

# The Houma Ceres.

E. W. BLAKE & CO.

INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS—NEUTRAL IN NONE.

E. W. BLAKE, } EDITORS.  
G. E. LINDSEY, }

## HOUMA:

THURSDAY, October 18, 1855.

### SUGGESTIONS

To the Young Men of Terrebonne, for forming an Association for the purposes herein contained.

THE history of the origin of a free government is always fraught with interest and replete with instruction to its citizens, who live under the laws and enjoy the blessings engendered and fostered by that government. More particularly is this true of a generous and brave people who, by revolution, have thrown of a despotic yoke, and set up an independent Republic for themselves. At any rate it ought to be so. Even those people who live under the most hopeless despotism, whose minds have never been illumined by a single ray of enlightened liberty, whose hearts have never bounded with the elastic, elevating consciousness that they were men—and masters of themselves. Even the somnolent Chinaman, and the enslaved and voluptuous East Indian, dates back, with pride, the origin of his despotism, thousands of ages beyond the Adamic period, and reverently cherishes, in his recollection, the mystic traditions and authentic narratives of the origin of his people and political institutions. How much more, then, should a free people, who enjoy all the blessings of liberty, and of wise and beneficent laws, under whose benign influence the waste places have been made to rejoice, and the wilderness to blossom as the rose—a people who dwell in a land where peace and plenty have met together, and liberty and law have kissed each other—a people who have all but realized those highly colored descriptions of the Hyperboreans, those beautiful pictures of human felicity on which the poets of former years delighted to dwell—how much more should such a favored people be exercised with a desire to inquire into the history of a political system which has been the instrument of so much prosperity and happiness, to inform themselves of every circumstance which may have had any influence in moulding the body of that society and breathing into it a proper spirit and to possess themselves of the contemporaneous collateral events which are always important in the interpretation of its fundamental constitution.

Most all nations are better acquainted with the political than with the civil history of their country. The reasons are obvious; inasmuch as one is a plain narrative of events, of battles and sieges—of bivouack, of marches and retreats—the other, a philosophical deduction of sequences which gives a nearer insight into the character, habits, sentiments and resources of a people. The former has no doubt more attractions for the many—it possesses more of the marvelous, and romantic, and brilliant; but the latter is more instructive and interesting to the curious student—to the lawyer, the statesman, the philosopher.

The people of the United States are pretty well versed in the history of the Revolutionary struggle. They know what battles were fought, what victories were won, what triumphs achieved, what fields were lost, what officers distinguished themselves. They can trace the marches of the destroying enemy, and recite the tales of devastation and death that followed in his track—they can tell when a fort was stormed and taken, by what General and numbers a city was besieged, when Boston or New York were evacuated by a vanquished, and entered by a victorious, army. Our revolutionary war is so marvelously brilliant in all its details—there is something so unlike the history of all other wars in its cause, its progress, and its termination; the opposition of foreign foes, domestic traitors, and unfriendly elements, rendered the conflict so fearfully doubtful—the interests staked upon the issue were of such vital and momentous importance to the actors in that tragic drama—and to mankind—the motives which impelled these heroic pioneers in the cause of human rights, were so eminently unselfish, pure, and patriotic, that it is not a matter of wonder that every American

citizen should know it by heart; that the tottering grandfather, with tremulous tones but kindling eye, should tell the story of his country's early wrongs to his children, that the sturdy yeoman, with swelling breast, should proudly repeat the history to his listening neighbors, and lisping infancy rehearse the wondrous tale in learning its vernacular.

The Revolution is clothed in such a dazzling halo of glory, that in contemplating it we forget other equally, if not more, important periods of our history. We are so blinded by the brilliancy of the military exploits that we have no eye for the machinery of the civil government. Hence we can easily account for the easily account for the culpable ignorance of the civil and constitutional history of our country. No man who lays any claims to intelligence or scholarship ought to consider his education as begun until he has perused the chronicles of our municipal administration, and carefully followed the *restigia imperii civilis* that lead to our present form of government.

There can be no more useful and interesting study than the history of the constitution of the United States, which, for the reasons we have hereinbefore endeavored briefly to indicate, has been very much neglected by all classes of citizens. We do not speak of the meaning and interpretation of its particular provisions, but we allude to its origin—the circumstances and straits which first gave rise to the conception of such an instrument in the minds of its framers—the collateral and contemporaneous events—the *res gesta*—influencing, directing, governing the character of the unrivalled code, and the necessity of the times which led to its adoption. This branch of our national history, it seems to us, has been most woefully neglected.

