March 22d.*

POLK'S GRAVE.

The stranger who, in passing through our city, turns aside to pay the tribute of a sigh to the illustrious dead, as he uncovers his head in presence of the monument erected above the mortal remains of James K. Polk, does homage not more to the memory of the departed statesman, than to the living devotion of his wife. A chord in each heart is touched to see how, in her sweet womanly way, she has deprived this grave of its loneliness by placing it in the pleasure grounds of their beautiful home. Amid the walks, which doubtless they planned together, and along which they have often wandered, has she placed the tomb of her beloved. Time has, perhaps, softened her sorrow until, instead of mourning the tie severed by death, her thoughts turn forward to their blissful reunion in the spirit world.

We have in our mind an ideal picture of this lady who so graciously and gracefully dispensed the hospitalities of the Presidential mansion. In all the domesticities and socialities of life she was acknowledged a worthy helpmate to her honored husband. And now, in her widowhood and retirement, it is honorable to the representatives of her country that they do not fail to visit her annually, and to express by their high toned courtesy their respect for her own virtues and their reverence for her husband's memory.—*Nashville Union.*

☞ Of the fifteen or twenty Congressmen who have been proved guilty or suspected of selling cadetships, not one is a Democrat. All are of the intensely loyal stripe—the most of them from the reconstructed States, but a few from the North.—*Natchitoches Times.*

THE PARISH OF CAMERON.—The official journal has published the act passed at the late session of the Legislature and approved by the Governor, creating a new parish in this State to be called the parish of Cameron. It has been taken out of the southern portion of the parish of Calcasieu and the southwestern portion of the parish of Vermillion.—*Bee.*

AN ACT

Providing for the appointment of Public Administrators, and Defining the Duties of the same.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana in General Assembly convened, That the Governor of the State of Louisiana shall appoint a suitable person, to be known as Public Administrator, for each and every parish in the State, whose duties and powers shall be as follows: In all intestate successions where there is no surviving husband or wife or heir present or represented in the State, the Public Administrator of the parish shall be appointed by the Judge of the proper court to administer the same.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, etc., That in all contestations for the administration of estates, the Judge of the court in which the succession is open shall appoint the Public Administrator of the parish to administer the same until a final decree determines the rights of the respective claimants.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, etc., That in all testate successions, when from any cause the executor can not discharge the duties of his office, the Judge shall appoint the Public Administrator of the parish dative testamentary executor.

SEC. 4. Be it further enacted, etc., That all vacant successions shall be administered by the Public Administrator of the parish in which the deceased died, until the hiers present themselves and are recognized by the court and put in possession, and if no heirs present themselves within one year, the funds resulting from said estate shall be paid into the treasury of the State.

SEC. 5. Be it further enacted, etc., That before entering upon the duties of his office, the said Public Administrator shall file with the Governor a bond with good and solvent security, to be by him approved, for the faithful discharge of his duties; which bond shall be for the benefit of, and may be sued upon by any party interested in any estate upon which he may administer. In the parish of Orleans said bond shall be in the sum of fifty thousand ($50,000) dollars, and in the other parishes in the sum of ten thousand ($10,000) dollars; and this amount may be increased from time to time on the application of any creditor on showing the same to be necessary.

SEC. 6. Be it further enacted, etc., That the Public Administrator shall hold his office for the term of four years, and until his successor shall be appointed and duly qualified.

SEC. 7. Be it further enacted, etc., That he shall receive as a compensation five per cent on the inventory of estates administered by him, and five per cent on all collections, and all necessary expenses in looking after and preserving the property of estates; Provided, That in any contestation or proceeding, conducted by him under this act, he shall receive such further compensation as may be fixed by the Judge before whom the same may be had.

SEC. 8. Be it further enacted, etc., That in all other respects not inconsistent with this act, he shall have the same powers and duties now possessed by administrators under existing laws.

SEC. 9. Be it further enacted, etc., That all laws on the same subject matter inconsistent with this law are hereby repealed.

SEC. 10. Be it further enacted, etc., That this act shall take effect from and after its passage.

