

# The Opelousas Courier

ESTABLISHED 1852.

VOL. XXXIV.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE PARISH OF ST. LANDRY.

OPELOUSAS, PARISH OF ST. LANDRY, LA., JUNE 25, 1887.

\$2.50 PER ANNUM.

NO. 39.

## Opelousas Courier.

Official Journal of the Parish of St. Landry.

PUBLISHED ON SATURDAY BY

LEONCE & L. A. SANDOZ.

OPELOUSAS:

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1887.

For District Judge.

We are authorized to announce L. I. TANSEY, Esq., as a non-political candidate for Judge of the 13th Judicial District, composed of the parishes of St. Landry and Acadia, at the next election.

The peach crop is reported to be a failure in this parish on account of worms and rot.

We hear it rumored that there are to be several marriages among our young people in the near future.

On all roads and at all times men follow in flocks to Flynn's in Washington—so do the ladies.

The governor has appointed Mr. Martin Carron of Paquetage, police juror for the 5th ward of St. Landry parish.

Washington Springs is now the fashionable resort. The Corona Orchestra will furnish music for dancing on Sunday next.

Three mad dogs have been killed in the vicinity of our town during the past week. What about the town ordinance requiring a tax to be paid on dogs?

Watermelons have been on our market for several days past. With "water-melons, rooseven ears and fat coons" the old plantation darkey is as happy as a pig in clover.

If you want to keep up with the fashion, visit Washington Springs on Sunday next. Everybody will be there. Music by the Corona Orchestra for dancing.

If your furniture needs renovating, or repairing, Mr. L. Vatter will do the job in a style that cannot be surpassed, and in view of the full season and scarcity of money, he will make his charges extremely low. He will be found in the building adjoining the Post Office on Main street.

We acknowledge the receipt of an invitation to attend the exhibition and distribution of prizes at the Convent of the Immaculate Conception on the 29th inst.

Also an invitation to attend the Manhattan (N. Y.) College commencement, which took place at the Academy of Music, June 24th, at 3 p. m.

As the next annual session of the Supreme Court will open here on the 4th of July next, we take this opportunity of reminding attorneys and litigants having business before this tribunal that we have every facility for doing brief printing in a satisfactory manner and at low rates, and will allow a fair reduction from regular rates on all orders handed in before the first of July.

The Opelousas Social Club, literary department, will have a debate to-night at their hall. The question will be: "Will the passage of prohibition be of benefit to our country?"

This club will be in preparation a choice comedy which will be presented sometime in July as soon as they get their new stage scenery.

Bro. Boisat of the Alexandria Democrats says that he proposes to join the Press Association and attend its next meeting. Glad to hear it. Bring your confere of the Town Talk along, and we promise to assist him in engaging a more substantial business feature upon the Association—a feature which, with the proverbial stiffnessness of the average newspaper man, has been too much neglected thus far.

The young men constituting the Opelousas Social Club, are getting up a library and hope soon to open a reading room. Among themselves, they have already subscribed for a number of leading periodicals and newspapers as a nucleus to this laudable movement, and we trust that the citizens of our town will encourage them by donating books of interest to the library. All books, magazines and newspapers will be promptly acknowledged and properly acknowledged by the Club.

SMASH UP.—On last Monday evening about 8 o'clock as Mr. James O. Chabrier was driving down Laundry street a horse coming from the north, and a colored man riding at full speed on horseback, Mr. Chabrier, to avoid a collision, endeavored to rein his horse to the side, but the negro's horse was frightened and running away, and in the dark struck the buggy pole-carriage with his breast. It died almost instantly. Mr. C.'s vehicle was smashed up and he thrown violently to the ground, but strange to say the horses attached to the buggy, Mr. C. and the colored rider received only a few slight bruises from the terrible collision. It was certainly a narrow escape from serious injury or death.

The Democrat has utterly abandoned the attempt to show that the Governor was not guided by a correct, rational and common sense interpretation of the law in his action in reference to our election for judge. That was a job far beyond even its capacity for quibbling and begging a question. It now boldly asserts, with how much reason we are not prepared to say, that the returning officers throughout the State have been fixing the polling places since 1882, and would have its readers believe that, being the case, the question is settled—now understanding the stubborn fact that the very salary law gives that power to the police juror. In other words, the law has been disregarded, and the law is at all. Talk about "prevailing sentiment" and "partisan blindness and bias" after this!

