

# The Houma Ceres.

INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS—NEUTRAL IN NONE.

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

## HOUMA:

THURSDAY, December 29, 1855.

### To the Public.

It will be seen by advertisement in another column, that the firm heretofore existing in the publication of this journal, known as that of E. W. Blake & Co., has been by mutual consent of the parties, dissolved.

I having bought out the interest of Messrs. White & Anderson, will henceforth continue the publication of the "Ceres" in my own name. By specification in the act of sale, I charge myself with the liquidation of all debts due by Blake & Co. and am substituted to all of Messrs. White & Anderson's interest in the books of the firm.

I have made all necessary arrangements to secure the punctual appearance of the "Ceres" hereafter. The encouragement which I have received from the citizens of this, and the adjoining parishes is so flattering, that I have determined to render this paper worthy of the patronage which has been so liberally bestowed upon it.

E. W. BLAKE.

### Our Public Roads.

It is due to the public that our Road Inspectors be called upon to explain the cause of the miserable condition of our roads. One would suppose, in traveling the rout from Houma to Thibodaux, after a rain spell, that there exists no ordinances in this parish providing for either the making, repairing, or keeping up of our public highways. But such is not the case. The Police Jury ordinances will be found all-sufficient, if only enforced, to furnish us with good roads.

The act of the Legislature of 1847, entitled "An act granting certain powers to the Police Jury of the Parish of Terrebonne," invests the Police Jury with full power to enact and provide for the enforcement of all laws and ordinances relating to roads within our parochial limits.

Let us see what are our regulations concerning roads. The 6th section of an ordinance of the Police Jury, in regard to locating roads, provides that "whenever public roads run on the banks of Bayous or water courses, they shall be located on grounds entirely above high water mark. Provided, That front proprietors shall be allowed to place their roads within high water mark, with the consent of the Inspector and the Road Committee, for the time being, but in such case they shall be obliged to raise the whole travelling track of their said road with earth, at least six inches at the sides, and eighteen inches in the centre, above the highest water."

In regard to the manner in which our roads are to be made, the 7th section of the same ordinance provides that "All public roads in this parish shall have a traveling track of at least thirty feet wide. Whenever any of said roads shall pass over timbered land, the timber shall be felled and the undergrowth cut down at least sixty feet in width, and for the width of thirty feet, all trees, stumps, roots and other obstructions, shall be cut and cleared even with the surface of the ground. A ditch shall be cut on the upper side of the traveling track of all roads in this parish, at least three feet wide at the top, and two feet deep, and the dirt thrown into the centre and properly levelled; and whenever the Inspector may think it necessary, a ditch shall be cut on both sides. Cross ditches shall be cut from said side ditch, sufficient in number, depth, width and length, to prevent said roads from overflowing during heavy rains; said cross ditches to be curbed under the bridges, and to be well and substantially bridged; the bridges to be at least eighteen feet wide, to be supported by no less than six good cypress pilks, and covered with strong pickets or planks, of not less than two inches in thickness, which shall be securely fastened down for their whole length with iron spikes. Whenever there may be holes, ponds, or other places in any road lower than the ordinary surface of the ground, said low places shall be causewayed and raised with earth, so as to make it a good practicable road at all at all times; and the earth necessary to

raise said causeways shall be taken from each side of the road, so as to form a drain on both sides thereof."

The same act defines the Inspector's duty, which is to visit all the roads and public works within his jurisdiction at least four times a year; and to cause all roads, bridges and causeways to be kept at all times in a good state of repair, according to the provisions of the Police Jury ordinances, and generally to superintend the execution of the road ordinances. Another section imposes a fine of fifty dollars, to be recovered by the Treasurer of the parish, against any overseer or Inspector neglecting to have the roads within this parish made and kept in repair according to the intent of the road ordinance referred to.

The 10th section of the same ordinance provides that "Every proprietor through or on whose land a public road may pass, and who shall refuse or neglect to open, make, or keep the same in repair, in conformity with the Police regulations of this parish, after having been duly notified thereto by the (Inspector), shall be liable for each offence, to a fine of not less than five nor more than ten dollars for every arpent of road (running measure) so neglected to be opened and repaired, to be sued for in the name of the Inspector.

It strikes us that these ordinances are all-sufficient to carry out the purposes for which they were intended. The duties of Inspectors are clearly laid down, and how it happens that we have such miserable roads, is more than we can account for.