Disturbance in St. Landry, of Dec. 30th, 1869.

STATE OF LOUISIANA,
PARISH OF ST. LANDRY.

Agreement between James G. Hayes and James M. Thompson, of the Parish of St. Landry.

Whereas, the said Hayes and the said Thompson are at present litigating the right to hold the office of Sheriff of the Parish of Saint Landry;

And, whereas, the said Thompson is at present in possession of the jail of the Parish of St. Landry;

And, whereas, the said Hayes has announced his determination to take possession by force of arms of said jail, stating that he would take it or die in the attempt, and has under his command a large force of armed men, organized for the purpose of assisting him in said determination;

And, whereas, the said Thompson is unable successfully to resist the said armed force, and is unwilling to involve this community in bloodshed, and has been advised, as per annexed document of James M. Porter, Judge of the Eighth Judicial District Court in and for said Parish of St. Landry, "*not to resist by force of arms;*"

Now, the said James M. Thompson, herein represented by his friends, Thomas C. Anderson, James K. Dixon, and Clemins Mayo, of the Parish of St. Landry, agrees not to resist the taking possession by said Hayes or his deputies or agents, of said jail, to which agreement said Hayes herein represented by his friends, Adolphe Garrigues and Joseph M. Moore of said parish, consent.

Signed this 30th December, 1869.

A. GARRIGUES. } J. K. DIXON.
JOS. M. MOORE. } T. C. ANDERSON,
C. MAYO.

OPELOUSAS, Dec. 30th, 1869.

Dr. J. M. THOMPSON—*Sir:*

I understand that Capt. James G. Hayes has an armed force for the purpose of taking the jail in possession.

You will oppose all the moral force you can; but if Capt. James G. Hayes has an overpowering force, it will be your duty not to resist by force of arms.

There must be no bloodshed growing out of this legal contest for the Sheriffalty of the Parish.

Your obl't serv't.,
JAMES M. PORTER,
Judge 8th Jud. Dist. La.

Resolution of the Police Jury, Jan. 3d, 1870.

On motion of Mr. Morris:

Resolved, That, whereas J. M. Thompson, Sheriff of the Parish of St. Landry, has been dispossessed of the Parish Jail by force of arms: be it resolved, that the said J. M. Thompson, sheriff as aforesaid, he and is hereby authorized to lease a suitable building for the purposes of a Parish Jail, at the expense of the Parish, as long as it may be necessary to do so.

J. M. THOMPSON, President.
[Attest.] C. MAYO, Clerk.

Communication from the Opelousas Journal of 29th January, 1870.

We propose in this letter, through your columns, to make some observations in reference to the events of December 30th, 1869. The public mind has had time to cool. We are prepared to form unbiassed opinions in reference to that unfortunate affair.

During the night of December 30th a body of armed men in the interest of Capt. James G. Hayes took possession of the Court house. On the morning of the 30th they were joined by reinforcements, posted either at the Court house or at Capt. Hayes' Hotel facing the Court house square. In reserve, just beyond the limits of the town was held a numerous body of allies prepared to assist in case of a fight.

These men, both white and black, were armed with shot guns and side arms. Their object, to assist Capt. Hayes in taking forcible possession of the Parish jail.

For some time past the Sheriffalty of Saint Landry has been in litigation. At the last election, James G. Hayes, Democratic candidate for the office, having received a majority of the vote cast, was elected and commissioned Sheriff. Subsequently an act was passed by the Legislature requiring all the office holders of the State to subscribe and file at the office of the Secretary of State, within thirty days from the passage of the act, a new oath of office. Parish officials were informed in due time of the existence of this law, Capt. Hayes amongst the number. Most of them complied immediately with its requirements. Capt. Hayes however failed or refused to do so.

The friends of Dr. Brooks, finding that the governor of the State had declared the Sheriff's office for our Parish vacant, and fearing that it would fall into unworthy hands, succeeded after much persuasion, in prevailing upon him to accept the position. On his demise, Col. Thompson was prevailed upon to become his successor. Both Brooks and Thompson were men who had held office in this Parish previously. Amongst the most esteemed and public spirited of our citizens, they suffered no loss of reputation with their friends, by this acceptance of an office to which another had been elected.