## An Important Invention.

Mr. O. H. Gentry a mechanic of this place has secured a patent for a very simple and effective propeller, which can be applied to any kind of vessel. This propeller has many advantages over all appliances now used, for the propulsion of vessels. Can be raised or lowered, so that it will at all times work the proper depth in the water, whether the vessel is light or heavily loaded. Its direct action, presenting a vast amount of surface impinging against the water, in the direction of the application of power; in the reverse direction there is little or no resistance. The engine has no reversing gear, but runs continually in one direction. The propeller is under the complete control of the vessel's motion without having to signal the engineer or interfering in any way with the engine, which can continue to run up to its rated speed.

We have read an opinion, as to the merits of the mechanical principles of the invention by Messrs Knight Brothers, No. 234 Broadway, N. Y., who are mechanical experts. They assure Mr. Gentry that his invention is correct in principle and advise him to give it his careful attention.

Mr. Gentry is a resident of our town and a young man of pronounced inventive genius. The improved propeller which he has invented and obtained a patent for, has been decided by competent mechanical experts to be constructed on correct and reliable principles, and he has been advised by them to give it his proper attention. As Mr. Gentry has not the necessary means to place this propeller in use before the public, we would advise some of our moneyed men to take stock in the invention and patent so that its claims may be thoroughly tested. If successful it will certainly revolutionize the propellers now in use, besides giving pilots of vessels immediate and perfect control of their craft, while under headway, independent of the co-operation of the engineer as now required.

DRAMATIC.—On last Saturday night Perrodin's Hall was crowded to its utmost capacity to witness the rendition of the "Lady of Lyons" by the talented amateurs of the Merry-makers' Club of Grand Coteau. Without going into detail, we would say that all of the young ladies and gentlemen were well up in their parts, showing a fine execution of their roles, and that the piece went off smoothly to the close. Now and then there was a little too much emotion and then not quite enough, but this was to be expected in non-professionals, and therefore calls for no hypercritical comment. The stage settings and accessories were insufficient and did not aid in illustrating the play or to heighten the glamour of the foot lights. This was a decided drawback to a striking presentation, which, otherwise, would have given the plucky amateurs a stronger support in carrying a difficult plot to a more forcible solution. They did well and highly entertained the audience, but with more study and better stage scenery they can and will do better.

The Social Club of Opelousas have leased Perrodin's Hall, and have ordered all of the necessary scenery and accessories for the stage. When these improvements are made the dramatic entertainments will be more interesting.

PERSONAL.—Mr. Homer Batorousse, the enterprising and prosperous Church Point merchant, was in town on last Monday. He reported crops good, but needed rain. The rain came on Tuesday, and we feel assured our Church Point friends will, as usual, make fine crops.

The Rev. Father Eby's residence, at Church Point, will soon be finished. It will be a commodious and comfortable dwelling.

Mr. Eugene Bloch, son of our leading merchant, Mr. Jos. Bloch, returned home on last Monday evening from the Washington and Lee University, at Lexington, Va., to spend his vacation with his parents.

Messrs. Henry L. Garland, Jr., and Charles W. Lewis, who have been attending lectures at the Law University in New Orleans, returned home last week. They are both looking well.

Mr. J. B. Bergeron, of Arnaudville, gave us a pleasant call last Wednesday. Mr. Bergeron reports a steady growth of his little town, and says that his section is on the high road to prosperity, with the most flattering prospects ahead for good crops of all kinds this year.

Mr. B. was accompanied by young Guidroz, a very intelligent deaf-mute from the same town, who has been for several years a pupil at the excellent State institution for the education of the deaf and dumb at Baton Rouge, and where he acquired, besides a rudimentary education, considerable proficiency in the "art preservative."

The public school exhibition of Miss Maggie Smith took place last Friday evening on the Coteau, some three miles east of Opelousas. From persons who were present, we learn that the pupils acquitted themselves in a very creditable manner throughout all of the exercises, evincing a careful training and proficiency in their studies, and reflecting honor upon themselves and the competent instruction of their teacher. There was an abundance of nice refreshments served to the visitors, which were contributed by the patrons of the school, a nice collection of which we acknowledge at this office.

