LE COURRIER
DES OPELOUSAS.

OPELOUSAS:

SAMEDI matin : : : : 28, MARS 1891.

Le Canada à sept cents journaux en cours de publication.

La France a décidé de prendre une large part à l'Exposition de Chicago et de ne reculer a devant aucune dépense.

Le reichstag allemand, après un long débat, a rejeté la demande d'admission des femmes aux professions libérales.

Une jeune fille de la paroisse Sabine qui se chauffait a recu sur ses vêtement une etincelle et été brûlée mortellement.

Un jeune home orginaire du Mississippi a été ecrasé par un train au Lac Charles.

Le Pape Léon XIII a célébré le 80ième anniversaire de sa naissance le 2 mars courant. C'est le plus vieux souverain d'Europe.

L'Association des fermiers de couleurs organisée en 1887 sur le même plan que l'Alliance des fermiers, dans la Louisiane septentrionale possede 2,000 membres.

Parnell qui était on ne sais où, depuis quelques jours, vient de donner signe de vie, en lançant un manifeste dans lequel, il demande de l'argent aux américains et l'appui des irlandais.

On dit que le dago Politz toé le 14 avait avoué à l'avocat de district que Macheca avait réuni des Italiens dans une salle quelque temps avant le meurtre d'Hennessey et que l'on avait décidé de le tuer. Les noms des meurtriers avaient été tiré dans un chapeau.

L'année 1891 comprend trois *vendredis treize*: les 13 février, 13 mars et 13 novembre. Le vendredi est, cette année, le seul des jours de la semaine qui coïncide 3 fois avec un treize. Voila les gens superstitieux prévenus, ils pourront se tenir sur leurs gardes.

Dans la paroisse West Baton Rouge comme Mr. Theo. Lejeune passait au travers d'un fourré, un petit serpent est tombé sur son cou. Il l'a vivement enlevé avec sa main que le serpent a mordue. A l'heure presente le bras de Lejeune est terriblement enflé et sa condition très critique.

La dette publique du Canada est de $50 par tête, celle des Etats Unis n'est que de $16 par tête. Les impôts au Canada s'élèvent à $603 par tête, ceux des Etats-Unis à $4 par tête seulement. Et cependant des tories affirment que nous sommes plus prospères que les Etats-Unis.—L'Union.

Depuis cinq jours le téléphone que relie St. Martinville et Pont Breaux est terminé et livré au public. Mercreddi nous avons causé par fil avec notre confrère de l'Union. L'appareil fonctionne bien mais il nous semble que la voix arrive à l'oreille un peu faiblement. Ajoutons que lorsque nous parlions, il y avait du vent.—Réveille.

Le prix des jambes.—La cour de district du comté de Bowie (Texas) a condamné la compagnie du Texas and Pacific Railroad, à $10,000 de dommages intérêts envers un décorateur nègre, nommé William Rictor, qui, ayant été expulsé d'un train de voyageurs, est tombé sous les roues des wagons et a eu les deux jambes coupées.

Circulation interrompu.—La Southern Pacific Co. (Atlantic System,) annonce dans un avis spécial que, par suite de la crevasse Ames, le train partant de la Nouvelle Orléans à 4:25 heures p. m. et celui du Texas arrivant à 7:30 heures du matin, ont cessé de circuler. Le train de passagers partant du dépot de la compagnie, à 8 heures du matin reste seul en activité. Les passagers sont transportés par le *Mabel Comeaux* jusqu'à la Station Waggaman, en attendant que des arrangements soient pris par la voie de Burnside à Thibodaux.—Sentinelle.

On mande de Sioux Falls que la législature du nouvel Etat du Dakota du sud a'est ajournée samedi matin sans avoir pu voter un important projet de loi, parce que vingt cinq de ses membres étaient gravement malades. On affirme que les vingt-cinq législateurs en question ont contracté des rhumes, qui ont bientôt dégénéré en pneumonie, par suite de la construction defectueuse et des courants d'air de la salle de réunion. Deux législateurs sont morts de la pneumonie pendant la session, et sur les vingt cinq autres atteints de la même maladie, plusieurs sont dans un état critique.