The reasoning was simple enough. We either had to take such men as Brooks and Thompson, or else have some carpet-bagger sent to us from the city with a squad of soldiers to uphold his authority.

Capt. Hayes since his ejection from office has been litigating his rights in the tribunals of the country. This was all as it should be, and he carried into the contest the sympathy of the community. A popular man, the elect of the people, ousted by an odious law enacted for partisan purposes, every one wished him success. The case was on appeal and returnable to the Supreme court on the 10th of January, and was entitled to be tried and decided by preference and a final decision expected in a few weeks, which there was no reason to doubt would be in his favor.

One would suppose that under such favorable circumstances Capt. Hayes would have been contented to await the decision of the Supreme court. Quite the contrary however was the case. At the head of an armed force, sufficiently numerous to carry out his designs he proclaimed his intention to take the jail or die in the attempt.

By the advice of the District Judge, and in order to avoid the effusion of blood, no armed resistance was made, as will be seen by reference to an agreement, published in your journal of January 8th, and Capt. Hayes took forcible possession of the jail.

To this act of violence on his part, we protest our bitter opposition.

1st, Because it was in violation of laws, both State and Federal, for which the people of this Parish may be held responsible.

2d, Because it was in contempt of the authority of the court, which although it had decided in his favor, yet had granted a suspensive appeal, and recognized Thompson as being in legal possession of the jail until a final decision.

3d, Because it violated the Peace of the Parish, and assisted in keeping up abroad for us a reputation for lawlessness from which we are all interested in juring ourselves.

4th, Because such scenes of mob law are calculated to deter any but bad characters from immigrating into this country.

5th, Because it was an act of violence on the part of those engaged therein, not on account of any public grievance but for the benefit of a single individual.

6th, Because it placed in jeopardy the lives of many citizens.

Terrible surmises were started as to the object and intentions of the rioters. But as they originated mostly in the heated imaginations of persons who conceived their lives were in danger, are not susceptible of proof and were probably erroneous, we shall not repeat them here, but simply hint at their existence as one of the odious consequences of the outbreak.

This was not the first time Capt. Hayes had threatened the peace of the community. About a month previously he had attempted something similar, but desisted either from the advice of his friends, or from inability at the time to raise the requisite force, and we understand that under certain circumstances he proposes repeating his performance. In the mean time timid people don't like to discuss the matter. Men who in secret reprobate Hayes' conduct do not think it perfectly safe to do so publicly. The Parish is under cow. It is high time we should free ourselves from this system of terror and discuss Capt. Hayes' conduct freely. When his armed men took possession of the Court House, the citizens of our town refused to join him, neither would they assist the Constable to organize a force for the purpose of preventing violence. "It is an affair of the politicians; let them fight it out," seemed to be the most general feeling.

It *was* an affair of politicians up to the time one side made use of force and arms, and then it became in our opinion an affair of the utmost importance to the whole Parish.

We are over twenty thousand people white and black, all deeply interested in quiet, peace and good order, and in our good name and reputation. It can make but little difference to most of us which one of the contestants obtains the Sheriffalty. Both gentlemen have heretofore enjoyed our esteem and respect. We know that Hayes was elected, but we also know that Thompson's course meets with the approval of many of our most intelligent citizens totally unconnected with political cliques and rings, and who would not for any consideration infringe upon the rights of Capt. Hayes.

It is idle to speak of either Dr. Brooks or Col. Thompson and their friends as scalawags, to be dealt with by lynch law. They constitute some of the best citizens of our Parish; the majority of those who were on the general Parish ticket at the last election, all the members of the Police jury, all our Democratic delegation to the Legislature, and we think a majority of the bar. It is high time that there should be a fearless expression of public opinion, otherwise we subject ourselves to a repetition of the offence. A counter organization for purposes of self protection and the maintenance of the law becomes an object of necessity, and in the end a U. S. Garrison.