The good people of that neighborhood do nothing by halves. Within the past few months they have built a roomy and comfortable schoolhouse, one of the patrons donating the land and the others contributing labor and erected the building. This is the right spirit and should animate all neighborhoods. A good school is a sine qua non to every well regulated community. Let other sections of our parish follow this worthy example.

A. B. Chabrier, of the Old Bank House, can furnish a good lunch, or a square meal, or comfortable lodging at living prices.

## The Press Association at Lake Charles.

On Monday, June 13, we left Opelousas on the 11:35 train, bound for Lake Charles, where the seventh annual meeting of the State Press Association was held on the two following days. At Lafayette we boarded the Texas train which had left New Orleans at 7:15 the same morning, with some fifty members of the fraternity, including a number of ladies; and at Crowley we were met by Messrs. Thad. Mayo and G. A. Fournet, of the Citizens' Reception Committee of Lake Charles, who, in cheerful obedience to the generous mandates of the committee, furnished every visitor with free tickets for hack fare and cards of introduction to the leading citizens of the progressive little "City by the Lake," whose hospitable homes had been thrown wide open for their reception. At about 4 p. m. Lake Charles depot was reached, and there the remainder of the Reception Committee, Messrs. Drew, Kinder, Gorham, McCormick, Bryers, and others, were met by the Mayor, Thad. Mayo and G. A. Fournet, in the lead, took charge of us, and never from that moment until our final departure did they cease overwhelming us with kindly courtesies and attentions.

That evening and the early part of the next morning the visitors spent in visiting the points of interest about the town and neighborhood, and making the acquaintance of the large-hearted and progressive people who had given them such a hearty welcome. And while we ourselves felt deeply gratified at the kind reception given us, we could not refrain from feeling that we had a share, as it were, in the spontaneous tribute accorded by all to Lake Charles hospitality; for, is not Lake Charles the child of St. Landry? Was not Lake Charles built up in large part by St. Landry push and energy and St. Landry brawn and muscle? Looking around us, we saw, among the former residents of Opelousas, John McCormick, whose trumpet-tongued "Commercial," mingling its notes with the sonorous tones of the "Echo," heralds far and wide the resources and advantages of his adopted town and parish; we saw Thad. Mayo, the popular Clerk of Court and inimitable raconteur; Jos. C. Gibbs, the affable new District Attorney; Henry Roy, the City Marshal; Chas. M. Richard, real estate agent and Deputy Assessor; A. M. Mayo, Deputy Clerk of Court; Dave and Sol Bloch, merchants; Miss Mollie Davis, telegraph operator; Jos. V. Richard, merchant; Bryant Hutchins, Marsden Campbell, Louis Howell, Robt. Farris and a host of others. From Washington and other sections of St. Landry are Wm. Carley and Sam Kaufman, merchants; Alf. St. Gaudin, Joe Bird, Frank Harder, Eug. Richard and many others. Mr. Bird told us that in the mill in which he is employed there are 14 hands from Washington alone.

With the proceedings of the Association, the essays, the poems read, the addresses made, our readers are doubtless familiar. They have been given in *extenso* in the New Orleans papers, and are too voluminous for our columns. Suffice it to say the meeting was in every way a success. Two-thirds of the press of the State were represented, the members of the craft became better acquainted with each other, the foundations were laid for lasting friendships between them and for the adoption of practical measures which will redound to the material benefit of their calling. However, we cannot dismiss this branch of our subject without urging upon the attention of those who have not read them, the admirable lecture of Louisiana's famed historian, Hon. Charles Gayarre, on "Literature in Louisiana," and the highly interesting address on "The Industrial South," by that eminent, progressive and broad-minded patriot, Hon. E. A. Burke, State Treasurer and editor of the Times Democrat.

Gen. Leon Jastremski, of the Capitolian-Advocate, to whom more than any one person the present flourishing condition of the Association is due, was unanimously re-elected President; Mrs. Ella Bentley, of the Donaldsonville Chief, 1st Vice-President; A. J. Lafargue, of the Marksville Bulletin, 2d Vice-President; and Miss Addie McGrath (Vivian), of the Baton Rouge Truth, Secretary and Treasurer. The following persons were elected honorary members: Hon. Chas. Gayarre, of New Orleans; Col. A. E. Mitchell, Thad Mayo, G. A. Fournet, Geo. E. Wells, Rev. J. T. Davis and Mrs. M. A. Bailey, of Lake Charles; J. Jones, Wm. of Arvidelle, and T. B. Morehouse.

