

The Houma Ceres.

E. W. BLAKE & CO.

INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS—NEUTRAL IN NONE.

E. W. BLAKE, } EDITORS.
C. B. LINDSEY, }

HOUMA:

THURSDAY, September 6, 1855.

Change in our Editorial Department.

It will be perceived that an accession has been made to the editorial department of this paper, in the person of C. B. LINDSEY, Esq., a young man of an unusual order of talent and a chaste and elegant writer.

Mr. Lindsey has been heretofore connected with the Ceres, and it is entirely owing to his artistic skill that its typography has presented such a neat appearance.

We regret the circumstances which recall us back to Iberville, but such are our professional engagements, and such indeed are the claims on our filial obligations just at this time, as to render our leaving a matter of almost imperative duty.

We feel confident that with the assistance of Mr. Lindsey, this paper will continue on as flourishingly as ever. Though absent, we intend to contribute regularly to its columns, and direct its tone and sentiment. Mr. L. will, of necessity, be compelled to assume the responsibility of the editorial management to a greater extent than if were present, and we feel satisfied that in him its dignity and character will always be properly sustained and vindicated.

We intend visiting Houma at stated periods, say every three months, to attend to the general interest of the paper, and particularly to its financial affairs, which are still under our exclusive control.

A WORD TO THE READER.

To the surprise of the undersigned, he this morning finds himself occupying a chair at the editor's table. Gentle reader, we shall endeavor to sit as gracefully as possible, and do all in our power to sustain the character and dignity of the chair editorial.

With heartfelt gratitude for the confidence that has placed us, almost an entire stranger, in the the responsible position we now occupy, we make our obeisance, pledging to devote whatever of talent or energy we may possess, to the interest and entertainment of the numerous readers of the Ceres.

C. B. LINDSEY.

Importance of the Study of Natural History.

When we consider for a moment the necessity of being thoroughly conversant with Natural History, we cannot abstain from exclaiming that it is a science too important to be neglected, and one that deserves to be thoroughly studied and understood. How often does it happen that a writer is lead astray and confused for the mere want of understanding this science. In writing on various subjects, an acquaintance with Natural History diminishes the liability of writers to be mistaken in matters of fact. They will not, thus guarded, be apt to speak, for example, of a substance used in the arts, as supplied from one source, when it comes from another far different. They will not attribute to one animal what belongs to another. They will not fix on the land that which is drawn from the sea. They will not mention as strange and new, something which is common and very well known. Mistakes of this kind are not unfrequently committed by the best authors. Perfect correctness is not indeed expected, but a slight acquaintance with Natural History would very often secure correctness where now it is wanting; and every writer must desire to be as correct as possible, because every error is a blemish of greater or less magnitude.

In reading books of travels, easy and pleasant as this kind of reading is, the facility and pleasure are not unfrequently interrupted by the want of knowledge of Natural History, by not understanding what many objects are which the traveler saw, and was evidently gratified, perhaps surprised, to see, of which he gives the names—to us useless names. It is well known that many of the best, that almost all the standard works in this department, are the narratives of men of science, who are able to describe the natural objects belonging to the countries which they

visited, and thus contribute essentially to the stock of human knowledge. But this communication is not for those who are unprepared to receive it! This valuable, perhaps most valuable, portion of their works is completely hid from us, if we are ignorant of Natural History. Its terms are to us a strange language. They convey to us no idea. We skip over the pages that bear them, to us so blank and unprofitable, to others so full of instruction and pleasure. But if we possess some acquaintance with Natural History, which need not be profound for this purpose, we carry with us a torch which lights up what is otherwise so obscure, with a clear and beautiful light, and we travel where the author travels, and whatever he sees, we see also. Does he tell us that in the forest he meets such and such birds? We see them, we hear them. We know their forms. Unless they are entirely new, he need not paint for us their foliage or their plumage. Does he name rare flowers which are profusely blooming amidst untrodden solitudes? Their names come to us glowing with their own colors, and loaded with their several odors. Does he say that in roaming on the sea beat shores of some tropical island, he found scattered along the beach, specimens of this shell or of that? There they lie distinctly on the sand before our mind's eye; we are acquainted with them, perhaps we covet them. In short, we understand the book completely; we go along without halting or weariness.

