The Houma Ceres.

E. W. BLAKE & CO.

INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS—NEUTRAL IN NONE.

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

HOUMA:

THURSDAY, December 13, 1855.

☞ **Advertisements for the Ceres must be handed in by TUESDAY EVENING—otherwise they are liable to remain in the office for one week, prior to their appearance in print.**

Our Public Schools.

The Police Jury at its last session displayed a great deal of forethought and judgment in selecting Messrs. B. G. Thibodaux, N. H. Rightor, W. M. Mercer, Frank Gagné and Joseph Aycock, as school examiners. They are men whose position and talent command universal respect. With such a board of examiners, Terrébonne may look forward with confidence for teachers who will be in every respect qualified for the trust reposed in them. We have been assured that these gentlemen will grant credentials to no applicant for the post of school teacher, without first standing the test of a strict examination, he be found competent and well qualified to fill that important calling.

Our present system of public schools is yet very imperfect, and without some further action is taken on part of our Legislatare, to ameliorate the existing evils by which that system is yet surrounded, it will be almost impossible, with even the most untiring energy, to accomplish much. There can be no doubt that those who have heretofore conducted our public schools throughout the State have been in many instances guilty of the most criminal neglect of duty. Whether they were fearful if they discharged their duty fearlessly and impartially, they would gain the ill will of some, and consequently forfeit a little of their popularity; or whether they have—a great majority of them—been egregious ignoramuses, is a complication waiting solution; but that one or the other of the propositions is true, is as evident as is the demonstration of the 47th of the 1st, or any other of the propositions of Euclid. Scholars are found in scores who have been through with Webster's spelling book once, twice, and perhaps thrice or more, who are not only ignorant of the key intended as the guide in pronunciation; but many of them have yet to learn for what the key was intended. They have been taught to combine the letters necessary to spell a word, but in many instances they have been left to their own accent, and to a gratuitous pronunciation. Numerous scholars have read or prosed the first, second, third, yea, and some of them the fourth Reader of the Eclectic Series of Readers, who have never learned to distinguish between the comma and the period; being as a matter of course ignorant of the names of the different points used in composition, and of consequence devoid of any conception of their first application. Scholars are suffered to proceed with the grammar without correctly decling the pronouns, or properly conjugating the verbs. Many of those scholars, when diverted from the phraseology to which they have been accustomed, have proved themselves as ignorant of the principles, as they had previously proved themselves to be of points. Now figure to yourselves, a teacher entering upon the discharge of his duties with materials such as these. The scholars falling to his lot have, perhaps, formed a high opinion opinion of his predecessor. Papa and mama sanction that opinion, and perhaps blend with their admiration of the teacher, their esteem of the man; and it may be, their love of the brother in the same fold, in the pilgrimage toward Zion. How shall the stranger proceed to convince those pupils, first, of a degree of ignorance of which they had not suspected themselves? Then, as a necessary consequence, of the incompetency of their former preceptor? the dereliction of their friends, and the imposture of that brother of papa and mama, and perhaps their spiritual instructor?

Under these circumstances what ought to be done to renovate the system and to correct existing evils? It is but fair to conclude that legislators consider the provisions which have been adopted, a guaranty that the teachers selected shall be qualified; but alas! the guaranty has only operated as the shield of vanity, ignorance, and bigotry. Exceptions there are, and honorable ezceptions; but in the general the assertion holds good, however deleterious the effect. Many of the parishes have taken action under the law, authorizing the Board of Police to require the examination of applicants for schools. Well, in such cases the applicants are examined; but what—if Directors A., B. and C. recommend Mr. D. as a suitable person to teach in their district—what will the examination amount to? Those gentlemen are considered the best judges of the requirements of their neighborhood; and if the applicant has LARNIN enough for them, why should the examining committe interfere? Having procured his certificate, the teacher is daly installed, and it is not likely that his sponsors will ever detect any deficiency, or that that they will lend an ear to those who do, if such there be. Should any one of his patrons have the temerity to question the qualifications of the teacher, he has only to present his shield, to show the gallant knight the splinters of which his lance was made.

