

The Houma Ceres.

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

INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS—NE TRAIL
IN NONE.

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

HOUMA:

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 1855.

☞ A month's absence beholds us again at our post. We will, with renewed exertions strive to render our paper a welcome companion to every family fireside in the parish.

We take this occasion to return our heartfelt thanks to our young and talented friend, N. H. RICHMOND, Esq., for the able and masterly manner in which he conducted the editorial department of the Ceres, during our absence.

☞ A great number of our subscribers insist that the Ceres is a Know-Nothing organ. Some arrive at this conclusion because they suspect the Editor of being a member of the American party—others are satisfied of the fact, because they know that our partners, Messrs. WHITE & ANDERSON, are K. N's. Others, more moderate, say that we shadowed forth our predilections in favor of the new organization by publishing its platform in our first issue.

In answer to these various objections, we will state that this paper is avowedly independent in its tone—that it is entirely under the control of the editor, and is consequently not responsible for the political opinions of Messrs. WHITE & ANDERSON, who are simply interested as partners in its gains, but in no other manner. As for the Editor's peculiar political opinions, be they what they may, he is entitled to entertain and enjoy them, and he considers that, as an independent journalist, the world has no right to pry into them.

DEMOCRATIC AND ANTI K. N. MEETING AT THIBODAUX.

Last Monday, on our way home, we concluded we would step in at the Court-House, and see what was going on with the great "unwashed." It seems that the Democracy of the Second Congressional District are "up and doing." They were disposed to admit the old line and anti K. N. Whigs to a coalition, as far as supporting their nominee was concerned and indeed admitted them to a full participation in their nomination of a candidate—provided, of course, he should be a Democrat—because, as a gentleman from Ascension expressed it, it was "a Democratic meeting, and none but a Democratic nominee should receive his support." Lafourche hummed and hawed considerably, and was determined on defining her position—she of course considered old line Whigs and anti K. N's. entitled to the same rights and privileges as any composing the Convention—and inasmuch as a fair understanding could not be brought about between the balance of the delegates and herself, she begged respectfully to withdraw, and declined voting for a candidate. MILES TAYLOR was declared the nominee.

Lafourche finally gave in her adhesion, and pledged herself to stand by the nomination.

With any chance for success, we think that it would have been policy for the convention to have resolved itself into an anti K. N. meeting, and have chosen some staunch anti K. N. Whig as their candidate. With such men as BUSBY or BEATTY, for instance, their ticket would have been much stronger than it is now, and consequently their opposition to Know-Nothingism would have been rendered more formidable.

☞ During our late visit at Plaquemine and Bayou Goula, a great number of our subscribers have been loud in their complaints in not receiving the Ceres regularly.

We can assure them that the fault does not lie with us. If any one is to blame, it must be the Postmasters—because we have been very particular in making up our mail.

The Know Nothings of this Parish are preparing a grand Barbecue, on Saturday the 31st September. Some of the speakers of the State will be in attendance, and ample preparations will be made for the gratification of all who may be present.

Our Market.

We have noticed the inconvenience of not having a regular meat market in Houma, and of the great difficulty under which the citizens labor in procuring fresh beef, pork, etc., and have wondered if the thing could not be remedied. According to the present arrangements, about one-third of the Houmaites are supplied with beef once a week. We are visited every Saturday morning by a gentleman from the country, with beef enough for a part of those who rise early enough to meet him in the suburbs; and those who are so unfortunate as to be found of a morning nap, are obliged to do without. We do not like the idea of being obliged to get up at daylight every Saturday morning, and walk a mile or two into the country to meet the "meat man," and then very often get nothing for our trouble, and as often get stuff, that for leanness and toughness, will compare favorably with that obtained in any market in the country.

We believe that the demand for fresh meat in Houma, would justify at least one man to turn his attention to butchering as a business. The man who undertakes to supply our citizens regularly with a good quality of fresh beef, pork, mutton, etc., will not only realize a handsome profit on his labor, but will be regarded as a benefactor by the now starving *dozens*, whose hearts (and stomachs) would be made glad by this act of benevolence and charity on his part.

Will not one of the "seven," of Thibodaux, come to our relief?

POLITICAL MOVEMENTS.—We understand that the Democrats and Antis had quite a Barbecue in our village on Saturday last. Messrs. HERRON, BUSBY, ROMAN, BEATTY, and others, were the speakers of the day.

It appears that "Sam" was about, and while the Antis were busy in one direction, he was doing a tolerably good business in another, by initiating visitors from the country. Twenty-eight members, we understand, were added to the Know-Nothing list that day.

We regret having been absent at the time, else we would give a full report of the proceedings of the day.

When Maj. HERRON, will honor us with a call again, we trust that we will be at home to receive him with all the cordiality of an old friend.

