

# The Houma Ceres.

E. W. BLAKE, WHITE & ANDERSON.  
E. W. BLAKE & CO.

E. W. BLAKE, : : : : EDITOR.

HOUMA:

THURSDAY, JULY 19, 1855.

In fixing the date of our paper, on the outside, we made a bad blunder. It should be July 19, No. 1, instead of July 1, No. 19. The mistake, however, was noticed and corrected, before many of the papers were worked off.

### Salutatory.

It might be considered a deviation from the immemorial custom with the "corps editorial," were we to go to press without having first formally introduced ourselves to our readers.

A lapse of over seven years brings us back to the scenes of our early associations: to the Lafourche country we are indebted for all of those early impressions which we have imbibed, and whose beneficial effects have been so advantageously felt by us.

We can, without vanity, claim the proud privilege of having been the foster son of our sister parish; because, when a mere youth, emigrating among them, we were the especial object of their kind regard and generous protection. The lively interest which they manifested for our welfare, the disinterested motives which prompted them to encourage and assist us in all our undertakings, displayed a magnanimity of soul and a generosity of heart worthy of themselves alone. To their fostering care, which was so generously extended, and the deep solicitude which they evinced for us in our younger days, we attribute, in a great measure, the working of that influence over us, which has caused us to strive to render ourselves worthy of such distinguished honors.

A month ago chance threw us among you—and the astonishing rapidity with which the Lafourche country has increased since last we visited it, did not fail both to astonish and please us. Enterprise has evidently been at work! You have imbibed the true spirit of "go-a-head-ative-ness!" What nature has withheld, art has supplied. The want of a continual navigation throughout the entire year, which has been a source of great inconvenience to you, is now remedied by the construction of a railroad, whose course is traced through a country as rich, productive, and beautiful as any upon the face of the globe. You have accomplished the end whereby you are now enabled to develop the vast resources of your parish; and at the same time that it tends to build up the importance and increase the wealth of the State, will add untold sums to your own coffers. Through your intrepidity and energy in part, this road is fast penetrating the rich lands beyond in the Attakapas, and converting into useful cultivation a vast extent of country hitherto lying idle for want of the facilities of a cheap and speedy communication with a market, which being now attainable, offers an inducement for the settling of those vacant lands and a consequent development of their resources.

Though the system of railroading is yet a new and untried one with you, yet the partial and very satisfactory results attending the New Orleans and Opelousas Railroad thus far, should embue you with a renewed determination of carrying out this laudable enterprise on a larger and more extensive scale throughout the whole South. You all seem to accede the important fact that it is the only method by which to build up the commercial importance of our metropolis and enable her to compete successfully with the commercial cities of the East.

The above facts taken in conjunction with the fast increasing agricultural importance of the parish of Terrebonne, argue well for the position which she will occupy in a very few years with her sister parishes of the State. Our intention has always been to locate in a growing country, and we have consequently chosen your parish as the place of our future abode. If our feeble efforts in our present undertaking can prove a source of usefulness to the parish of our adoption, they are most willingly proffered.

Our advent among you is principally for the purpose of exercising the profession of the law; still, having made arrangements with Messrs. White & Anderson, of the "Thibodaux

Minerva," who own a half interest in this paper, to take charge of the mechanical department of the same, we have concluded to devote our leisure moments to its editorial columns.

Though this paper does not present as neat a typographical appearance as we could wish, we urge in extenuation and by way of apology, that this is simply an experiment: if it proves successful, and we find that our efforts in establishing a journal at Houma are seconded by our parishioners, we will then be disposed to make a more extensive outlay, with a view both of enlarging its size and otherwise improving its typographical appearance. As it now is with us, we are constrained to acknowledge the force of the adage which teaches the child to crawl before it attempts to walk.

### To the Public.

I consider it due to my readers at the outset of my editorial career, to express to them the principles upon which this paper will be conducted.

It is my present intention—and an intention which I will exert my utmost endeavors to carry out—to devote this paper to the general interest of the parish of Terrebonne. In order more effectually to carry out this intention, it behooves me to discard from its columns everything of a local political character; yet whenever occasion requires that I should broach the subject of politics, to do so on broad and general grounds only. I reserve this privilege in view of the impossibility of rendering any journal interesting, wherein a subject which daily engages the interest of a community and the attention of the public, is entirely excluded from its columns.

