

The Opelousas Courier.

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No. 13.

The Opelousas Courier.

Official Journal of Town of Opelousas.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY
L. BONCE & L. A. SANDOZ.

OPELOUSAS:

SATURDAY, : : : DEC. 31, 1881.

Thanks to Hon. B. F. Jonas, U. S. S., and Hon. E. W. Robertson, M. C., for valuable public documents.

A ten days' extra session of the Legislature began last Monday, pursuant to the Governor's proclamation, issued a few days before.

There was an examination of applicants for teachers in the public schools on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week. We understand that the public schools will be opened, for the scholastic year, on the 9th of January.

As we go to press we learn that a colored man stabbed another very severely at Frugé's store, nine miles from Opelousas, on Thursday last. A deputy sheriff is after the accused party and will doubtless arrest him. We could not learn the names of the parties.

Boys, beware of those toy pistols which carry cartridges, and "dime novels" with blood and thunder stories. Many accidents result from the former, and the sentiment of the latter is pernicious to the formation of good moral character. Let both severely alone.

We learn that a young man by the name of Louis Savoie had his foot severely sawed off on last Tuesday evening, at the saw mill of Mr. Rodolphe C. Stitt, near Prud'homme City. Strange to say, it is alleged that the wound did not bleed a drop. It is feared that the leg will have to be amputated at the knee.

Messrs. Bourdin & Dardéan have their rice mill in operation, and are now prepared to clean all the rice that may hereafter be brought to them. They also run a grist mill, and will grind corn regularly. We presume that a large area will be planted in rice next year, now that this cereal can be cleaned at economical rates at home.

A man by the name of David Condon was committed to jail here on yesterday, charged with the killing of a man by the name of John Donavan, near the Atchafalaya river on Dec. 25th. From the testimony of witnesses cheap whiskey was at the bottom of the difficulty. The man was stabbed with a pocket knife, and died a few minutes thereafter.

The Christmas holidays passed off very quietly in our town. We have not had an accident to chronicle, much less a quarrel, an assault, or any bloodshed. The little boys had a gay time with their fire-crackers, torpedoes, toy pistols, sky-rockets, &c., but none of them were hurt, nor caused any damage. Many Christmas turkeys were killed, and many more will doubtless share the same fate to-morrow—New Year's day.

DESTRUCTIVE SPARKS.—On Friday night, the 23d inst., the dwelling house of Mr. Ozéme Moreau, on Bayou Têche, with its entire contents, was destroyed by fire. We are informed that he also lost two or three hundred dollars in property, which was the entire surplus of his crop for the year.

On Saturday night, the 24th, the same house and contents belonging to a colored man by the name of Massengon, in Bellevue, were entirely consumed by fire, while the man and his family were absent on a visit.

The residence of—Lanaux, son-in-law of Dr. Moore, was also destroyed by fire in Washington last Saturday night. We have no particulars of the case.

SHORT ITEMS.—The first regular term of the U. S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, Judge Alexander presiding, will begin here on Monday next, Jan. 3d. Mr. J. C. Weeks was marshal for the Western District. Mr. C. M. Thompson deputy Marshal. Mr. W. F. Anderson is the deputy clerk. It is understood that beyond transacting business will be transacting business in this Court at this time.

The Circuit Court, Circuit Judge J. M. Pardo and District Judge Boardman presiding, will also hold a term beginning next Monday. Some twenty or twenty cases will come up before this Court. The sessions of these courts will no doubt soon become important features, inasmuch as the reports found at Shreveport, or other points in the Western District, will frequently be brought, thus bringing a large number of cases to our town. We understand that on Monday quite a number of attorneys from other parishes will be present.

Lost—In Opelousas, a pair of gray wool pants, new. The finder will be suitably rewarded on leaving the same at this office.

The Old and the New Year.