☞ It will be seen, by reference to our advertising columns, that the Sheriff has issued his proclamation for an election, to fill the various State and Parish offices that are to be filled at the November election. We do not know whether candidates for all these offices are in the field. Only a few have announced themselves as candidates in the Ceres, and of course these gentlemen stand a great deal better chance of being elected than those who have not. How can a man expect to be elected if he does not let the people know that he is a candidate? And how can he expect the people to know he is a candidate, unless he announces himself as such, through the columns of the Ceres? Come up, you aspirants for office, and let us introduce you to the thousand and one readers of our paper, before you dream of being elected.

☞ Mr. T. HARANG, the anti-Know Nothing nominee for the Legislature, from the parish of Lafourche, sends a letter to the Thibodaux Minerva, declining the nomination, and giving as his reason, that "the principles in the platform of the American party of Louisiana meet his views, and are too deeply implanted in his bosom to be forgotten, erased, and smothered by such a nomination as this."

Verily, we know not who are our friends.

RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—We learn from the *Minerva*, that the special train up from New Orleans, on Saturday last, met with a serious accident. A short distance from Boutte's Station, the track "spread" as the locomotive and baggage car passed over, and the passenger cars ran off the track, and were completely wrecked. No person was severely injured, though all the passengers were more or less scratched and bruised. One man had his arm broken. The brakeman was thrown a distance of sixty feet from the car, and yet received only a slight injury.

ANTI K. N. NOMINEE FOR SENATOR.—The Anti K. N. Convention, at Thibodaux, last Monday, nominated as their candidate, ADAM BEATTY, Esq.

☞ Arriving at Houma late on Tuesday evening, we found the first side of our paper, (which is devoted to selected copy) worked off. This forces us to delay the publication of an interesting article which we intended should occupy that space of the same. Our compositors, not aware of the article in question, had selected the necessary matter, and had gone to press previous to our arrival.

MADAME RACHEL.—The Pacific arrived at New York on the 23d, bringing as a passenger the renowned tragedienne, Mine. Rachel. We suppose that another Jenny Lind farce will now be enacted, and the American people once more show their susceptibility of humbug my.

Married.

On Thursday, August 23d, by the Rev. ALBERT LAUVE, Esq., of Iberville Parish, to Miss MARINE DOMINIQUE, of Ascension.

Never before have we beheld such interesting votaries at the hymeneal shrine. The bride was enchantingly lovely and displayed all of the graceful bearing of a May Queen. We congratulate our friend ALBERT upon the possession of such a bride.

"She is thine own;
And soon as rich in having such a jewel,
As twenty years, if all their sands were pearl,
The water nectar, and the rocks pure gold."

For the Houma Ceres. Last Island.

Mr. Editor: Having deferred it till now too late to give you a sketch from "Last Island," or the "Dernier Isle," as marked out on the maps, I will make good my promise, as far as I can now give interest to the subject.

Standing at sunset on its beautiful beach, as even an unyielding as our own Shell-Road, in New Orleans, and stretching along its semi-circumference of some twenty or thirty miles; tessellated, as it were, by the inimitably fine tracery of the surf, and your brow fanned by the cooled and invigorating exhalations breathed from the lips of *Eolus*—the mind becomes largely excursive, not to say romantic, till its whole history seems at once comprehended by the magic of your intuition, or you find yourself almost unconsciously weaving the thread of your imaginings into the woof of reality. The intonations in the voice of the surge seem to laugh for a moment at the folly of reckless adventurers, then to chaunt songs of applause at their success, or sigh a sad requiem at their misfortunes. Regarding its crescent form, you think of its adaptedness to piracy, and are told that it was one of Lafitte's favorite haunts: you stretch your mental vision to Cuba, that island which, situated in the very hiatus of a gulf, gaping upon an ocean whitened by the sails of every nation, forms so delicious a *morceau* to commercial appetencies and you may almost fancy the filibustering ship, *Plunder*, scudding before the breezes of avarice to the fertile shores of that "Gem of the Antilles." You become Selkirk-an, and associating your inquiries with the ideas that it must indeed have been the "Reclusia" of some modern votary to solitude, are rather disappointed in your speculations by being told that for years a pony was one of its earliest inhabitants. You learned that after so long a time of unrestrained freedom, its former owner has again reduced it to bondage; but not without its having added a somewhat humorous addenda to a story which, for aught we know, have also its preface.