Récompense méritée.—Nous apprenons que M. Léon Bourgeois, ministre de l'Instruction publique et des Beaux Arts, vient de nommer M. L Placide Canonge officier de l'Instruction publique.

Déjà, il y a cinq ans, M. René Goblet, alors ministre, avait donné à M. Canonge les palmes d'officier d'Académie.

La nouvelle distinction que l'éminent rédacteur de l'*Abeille* reçoit aujourd'hui n'est qu'un juste hommage rendu à un talent dont la langue française a largement profité en Louisiane.

Si M. Canonge peut être légitimement fier du nouveau ruban qu'il va porter, on peut dire que le gouvernement français s'honore en allant à deux mille lieues de la capitale, trouver et récompenser le mérite d'un écrivain qui, suivant ses propres expressions, partage son culte entre la France et son pays.—*Sentinelle*, Thibodaux.

Angleterre et Canada.—Nou slisons, dans la *Liberté:*

"Les journaux anglais enregistrent, avec satisfaction, le résultat des élections au Canada. Les conservateurs—c'est-à-dire les ministériels, les partisans du *statu quo*—ont triomphé. C'est, incontestablement, l'affirmation du loyalisme du Dominion, mais, en même temps, c'est l'annonce de la guerre des tarifs avec les Etat-Unis. Les élections se sont faites sur la question du traité de commerce à l'extérieur: les libéraux offraient de négocier sur les bases les plus larges, ouvraient les voies à l'annexion finale; les conservateurs s'engageaient à négocier sur des bases plus restreintes que M. Blaine a déclaré ne pas accepter. Un conflit est donc probable, car le Canada ne peut pas subsister si l'excédent de sa production agricole ne trouve pas un débouché aux Etats Unis. La recherche de débouchés en Europe est une utopie. L'annexion semble devoir être une conséquence indirecte de cet état de choses."

La reforme du Juri en Louisiane.

Abeille.

Les tragiques événements qui viennent d'attrister la Nouvelle-Orléans, appellent, pour la cinquantième—pour la centième fois—l'attention sur la question impatientante, vexatoire, de la réforme de l'institution du juri—question soulevée, à chaque instant, à chaque instant discutée et jamais résolue. Au milieu des réflexions malveillantes, injustes, absurdes même, que se sont permises certains journaux étrangers sur l exécution sommaire qui a eu lieu, ici, il y a une huitaine de jours, il s'en trouve une qu'il est bon de relever, parce qu'elle ne manque pas de justesse: c'est que les populations américaines, qui devraient être les plus vigilantes de toutes, précisément parce que la liberté, chez elles, est plus développée que partout ailleurs, et qu'elle y frise, trop souvent, la licence, quand elle n'y tombe pas—font, au contraire, en ce qui concerne le maintien de l'ordre, l'administration de la justice, la sécurité des citoyens, preuve d'une négligence, d'une incurie déplorables. Elles laissent certains délits, certains crimes, passer impunis, le mal se propager et s'aggraver, les griefs s'accumuler—de telle sorte, qu'un jour, la mesure leur semblant comble, la patience leur échappe. Dans un mouvement brusque de colère, d'indignation, elles portent un grand coup, et se livrent à des exces pour remettre, au plus tôt, les choses dans leur état normal. C'est le seul reproche sensé qu'on leur ait addressé à propos de l'affaire de 14 mars.

Tout naturellement, c'est à l'institution du juri que chacun s'en prend, et l'on n'a pas tort, car presque tout le mal vient de là.

Les fonctions de juré sont, à coup sûr, les plus hautes, les plus augustes, que le citoyen, le souverain, soit appelé à remplir; elles ont même plus d'importance que celle d'électeur. Dans les bagarres du scrutin, l'ignorance, l'erreur, la vénalité de tel ou tel votant, se trouvent noyées dans la foule; elles sont fréquemment redressées et annihilées, par les lumières, la droiture d'esprit, l'honnêteté des autres. Il n'en est pas même dans le juri ou douze hommes seulement—pas un de plus—ont à décider de l'honneur, des biens, de la vie de leurs semblables.