It is, we believe, considered an axiom in debate, that objection to a prevailing system involves an obligation to suggest either the remedy or the substitute. We are not disposed to contest with a position venerable from its antiquity; but it should be born in mind, in the first place, that we do not set out to legislate, but merely to call the attention of the legislators to the evils by which our present system of schools is beset. That we may, however, be exculpated from entire dereliction of the axiom stated, we will suggest that if a competent person were appointed to the office of superior, and be compelled to visit every school in every parish, and examine every teacher in every school, without favor or affection, eject every occupant whom he might find incompetent, he being clothed with power to do so, we think this would be one remedy, which would exercise a most salutary influence. We will venture one more suggestion, that is, that before any district shall be entitled to draw from the Treasurer any portion of the school fund, they shall be required, through the medium of some accounting officer, to place in the hands of the Parish Treasurer, an amount, at the least, equal to their dividend of the school fund, which deposit, together with said dividend, shall be appropriated to a continuous school. And that in the event of the directors failing to procure a teacher, it shall be the duty of the Parish Treasurer to employ one, and to continue the school so long as the joint fund may enable him, he being authorized to levy on the District a tax equivalent to the apportionment due said District.

We have every reason to congratulate ourselves upon the efficient Board of Examiners which we have. However imperfect our school system is, still the evil will be somewhat alleviated in the reflection that none but able and qualified teachers will be placed at the head of the public schools in this parish under the present Board of Examiners.

☞ **We are requested by the president of the "Association for the relief of the unfortunate victims" to state that this society of recent organization, will holds its second meeting at the usual place, on to-morrow evening. None unprovided with the proper "insignia," need apply for admission, as the society, for want of proper diligence in this respect, were imposed upon at the last meeting.**

We have had the honor of an invitation to join the association, but as its object is kept secret, and inasmuch as we have an aversion to all secret organizations, we beg respectfully to decline.

☞ Mr. John Berger has requested us to call the attention of the public to a change in his card, wherein his price for conveyance to the Railroad-crossing is reduced to one dollar and a half. He is provided with the necessary buggies &c, to convey passengers to any portion of the parish that they may desire on their arrival at Houma. His Hotel will be found a very desirable place to put up at.

☞ **We notice that the Delta has had another accession to its editorial corps in the person of LAURENT J. SIGUR. With such talent at its head, no paper can be otherwise than interesting.**

Houma and its Environs.

Houma stands a noble exception to any place of her size in the broad expanse of the United States. She may well be set down as an exception to all general rules in regard to country towns. Her population may be computed at about three hundred and fifty souls. All trades, professions, and occupatians are well and ably represented. In case of being caught in a close place, with a likelihood of being entangled in the meshes of the law, there are four able minded Knights of the 'Green Bag,' ready to take your case under special consideration, and charge you accordingly. An equal number of physicians are ready to minister to your physical ailments, and restore health and vigor to the decrepit and sick. Should dry goods be needed, Houma boasts of three fine and fashionable stores, where anything that the imaginary wants of a purchaser can suggest, may be had, *at city prices always*. If our fair readers doubt it, let them, for the verification of this assertion, call on DAUNIS, LESTER & Co., GAGNE & TENENT and ELAHUE & WRIGHT. The Houma Drug Store, situated on our principal thoroughfare, is an ornament to our Bachelor City. Besides medicines, there is also to be found anything you can desire to minister to a romantic disposition, by the way of the latest and best novels, &c. Our tailors pride themselves on their superior artistic skill, and their inimitable fit in every instance. Were we to compute them by heads, our population would be considerably larger, but as it is, they are not yet quite numerous enough to add one soul more to the number. The carriage shop of A. S. ROSE, is one of the recent improvements which goes to build up her importance.

Houma forms an exception to her sister towns throughout the State in this, that she cannot boast of her quota of fair and and blooming damsels. There are but few sweet and smiling countenances of the softer sex, to impress upon her Bachelors the pure contentment to be attained by a change of their miserable existence. Yet with them, "ignorance is bliss," and her Bachelors seem as happy in their present state of celibacy, as the more fortunate of their sex.