The study of any branch of Natural History induces or strengthens the important habit and faculty of discrimination, by obliging the student to perceive and note these small differences in objects which are marks of wide distinctions.—Let these differences be detected, and the mind grows quicker in remark and more discerning of variety and resemblance. Every body who attends to the operations of mind, knows of how great advantage is this enlargement of faculty.

THE GEM OF FRIENDSHIP.

Rare and precious are the gems of pure Friendship. Prometheus scarcely did mortals a greater favor in snatching fire from the skies, than did the gods in bestowing this boon. It is the sweet comforter of human woes—the type of heaven. When the soul is tempest, and sore trials surround it, the voice of Friendship, like some sweet ministering spirit, whispers sympathy. It is the stay, the solace of public life. Some of the greatest men afford examples of the greatest attachment. And in private life, how much of that full, overflowing joy and peace which exist between family and individuals, does it not constitute.

In our our own associations, how many, how sweet have been its offices. It has anticipated every wish, it has ministered to every want. How true, how good is friendship—particularly the pure and disinterested friendship of a gentle and lovely female—whose deep, soft eye is a faithful index of her heart—whose gentle looks bid us welcome. Thus have we lived, and thus been friends, and

"Thus let us ever cherish it:
The Heaven exulted flame;
Through joy and grief, through good and ill,
Undying and the same."

There are periods in every one's history, characterized by certain striking and interesting features—bright spots which resemble the occasional visitations from heaven, this earth has received. In some these are more numerous, more continuous, in others, less so. The fewer they are, the more beautiful. It is not often that we receive celestial visits, so to speak, but when we do, they are indeed enviable. Among them we should class true and innocent Friendship. It savors of its birthplace, Heaven, and none but spirits as pure and untainted as itself can ever know or value it.

During the heavy storm last week Last Island was entirely covered with water. The people on the Island were considerably frightened. The storm lasted over twenty-six hours.

Caillou Island met the same fate. The sojourners there availed themselves of Mr. Ellis' boat, in making good their refuge aboard a stermer which anchored some distance from the Island.

In the list of arrivals from Caillou Island, we notice that of Hon. H. M. TERREBOUNE and family.

Our young friend, A. J. DELAPORTE, Esq., was kind enough to furnish us with a list of the Parish Officers.

Who is to be our Representative?

AND
WHO ARE CONSTITUTIONAL CANDIDATES?

Some of our fastidious readers will no doubt exclaim, when they behold the caption of this article, that we are overstepping all bounds of neutrality, and dabbling into politics. Keep cool, gentlemen, and don't fly off the handle too soon. Know that, as independent journalists, we have certain privileges, which we have a perfect right to exercise, any reader's opinion to the contrary notwithstanding.

We propose discussing the claims and pretensions of any whose name happens to be before the public as a candidate for the high and honorable post of Representative to the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana, in a spirit of truth and candor, for the purpose, if possible, of securing to Terreboone a good and faithful public servant. We will discuss his merits and qualifications alone as a legislator, independently of his political views, be they what they may. Whether he be a Whig or Democrat, of the old or modern school, K. N. or anti-K. N., we will leave him to the peaceable and quiet enjoyment of his political opinions; but as far as relates to his views upon all questions of parochial interest and State policy, we reserve the privilege of reviewing them, and descanting upon them in full.

Now, where is the patriotic citizen ready to come forward and offer himself up as a willing sacrifice upon his country's altar? As yet we have not heard of a single person mentioned in conjunction with that high and elevated position, who is likely to become a candidate. True, we have heard the claims of several gentlemen canvassed, and one, whose name was mentioned as an actual candidate, but it was finally conceded to be a hoax, else the Ceres would have been apprised of the fact. The fall races are fact approaching—and he who desires to be the successful candidate, must be ready to mount his favorite hobby-horse, and make his *tourne* among the 'sovereigns,' with whom his destiny lies. Let there be free public discussion among the candidates for political honors. Let them prove to the people that they are worthy of becoming their representative, the defender of their dearest rights and interests—if not, let the people not be deceived by elevating an incompetent person to such a responsible position. If this course is pursued, we may look for an interesting and exciting time this fall.