Capt. Hayes has introduced the element of force and violence into our politics, and we do not like it. We fear, if continued, it will lead to murders and assassinations on both sides of our most eminent citizens, and we wish the thing stopped. This purpose cannot be effected by hushing the matter up for fear of injuring the Parish, as was done on the first attempt to take the jail. The hushing up process has proved a total failure. We think ventilation will do a great deal better. The gentlemen who have enlisted under the banner of Capt. Hayes in his career of conquest over legal authority should be made to understand that the good sense of the Parish is opposed to their proceedings. The life of any citizen is a matter of more importance than this contest for the Sheriffalty. Let us have no more of these military demonstrations—you have done enough for glory. Return to the homes of your families. Convert your *stool* guns and revolvers into ploughshares, or rather level them hereafter at the ducks and geese of the Prairies, and not at your fellow citizens, otherwise you may kill some one, a terrible thing to account for, either in this world or in the next.

CITIZEN.

TO THE PEOPLE OF ST. LANDRY.

In consequence of the publication and circulation within this Parish of the above circular, I have thought it proper, and perhaps expected of me by the public, that I should take notice publicly of the strictures contained in the article over the signature of "Citizen."

"Citizen's" article first appeared in the *Opelousas Journal* of January 29th, 1870. I then gave it no public notice through the press, though its statement of facts was not, in justice to me, sufficiently full. I dislike newspaper controversies, and am averse to the unnecessary agitation of the public mind, and refrain, as far as possible, from indulging in either. I thought that the facts of a public nature connected with the judicial and *political* contest between Dr. Thompson and myself, for the office of Sheriff, were known to the people who elected me to office, and felt disposed to trust to their memories for the supplying of "Citizen's" omissions that might be prejudicial to me. I should perhaps have continued not to notice, through the press, "Citizen's" "observations in reference to the events of December 30th, 1869," had his article not been reproduced in the foregoing circular. It is now evident to my mind that the publication of the article in this form is intended to produce, on the public mind, an unfavorable impression in reference to my course on the occasion referred to.

In thus addressing the public, my object is to correct "Citizen's" statement of facts, in reference to the events connected with the contest for the shrievalty of this Parish, by giving a succinct but full history of the whole matter. "Citizen," as the *impartial* reviewer of public events that he certainly wishes to be considered, should, in justice to me, not have left room for any such corrections.

I will now proceed to give a history of those events from the beginning of the contest. A superficial glance at my statement will suffice to show to the reader the nature of "Citizen's" errors; they are errors of omission. He has failed to state facts that are essential to my justification in the eyes of the people, for the part taken by me in the disturbance alluded to by him. But to the statement.

It will be well remembered that some time after I had been elected by the people at the election of April, 1868, had qualified under the then existing law, and been commissioned by the Governor as Sheriff of St. Landry, the Legislature of the State, for strictly partisan and proscriptive purposes, enacted an unjust, unconstitutional and odious law, prescribing an additional oath of office to be taken by public officials throughout the State. The Radical party having failed at the election of April, 1868, the first under the new Constitution adopted by its delegates, to elect *all* the Radical candidates, some Democrats having been selected by the people to fill Parochial and State offices, this act was passed for the purpose of ousting from office such Democrats as were obnoxious to the party in power.

On my *alleged* failure to take this additional oath, the Governor, in pursuance of the provisions of said act, declared my office vacant and appointed Dr. J. G. Brooks as my successor. At the ensuing term of the District Court, held in this place, Dr. Brooks, through his attorney, G. W. Hudspeth, District Attorney of the 8th District, presented a petition to the District Judge, asking that his commission as Sheriff of the parish of St. Landry might be spread on the minutes of the Court, and that his official capacity might be recognized. I was not made a party to this proceeding. My attorneys noticed this irregularity in their argument to show why the prayer of Dr. Brooks should not be granted, and insisted that the proper course for him to pursue was plainly pointed out in the very act by virtue of which he had been appointed, viz.: that the District Attorney, joining Dr. Brooks with him therein, should have instituted an action to oust me from office. But the Court took a different view of the question, and rendered judgment in the ex-parte proceeding, recognizing Dr. Brooks as, and declaring him to be the Sheriff of St. Landry. From this decision I did not appeal, though I considered myself aggrieved thereby; but without the slightest show of resistance yielded up to Dr. Brooks, *Gov. Warmoth's appointee*, the office with which the *suffrages* of my fellow-citizens had entrusted me. *I then* resorted to the action indicated by the act of the Legislature above referred to, in order to have myself reinstated in office, and called upon George W. Hudspeth, Esq., the District Attorney, to file and conduct the action required by the statute. Mr. Hudspeth refused to comply with my request, on the ground that he had been employed by Dr. Brooks to represent him in the proceedings referred to above. I then requested Thomas H. Lewis, Esq., the District Attorney *pro tem.*, to institute the necessary proceedings; but this gentleman also refused to do so.