It seems but yesterday that the year 1881 dawned upon us, with all the golden expectations which are usually accorded, by hope, to the future. Yet, like a dream, its days have vanished, and in a few more short hours it will be consigned to the tomb of ages past and gone. While but a second in duration upon the great dial plate of Time, yet it has left an indelible imprint of its events upon our lives, whose span is only a minute in the vast record of Eternity. Many visions of joy, of happiness, and of better things, were painted in pleasant perspective upon the curtains of its scenic stage, but like the mirage, upon a desert waste, to the weary traveller, many of them faded away as phantoms to show the skeletons hid by the glamour of the illusion. Altogether, the history of 1881 reads more like heavy tragedy, than as a pleasant and entertaining drama. If the astrologers, astronomers, and pretended seers did not really anticipate a part of its disastrous events, they at least guessed enough of its evil portent to dignify their forecasts with the semblance of prescient calculation and eventuality. Mother Shipton's prophecy—a fiction we believe—"that the world to an end would come, in the year 1881," and an astronomer's opinion "that a comet would collide with the earth and crush it to atoms," somewhat disturbed the ignorant and superstitious, but not the intelligent portion of the world. But the firm and persistent prognostications of scientific men, that the perihelion of certain large planets with the sun, would produce great atmospheric disturbances, were extensively believed by all classes of men. Whether or not the heavenly bodies have exerted a malign influence upon us, still our planet has been scourged with storms, earthquakes, droughts, and floods of almost an unparalleled nature during the year 1881. It seems that we have had more disasters at sea and on land, more suicides and more crimes, than in any one for years past. The calendar will be conspicuous in the annals of the nineteenth century, for its gloomy record of ruin and death. Then, we can bid adieu to the old year without lamentation for its demise and without the hope of its being duplicated by the unknown chronicles of 1882. The few pleasant memories which were born of its hours, we will consecrate in the urn of our hearts; its bitter recollections we will bury in the tomb of its parent. Then let us shake off the nightmare visions of the Old Year, and prepare our natures for the inspiration of the New Year which begins to-morrow. Let us drink in fresh energy, hope, and better resolves from its new-born hours, and strive to make it a pleasant season to ourselves and to our fellow-men. We send kindly greetings to our readers, and wish them a happy and prosperous New Year with many returns.

Through a letter received by one of our citizens from Dr. T. Chachere, of Plaquemine Ridge, we learn that a colored man by the name of Isaac Young was found in an unconscious condition on the road-side on last Monday morning, with a bullet hole through his head. The unfortunate victim was en route to his home on Bayou Mallet from Luke Charles, where he had been at work for some time, and stopped in Opelousas to purchase some articles to take home to his family. While in town on Christmas day it is said that he exhibited some thirty or forty dollars, which he had not spent, and as his saddle-bags were found cut open near by him, and all of his money was gone, it is supposed that the object of the attempted murder was highway robbery. The man was still alive on Thursday morning, but the doctor pronounces his wound fatal.

It is said that he regained consciousness enough to understand what was said to him, although he could not speak in response to questions asked of him. When asked how many persons attacked him he indicated by the fingers on his hand that there were five of them. When asked if they were white or black, he pointed to himself, from which it was presumed they were colored. The infamous deed was undoubtedly perpetrated on Christmas night. It is said that Young was a good, quiet, and industrious man. The names of the assassins are yet unknown, but sheriff Dason will leave no stone unturned to discover the guilty parties.

The Senate was reorganized last Saturday night, at the close of the twenty days' extra session, by the election of Hon. Geo. L. Walton, of Concordia, as President pro tem., in place of Senator Robertson. The other officers were re-elected. The City Item calls this action of the Senate a "surprise," and says that it is attributed to Senator Robertson's opposition to transferring the interest fund to the general fund, and because he favored the creation of a board for equalizing assessments.

Lost—In Opelousas, a pair of gray wool pants, new. The finder will be suitably rewarded on leaving the same at this office.