After a spirited but quite friendly contest, Opelousas was selected as the next place of meeting of the Association. We had a formidable competitor in the live and attractive town of Thibodaux, and the gallant old Major Grisamore, of the Thibodaux Sentinel, proved himself an earnest, able and skillful champion of its claims. Twice did the Association vote upon the question without a definite result, and a third vote was about to be taken when the Major tactfully withdrew his town, with the understanding that the 1889 meeting should be held within hearing of that town clock which "strikes every hour of the day and night in fourteen different languages."

After the adjournment of the Association on Wednesday evening, Prof. Albert, (also a former resident of Opelousas), photographed the journalists in a group; and at 7 p. m. they, together with the citizens of Lake Charles, to the number of about two hundred, sat down to a sumptuous banquet in the lower story of Williams' spacious Opera House. The next morning some forty members of the Association, accompanied by the ubiquitous and indefatigable reception committee, boarded the steamer Edna and went down the Calcasieu river on an excursion to the Gulf of Mexico, 60 miles below Lake Charles. Prof. Knapp, Prof. Thompson and wife (sister of Mr. Watkins, of land reclamation fame), and other citizens of Lake Charles accompanied us. An interesting account of the trip is reproduced in another column.

The crops of all kinds, corn particularly, are superb throughout the country we passed through, especially those in St. Landry, Lafayette and Acadia.

## OUR DEVIL ON WHEELS.

Our readers are not aware of the fact that our devil—Jo—has provided himself with a first-class bicycle. Having been under training for sometime, and having learned to control his equilibrium on the two-wheeled roadster fairly well, he concluded to make a trial trip of his proficiency and speed. On last Monday morning he struck out for the Argus office in Washington. He sped out of town like greased lightning, distanced many buggies along the route, blew a blast of defiance to each slow vehicle as he went scudding along, frightened the cows along the way worse than if he had been a huge locomotive, drew all the little darkeys out from their cabins as he passed along with more amazement than if they had seen the elephant; and going madly with this velocity until he reached the long bridge over the Carron, when he struck the corner of a plank which capized him about ten feet in the air. Nothing abashed and not hurt, he mounted the thing again, crossed the bridge safely, increased his momentum as he went, until he reached the down grade of a deep hillside when his velocity became so great that pedestrians on the line fled in terror from our "flying devil," whose hatless head and upright hair looked like the mists of morning halting the rising sun. The utmost excitement prevailed among the citizens of Washington as they watched the receding phantom. Suddenly it vanished; the alarmed people went to investigate the phenomenon, when lo! there came forth from a mud hole our imbecile devil, looking almost the picture of old Satan himself. We learned this issue of Jo's ride on his bicycle from a perfectly reliable source, although he says it is a dar-dle.

In answer to a reminder by the Capitolian-Advocate, the Democrat gives a partial and one-sided statement in reference to the political status of its predecessor, the Opelousas Journal, which we cannot afford to pass by in silence. In enumerating those whose aid the Journal received, the Democrat failed to say that it had the strong and substantial support of Warmoth and Kellogg of Tam Anderson and Elbert Gantt, and of every Radical, scallawag and negro politician in the parish. As to its statement that the Journal supported Democratic State and National tickets, we enter a general denial. The Journal preached the funeral of the national Democratic party soon after it went over to the support of the Warmoth administration; it was a skillful apologist for and constant defender of both his and Kellogg's administrations; and it unceasingly antagonized, sneered at and frowned down the efforts made in St. Landry to maintain the Democratic party organization.

Our people here have a vivid recollection of those dreary days when the COURIER "fought the good fight" for Democratic supremacy against tremendous odds and against the Journal; but for the enlightenment of Democrats abroad, who might be misled by the article referred to, we reluctantly file this mild demurrer.

WEATHER AND FARM.—A general and much needed rain fell for several hours on last Tuesday, and the crops of oldest corn may now be considered safe. The rain fell slowly but continuously and the greater part of it was absorbed by the soil, without leaving it in a packed condition as in the case of hard beating showers.