Suivant la législation actuelle, le sort d'un accusé dépend d'un seul homme, qui peut être un sot, un ignorant prétentieux, un caractère faible, un esprit craintif ou impressionable, un malhonnête homme, dont la conscience appartient au plus offrant et dernier enchérisseur. La simple qualité de citoyen ne devrait pas suffire pour être appelé à remplir de si redoutables missions. Il faut, pour être admis à un tel honneur, faire peuve de certaines capacités, offrir à la société quelques garanties morales, intellectuelles, ou, tout au moins, matérielles. La loi est inique, quand elle abandonne l'honneur ou la vie d'un homme à la merci du premier venu. Il ne s'agit pas ici d'abolir le juri, mais de l'épurer, de le relever, de le soustaire aux tentatives de la corruption, aux entrainements de l'ignorance ou de l'ineptie.

Il ne faudrait pas, non plus, que l'acquit consciencieux de ce devoir devînt pour le citoyen une charge trop pénible, une occasion de perte de temps et d'argent. Le juré devrait recevoir une compensation pour les services qu'il rend, pour les heures et les journées qu'il consacre à l'administration de la justice. Mais ces deux conditions—capacité reconnue, garantie morale, d'un côté; juste et convenable indemnité, de l'autre—une fois remplies, l'Etat devrait se montrer impitoyable et punir sévérement tout homme qui se soutrairait à ce premier, à ce plus auguste des devoirs du citoyen. Il est juste, il est nécessaire, que ce service soit obligatoire, absolument comme le service militaire, en France et en Allemagne. Nous n'avons pas, ici, d'ennemis de dehors, à combattre ou à tenir en respect, au-delà du territoire, mais nous avons l'ennemi du dedans, le malfaiteur, qui s'appelle légion, qui connait toutes les ruses, qui prend toutes les formes, et dont l'astucieuse ou audacieuse activité menace, sans cesse, nos existences et nos biens. Il est beaucoup plus à redouter que celui d'au delà de la frontière. Pourquoi ne déploierions-nous pas autant d'energie, de vigilance, pour le repousser, quand il nous attaque, le supprimer, s'il est possible?

Quant à l'unanimité des voix exigée pour permettre au juri de rendre un verdict, il y a longtemps qu'elle a été condamnée par l'opinion publique. Il n'est pas, aujourd'hui, un seul homme raisonnable qui la soutienne. Personne ne se gêne pour la déclarer, hautement, non seulement insoutenable, mais aussi et surtout, dangereuse. Réformons une institution que l'on sait mal constituée et dont les défauts entraînent des conséquences comme celles dont nous avons été, dernièrement, les témoins?

Travaux typographiques en tous genres exécutés à l'imprimerie du COURRIER.

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AUX ATTAKAPAS,
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The Farce of Juries.

Baton Rouge Advocate.

The lesson of the New Orleans tragedy ought not to be lost. It is well enough to check assassination by bloody methods when there is no other recourse, but it is a terrible alternative. It must be borne in mind that behind the failure of the law to convict those whom the public mind held, with good reason, to be guilty, there is a faulty system that allows nine out of ten criminals to escape adequate punishment or to go scot free. There are technicalities of the law that impede the course of justice, and tests are applied in the selection of juries that make trials too often little better than a farce, and throw a shield of ignorance or venality around the murderer or assassin who has friends or money. The jury system is a relic of another civilization, well enough in its day, but the world has outgrown it in its old shape. The entire administration of justice depends on the jury, and those who are trained in the law, though nominally sitting in judgment, are little better than figure-heads, while twelve men, selected by rules that require ignorance as a test of fitness, decide in their own way the issue of law, life and liberty. Until our jury system is entirely remodeled there can be no certainty of punishment for crime, and mob law will prevail. We are entirely outside the pale of common sense in the selection of juries, which should be intelligent, just and honest, and to secure this end their selection should depend on other tests than those which are now applied. In fact, the acceptance should be left largely to the discretion and wisdom of the presiding judge, after full examination of fitness in the presence of the court by opposing counsel, or some other similar test should be applied. As it is, we are stumbling in the dark, groping in a wrong direction, and bringing the law into disrepute, making justice a mockery and putting a double premium on crime by acquittals that invite counter-violence in outbreaks of mob law, to vindicate what the courts have failed to punish. Statistics show how general this result has been. In 1890, there were in the United States 4,290 homicides and murders, for which there were 98 legal executions. This is the official report, and represents accurately the proportion of murderers in this country who paid the extreme penalty of the law for their crimes. But the record shows, by a partial list, that there were during the same year 126 lynchings in the United States, or 25 per cent more instances of lawless punishment for crime than was inflicted by the courts.