Houma forms a noble exception to most towns in another important particular—that she has not a single *loafer*, politely termed "gentleman of leisure," parading her streets. Her Batchelors are men of business habits, and are all engaged in some honorable and useful calling. After the toils of the day are over, they invariably unite in the evening, meeting alternately at one place and another, and pass off the tedious hours between tea and bed time in social and intellectual confab—and not unfrequently in partaking of a sumptuous fare prepared by one of them for the occasion. The last of these sumptuous feasts was prepared by our friend and neighbor, that *bon viviant*, DURAND, on which occasion his table literally groaned under the weight of the delicacies served up.

The citizens of Houma receive every evening the latest news from the city by means of her railroad and expresses—an advantage which few of her rival towns can boast of.

Houma boasts of three churches, two livery stables ond three boarding houses. It is the seat of justice of this parish, and as an evidence of the high moral sentiment of her citizens, has voted down the liquor license.

☞ The passenger train, of the Opelousas Railroad was detained last Sunday "about twenty hours" on her trip to the Terrebonne crossing in consequence of the freight car which was ahead, being thrown off the track by comming in contact with two cows. The only accident was the killing of the cows in question.

☞ The planters of Terrebonne are all busily engaged in taking off their Sugar crops. The saccharine odor which surrounds us on every side is very pleasant to inhale, and quite conducive to health. The yield in proportion to other parishes is very fair—and upon the whole our planters seem well contented, and show no disposition whatever to complain.

☞ See the advertisement of McGaw in another column. The property which he offers for sale is one of the most deirirable locations in Houma either for a residence or a stand for business.

THIBODAUX HOME ACADEMY.—We are pleased to learn the unrivalled success of this institution of learning. The Principal, J. Bryson Burrows, is in every respect well qualified for the position which he occupies. His scholars are limited to thirty, and he has already twenty seven of that number. Before his compiement is made up, those desirous of availing themselves of a good school for their children, will do well to improve the opportunity yet afforded them.

☞ How happens it, confreres Hatch & Jennings, that we so seldom see the Advocate? Your paper is indispensible to us, for our scissorings, and by witholding it, you are injuring us to an extent which will give rise to very heavy damages. In your present overgrown importance, you mustn't forget that like us, you were once of the small fry order. We intended a fair exchange, but if, you are remiss in sending us the Advocate hereafter, we will be forced to charge you the difference in our price of subscription.

☞ Public attention is invited to the card of Mr. Edward O. Gagne. Mr Gagné is well and favorably known to the inhabitants of this Parish, having served as Deputy Shereff for the last two years. All claims placed in his hands for collection will recieve his immediate and prompt attention.

☞ George Lester of the firm Daunis Lester &co., has just returned from New Orleans where he has been purchasing a fresh supply of goods. The Houma teams have been in requisition for a few days transporting their goods from tha Railroad crossing to this place. Their advertisement will speak for itself next week.

☞ See Mr. Schifferstein's card in another column. His school is now in full progress, and Mr. S. is spoken of in universal terms of praise as a teacher.

☞ Tue Weekly Picayune makes its appearance in an entirely new dress and enlarged size, an evidence of its continued posperity. It is looked upon as one of the best conducted prints in the Union. Every gentleman in this locality if he is not already, should become a subscriber to the Picayune.

☞ Judge A. Delaporte's court will open on the 29th inst: for the transaction of all business which may come before it.

A FAST MAN.—The Boston Journal, of the 5th inst., says:

Mr. I. F. Jones a compositor in the Journal office, last week composed, distributed and corrected one hundred and twenty thousand three hundred ems, which at the price paid 32 cents per thousand ems—amounted to $38 40. We believe this is by far the largest bill every made by any comsoritor in any one week in this city at least.

☞ A Cincinnati editor being asked, "what is the news," replied—"Sir, I sell news at ten cents a week; don't bother me,"

Parlor Amusement.

THE WITCH.—A trick to discover a hidden word, by the assistance of a confederate, who enacts the witch. Having enteged the room, and taken your seat, you are addressed by the witch (who makes mystic passes, &c., over you with a wand) in different sentences, each commencing with a consonant in the word, in rotation. These sentences, she divides by waving over your head. The vowels are expressd by thumps on the floor with her wand—thus: a single thump for A; two for E; three for I; four for O; and five for U.