This paper being established on purely independent grounds, all communications, therefore, of a purely political character, will be inserted as mere advertisements and charged as such, when accompanied by a responsible or reliable name. We do not, however, intend to exclude communications whose peculiar literary merit will entitle them to a place in our columns: all such will be acceptable at all times, and will readily receive an insertion free of charge. E. W. BLAKE.

### To Agricultural Writers.

The editor of the *Ceres* intends that a portion of the paper shall be devoted to articles of an agricultural nature, original and practical in their character. It will be our effort to furnish our readers with selections from the best and most useful agricultural journals in the country.

We invite regular contributions from the planters generally throughout the country, giving the results of their own practical experience, observation and reflection.

The mutual interest of the Planters themselves—for each one can furnish the other with something of value, and thus make a fair exchange of benefits—should be sufficient to induce all to note down from time to time their ideas and experiences, and send them to us as "light for all." There are doubtless very numerous ready and accomplished writers among our agriculturists; but it is not only from these, but every practical man of ordinary intelligence and experience, that we would be gratified to hear—let his productions be clothed in ever so homely a garb, his facts may be none the less valuable, and in this case we will endeavor to do them ample justice.

### Gulf House.

We perceive by the last week's *Minerva*, that a Hotel bearing the above name, is to be established at Caillou Island, by the popular proprietor of Prince's Hotel at Thibodaux, J. W. PRINCE, Esq.

We are pleased to witness this spirit of enterprise in Mr. Prince. Whatever he undertakes he is certain of going through with; and a hotel directed by such experienced hands, cannot fail to render Caillou Island what it should have been long since—a favorite place of resort during the summer months.

Intelligence has reached us to the effect that there is to be a public discussion at the Court House at Thibodaux, on Saturday next, between the Hon. B. G. THIBODAUX, of this parish, and L. BUSH, Esq., of Lafourche. The discussion will be a political one, though we are not positive as to the issues which will be made. Both of the disputants are men of decided talent, besides being chaste and elegant speakers. We, following in the wake of the *Houmaites*, intend to be present.

We have been visited by very heavy showers every day this week. We may as well add that we have already a superabundance of rain.

Parents residing at a distance, desirous of placing their children at a good boarding school, are referred to the advertisement of Charles Schiefelstein. Mr. S. enjoys the reputation of being an able and accomplished teacher.

See advertisement of Thos. J. Hopper, practical Dentist, Thibodaux.

Among other cards inserted in today's issue, will be found that of Jno. Jay Lane & Wm. J. Lacy, Esq's, Attorneys at Law, located in New Orleans.

By consulting the card of Drs. W. & J. L. Jennings, it will be seen that they are provided with suitable rooms and accommodations for patients requiring their constant care and attention.

This arrangement has been entered into by them for the convenience of planters and others having slaves afflicted with chronic diseases. Their terms being reasonable, offers an additional inducement to those requiring their services—as a cure will be more speedy, and consequently less expensive.

To EXCHANGES.—Our contemporaries to whom we send a copy of our paper, will confer a favor upon us by exchanging.

We acknowledge the receipt of a fine present from WINSLOW HATCH, Esq., a planter of this parish, in the way of a water-melon of a most prodigious size, weighing over fifty-six pounds. We have been informed that it is not unusual for Mr. H. to gather from his field melons exceeding by far this one in size.

The Ball which took place in our town last Friday, was really a fine affair. It appeared that all of the beauty and the chivalry of the parish were present. The whole affair went off like a charm.

Nothing in the way of news will be found in today's issue. We have been busily engaged in fixing up—added to which, we have no exchanges—no mails—no nothing.

It was our happy lot the other day to be the guest of a highly honorable and respectable planter of this parish, who it seems is in possession of voluminous notes of his own keeping, relative to the early history of our parish. He has kindly tendered us the use of these notes when he will have revised them at his summer seat at Caillou Island, in order that we may therefrom pen articles which may prove of interest to our readers.

Merchants, mechanics, *et alii*, from abroad, desirous of advertising their cards in a journal of a largely extended circulation, would do well to consult the subscription list of our paper. We can boast of a larger circulation in the parish of Iberville than any other paper published out of the limits of that parish, besides a respectable circulation in the Lafourche parishes generally—saying nothing of our own parish.