PERSONAL.—We had the pleasure of meeting our genial and solid Democratic Senator, Hon. T. S. Fontenot, on Wednesday morning last. He said that he had been enjoying a three days' leave of absence on a visit to his family, and to see about his home affairs, and was then en route to the city to be at his post of duty again, at the ten days' additional extra session of the Legislature called by the Governor. Senator Fontenot very justly commends the confidence of his entire constituency, and everybody feels satisfied that he will discharge his duty conscientiously to his Parish and to the general welfare of the State.

The N. O. Times-Democrat newshoys were made glad on Christmas day by being each presented with a nice suit of clothes—the Christmas gift of Mrs. Susie E. Burke.

The telegrams state that signal officers are to be established during the coming summer at Opelousas and Baton Rouge.

Christmas and New Year cards printed at short notice at this office. Call and see them.

Proceedings of the Police Jury.

The Police Jury met on Dec. 12, pursuant to adjournment; Present: Albert Guidry, President; D. Mèche, T. A. Hicks, E. Dubuisson, Sam'l Haas, L. Young, T. C. Chachere, A. Perrodio, and B. E. Clark.

The toll bridge over the Courtableau at Washington was purchased of Mr. Elbert Gautt, for \$1500—the transfer to take place when the appropriation is made. It will then become a free bridge.

A committee was appointed to lay out a public road from Bayou Petite Prairie to Garland station, on the Morgan railroad; also, one to lay out a public road from the Bayou Têche near Emile Hauguel's to the line of Wid Hypolite Mallet; also, one to ascertain the cost of repairing the bridge over Bayou Caron at Washington.

Seventy-five dollars were appropriated to purchase books for the Court House library.

The 16th of January was fixed as the day when the amount of taxes to be assessed for the year 1882 shall be determined. The following estimate was ordered published for at least 30 days before the amount of the tax shall be fixed:

Pay of officers and members.....	\$2,000 00
" public printing.....	350 00
" magistrates and constables.....	4,000 00
" District Attorney.....	400 00
" Sheriff criminal salary.....	2,000 00
" " jail.....	2,000 00
" Grand and petit jurors.....	1,500 00
" Witnesses District Court.....	1,500 00
" Internal Improvements.....	14,000 00
" Existing Debt.....	2,500 00
" Indigents.....	500 00
" Contingent Expenses.....	1,000 00
" Assessor.....	1,000 00
" Collector.....	1,000 00
	\$33,350 00

On the 13th, the tax collector submitted a statement showing that \$5,105.61 had been collected for the parish during the month of November. Deducting his commission, \$204.90, makes the net amount turned into the parish treasury \$4,920.71.

Vouchers presented by the parish treasurer, amounting to \$4,722.54, being amount paid out by him during the month of November, were cancelled, and the treasurer given credit for the amount on the books of the parish.

A number of claims were approved, among which the following: C. C. Dason, expenses incurred in search of criminals, under requisition from the Governor, \$389.20; do, conveying insane, \$69; conveying convict, \$67; attendance on Supreme Court, \$55; M. Pleasant Mill, lumber, \$837.4; Haas and Walker, lumber and building bridge, \$50; Leon Wolf, spades and shovels, \$66; W. M. Thompson, coroner's fees, \$97.60.

CHRISTMAS TREE.—At the close of Mrs. M. M. Hayes' school for the holidays, on Friday evening, the 23d inst., a handsome Christmas Tree was arranged for the pupils, and proved a most fitting prelude to the time honored Christian festival.

A beautiful and symmetrical evergreen, festooned with nature's own bright coral berries, stood like an immense hot-house plant in the centre of the recitation room. The hundred little wax tapers which studded its branches, twinkled like so many stars in the firmament, and the numerous gifts, rich and simple, and of multifarious variety, gave its emerald boughs the weird appearance of a fairy's booth.