EXAMPLE.—The word chosen is Boatmen. The witch commences:

"B-e prepared, my trusty spirit, to answer my questions. (Thump, thump, thump!---a wave of the wand---'bump!) T-o answer my questions, O, spirit, so mind---(a wave of the wand.) M-ind what you are about (thump.) N-o expound the oracle."

The mystification of the audience may be increased by fixing on the second or third letter instead of the first.

THE WIZARD---The wizard, as may be supposed, is a near relation of the witch. In this, however, you do not profess to name the article fixed on without having heard it, but simply to detect it when named amongst others.

The secret is this: your confederate takes care to name it after an object that has four legs, as a quadruped or an article of furniture.

EXAMPLE.—The word agreed on is lamp. The confederate commences his interrogation:

Q. Is it a flower?
A. No.
Q. Is it an Inkstand?
A. No.
Q. Is it a table-cloth?
A. No.
Q. Is it a table?
A. No.
Q. It is a LAMP?
A. Yes.

A table having four legs, the word following is known to be the right one.

Parish Officers.

FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
PARISH OF TERREBONNE.

Judge.....Hon. JAMES L. COLE.
District Attorney.....J. ROMAN, Esq.
J. Aycock, Clerk.....A. J. Duculan, Deputy Clerk.
A. Bonad, Sheriff...Frederic P. LeBlanc, Deputy Sheriff.

Parish Recorder.....J. A. Le Beau.
Deputy Recorder.....E. N. Breaux.
Assessor.....Robert Talon.

OFICERS POLICE JURY.

JOS. AYCOCK.....President.
FRANK GAGNE.....Clerk and Treas.
G. F. CONNELLY.....Parish Attorney.
PHILIP DALCE.....Constable.

POLICE JURY MEMBERS.

1st Ward,	W. Tanner,	7th Ward,	J. Grémillion,
2d "	H. C. Thibodaux,	8th "	G. Fields,
3d "	A. Lirette,	9th "	J. B. Duplantier,
4th "	J. J. Hanna,	10th "	Peter Wolfe,
5th "	Isidore Dupuy,	11th "	F. Wilson,
6th "	J. Aycock,	12th "	J. D. Cantrelle,

13th Ward, C. C. Wells.

A. Y. M.—Houma Lodge, N. D., HOLDS its Regular meetings at the Masonic Hall, over the store of Gagné & Tenent, on the second Saturday of every month, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

OFFICERS:

JOHN B. ELSLAND, W. M.	W. M. MERCER, S. W.
H. NEWELL, Sec'y.	J. A. GAGNE, J. W.
C. TENNENT, Treas.	J. AYCOCK, S. D.
W. F. GREY, Tyler.	J. L. JENNINGS, J. D.

Arrivals and Departurs of the Mails at and from Houma.

THE THIBODAUX MAIL arrives at Houma on Tuesdays and and Thursdays at about 3 o'clock, P. M.

The PATTERSONVILLE MAIL arrives on Thursdays at about 4 o'clock P. M.

MAIL FOR BOTH ROUTES closes at 6 o'clock, P. M.

A. M. LATHROP P. M.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Edward O. Gagne,

GENERAL COLLECTOR.—OFFICE IN HOUMA—Will attend strictly to all claims placed in his hands for collection, in this and the adjoining parishes. 39

FOR SALE.

2 VALUABLE NEGRO COOPERS, aged about 20 years. For Terms apply to GEORGE TROXLAIR,
nov13 . . At Bayou Goula, in Iberville Parish.

THIBODAUX COLLEGE.

I TAKE pleasure in announcing to parents, guardians, and the public in general, that having secured the services of competent gentlemen, I shall henceforth, under the above name, conduct my institution on a larger scale. The plan or course pursued will be similar to that adopted by our best colleges, and the tuition comprises all the branches usually taught in such establishments.

I am ready to receive boarders, of which, parental care will be taken,

TERMS.

Regular English Course.....$6 00 per month.
Every additional Language.....1 50 " "
Board, (washing not included)....$160 00 " annum.