Pending these proceedings Dr. Brooks died, and Dr. James M. Thompson was appointed by the Governor to fill the vacancy created by his death. I again applied to the District Attorney to institute the proceedings prescribed by the act aforesaid against Dr. Thompson, and on his refusal to do so, I called on Mr. Lewis, District Attorney *pro tem.*, to officiate, and he too refused to comply. I was compelled to proceed myself, without them, in the action. The cause was tried at the spring term of the District Court, and the trial resulted in a judgment recognizing Dr. Thompson as the Sheriff. I appealed to the Supreme Court from this decision, and at the term of that Court held at Opelousas in September, 1869, the judgment of the lower Court, recognizing Col. Thompson as Sheriff, was avoided and annulled, and the suit dismissed on the ground that it had not been properly brought, the District Attorney not having appeared therein, as a party plaintiff with me. This was not my fault, nor that of my attorneys. I had done all that I could to have the proceedings conducted in the form prescribed by the act before mentioned.

But in the meantime, however, and pending these proceedings, the Supreme Court, in July of the same year, had at Monroe decided, in the case of the State of Louisiana ex rel. E. C. Downes vs. E. B. Tonne, the provisions of the act of the Legislature under which I had been removed from office and Dr. Brooks appointed to fill the vacancy thus created, to be unconstitutional. This was in my setting up the couple of law involved in my case, a decision in my favor. Col. Thompson, however, continuing to hold the office and refusing to form the consequence thereof, notwithstanding the decision of the Court reversing Judge Porter's judgment and sustaining in the case of Downes vs. Tonne the position assumed in my behalf in my case, I was compelled again to appeal to the District Attorney to enforce the provisions of the act declared unconstitutional and instituted proceedings against Col. Thompson, and this time we succeeded in obtaining a judgment in the form and in the court prescribed by the act of the Legislature. The case was tried by the Judge Porter on the 14th day of December last, and at the conclusion of the trial, Judge Porter, recognizing the authority of the decision in the case of Downes vs. Tonne, rendered a judgment in my favor, declaring me to be the lawful Sheriff of the Parish of St. Landry.* In the meantime, the Parish Judge held a session of his Court, and on the first day of the term, at the opening of the Court, recognized me as the lawful Sheriff of the parish. Immediately after this formal recognition by the Parish Judge, of my official capacity, I proceeded upon the strength of my official duty, empaneling and impaneling a Grand Jury, serving process issued in my hands, and executing an order of Court to me addressed. I proceeded to the Parish prison and demanded, as Sheriff, from Dr. Thompson, the keys of the jail, the keys to which, I was informed, he had in his possession. This demand was made peaceably and without any demonstration of force or violence, and it was as peaceably acceded to, the jailor delivering up to me quietly the keys and possession of the jail. I did not remove him but left him, as my deputy, in charge of the prisoners, but whilst I was in the entrance on the Parish Court, occupied in the discharge of my official duties, Col. Thompson's deputies took possession of the jail, broke and removed the locks from the doors thereof, and, with armed men stationed about the premises, held forcible possession of the same up to the 3d of December, when it was given up to me, as stated in the circular above referred to.

Previous to that time, however, I had, in a peaceable manner, demanded possession of the prison, which was peremptorily refused me.