How many even of our so-called politicians could give a correct, intelligent, philosophical history of the constitution of his country? It is true that every well informed citizen is acquainted with the political history of the United States, he knows the story of her birth and her struggles through her heroic age, he has read the narrative of her wars, the Iliad of her woes, but his curiosity and patriotism lead him to investigate no further. What would you think of the traveler going to Great Britain to spy out the beauty and resources of the land, who should simply explore her stern and rock-bound coast? Or the wanderer in the east, who had come many weary parasangs to feast his eyes upon the gorgeous wealth and architectural beauty of Diana's Temple, and then stop in the vestibule? But he would not have shown less wisdom than do the greater part of the American people in refusing to study the constitution of their country. When the student has gone through the history of the Revolution, he has but entered the porch to the great temple of liberty. The liberal and enlightened patriot will burn with a generous desire to discover its interior construction, to survey its grand and beautiful proportions, to penetrate its hidden mysteries, to lift the veil of the holy of holies, and lay the offerings of his patriotic devotion upon the very altar of the heaven-born goddess.

But we insult your instinctive love of truth—we do violence to your thirst for knowledge, by appealing to your sense of duty, and your national pride, to incite you to a careful review of the constitutional history of your country. The subject is sufficiently interesting and seductive, in itself to invite the investigation and meet the attention of inquisitive mind. Certainly there never was a more memorable epoch in the history of our own, or of any other nation than the period which preceded the adoption of our present form of Government.

It was full of danger, and peril, and adventurous spirit. The Republic was tottering to its fall. Friends were despairing, and foes were openly exulting—and but for the superhuman efforts of the wisest, the most intellectual men, whose names adorn the pages of history, the infant commonwealth had been whelmed in the vortex of confusion and anarchy that struck the stoutest hearts with dismay.

We love to read the stories of a man battling against odds, when dangers encompass him. We feel a natural and instinctive admiration for the hero, who, with none to aid but his trusty sword, comes off conqueror in the unequal battle. We sympathize with the Great Hector, before the trembling walls of Troy, because un-

daunted courage wins our love, though spent in error's cause. How much more, then should we delight to honor the man and his memory who wins the laurels of victory in an intellectual strife—who fights the foes of human rights, and whose weapons are drawn from the shining armory of Truth. If ever a man deserved to be canonized by a grateful people, a niche should be allotted, in the temple of the Saints to ALEXANDER HAMILTON, who, by his incorruptible integrity, his unswerving patriotism, his all conquering energy, and the Promethean fire of his genius and eloquence, saved a sinking nation from destruction. Surely there is that in the annals of Washington, Hamilton, Jay, Henry, Franklin, Madison, and their contemporaries, to invite the attention of the least curious and the tardy.

In pursuing the history of the Constitution, the biographies of those illustrious men would form a large part of our labors.

It is therefore for our mutual aid and information, and in order that we may be assisted by each other's efforts, and that our facilities may be increased, that we propose to form a Club to be called "*The Constitutional Historical Society*"—the object of which shall be, as its name indicates, to add to our knowledge of the history of the Constitution of the United States, by means of essays, debates, orations, and other exercises which may seem most suitable.

The plan we propose is the following: We will organize a private Club, with a President, Secretary and Treasurer. At our regular meetings—say semi-monthly—the exercises, such as we shall determine upon, shall have some bearing upon our constitutional history, and tend to elucidate it. It is evident that this course will require a good deal of investigation and research. That is the very thing we want. But you ask how are we going to conduct our investigations without the necessary books and documents? We answer, let us buy them. When a member is appointed to read an essay, or deliver an oration upon a given topic, he will be the best judge of the books and sources whence he can procure the desired intelligence; for having turned his mind to that particular subject, and being impelled by a generous ambition—as we presume every member of such a club will be—he will feel a personal interest in presenting to the society a full and correct exposition of that particular matter. He will therefore suggest to the society the books he needs, which shall be purchased out of a common fund. In this way we will in the course of a few years, collect together an interesting and useful library, bearing upon the most eventful period of our history. The expense would not be very great, as we would not have occasion for more than \$500 worth of books for the next two years. The tax, too, would be constantly growing lighter. We could not expend a portion of our money and time in a more useful and entertaining cause. We could thus accomplish, by association, what a single individual would have neither the ability nor the inclination for.