The children—and some lads and lassies too—were all expectation for the distribution to begin. In the absence of Santa Claus, Sheriff Dason acted as his representative and awarded the gifts. Few, if any, of the little ones went away disappointed, and great was the joy infused into many eager hearts on that eventful occasion. Among the gifts was a beautiful gold headed cane, presented the Rev. Mr. Hough, pastor of the M. E. Church, by the children of his Sunday School and of his congregation. It was a most appropriate testimonial of regard for their worthy minister, and he will appreciate the souvenir with a warm and affectionate remembrance for the considerate little donors.

The evening passed off very pleasantly with the usual joys and innocent amusements.

A Centenarian.

N. O. Times Democrat, 27th.

The lady, whose death is noticed below, had many relatives in this city, among whom was the wife of our well-known fellow-citizen, James Houston, nee Mrs. Houston, is, we believe, a nee of Miss Ealer:

(Fairfield (Iowa) Tribune, Dec. 15.)

The death of two very old citizens, both residents of this place for many years, has occurred since the last issue of the Tribune. The first was that of Miss Elizabeth Ealer, nee of Mrs. Bernhardt Henn, and who had lived with Mrs. Henn for many years, going with her from that place not long since. Her death occurred Monday morning, at the advanced age of nearly 99 years. Miss Ealer was never married. She was born in Little York, Penn., February 22, 1783, but her home was afterward in Baltimore, Md. Her parents came from Germany during the latter half of the last century and settled in the eastern part of Pennsylvania. Had she lived until the 22d of next February she would have been 99 years of age. She was therefore in her 16th year when Gen. Washington died, and frequently saw him during those times which tried men's souls with anxieties and perils. Another illustration percentage of those days was General Lafayette. Aunt Libby, as she was familiarly called, sat frequently upon his knees. And what a long retrospective view this brings before us! The Revolutionary war had not yet closed when she was born. A most vigorous and prosperous nation has sprung into existence since her birth, and has a power and prestige second to none among the governments of the earth—a nation that has become proverbial among those of the earth for her inventive genius, for her progress in arts and giving the older nations practical lessons for the masses and for the common brotherhood of man. Miss Ealer was endowed by nature with a constitution of uncommon vigor. During her lifetime she was seldom indisposed, much less laid up on account of sickness. She made a profession of religion when she was 20 years of age, and in the days of her vigor she engaged heartily, as she had opportunity, in the activities of her church. Her funeral occurred Tuesday, the remains being laid away in the cemetery at this place, and beside remains of a sister.

"Bertha's Baby" is one of those masterpieces of literature that appear but at very rare intervals. It treats in a delightful way of a young husband and wife and their household treasure, "Baby." It is a charming picture of home life, a picture that every parent will delight in; in fact, a more fascinating and delightful book for young mothers cannot be found in the literature of the world. It is published in a square duodecimo volume, paper cover, price 50 cents, and will be found for sale by all booksellers, or copies of it will be sent at once, on remitting the price to the publishers, T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia, Pa.

Taking a good newspaper is the cheapest luxury a man can indulge in.—Bosser Banner.

Especially when a man takes it and never pays for it. It is said that such men actually exist in this wicked world.—Morehouse Clarion.

And we reluctantly begin to believe that some of them "live, and move, and have their being" in this good parish of St. Landry.

CLUBBING.—We will club our paper with the New Orleans Times Democrat on the same terms as we did last year with the Democrat, viz.: \$3.50 per annum for the two papers. Send in your subscriptions without delay.

Brown's Iron Tonic Bitters at Liffell's.

FOR RENT.
THE large dwelling house, in Opelousas, known as the Overton property. Also, the rear room of the office of Jas. M. Moore, Esq.
For further information apply at this office.