This is a full and correct history of *all* the events connected with the contest between Col. Thompson and myself in regard to the office of Sheriff of St. Landry. The statement of facts herein made by me can be fully substantiated by documentary evidence on file on both the District and Supreme Courts, and by the testimony of men worthy of the highest degree of credit.

I now leave it to the good people of this parish, after taking cognizance of this statement, to conclude who *first* "introduced the element of force and violence into our politics," who first resorted to force to get possession of the parish prison; and who *did actually* take and hold possession thereof by force and arms.

It was certainly not I.

If "Citizen" had considered this whole matter in the spirit and honor of an impartial chronicler of passing events, or of an impartial commentator on the times, he would have refrained from visiting upon me the responsibility for the "circumstances" which he so much condemns, and which no one regrets more than I. Neither would he have permitted himself to make the very extraordinary assertion that "the parish was under cow" by me. If Col. Thompson's friends and advisers were anxious to avoid any disturbance of the peace, why did his deputies take and keep, by force, possession of the jail, after I had obtained in a quiet and peaceable manner, possession thereof?

If they entertained that high regard and profound respect for the law and for the will of the people that they expect from others, why was not peaceable possession of the office with which the people had, by a decided majority, entrusted me, given up to me again, after all the Courts—Parish, District, and Supreme—had decreed that in law and justice I was entitled to it; that I had been unlawfully removed from office and my successor unlawfully appointed in the same?

Now to recapitulate. How stood the case on the 30th of December, when I summoned the gentlemen alluded to by "Citizen," as a "posse," to aid me, if necessary, in regaining possession of the jail? From the foregoing statement, thus:

The Supreme Court, before the suit of myself vs. Col. Thompson had been heard by it, had decided, in the case of Downes vs. Tonne, that the provisions of the act of the Legislature by virtue of which I had been removed from, and he appointed to, my office, were unconstitutional and could not be enforced. The same Court afterwards, in my own case, reversed and annulled the judgment of the late District Judge which recognized Col. Thompson as Sheriff, and subsequently to this, the same District Judge, on the authority of the opinion of the Supreme Court, rendered judgment in my favor and against Col. Thompson, recognizing me as the true and lawful Sheriff of St. Landry. In November last the Parish Court, following the example of these high authorities, did the same thing.

With these lights before me, I think that I was justified in the opinion sincerely entertained by me, that I was the only lawful Sheriff of the Parish of St. Landry. It was then clearly my duty to take charge of the parish prison and of the prisoners confined therein. I tried to do so peacably, as I have before said; I succeeded; but it was forcibly taken from me, and it was not until then that I summoned the "posse" to aid me in retaking it.

As to "Citizen's" fling at the gentlemen who, he says, "have enlisted under Capt. Hayes' banner," I will simply say for them, in reply thereto, that they are good and true men—honest and law-abiding citizens—unconnected with political cliques or rings. They are mostly farmers, a class of men that has very properly, at all times, been called "the bone and sinew of the land." They have never been, and I feel certain never will be the henchmen of any man or "ring" of men. They know well *when* and *how* to use their "shot guns and revolvers" and *when* and *how* to use their "ploughshares;" they have never, up to this time, that I am aware of, been engaged in using the former unlawfully, nor the latter out of season.

When they want *geese* they know where to find them, and when they want justice they know now, lawfully, to get it.

JAS. G. HAYES.

Opelousas, March 24th, 1870.

* (JUDGMENT.)

George W. Hudspeth, District Attorney et als., vs. James M. Thompson.

District Court, Parish St. Landry. No. 11,088.

The case coming up for trial, and the parties by their counsel having been heard, and the law and evidence being considered and being in favor of the plaintiff, James G. Hayes; it is ordered, adjudged and decreed that the said James G. Hayes be recognized as, and is the Sheriff of the Parish of St. Landry, with authority to execute and fulfill the duties of that office according to law, and to have and to hold the same, with all the powers, privileges and emoluments thereto belonging; and that the defendant in this case pay the costs of this suit.

Thus done, read and signed in chambers, at Opelousas, this 14th day of December, 1869.