We celebrate the 4th of July because the Declaration of Independence was published to the world on that day. We think the adoption of the Constitution was quite as important an event and as well worthy of everlasting remembrance, and in some places we are pleased to see that the 17th of September is commemorated with a good deal of quiet, but earnest, patriotism. If, therefore, our society should wish to make any public demonstration, it would be very appropriate on the anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution. If this day should be generally celebrated, throughout the Union, it might be an antidote against the growing disrespect for that instrument.

Our young city now presents an unusually brisk appearance. Court week appears to have stirred up our friends in the rural District; and they are now among us by scores. The opening of the railroad to the Terrebonne also appears to have had quite a visible effect here; as our streets are almost daily traversed by teams from the interior laden with the remnant of the last year's crop of sugar and molasses, on their way to the railroad, wher it is shipped to New Orleans. It is well that we should here urge the establishment of a regular line of stages say tri-weekly between this point in the railroad crossing. Such an enterprise would pay a fair profit on the investment.

Our cotemporary, JONA C. WHITE, of the Thibodaux Minerva, paid us a visit on Tuesday last. Strange to say, he was *duly sober*, and had not the least semblance of who is addicted to the "ardent." We are among those who believe that Mr. White is not the "*degraded drunkard and debauched writer*" that some would have us believe him to be. We can't swallow it, nohow.

Among the distinguished arrivals in town, we notice that of MILLS TAYLOR, Esq., the Anti-Know-Nothing, Fusion candidate for Congress from this, the 2nd. District. Mr. Taylor is looking remarkably fine, and appears to be making himself particularly agreeable to the voting population. He is extremely lavish of his *bonjours*, and *comment ce vas*.

The Fifth Judicial District Court for this parish, Sir, Honor JAMES L. COLE, presiding, commenced its session here on Monday last, the 15th inst. The gentlemen of the "green bag" in attendance are Messrs. J. C. and A. Beatty, Bush, Belcher, Roman, Goode, Mercer, Mills, Irlsby, and Connaly and Rightor. The docket unusually full; and in all probability the court will continue in session for three weeks to come. There are many important suits to be acted upon.

The Opelous Railroad now runs daily between New Orleans and Tigerville, leaving the former place at half past eight o'clock A. M., and the latter at 1 P. M.; and Mrs. Tanner at 1:35 P. M.

Fine, deliciously flavored bivalves have seasonably made their appearance in our market. Teal ducks, Poulas d'Eaux, and other winter game are also beginning to make their appearance. In a few weeks more our lakes and prairies will be overstocked with aquatic game of every description.

Having been carried away with the theme of our leader this week we have spun the same out to a greater length than we at first proposed but so earnest are we in our desire to such an object as that upon which it treats consummated that we were imperceptibly led away with our subject. We are aware of the averseness that our readers have generally to long articles. Indulge us this time and we promise not to be guilty of the like again till the next time at least.

Our merchants are now in receipt of their fall and winter supplies, which they are disposing of at greatly reduced prices.

Attention is directed to the card of the steamer T. S. ANCHER, Capt. J. J. Shaffer, which will make regular trips on the upper waters of the Black to Tigerville during the entire season. Freighters should remember this. Mr. George L. Lester is the agent at Houma.

Among the marine arrivals at our landing during the week we note that of several Cincinnati Brigs, (flat-boats) from the Terrebonne crossing with full cargoes for our merchants. Flat boats now make daily trips between this port and the railroad crossing. Merchants, planters and others should remember this.

MARRIED—On Monday, Sept. 24, '55, by the Rev. E. Duvur, Mr. GUSTAVE LAUVE to Miss LAURA DUPUY, both of the Parish of Iberville.

Attention is called to the advertisement of A. S. ROSE, in another column. It will be seen that he has fully established himself among us, and is now ready to do all work in his line in the most workmanlike manner, and on the most reasonable terms.

We would invite attention to the advertisement of the sale (by the Sheriff,) of the land of Mr. Boudreau, which takes place on the 25th of November. The land is situated on Bayou Terrebonne, only a mile from the railroad depot.

It is stated that the cotton crop in Arkansas will be an average one.

Coal mines are being discovered in Illinois, in abundance.

Wages for harvest hands are \$4 per day, in Canada West.

An ancient and exceedingly common way of book-keeping, is to keep all the books you lay your hands on.

### Proceedings of the Police Jury OF THE PARISH OF TERREBONNE.

In conformity with adjournment, the Police Jury of the Parish of Terrebonne met this day, the 1st of October, 1855.