The Game Law.

The following are the dates during which the game law is in force in this State:

Deer—From March 1st to October 1st, penalty, from $25 to $50.

Wild Turkey—From April 15th to October 1st, penalty, $10 to $25.

Quail, Partridge and Pheasant—From April 1st to October 1st, penalty, from $10 to $25.

A penalty of from $5 to $25 is imposed for the destruction of Whippoorwill, Finch, Oriole, Bluebird, Swallow; Nighthawk or Blackbird, except when same are destructive to the fruits or grain crop.

A penalty of from $5 to $25 for robbing or destroying the nests of eggs of any wild bird whatsoever, except those of a predatory nature, and destructive of game or insectivorous birds.

Section 12 of the Game Law provides that all fines collected for violation of any of the provisions of the act, one half the said fine shall go to the informer and the other half paid to the Treasurer of the Parish School Board in which said fines are imposed for the benefit of the public schools.

The men of worth to a town or community are those who forget their own selfish ends long enough, and who are liberal enough in their ideas to push all projects calculated to build up the town and enhance its importance. The enterprise and push of a community constitutes the foundation of its permanent success. A town may as well prepare for its own funeral as to become indifferent to the enterprise in its midst. Men who come to town to make it their future home, who cannot look far enough before them to see that money placed judiciously in a public enterprise will be increased an hundred fold in the appreciation of their property, are to be pitied. They are the class who are ready to take all they can of one's building enterprise, but are unwilling to do anything themselves.—Kinmundy (Ill.) Express.

The First Step

Perhaps you are run down, can't eat, can't sleep, can't think, can't do anything to your satisfaction, and you wonder what ails you. You should heed the warning, you are taking the first step into Nervous Prostration. You need a Nerve Tonic and in Electric Bitters you will find the exact remedy for restoring your nervous system to its normal, healthy condition. Surprising results follow the use of this great Nerve Tonic and alterative. Your appetite returns, good digestion is restored, and the Liver and Kidneys resume healthy action. Try a bottle. Price 50c at Bailey's Drugstore. 6

THIBODAUX, LA., December 22d, 1889.

I cannot but cheerfully recommend the use of Gouaux's Asthmatic Remedies, having had many opportunities of witnessing their salutary effects. H. DANSEREAU, M. D.

ARNAUDVILLE, LA., June 13th, 1890.

Mr. F. Gouaux, Houma, La.

Dear Sir: For many years my wife is suffering from that dreadful disease, Asthma, and although I have called on many doctors none proved to relieve her. I tried your remedy, and the first dose she took she rested all night. She could not live without this precious powder and mixture. This is the best certificate that you can wish.

Yours truly, J. B. BERGERON.

Here it is, and it fills the bill much better than anything we could say: "It gives me the greatest pleasure to write you in regard to Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. During the past winter I have sold more of it than any other kind, and have yet to find any one but what was benefitted by taking it. I have never had any medicine in my store that gave such universal satisfaction."—J. M. Rodney, druggist, Gueda Springs, Kansas. 50 cent bottles for sale by Joseph Lassale and all druggists.

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A single page in an issue of the Century, taken for advertising purposes, costs $500; in Harper's, $400 down to $100. A yearly advertisement in one column of the New York Herald costs $30,300 for the lowest and $310,000 for the highest priced column. These figures will doubtless be of interest to men who invest two or three dollars per month and flatter themselves with the idea that they are extensive and liberal advertisers.

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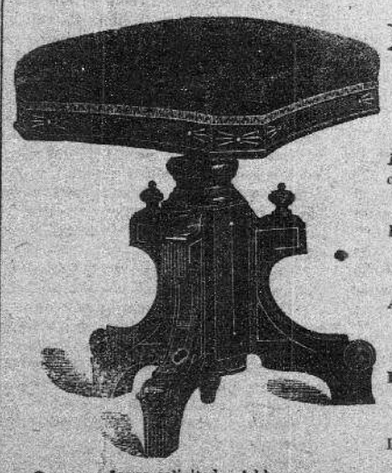

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