Some cast-aways on the beach, fatigued by the heat of the sun, and plunging into the surge one star-lit night in May, were greatly alarmed by the emerging forth from the water of the pony, himself an *habitué*, it seems of such cool resorts, for reasons akin to their own, and quite as much frightened as themselves. The snorting of the affrighted animal, at being thus disturbed and his fiery appearance, as in his huge plungings he alternately pillowen and scattered the phosphorescent spray before him, so completely tinged off their ideas of the devil, that they really imagined old Nich had left his dominions. The beach attained—the wind strong—the men running with it, and the pony in consequence unable to ascertain their direction, the poor men were yet more frightened at finding themselves still pursued by their imagined foe, and though consoled that he has doffed his fiery nature, yet wondering at the metamorphosis. They fall, faint and exhausted—pony passes on. He sleeps his accustomed sleep. Aurora's

beauties but rouse them to the realization that they had indeed an adventure—not a mere hideous nightmare—that before them calmly browsed the veritable author of their fears—a harr'less pony. Verily, may not the billows laugh! Take warning, ladies of the Dernier Isle: for worses *Plutos* may haunt its shores for fair *Proserpines*.

More anon, perhaps.

STUDYX.

A Model Dum.

An editor out West thus talks to his non-paying subscribers and patrons. If this appeal does not bring the "punter," we think he need never try again:

Friends, Patrons, Subscribers, and Advertisers:—Hear us for our debts, and get ready that you may pay; trust us, we are in need, and have great regard for our need, for you have long been trusted; acknowledge your indebtedness, and dive into your pockets that you may promptly fork over. If there be any among you, one single patron that don't owe us something, then to him we say—step aside; consider yourself a gentleman. If the rest wish to know why we dun them, this is our answer: Not that we care about cash ourselves, but our creditors do. Would you rather that we go to jail and you go free, than you pay your debts, and we both keep moving? As we agreed, we have furnished our paper to you; as we promised, we have waited upon you, but as you don't pay, we dun you! Here are agreements for job work; contracts for subscription; promises for long credits; and duns for deferred payments. Who is there so mean that he don't take a paper? If any, he needn't speak; we don't mean him. Who is there so green that he does not advertise? If any, let him slide; he ain't the chap either. Who is so bad that he don't pay the printer? If any, let him shout; for he's the man we're after. His name is Legion, and he's been owing us for one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight years; long enough to make us poor, and himself rich at our expense. If the above appeal to his conscience doesn't awake him to a sense of justice, we shall have to try the law, and see what virtue there is in writs and constables.

A Touching Incident.

I went one night to see a comedy. The chief actor was a favorite, and the theater, a small provincial one, was densely crowded. The curtain drew up, and amid a burst of applause, the hero of the piece made his appearance. He had hardly said twenty words when it struck me that something strange was the matter with him.

The play was a boisterous comedy of the old school, and required considerable spirit and vivacity on the part of the actors to sustain it properly; but in this man there was none, he walked and talked like a person in a dream; his best points he passed over without perceiving them; and altogether appeared quite unfitted for his part. His smile was ghastly, his laugh hollow and unnatural, and frequently he would stop suddenly in his speech, and let his eyes wander vacantly over the audience. Even when in his character of a silly husband, he had to suffer himself to be kicked about the stage by the young rake of the company, and afterward to behold that individual making love to his wife, and eating his supper, while he was shut up in a closet from which he could not emerge; his conclusions of ludicrous wrath, which had never before failed to call down plenty of applause, were now such dismal attempts to portray the passion, that hisses were audible in various parts of the house.

The audience were fairly out of temper, and several inquisitive individuals were particular in their inquiries as to the extent of the potatoes he had indulged in that evening. A storm of sibilation and abuse now fell around the ears of the devoted actor, and not content with verbal insult, orange peel and apples flew upon the stage. He stopped and looked around at the shouting crowd. I never saw such misery in a human countenance. His face was worn and haggard, and large tears rolled down his painted cheeks. I saw his lip quiver with inward agony—I saw his bosom heave with convulsions of suppressed emotion, and his whole mein betokened such depths of anguish and distress, that the most ruthless heart must have throbbed with pity. The audience were moved, and by degrees the clamor of invective subsided into solemn silence, while stood near the foot-lights, a picture of dejection.

When all was calm he spoke, and in a voice broken with sobs that seemed to rend his bosom, proceeded at once to offer his little explanation.

"Ladies and gentlemen," said he, "though in my acting to-night, I am conscious of meriting your displeasure, in one thing you do me wrong. I am not intoxicated. Emotion alone, and that of the most painful kind, has caused me to fulfil my allotted part so badly—my wife died but a few hours ago, and I left her side to fulfil my unavoidable engagement here. If I have not pleased you, forgive me. I loved her, grieve for her, and if misery and anguish can excuse a fault, I bear my apology here."

He placed his hand upon his heart and stopped, and a burst of tears relieved his momentary paroxysm of grief. The audience were thoroughly affected, and an honest burst of sympathy made the walls tremble.