For further particulars, as to terms, conditions, etc, apply to CHARLES SCHIFFERSTEIN, Principal.
N. B. A prospectus will be issued soon. 2tf

THE STATE OF LOUISIANA—District Court of the 5th Judicial District, sitting in and for the Parish of Terrebonne.

M. Emma Falgout,
vs No. 1537. } 5th District Court Parish Terrebonne.
E. P. Bascle.

This cause having been taken up and the law and the evidence being in favor of the Plaintiff and against the Defendant—

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED ADJUDGED AND DECREED, that MARCELLINE EMMA FALGOUT be and is hereby separated in property from her husband, EMILE P. BASCLE, and that she be decreed to have the separate administration of her paraphernal property as prayed for in her petition, and that said separation be published and announced as required by law, and that E. P Bascle do pay the costs of this proceeding.

This done and signed in open Court at the Parish of Terrebonne—this 27th of November, 1855.

[Signed:] JAMES L. COLE,
Judge of 5th Judicial District.

I, the undersigned, Clerk of the above Court do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy from the original judgment on file and of record in my office.

WITNESS my hand and the impress of the seal of said court this the 4th day of December, A. D. 1855. J. AYCOCK, Clerk.

ETAT DE LA LOUISIANE—Courdu Cinquieme District Judiciaire, siegeant dans et pour la Paroisse Terrebonne.

M. Emma Falgout,
vs. No 1537. } Cour du 5ème District, Paroisse Terrebonne.
E P Bascle.

Cette affaire ayant été entendue et la loi et l'évidence étant en faveur de la plaignante et contre le défendeur.

IL EST PAR CES PRESENTES ordonné, adjugé et décrété, que Marcelline Emma Falgout soit et elle est par les presentes séparée de biens de son époux Emile P Bascle et que l'administration de ses biens paraphernaux lui soit accordée comme elle le demande dans sa pétition, que ladite séparation soit publiée et annoncée ainsi qu'il est requis par la loi, et qu'Emile P Bascle soit condamné à payer les frais de cette procédure.

Fait et signé en Cour ouverte à la Paroisse Terrebonne, ce 28 Novembre 1855.

[Signé:] JAMES L. COLE,
Juge du 5ème District Judiciaire.

Je soussigné Greffier de la susdite Cour certifie la présente copie conforme à l'original déposé et enregistré en mon office.

Témoin ma main et le sceau de la dite cour ce 3 Decembre, 1855.

J. AYCOCK, Greffier.

HO! FOR THE RAILROAD!

JOHN BERGER has placed a Stage and Express upon the line from Houma to the Railroad Crossing, Terrebonne Depot, capable of carrying twelve passengers. The Express will leave Houma every morning at nine o'clock, and returning to Houma, will leave the Depot immediately on the arrival of the cars from the City, say at half past 11.

FARE EACH WAY, - - - - $1 50

He hopes, by attending to wants and convenience of the traveling public, to merit a share of their patronage.

He has constantly on hand conveyances of kinds at Houma to convey passengers in any direction.

Hotel and Stable.

The undersigned would also inform his friends and the public that he is prepared to accommodate all who may call upon him, with comfortable lodgings, and his table is always well supplied with the best that can be procured in in the market. Every exertion will be made to administer to comfort and convenience of his guests.

His stables are well stocked, and means of conveyance may be procured at all times. Travelers conveyed to any part of the country, at all times, and on the most accommodating terms.

Dec 6tf JOHN BERGER.

TOWN PROPERTY FOR SALE.

THE UNDERSIGNED offers the property upon which he now resides for sale, on the most reasonable terms. The lot fronts on the Bayou Terrebonne and on the Canal, and is a very desirable situation for a residence or for business purposes. There is a good dwelling house and all necessary out building upon the premises, all in good repair.

H. McGAW.

N. B. All persons knowing themselves indebted to me are requested to come forward and settle, as it is my desire to have my business squared up immediately, preparatory to leaving the place. H. McG.

JNO. JAY LANE
—AND—
WM. J. LACEY.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW.
1-6m No. 92 Camp Street, New Orleans.