The cotton that is clean and ploughed out, and the late corn will also grow vigorously now, with the stimulating rays of the warm June sun. Some planters are backward in cleaning and ploughing their late cotton. They will have to hurry up or the grass and weeds will take them. Time is precious now and not a moment should be lost in putting all the crops in good condition for rapid growing. All wide-awake farmers have been quite busy putting out the remainder of their sweet potato vines since the recent rain, and a large crop of these succulent tubers will doubtless be made. Our planters are in all good spirits and are working for large harvests this fall. So mote it be.

The closing exercises and exhibition of the Public School of Opelousas took place on last Thursday night at Perrodin's Hall. Pupils and teachers deserve great praise for the admirable manner in which the lengthy and highly interesting programme was executed.

The children—all of them—acquired themselves in an admirable manner, and their kind and painstaking teachers deserve the highest encomiums for the perfect success of the exhibition. There were two drawbacks, however, to the complete enjoyment of the occasion by the vast audience—the poor, insufficient, positively shabby light, and the almost incessant chatter and giggles in the rear portion of the hall. More in sorrow than in vexation we record the mortifying fact that such misconduct is becoming chronic at these gatherings, and must here express the earnest hope that Opelousas' fair exchequer may never again be tarnished by such outrageous breaches of proper decorum and correct deportment.

Many of our citizens think that \$15 per month for feeding the town horse is an extravagant charge, particularly when mules can be hired at about \$6.25 a month. The Democrat, however, seems to think that unless he eats about a bushel of corn a day the poor animal will starve, and publishes a lot of figures (which it nor nobody else vouchers for) to show that it formerly cost more than \$15 per month to feed him, and that horse hire before the town owned a horse cost more than \$15 per month. All of which is conclusive that \$15 per month is the correct figure now and hereafter.

Figures can't lie, especially when backed up by quality—both you get at Flynn's in Washington.

Blank forms for use of merchants, notaries, Justices of the Peace, etc., for sale in any quantities at this office.

## On the Calcasieu.

From an interesting description of the voyage of the Press excursionists from Lake Charles to the gulf, last week, which we find in last Sunday's Picayune, we make the following extracts:

Thursday morning shortly after 6 o'clock the steamer Edna backed out from the wharf at Lake Charles, and steamed across the lovely little lake toward the point of land where a square of pines and trees marked the embouchure of the Calcasieu river. There was on board a large and lively party of excursionists, composed of members of the State Press Association and citizens of the town of Lake Charles, prominent among whom were Messrs. Thaddeus Mayo, D. B. Gorham, James Kinder, H. C. Drew, John McMorris, of the Commercial; J. C. Bryam, of the Echo; Prof. Knapp, and Mr. Thompson, of the Watkins Land Reclamation Company. The speaker on the deck of the steamboat counted thirty a dozen mules saw mills in full operation.

"We have in this vicinity," remarked Mr. H. C. Drew, a gentleman well posted on the subject, to the representative of the Picayune, "ten saw mills now at work, with a capacity of 300,000 feet per day. They employ about 1000 men, and are doing a business of \$1,000,000 per day, and two large shingle factories, with another in course of construction, which will employ 2000 men, and do a business of \$1,000,000 per day. There are at least 3000 persons directly or indirectly supported by the lumber industry in our immediate vicinity."

"An outlet to the gulf for our products," said the representative of the Picayune, "is an outlet to the gulf for our products. At the mouth of the Calcasieu there is now from 7 to 8 feet of water, and the water is so shallow that it is necessary to increase that depth to 12 feet at least, a work which would cost about \$500,000. With that improvement accomplished there would be a trade of \$1,000,000 per day, and \$200,000 annually and would open up to this section a large trade with the gulf and Central American ports, and which the class of men who are in the Calcasieu cannot engage with safety or success. There are two obstacles to navigation in the Calcasieu—the outer bar and the shoal in Calcasieu Bay. The shoal in Calcasieu Bay is 1000 feet long and 100 feet wide, and the outer bar would enable vessels of considerable tonnage to enter the river, where they could receive part of their cargoes from lighters. The shoal in Calcasieu Bay is 1000 feet long and 100 feet wide, and the outer bar would enable vessels of considerable tonnage to enter the river, where they could receive part of their cargoes from lighters. The shoal in Calcasieu Bay is 1000 feet long and 100 feet wide, and the outer bar would enable vessels of considerable tonnage to enter the river, where they could receive part of their cargoes from lighters."

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