(Signed) JAMES M. PORTER,
Judge of the 8th Judicial District.

A true copy: JOHN O. RICHARD, D. Clerk.

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Assets, May 1st, 1869 ..... $[illegible] 20
Number of Policies issued and issued in last year, May [illegible] 1031

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A. H. BUCKNER ..... Secretary.
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The Mound City Mutual Life Insurance Company being a Home Institution, it serves to prevent money from going out of the State for such purposes. We will, however, enumerate only two or three.

1. The money invested in this Company is loaned at home where it assists in promoting Western and Southern trade and commerce, in building up towns and cities, in developing our mineral and agricultural resources, in improving our great lines of railroad, and in cultivating our boundless prairies. For these reasons Southern and Western men should insure in it.

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All kinds of Policies are issued by this Company. All policies indisputable.

This Company makes no charge for policy, fee or stamps.

The Louisiana Branch Office is in the Story Building, up stairs, No. 3, corner Camp and Common streets, opposite the City Hotel, New Orleans.

B. B. SIMMES,
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Almost all the business men in and about Opelousas have their lives insured in this Company; among others: Henry L. Garland, Dr. R. H. Lafell, J. J. Morgan, Judge A. Garrigues, Dr. John A. Taylor, Joel H. Sandoz, James G. Hayes, Judge A. Bailey, &c., &c.

Persons desirous to take insurance policies will apply to E. D. ESTILETTE, Agent,
Law-Office of Bailey & Estilette,
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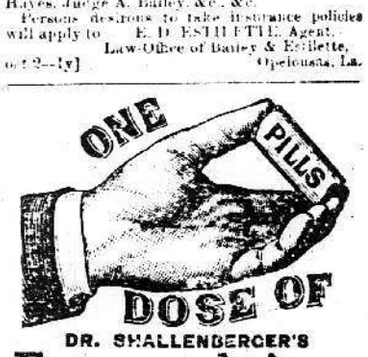

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Sold by all Druggists.

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A Comfortable RESIDENCE, in a retired and desirable part of the Town; for particulars apply to Messrs. Moore & Morgan, or at this Office.

June 26, 1869. 3tf

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

THIS is to certify that we have appointed Mr. EMANUEL PHILLIPS, of Opelousas, La., as our *Sole Agent* for the sale of the Patented Charter Oak Cooking Stoves, for the towns of Opelousas, Washington, Grand Coteau and Fort Barre. RICE BROS. & CO.

New Orleans, March 10th, 1870.

IT will be perceived from the above appointment, that I am the only person authorized to sell the celebrated Charter Oak Stoves for the places indicated. My right is exclusive of every other person, and is derived from the patentees. No other person has a right to sell these stoves, at the above places; and I will prosecute any person for damages who shall in any manner infringe my exclusive right to sell.

EMANUEL PHILLIPS.

Opelousas, March 19th, 1870. 41—4t

NOTICE.

THE partnership heretofore existing under the firm of E. DUBUISSON & Co., was, by mutual consent, dissolved on the 5th inst.

E. Dubuisson having purchased the entire interest of Paul Stagg, will attend to the liquidation of the late firm, and will continue the business in his own name. E. DUBUISSON,
PAUL STAGG.

HAVING sold my interest in the above firm to E. Dubuisson, Esq., I solicit the patronage of all my friends for my successor.

PAUL STAGG.

Washington, March 12, 1870. 40tf

FOR SALE,

A second hand rosewood cabinet PIANO, 6½ octaves, well preserved. Apply at this Office.

Opelousas, May 15, 1869. 49tf

$25 REWARD—STOLEN,

From the undersigned, on Cataouatche Island, Parish of Lafayette, on or about the 2d inst., a dark bay Creole mule, about 5 years old, large but thin, and branded about thus SA, the S having a bar drawn horizontally across it. A liberal reward will be given to whoever brings said mule back to me; or $25 will be given for the recovery of the mule and the apprehension of the thief, or such information as will lead to his arrest. Address Vermilionville, La. BELIZAIRE CORMIER.

Lafayette Parish, March 12th, 1870. 40—5t