Members Present:—H. M. Thibodaux, 2nd ward; Joachim Guéno, 7th ward; François Theriot, 11th; C. C. Wallis, 13th; Old Members. Washington Tanner, 1st ward; Isidore Dupré, 4th; Joseph Aycock, 6th; Eugène Fields 8th; J. B. Duplanty Jr., 9th; J. D. Umberfield, 12th—new members Members Absent:—A Lirette, 5th ward, Peter Welsh, 10th ward, old members, the Third ward not represented. Messrs Tanner and Fields were sworn in as members of the Police Jury.

On motion of Mr. Aycock, the Police Jury proceeded to the election of the President of the Police Jury.

Mr. Aycock proposed Hon. H. C. Thibodaux as a candidate. Mr. Theriot proposed Joseph Aycock, Esq.

Mr. Thibodaux positively declined being a candidate for the office of President of the Police Jury. He stated that he had served as a member of that body for upwards of twenty years, and had repeatedly been honored, during that time, by the confidence of his fellow-members in selecting him as their presiding officer. Mr. T. said he had seen the necessity of selecting as President of the Police Jury, a member who resided in Houma; therefore he invited his friends to vote for Mr. Aycock.

On counting the votes it appeared that Mr. Aycock received nine votes—1 blank, therefore Mr. Aycock was declared duly elected President of the Police Jury, to serve during the year ending on the first Monday of September 1856.

On motion of Mr. Thibodaux—The Police Jury proceeded to the election of the Clerk of the Police Jury.

Mr. Guéno proposed F. Gagné as a candidate to that office.

On counting the votes it appeared that F. Gagné received seven votes, one vote for Mr. Umberfield and two blanks; therefore F. Gagné having received a majority of votes, he was declared duly elected Clerk of the Police Jury, to serve during the year ending on the 1st Monday of September 1856.

On motion of H. C. Thibodaux. The Police Jury proceeded to the election of the Parish Treasurer.

Mr. Guéno proposed F. Gagné as a candidate to that office.

On counting the votes it appeared that F. Gagné received five votes, Mr. George Lester two votes, three blanks. There being no majority of all the votes, the election was declared null and void.

On the second balloting, F. Gagné received six votes, Mr. George Lester received four votes; therefore, F. Gagné having received a majority of the votes, was declared duly elected Treasurer of the Parish of Terrebonne, to serve during the year ending on the 1st. Monday of September 1855.

On motion of H. C. Thibodaux. The Police Jury proceeded to the election of the Parish Attorney.

On counting the votes it appeared that W. M. Mercer Esq. received five votes, G. F. Connely Esq. received three votes and N. H. Rightor Esq. received two votes. There being no majority the Police Jury proceeded to a second ballot.

And it appeared, on counting the votes, that Mr. Mercer received five votes and Mr. Connely received five votes.

There being no majority the Police Jury proceeded to a third ballot.

And it appeared, on counting the votes that Mr. Mercer received five votes and Mr. Connely received five votes.

There being no majority in favor of either of the candidates, the election was declared null and void.

On motion of J. D. Umberfield.

The Police Jury took a recess till two o'clock P. M.

The Police Jury met conformably to the adjournment.

Members present as before.

On motion the Police Jury, again proceeded to the election of the Parish Attorney.

On counting the votes it appeared that Mr. Connely received six votes and Mr. Mercer received four votes, therefore Mr. Connely was declared duly elected Parish Attorney to serve during the year ending on the 1st Monday of September 1856.

Mr. Thibodaux.

Proposed Mr. P. H. Darce as a candidate for the office of Door Keeper of the Police Jury, and said Darce having received the vote of all the members, he was declared duly elected to serve during the year ending on the 1st. Monday of September 1856.

On motion of Mr. Tanner.

The Police Jury proceeded to the election of the commissioners of Election to serve during the year ending on the 1st. Monday of September 1856, which resulted as follows, to wit:

1st Ward—R. D. Jordan, F. L. Mead, Furcy Thibodaux.  
2d Ward—Auguste Legendre, Euzélie Ganttraux, J. C. Potts.  
3d Ward—J. McCullom, M. E. Damsis, J. LeBlanc, alias Moise.  
4th Ward—O. M. Aycock, P. Becknel, Isidore Dupré.  
5th Ward—P. H. Darce, J. M. Daigle, Pierre Daigle.  
6th Ward—J. B. Bond, A. J. De Laporte, J. B. Dunn.