### Houma Coaches.

It is owing to the enterprising spirit of B. F. HOLDEN, added to his desire always to accommodate the public, that we are indebted for our present cheap rates of travelling. About a month since, public convenience required that we should have a daily communication with the Railroad crossing.—In answer to this public want, Mr. HOLDEN introduced a stage coach to convey passengers every day to and from the Railroad Depot. His line of Stages are continuous to Thibodaux, which latter place can be reached without additional expense, and with no further inconvenience than to step from one coach to another at the Depot. This is a matter of great public convenience and Mr. HOLDEN certainly deserves well of our citizens, and should be entitled to their encouragement. This Stage between Houma and Thibodaux is simply an experiment, and rather a risky one as far as money making is concerned; but as Mr. HOLDEN is already extensively engaged in that sort of business, he concluded to extend his benefits to Houma. He at the outset, fixed his fare as low as he could afford to take passengers for, without doing a losing business. He supposed, with our limited travelling, one stage might pay, but no sooner does he introduce his stage, than it gives rise to a spirit of competition, and an opposition line springs up immediately. From the original fare of two dollars, charged by HOLDEN, the opposition has forced him down to the sum of one dollar. No one, in our opinion, can defy our expenses at these rates! This is no concern of the public! The cheaper the traveling, the better it is for them. But is not the public bound to encourage a spirit of enterprise in its citizens? Without HOLDEN, a daily coach would never have been thought of perhaps, and we would have remained satisfied with paying five dollars for a Buggy to take us to the "crossing." He has at least benefitted this community by affording its citizens a regular and cheap conveyance to the Depot, intercepting the cars on their arrival from and departure to New Orleans, and that, too, at three dollars less than they have been in the habit of paying. We are for encouraging the person who will afford us the guarantee of a daily line of coaches from this place to Thibodaux, at a price anything like fair. Two dollars, we think is little enough. We are fearful that the low prices we now pay, (owing to a spirit of competition between the two lines) will not last, and that the final result of it all will be, that we will have no stage communication at all; throwing us back to our primitive days, when we had to travel the muddy, drawn by Tarabonne, in a rickety vehicle, working our passage, to the tune of five dollars a day.

Every man ought to endeavor to attain eminence, not by pulling others down, but by raising himself; and enjoy the pleasure of his own superiority, whether imaginary or real, without interrupting others in their felicity.

### Our Centre Table.

"Putnam's Monthly," that ably conducted periodical, is before us. It is replete with interesting articles. The December No. contains the following:

The Armies of Europe;  
The Last Galley;  
How I came to be Married;  
On my Bed of a Winter Night;  
Longfellow's "Song of Hiawatha";  
It Might Have Been;  
The Virginia Springs, (continued);  
Low Life in Sabara;  
Life Among the Mormons, (concluded);  
The Loss of the Argos;  
About Niggers;  
A Visit to the Bruzes;  
The Lost Lamb;  
The Green Lakes of Onondaga, (N. Y. State);  
Thackeray, as a Poet;  
Hesperus;  
Living in the Country;  
Benito Cereno, (concluded);  
The Coming Session;  
Editorial Notes, etc., etc.

Godey for January is one of the most beautiful specimens of art that we have ever looked upon. The Engravings, "These are my Jewels" and "Our Father who art in Heaven," are truly magnificent. Besides these there are "Godey's" unrivalled Fashion Plates. "Welcome" one of Godey's inimitable "peculiarities;" Webster Fancy Basket; "Lelia" a song; "La Peignoir Marguerite;" "Traveling Basket;" "New Style of Infant's Bib;" and an almost innumerable quantity of pretty things in the way of Engravings and embellishment. The contents of this number exhibit a greater amount of literary talent than usual, and we are almost led to imagine that old times are to be revived, and that the Lady's Book will again stand equal to the best of American Magazines, in point of literary merit. "Helen Bennet," by the author of "Alone" and the "Hidden Path," (MARIAN HARLAND,) is the most attractive feature of the January number. We admire the style of this lady's writings, and hope that she may be retained as a regular contributor, as she will add more to its popularity than all the patterns for babies' skirts he can publish from this un-til doomsday.

Blackwood, for November, abounds with a series of articles of surpassing interest, written in an able and masterly style. Every person of a literary taste should be provided with this periodical. The price is sufficiently low as to bring itself within the reach of those of the most limited means. The contents of this number are: "The Eastern Shores of the Black Sea;" "Zaidee: A Romance;" "Professor Johnston's Last Work;" "An Old Contributor at the Sea Side;" "Modern Light Literature—Travelers' Tales;" "Paris and the Exhibition.—Letter to Irenaus;" "The Story of the Campaign;" "Written in a tent in the Crimea;" "War Politics—What we are Fighting for."