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JUDICIAL NOTICES

PUBLIC SALE.
Probate Court, Parish of St. Landry, No. 4290
ESTATE OF DON LOUIS RICHARD.
By virtue of an order of the Hon. the Probate Court in and for the parish of St. Landry, Louisiana, made in public session, to the last and highest bidder, by the undersigned administrator or a duly qualified auctioneer, at the last residence of the deceased, situated in the parish of St. Landry, on WEDNESDAY, January 18th, 1882, the following described property, belonging to the estate of Don Louis Richard, deceased, to-wit:

1. A tract of land situated in the parish of St. Landry, containing fifty acres, more or less, with all the buildings and improvements thereon, being the last residence of the deceased, bounded north by David Boos, south by Louis T. Richard, east by Thompson Blum, and west by the estate.

2. A tract of prairie land without improvements, containing forty acres, more or less, bounded north by Thomas Cannon, south by Zensard F. Jean, east by the estate and west by unknown.

3. A tract of wood land situated in Mallet Woods, containing seventy acres, more or less, bounded north by public lands, south by Guillory, east by Onézime Boudreaux, and west by W. Price.

4. Three pairs of work oxen, one gentle horse, ten head of wild horses, twelve head of horned cattle, a lot of wild cattle at Grand Chénière, household furniture, kitchen utensils, a watch, two saddles, a lot of hoes, farming implements, and many other articles.

Terms and conditions.—All the movable property to be sold for cash; the lands will be sold as follows: for cash to an amount which, when added to the sum realized from the sale of the movable property, will make the sum of \$2000.00; the balance payable in one and two years from January 1st, 1882; purchasers furnishing their notes to the satisfaction of the undersigned administrator, bearing eight per cent per annum interest from maturity, and the lands remaining specially mortgaged onto the estate until full and entire payment of the principal and interest be made by the purchaser.

THOMPSON BIRM.
Dec. 17, 1881. Administrator.

PUBLIC SALE.
Probate Court, Parish of St. Landry, No. 4291
ESTATE OF WILLIAM S. REED.
By virtue of an order of the Hon. the Probate Court in and for the parish of St. Landry, Louisiana, made in public session, to the last and highest bidder, by the undersigned administrator, or any duly qualified auctioneer, at the last residence of the deceased, in the town of Wash. gton, parish aforesaid, on WEDNESDAY, January 17th, 1882, the following described property, belonging to the estate of William S. Reed, deceased, being both separate and community property, to-wit:

1. A lot of ground situated in the town of Washington, La., with all the buildings and improvements thereon, bounded north by St. John street, south by the estate of Gardner street, and west by T. Graulengier.

2. One quarter of a lot of ground situated in the town of Washington, La., with all the buildings and improvements thereon, bounded north by property of Mrs. Caron, south by Carrière street, east by Bridge street, and west by J. Gaudin.

3. Household furniture, kitchen utensils, one cross-cut saw, one branding iron.
Terms—Cash.
NOELIE ST. GAUDIN,
Dec. 17, 1881. Administratrix.

SHERIFF'S SALE.
District Court, Parish of St. Landry, No. 12400
McCREA & VALERIE VS. MARSHALL R. HAYES.
By virtue of a writ of fieri facias issued by the Hon. the District Court in and for the parish of St. Landry, in the above entitled suit and to me directed, I will proceed to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, at the principal door of the Court House, in the town of Opelousas, parish of St. Landry, on SATURDAY, January 21st, 1882, at 11 o'clock A. M., the following described property, to-wit:

All the right, title and interest of Marshall R. Hayes in and to the estate of Sarah Eglantine Hayes, deceased wife of Jesse B. Clark.
Terms—Cash.
C. C. DUSON,
Sheriff of the parish of St. Landry, Opelousas, December 10th, 1881.