Women wept loudly, strong men silently; and during the remainder of the evening his performance was scarcely audible, through the storm of applause by which the crowd sought to soothe the poor fellow's wounded feelings. There was something very melancholy in the thought of that wretched man's coming from the bed of death to don the gay attire and utter studied witticisms for the amusement of a crowd, not one of whom dreamed of the anguish that lay festering under the painted check and stage smile.

And in the theatre of life, how many are there around us like that poor actor, smiling gaily at the multitude, while at home lies some mystery of sorrow, whose shadow is ever present with them in busy places, and in solitude, revels upon their hearts, like a ghost among the tombs.

A Good Story.

A certain friend of ours, whose urbanity and good fellowship have won him a host of admirers, amused a company a few evenings since, with the following anecdote, which is too good to be lost. S—, a captain of an elegant packet on the Champlain Canal, was spending a few days, one winter, at Montreal, and to kill time, went into the theater one evening. During the performance, the orchestra began playing "God Save the Queen." An important, consequential looking personage, bustling around the theater, touching one with his cane, and motioning to another, all the time saying "hats off, gentlemen, hats off, our national air."

Presently he approached Capt. S—, who is a diminutive specimen of the *genus homo*, and called out to him, "hats off, sir, our national air!"

The Lilliputian captain refused, when the very consequential busybody, with a sweep of his cane, knocked the Captain's hat upon the floor. There was a grand rush, the flashing of a bright blade, and cries of "a fight, a fight," but the bystanders interfered, and the parties stood glaring at each other like wild beasts. Captain S— remarked, "I shall know you next time we meet," and was hurried on to prison. In the spring following, Captain S— was pacing the deck of his beautiful packet, as she lay at the wharf at Whitehall.

The "United States" had just arrived from Rouse's Point, with passengers bound for Saratoga, New York, &c. The Captain eyed the party sharply, and among them recognized his Montreal acquaintance. He proceeded at once to the leader of the band and ordered him, as soon as the boat was in motion, to strike up "Hail, Columbia," and after that "Yankee Doodle." The order was obeyed, and the Captain appeared on deck swinging a huge bludgeon. As soon as the first note of Yankee Doodle had been sounded, he called out, "hats off, gentlemen, our national air!"

His Montreal friend did not heed him, when around came the bludgeon, and away went the Montreal gentleman's hat into the canal. The gentleman was indignant—got mad—blustered awfully—but Capt. S— was cool. "Perhaps you do not know me? I am the man whose hat you knocked off, last winter, in Montreal. Glad to see you." "Quite right, Captain, very right. I have a bottle of the genuine below; come down and we will pass receipts."

Vaccination.

The learned world is all alive. A physician a man of the world, published about a fortnight ago a book upon a subject which in former times agitated all Europe. The book is entitled "Moral and physical degeneration of the human race in consequence of vaccination," and in it Jenner is accused of having helped to thin off the European family. You may well suppose that such a work will scarcely go unnoticed. Official science has preserved a great dose of admiration for the English doctor who found upon a cow's dog the specific which is now administered administered to almost every child that is born. On the other hand, a certain school of medicine has lately grown up, whose object is to rid the world of vaccination. According to these men all modern diseases result from inoculation with the cow virus—cholera, gastritis, scrofula, more frequent cases of consumption, and above all, typhoid fevers. Thus you see the question may bring on every species of discussion, a war of words, and pamphlets in abundance. Our Imperial Academy of Medicine, consisting of the elite of the doctors, has made the subject an order of the day. Experimental Germany and England, so interested in the quarrel, will both doubtless take a part in these polemics. Heaven grant the victory may be some great achievement of science and some new good to humanity.—*Paris cor. Independent Belge.*

☞ An Emerald meeting another son of the sod, but whose countenance was not quite remembered; after saluting him most cordially, inquired his name. "Walsh," said the other. "Walsh, Walsh," said the first. "Walsh, Walsh," said the second. "Walsh, Walsh," said the third. "Walsh, Walsh," said the fourth. "Walsh, Walsh," said the fifth. "Walsh, Walsh," said the sixth. "Walsh, Walsh," said the seventh. "Walsh, Walsh," said the eighth. "Walsh, Walsh," said the ninth. "Walsh, Walsh," said the tenth. "Walsh, Walsh," said the eleventh. "Walsh, Walsh," said the twelfth. "Walsh, Walsh," said the thirteenth. "Walsh, Walsh," said the fourteenth. "Walsh, Walsh," said the fifteenth. "Walsh, Walsh," said the sixteenth. "Walsh, Walsh," said the seventeenth. "Walsh, Walsh," said the eighteenth. "Walsh, Walsh," said the nineteenth. "Walsh, Walsh," said the twentieth. "Walsh, Walsh," said the twenty-first. "Walsh, Walsh," said the twenty-second. "Walsh, Walsh," said the twenty-third. 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