We cannot resist the temptation just here of digressing a little, so as to whisper a few wise counsels in the ears of all aspirants for official station.

In this enlightened age—this great age of progress, when men as it were, "live move, and have their being," by telegraphic speed, it is worse than fallacy for any shrewd and sensible candidate to indulge the flattering hope of being elevated to office without his name figuring in the papers. He would by acting otherwise go before the people as committed against every thing like progress and improvement. To be so is to smack of old fogyism—and to be an old fogy is to be politically d—well, we won't say what. We trust, for the honor of the candidates themselves, that they will adopt no suicidal course.

By way of elucidating to our readers the advantages of a newspaper in election times, we will do so by a case in point. We will relate the story, and it will be easy for the reader to apply the moral.

L. S. C. has been a candidate for the important post of Assessor for some months, and as he thought, stood a very fair chance of being elected, but what was his surprise, on visiting an intelligent portion of the parish, to find that they would not recognize him as a legal candidate. He insisted, however, that he had the same right to become a candidate as his competitors, and that he was then on an electioneering tour, to secure their support. One of them referred to the Ceres, and looked in vain for his name. They then informed him that they were a law-abiding people, and that inasmuch as the Constitution contained a provision rendering it compulsory upon every candidate to announce his name in his parish paper, before he could be eligible to any office of honor, trust or emolument, they could not consequently vote for him without he first put himself within the provision of the Constitution.

We don't pretend to say how it happened, but Mr. C.'s name, as a candidate, appears this week in a constitutional form.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE PRESS.

Who is he that expects to get along successfully and prosperously through life, unaided by the influence of the press? If any, let him stand aside, and consider himself an outside barbarian. Who is he whose parsimony cheats his better judgment into error by leading him to suppose that he will become wealthy without advertising his business? Let him stand aside—time is too precious to be wasted in arguing with such a heathen. Where is the planter, so indifferent to public enterprise—so devoid of public spirit, as not to subscribe to and encourage a newspaper, (particularly the Ceres.) Alas! we would not have his uneasy conscience for the world. Such a man is too mean to enjoy good health. Legion is his name—Mammon is his God.

A striking instance of the influence of the press is our meat article of last week, which has had the desired effect. The Houmaites have every reason to be grateful for the change it has brought about in our meat market. Twice already this week have we been blessed with that very necessary article of food, and a tolerably good quality at that! We can't say wheter we are indebted to one of the "Seven of Thibodaux," or whether Smith or Bernard, from Plaquemine, have suddenly made their appearance in our midst, or whether there has been a revival among the Houma Butchers lately in consequence of the great and momentous 'Market-House Question,' which is now agitating so extensively the public mind. There must be some great and good cause somewhere, because meat has followed in this instance, as naturally as effect follows cause.

The health of this parish has never been better than it is the present time. We are entirely free from all epedemical fevers. No yellow fever cases to alarm us, we live as it were in a perfect state of nonchalance, and indifference to danger. The hottest midsummer day with the thermometer 92 in the shade and no ice at that, cannot begin to phase the Houmaites. We fear that the physicians in consequence of the distressingly healthy state of things here will be forced to emigrate to other regions where health is less good and fevers are more frequent.

Our Devil, at our elbow, owing, no doubt, to a partiality he entertains for his friend A. B. RAGAN, Esq., of Thibodaux, wishes us to testify his good feelings towards him by a puff. He desires that Aaron's 'White Wine' be mentioned in the very highest terms of praise. We are however, not disposed to take his judgment in the matter, notwithstanding he claims to be a perfect connoisseur. We suggest that Aaron send down a half dozen bottles or so to Houma, by way of a sample, and we have the assurance before hand of all the Houma boys, that if the article is such as it is cracked up to be, they will go up and buy out his whole stock. Being strictly temperate ourselves, we'll guarantee to do him justice, notwithstanding we can't taste the unforbidden thing!

Mr. A. S. ROSE, of Thibodaux, requests us to state that in his establishment, he is prepared to make all species of Harness, &c., which, in point of durability and appearance, will compare favorably with that turned out of any manufacturing establishment in the Union.