Notwithstanding the extraordinary drought during the early part of the present season, the crops of this parish present an unusually fine appearance. Cane, which it was supposed would yield nothing, has since the recent rains, grown rapidly; and instead of a short crop, the planters are looking forward to their usual yield this fall.

Our Plaquemine mail alone to-day numbers over one hundred copies. For this mark of the kind esteem which the friends of our recent home have manifested for us, we tender them our grateful acknowledgements.

HO! FOR LAST ISLAND!—We understand that the people's favorite, Captain Muggah, so generally known throughout the Lafourche and Attakapas parishes, is expected about the latter end of this week up Grand Caillou, with his fine and staunch steamer "Star," for the purpose of conveying passengers to Last Island on a pleasure excursion.

Our townsman J. Aycock, Esq., accompanied by others, is at present on the Island, making all necessary arrangements for the entertainment of the excursion party from this parish, which we understand will be quite large. We trust that Capt. Muggah may have a crowd of passengers, to repay the trouble he has undergone for the accommodation of our citizens.

A fool in high station is like a man on the top of a monument—every body appears small to him, and he appears small to everybody.

### I Wants to Jine the Consarn.

The other day, whilst in our sanctum, busily occupied in perusing our exchanges for "clippings," a quaint specimen of the "genus homo," with a peculiarly independent swagger, stepped in, and having, with the ease and familiarity of an old acquaintance, given us a warm and hearty shake of the hand, by way of welcoming us, as he expressed it, "to this neck of the woods," monopolized our only chair, and laid hold of our only 'file,' and made himself perfectly at home generally.

It was not long before his eyes fell upon an article of unusual interest, which, judging from the repeated twitchings of the corners of his mouth, satisfied us that he had met with the thing exactly 'suited to his mind.' Such unusual concentration of thought begat of course a corresponding absence of mind in regard to things of minor importance, and the result was, innumerable pools of liquid tobacco upon our cypress carpet, each large enough to float a common sized boat.

After things had remained in this wise for some time, our friend, evidently struck with a grand idea, dropped his paper, and placing both elbows upon the table, and resting his chin upon both hands, cast upon us such a scrutinizing and significant look as to keep us spell bound for a time. Finally our friend broke the charm by which silence had bound us, by the following quaint inquiry—"When does the consarn come off?" Presuming that he inquired the day of our first issue, we imparted the desired information. "Well, sir," added he, "I've come to jine the consarn!" "The very well," we answered, (pleased with the idea of having secured another subscriber to our list.) "your name and post-office address, if you please?" At this juncture, alas! our bright anticipations had to make way for the sombre shades of disappointment. We had gained no subscriber—we had evidently misunderstood our friend—he, being likewise of the latter opinion himself, concluded to be more explicit.

"Friend," he vociferated, "I've rode twenty-eight miles this very morning to come up here expressly to jine the 'Know-Nothings,' and I've been told that you've brought along the apparatuses and sich like consarns to gin us fellers through," (at the same time giving a significant glance at the press in the corner.)

"Now," continued he, "I belongs to the rale old Revolutionary stock, and no mistake, and have been cultivatin' of Uncle Sam's farm since I was a boy. I'm one of the rale Tarbonne grit, and will do to tie to any day. Now, friend, providin' you has no objections, s'pose you gin me through right away."

It took a considerable palavering to convince our customer that he had evidently been hoaxed by some of his waggish friends—that the article which stood in the corner, far from being an instrument to gin Know-Nothings through with, was, on the contrary, simply a printing press.

Our friend was incredulous, and would heed none of our explanations, and it was only after having assured him that we were a *furriner*, that he took his leave.

The last we saw or heard of our friend, was his making a straight coat tail down street inquiring for a *matice*.

Such of our readers as believe in the encouragement of home industry, cannot do better than to leave their orders with Asa S. Rose, of Thibodaux, who stands highly recommended as a Carriage and Harness Maker. Mr. R.'s work will speak for itself. He desires but a fair trial to secure the custom of our planters. See his card in another column.

It will be seen, by reference to Mr. FRIZZELL's advertisement, that Houma can now boast of what she has so long needed, a good Drug Store.

Mr. F. has been at considerable expense in procuring a complete assortment of fresh drugs, medicines, chemicals, &c., which he is always willing to dispose of at reasonable prices.