Arthur's Home Magazine for January, is before us. We can speak of this periodical but in the highest terms of commendation. It is one of the rarest gems of literature in our country. It should find its way to every Lady's centre-table in the Parish.

We had the exquisite pleasure yesterday of shaking cordially by the hand our old acquaintance James H. Fenn, of Plaquemine. With the exception of the bad roads, he has formed a very high opinion of our model parish. He has requested us to write an article, giving "particular Jessy" to the road inspectors, but on sober second thought, we have concluded that the state of our roads is none of his business; that it is an institution, peculiar to ourselves, and do not in the least concern him. We are happy to see him, but if he is not pleased with the condition of our roads he has our blessing and—we were about to add—our permission to leave.

ACCEPTED E.—Our devil has adopted a new name for one of our french accents. Being too Anglo-Saxonised to pronounce the word "accent aigu" he calls it the Gagné E. "Gagné" is the clerk of our Police Jury the last letter of whose name terminates with an "é," and being so constantly in the types and becoming so familiar with the types, our devil has for his own convenience named one of the accents after him. In correcting proof sheet when an é is needed, all that is necessary is to authorize our typo to correct, by substituting a Gagné E.

The co-partnership heretofore existing between E. W. BLAKE, J. C. WHITE & L. F. ANDERSON, in the publication of the Houma Ceres, under the style of E. W. BLAKE & Co., has been dissolved by mutual consent.

Mr. BLAKE is alone authorized to collect all claims due said firm, and pay all of its debts.

E. W. BLAKE,  
JONA. C. WHITE,  
L. F. ANDERSON.

See DAUNIS, LESTER & Co.'s advertisement in another column. They have just received from the city a new and fresh assortment of Staple and Fancy Dry Goods. The ladies, in particular, will be well pleased with their stock. Their embroideries are tasty and of the very latest Persian style.

We are requested by Mr. ROSE to say, to Planters, that this is an auspicious time to send their Ploughs, Carts, Carriages, Wagons, etc., etc., to his shop to have them repaired in time for the planting season. He is fully prepared to do all work of the kind in as good a manner and on as reasonable terms as the same can be done elsewhere. Try him.

### "Why Didn't You Carry Louisiana?"

Extract from a letter received by the editors, a day or two since:

"Why didn't you carry Louisiana? We all expected you would up there."

You "all expected" we would up there, did you? Well we expect you are considerably disappointed. We expected to carry Louisiana down here, but we didn't for the enemy "played on a harp uv a thousand strings," and deluded too many people into voting the wrong ticket!

You want to "know how this happened?" We'll tell you in short order—quicker than a short horse was ever carried in the Catholic parishes the people voted against our ticket because they were told by the high priests, scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees of the enemy, each one of whom "played on a harp uv a thousand strings," that we were opposed to Catholics.

In the Protestant parishes, the people voted against our ticket because they were told by men in authority that we were opposed to Protestants because we had nominated a Catholic as a candidate for Governor, and each man in authority, as he concluded, "played on a harp uv a thousand strings," and thereby enticed the people to follow in their footsteps.

And, then, five-sixths of the foreigners voted against us because they were told that the diabolical Know-Nothings intended to hamstring every mother's son of them, after the election, and the orators aforesaid, in the most earnest manner imaginable, "played on a harp uv a thousand strings," and the foreigners followed the music.

And it rained all over the interior on the day of election, and so about two thousand of our folks, having fear of wetting their beloved feet before their eyes, and having each one purchased a "harp uv a thousand strings," concluded to stay at home and practice music.

Furthermore, and in addition to the foregoing reasons, we didn't and couldn't—found it utterly impossible—to get votes enough, for the enemy "played on a harp uv a thousand strings," and great multitudes followed and joined with the harpers.

P. S.—If our correspondent is not satisfied with this luminous explanation, he must put his interrogatories in a different shape, and we will endeavor to answer them, at least to the best of our ability. We may (we want this kept secret) by continually trying our hand, arrive at the true reason ourselves!

N. B.—It is positively untrue that the American party has ordered ten thousand harps—each uv a thousand strings—for use during the next Presidential campaign. We desire to nip this atrocious calumny in the bud.—[Crescent.

TAKE A PAPER FOR YOUR WIFE.—A friend, says an exchange, not long since told us a story in relation to one of our subscribers, which contains a good moral for husbands, and also furnishes an example for wives which is not unworthy of imitation under similar circumstances:

The subscriber referred to, said our friend, in the presence of his wife, said that it had been his intention to call at the Dispatch office, pay up his arrearages and discontinue the paper.