JUDICIAL NOTICES

PUBLIC SALE.
Probate Court, Parish of St. Landry, No. 4156
ESTATE OF GEORGE H. GARDINER.
By virtue of an order of the Honorable the Probate Court in and for the parish of St. Landry, Louisiana, made in public session, to the last and highest bidder, by the undersigned natural tutor, or a duly qualified auctioneer, at the last residence of the deceased in Bellevue; named, aforesaid, on WEDNESDAY, January 11th, 1882, the following described property, belonging to the estate of George H. Gardiner, deceased, to-wit:

1. Three lots of ground in the town of Grand Coteau, parish of St. Landry, bounded north by Burleigh street, south by land of Wm. Burleigh, east by lots of A. H. Bastille, and west by lot of Mrs. Benj. S. Haw, with all the buildings and improvements thereon.

2. One lot of ground situated on Burleigh street, in said town of Grand Coteau, bounded north by Burleigh street, south by land of Wm. Burleigh, east by land of John Schrewe, and west of lots of Theobald Richard, with all the buildings and improvements thereon.

3. One lot of ground situated in said town of Grand Coteau, bounded north by Burleigh street, south by Burleigh street, east by lot of Napoleon Robin, and west by lot of Maurice Poulange.

4. About twelve arpents of wood land near Grand Coteau, in said parish, bounded north by land of heirs of L. J. Bonhomme, in 1867, south by land of John H. Smith, in 1867, east by widow Joseph Légal, and west by land heretofore belonging to Jean Soreau.

5. Seventy-eight arpents of improved prairie land, situated on Plaquemine Ridge, in said parish, bounded north by land of Wm. Burleigh, south by land of Mallet Woods, in said parish; boundaries unknown.

6. Fifty arpents of wood land, situated in Mallet Woods, in said parish; boundaries unknown.

7. One tract of land situated at Plaquemine Point, in said parish, containing three hundred arpents, bounded north by Onézime Boudreaux, south by land of Onézime Boudreaux, east by the estate of Onézime Boudreaux, and west by land of William Djean.

8. One tract of land situated in Bellevue, in said parish of St. Landry, being the last residence of deceased, Theobald Richard, about seven hundred arpents, bounded north by Bayou Calaban, south by land formerly owned by John C. Barry, Tramm and others, east by land formerly owned by Theobald Richard, and west by land of George Euglin and public road, with all the buildings and improvements thereon, as well as a store-house, a dwelling house near the store, the gin house, and a saw-mill.

9. One lot of household furniture, a sulkey.
COMMUNITY PROPERTY.
10. One gin house, one corn house, one stable, six new cabins, one store house, one small dwelling house, situated in the town of Grand Coteau, in said parish, about seven hundred arpents, bounded north by Onézime Boudreaux, south by Onézime Boudreaux, east by Onézime Boudreaux, and west by Onézime Boudreaux, with all the buildings and improvements thereon, and being the last residence of the deceased.

CORDELIA ARCENEAUX,
Natural Tutrix.
Dec. 10, 1881.

PUBLIC SALE.
Probate Court, Parish of St. Landry, No. 4293
ESTATE OF ROBERT A. NEWELL.
By virtue of an order of the Hon. the District Court in and for the parish of St. Landry, Louisiana, made in public session, to the last and highest bidder, by the undersigned administrator or a duly qualified auctioneer, at the last residence of the deceased, situated in the parish aforesaid, on WEDNESDAY, January 17th, 1882, the following described property, belonging to the estate of Robert A. Newell, deceased, to-wit:

1. A certain tract or parcel of land, with all the improvements thereon pertaining, situated as is supposed in the town of Bayou Boeuf, in the parish of St. Landry, and bounded as follows: commencing at the south-west corner of the north-west quarter of section 23, township 14 south of range 2 east of the basis meridian, and runs due north to the banks of the Little Elm Bayou; thence up the said bayou to the fork, containing 33 arpents, more or less; thence up the fork of Elm Bayou a due north course to the upper or north line of the south quarter of section 23, thence due east to a point on said line, from which a line runs due south to the south line of the north-east quarter of section 22, and thence to the commencement of section 22, and thence to the commencement of section 22, containing three hundred and forty-nine acres.