We consider that Mr. R.'s establishment is quite an acquisition to Thibodaux. It is saying a great deal for an inland town when it can boast of an establishment which can turn out from a simple bridle to the finest carriage in the country. We have only to regret that we are not blessed with more such energetic and enterprising men as Mr. Rose.

Mr. John Berger, of this place, has just received from the manufacturing establishment of Mr. Rose, a large and commodious coach, which he intends to use in transporting passengers from the Terrebonne Railroad Crossing to Houma. This coach speaks volumes for Mr. Rose's skill as a workman.

PLANTERS, LOOK TO YOUR INTEREST! Be not startled! We have no disposition to alarm you by prognosticating any very serious or mighty evil likely to befall you, you, but simply to refer you J. M. Lowenstein's advertisement in another column. The mere fact of his advertising is an evidence of his shrewd business habits. Such a man will not fail to undersell his neighbors, and we can safely, therefore, refer our planters to him.

NEW ORLEANS AND OPELOUSAS RAILROAD.—We hail with delight the advent of the passenger train within the bounds of our parish, for the first time last week. This gives a business like importance to Terrebonne. She can no longer be looked upon as one of those inland parishes whose remoteness is an impediment to her growth. The facility which this great improvement in art affords her, places her on terms of equal if not superior advantage with the River parishes.

It is almost incredible the charge that has been wrought in this parish within the short space of two years. Only a short time since, owing to the circuitous route of travel from Houma to New Orleans, we were detained two, sometimes two and a half days in reaching our point of destination, now by Railroad travel it is a matter of a few hours only. We go and return from the city the same day.

In ever single particular our Railroad will compare favorably with the best of their Northern roads. In point of solidity speed comfort &c., it cannot be surpassed.

There is but one thing wanting in Terrebonne in point of the public enterprise, that is a communication between Houma and the Railroad crossing. We trust that there is sufficient public spirit among our capitalists, to agitate the question of a connecting branch or a plank or shell road. Who says a joint stock company, and we are a subscriber to the tune of a cool thousand.

HEAVY WINDS.—Several of our planters complain of the injury which their cane crops have sustained from the recent heavy blows by which we have been visited lately. Some are of the opinion that there can be so completely prostrated that they will not rise again; but a majority seem to look upon it a matter of no serious consequence, inasmuch as the cane being yet small, will, they say, straighten again.

CANE.—Never before has Terrebonne presented a more flattering prospect for a full if not abundant crop, than at the present time. You can see satisfaction depicted upon the countenance of all of our planters. Instead of meeting you with a surly disposition and an elongated face, they greet you with a pleasant and cordial "How d'y do!" This is infallibly a favorable symptom of the prosperity of our planting interest.

Will not our friend, Dr. D. B. P., of New River, permit us to jog his memory in regard to his promise of becoming an occasional contributor to our paper—or are his professional engagements such as to preclude the possibility of a compliance!

We invite public attention the advertisement of the "Thibodaux Home Academy," directed by J. BAYSON BARRONS, A. M., Principal. This institution will open on the 17th inst.

We hail with delight the arrival of our friend and acquaintance, EDWARD DREAND, Esq., whose return to the "Bachelor City" is looked upon as a joyful era by the members of the Gas Company of our village. Friend D. has been absent for some time upon important business.

The Police Jury of this parish, which was to have convened on Monday last, adjourned in consequence of the ill health of its clerk, FRAND GAGNE, Esq.

We are pleased to see that Frank is fast recovering from the injury he received in a recent affray. His friends were apprehensive at one time that he had "claims way over yonder."

I'M AFLOAT!—The steamer T. S. ARCHER, Capt. J. J. SHAFER, which has been aground in Bayou Black for over twelve months, has, owing to the rise in the Bayou from the recent heavy rains, been set afloat, and has left for deeper waters.

Among the late arrivals from Last Island, we notice that of our fellow-townsmen, A. BLAUNT and lady.

Jones, of Jones' Express graced our sanctum with his beautiful phiz on yesterday. Mr. J. is a finished gentleman, and the energetic expressman, who has devoted his time and energy to the accommodation and convenience of the citizens of our parish.

Health is much better preserved by exercise and cleanliness than access of medicine.