The polite and gentlemanly manager of the establishment, Mr. BROOKS, can always be found at his post, ready to wait upon his customers.

The late venerated Dr. Sharp, (himself an Englishman,) was reported to have made the following remark, during his last and only visit to his native country, to some one who spoke slightingly of the statesmanship of America: "If you can point me to a succession of as talented and virtuous sovereigns of England, as you find in the eleven men who have filled consecutively the Presidential chair of the United States, then I will yield." There was no reply to this.

We invite the attention of our readers to the card of John Larkin, which will be found in our advertising columns. Mr. L. has been for many years located in Thibodaux, carrying on business as Copper, Zinc, Tin and Sheet-Iron Manufacturer, where he has built up his reputation as a skillful workman. He is now prepared to do all kind of work in his line on a more extensive scale than formerly, and in the shortest delay.

We send the first number of the *Ceres* to the address of such persons as in our opinion are likely to become subscribers. We are compelled to adopt this method in view of the impossibility of canvassing the country. Those not disposed to take the paper, will signify the same by returning this number to us through our post office; else they will be hooked as subscribers, and charged as such.

### Resolutions.

At the Grand Mass Meeting of the American party for the ratification of the State nominations, held in New Orleans the 11th, the following resolutions were adopted by acclamation:

- Resolved, That the Union of the States is the source of our existence, our prosperity and glory, as a free and independent people; and that it is the best safeguard of the rights of the States, and the liberties of the citizen.
- Resolved, That the provisions of the constitution, and the laws made in pursuance thereof, should be faithfully maintained and executed, in a fraternal and national spirit, free from all sectional and unloyal prejudices.
- Resolved, That while we are determined, at all times to uphold and enforce our constitutional rights on the subject of slavery, we are not without some reliance in the good sense and patriotism of our Northern brethren; and we hope that the true and conservative men among them, will, of themselves, annul and rebuke the vain and unconstitutional efforts of Nullifiers and Abolitionists to oppose and overthrow the federal laws and disturb the harmony of the Union.
- Resolved, That we are the friends of religious as well civil liberty, and that we are opposed to any political proscription for religious faith, either as to the right of voting or holding office.
- Resolved, That it is against the constitution and good policy to grant any Alien a right to take a part in the government of the country, by voting, either in a State or Territory.
- Resolved, That in any further legislation on the subject of Naturalization, the vested rights of our citizens should not be impaired, but should remain in full force and vigor.
- Resolved, That the time has arrived in the history and experience of our country, when such a change should be made in the Naturalization Laws, as will insure to Americans the government of America.
- Resolved, That we cordially approve and ratify the nominations made on the 4th of July by the American Convention of Louisiana, for State Officers, and hereby pledge ourselves to a united and earnest support of the whole ticket.
- Resolved, That we heartily adopt and endorse the Platform or announcement of principles put forth by the State Convention on the 4th of July.

THE LARGEST TREE IN THE WORLD.—The dimensions of the large California tree are given as follows: 31 feet diameter at the base, 362 feet in height; 160 feet to the first branch. The bark was taken off the trunk to the height of 116 feet and landed at New York in good condition. The thickness of the bark near the ground is said to be about 18 inches. The ancient poets spoke of trees in India so high that it was out of the power of the most expert archer to shoot an arrow to the top of them. Virgil said of the "Aesculus" that it sent its roots as far towards Tartarus as it extended its uppermost branches towards Heaven. We think the discoverers of the "Washingtonia Gigantea" (the name given to the giant tree of California) would find upon trial that its roots extend 363 feet deep in the ground.

It seems almost incredible that any tree should grow to the height of 363 feet. The tallest cypresses or pines in this country rarely exceed 150 feet in height.

A gentleman having been invited by one of our citizens to attend divine service with him, at a fashionable church, the beams, rafters, &c., of which, agreeable to modern custom, are left exposed, was asked, "Well, Mr. —, how do you like the looks of our new church?" "Well," was the reply, "after ye git it lathed and plastered it wot be a very unlookin' consarn."

RELIGION IN CALIFORNIA.—In the city of San Francisco, of which so many hard things have been said, there are twenty church congregations, embracing nine thousand members. As religion is attended to, vice gradually diminishes.