His wife very promptly asked: "Why do you intend to discontinue the paper?"

"Because," said the husband, "I am so much away from home on business, and have so little time to read, there seems to be very little use in my taking the paper."

"Yes," responded the wife, "it may be of little use to you, but it is of great use to me. I remain at home while you are gone, and I wish to know what is going on in the world. If you discontinue the paper I will go straight to town and subscribe myself!"

As the paper has not been discontinued we suppose the wife's reason was conclusive. The moral of this incident must not be overlooked.—[Exchange.

### I Will!

Yes, I know you will. The energetic expression and determined tone show that you will.

"I will try!" said the gallant Miller, as he marched his undisciplined but determined troops, up the hill whose summit was crowned with a battery that poured death in all directions, and that battery, guarded by British regulars, was silenced, and its brave defenders sent to the long sleep that knows no waking.

"I will be President of the United States," said John C. Calhoun, on the day he left college. Through a long life, with his eye steadily fixed on that as the end of his career, he obtained a wide renown, and died but one step short of the Presidency.

"I will discard the title of Emperor of all the Russians, and take that of Emperor of all the Slavones," said the young Emperor of Russia; and whoever lives to see ten years more, will see his threat accomplished. His energetic determination, is a sure guarantee for its fulfillment.

Set your mark high, young reader, determine to reach it, never swerve from your purpose, and you will accomplish your object. The eagle, with his eye on the sun, and a determination to reach it, may never get quite there, but he will soar higher than a three foot bush.

One of the finest passages in the play of "Richelieu," is this:

Richelieu—"Young man, be blithe! for note me; from the hour I grasp that packet, think your guardian stars rains fortune on you."

Francis—"If I fail!"

Richelieu—"Fail! In that bright lexicon of youth, which fate reserves for a glorious manhood, there is no such word as fail!"

Why should a young man fail! If he be honest, if he be honorable, if he be ardent, if he be energetic, if he be gifted with mental power, if he be right in soul and strength, he should never fail; and if any alluring temptation whisper in his ear, words that would make him turn aside, let him revert to that "bright lexicon," and never fail.—[Farmer.

YOUNG SAM AT HIS MEALS.—Among the statuary at the Palace, there is a group in marble, or plaster, by Jones, of London, labelled "Ptolemy Lagus, nourished by an eagle." The bird is represented as in the act of shielding an infant from the cold with its wings, while a bit of something, which might be a date or some such edible, is being placed in the open mouth of the little fellow, by the beak of its feathered nurse.

Yesterday, during the rain, a number of Western drovers, who had finished their business at Bull's Head, visited the Institute exhibition, and were soon deeply engaged in a careful inspection of all the sights. By accident, some three or four of them met around the work of art we are speaking of, and one of them slowly deciphered the tag for the benefit of the party.

"It's a cursed Yankee lie!" exclaimed one of the drovers. "Ptolemy Lagus, Don't I know? I tell you that's the American Eagle feeding Young Sam with gravel stone, to give him grü.—[N. Y. Sunday Courier.

REMARKABLE EXPERIMENT.—A recent work of science gives the following novel experiment, which settles a question of some importance in philosophy. Two hundred pounds weight of put was dried in an oven, and afterwards put into an earthen vessel. The earth was then moistened with rain water, and a willow tree, weighing five pounds, was placed therein. During the space of five years the earth was carefully watered with rain water, or pure water; the willow grew and flourished, and to prevent the earth being mixed with fresh earth or dust blown to it by the winds, it was covered with a metal plate perforated with a great number of small holes suitable for the free admission of air only. After growing in the air for five years, the tree was removed and found to weigh 169 pounds and three ounces; the leaves which fell from the tree every autumn were not included in this weight. The earth was then removed from the vessel, again dried in the oven and, afterwards discovered to have lost only about two ounces of its original weight; thus 164 pounds woody fibre, bark and roots, were certainly produced, but from what source? The air has been discovered to be the source of solid element at last. This statement may at first appear incredible, but on slight reflection its truth is proved, because the atmosphere contains carbonic acid, which is the compound of 714 parts by weight, of oxygen, and 338 parts by weight of carbon.

To cool the atmosphere, brag of another woman's good looks in the presence of your wife.

DUTY.—We love to see a woman treading the high path of duty, unblinded by sunshine or storm. There are hundreds who do so from the cradle to the grave—heroines of endurance of whom the world has never heard; but whose names will be bright hereafter, even beside the brightest angels.

Keep the body perfectly pure, as indication of the purity of the mind within.