

# The Houma Ceres.

INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS—NEUTRAL IN NONE

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

## HOUMA:

THURSDAY, January 3, 1856.

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.

### What Houma Needs:

First and foremost, Houma needs a through municipal organization, under her act of incorporation, passed by the Legislature on the 16th of March 1848. If, as far back as seven years ago, there arose the necessity for the citizens of our town, to establish themselves into a body politic, ergo the reason is still more cogent that that body should exist now, that we have grown twice as populous and consequential. It is vain far us to "rest upon our oars" and endeavor to reason ourselves into the belief that all moneys levied for the purpose of internal improvements would be so much thrown away; simply, because Houma will never rise above what some facetiously term her, a "One horse town." We must not lose sight of the advantage which Houma possesses in consequence of the superiority of her location over that of most towns.

Situated as it were at the junction of three Bayous whose fertile banks are lined with rich and productive plantation whose trade she mostly commands: She necessarily becomes a town of no ordinary commercial importance. The facilities of the Railroad which crosses this parish at a distance of twelve and a half miles above this point, has had a double tendency; that of affording a shorter and more direct communication to New Orleans, which brings our merchants in more direct competition with the merchants of that city and compelling them to keep up a stock commensurate with to the competition against which they have now to contend, whilst at the same time she retains the trade which she has always had, by affording inducements to planters to continue their patronage by the proportionate reduction in the prices of their goods which competition brings about. If we supposed that the least doubt could be entertained in regard to the correctness of the principle just advanced a sufficiently clear demonstration of causes growing to prove such result can be made, to satisfy any reasonable mind.

To proceed—It is a fact which perhaps, is not generally known, that since the incorporation of Houma in 1848, she has doubled her trade, doubled her population and more than doubled in extent her territorial area. It is a fact familiar to us all, that at the period referred to, Houma "all told," consisted but of a Court House, a Boarding House and a Store, with perhaps two or three private residence. How it is with her at the present day. We have a description of Houma seven years back—a small town of little or no note—with little or no commerce, and with a population so small as scarcely to form a respectable corporal's guard. To day her commercial importance has given rise to three large Merchantile establishments, besides a few lesser ones. Her increased population has brought in requisition and heretofore valueless, and built them up with fine residences. The increased travel here supports respectably two hotels and a boarding house. Her carriage manufactory and black smith shops and Machine shops, are indubitable evidences that the mechanical art is encouraged and flourishes in her midst. The moral and religious tone of her citizens is manifested in her churches. Indeed, on every hand we behold evidences of her increasing prosperity.

We may say of Houma that owing to the material advantages which she possessed, she was forced to increase in this manner. Very true still, if there existed in her citizens more of public spirit, Houma would in a short time present an entirely

different aspect to what she does now. Immediately in rear of town there is a low swamp, which at a very trifling cost could be drained, and by that means bring into market a large extent of land, which properly laid out into town lots, would meet with ready sale, and in a short time teem with beautiful residences! Men of capital and enterprise would come among us,—means would be desired to introduce lumber (a scarce article indeed) to appropriate to building purposes. High rents with its crushing effects would go down. There would be the results of a little enterprise. The want of buildings alone in Houma, her forced men away, who have come here for the purpose of locating and engaging into business.

We have now entered upon a new era as regards the future destiny of Houma. We are no longer to be sneeringly dubbed "On One Horse Town." Our Railroads and Expresses gives the flat contradiction to any such imputation. We are compelled to act up to the importance which both nature and art has destined for Houma. Let us then agitate the question of a municipal organization—let the ameliorations of our streets—a system of drainage and like wise public improvements, be our theme for conversation hereafter, and let determine once and for good to shake off this lethargy which has bound us in inactivity so long, and determine to do something for the benefit of Houma and her citizens.

On Christmas eve whilst the clouds were pouring down rain in torrents over our village—the Devil at the press working off the first side of the "Goddess of Agriculture,"—the editors sitting cross legged by a cheerful fire, cozily smoking a pipe for five center, and delivering themselves up to meditative thoughts about a good Christmas Dinner and the dear ones at home in Pluckmin and Kaintuck we were suddenly awakened from our reveries by the loud blasts of Holdens Express Stage at our door. Our first reflection, was that our AUBURN GRIFF had concluded to make good his promise to pay us a visit—but no—we were mistaken. Instead of the august personage alluded to a box was ushered uncerimonously into our sanctum. No message—no letter—was ominous. We concluded that it must be an infernal machine—our sensitive nerves could not overcome the reflection. Our Devil more daring with his Satanic nerve seized the box and in a twinkling rid it of its covering, and displayed to our view,—what do you suppose? why a half Dozen of Charles Hiseck's best brand, a bottled of old rye labelled 1834, and a bottle of extra Catawba brandy. This was indeed a beverage worthy of the Gods.

With such superfluity of spirit—Christmas near at hand—we on the eve of traveling homeward—concluded as we were strictly temperate ourselves, to invite some of the Houma gentlemen "capital connoisseurs" to call round on the evening and test the articles.

We had been drinking the health of the unknown honor, when suddenly on the bottle of "Old Rye" the label of R. F. HOLDEN was apparent. We had in our mind accused him of being the donor, but were not satisfied. We were led to believe that it was HOLDEN, because it was just like him—he never does things by halves.

Sentiment upon Sentiment was drank, in which his enterprising spirit was acknowledged—and success upon success was proposed to HOLDEN'S Houma Express.

### New York Day Book.

If any of our subscribers would like to receive a New York paper full of solid and substantial reading, with liberal and expansive views, an elevation of tone, rising above narrow sectional feelings, and free from all taint of abolition fanaticism, can have all that they desire in sending on for "THE WEEKLY DAY BOOK." As long as Southerners will take Northern papers, let them in their selections not overlook such as boldly and fearlessly recognize their constitutional rights.

We have had worse weather for the past two weeks, that we have known in this country for many years. One day we have rain, another cold and freezing, and from one to the other. Sugar Planters have had miserable weather in which to secure their crops, and if this state of things exist much longer, it will interfere with the coming crops. Planters can do nothing now, on account of the miserable condition of the roads.

### Christmas.

Santa Claus and Kris Kringle have made their annual visits, and the hearts of all the urchins in our parish have been made glad by the beneficent gifts of those time honored personages. Santa Claus has come down the chimney of every domicile in the country and filled the stockings of all the little ones with his liberal gifts; and the old ones have gathered together and commemorated in a proper manner, the coming of the great day of feast and frolic. We were fortunate enough to have had a number of invitations to join in dinners with our friends, and had the weather permitted, we should certainly have accepted, at least one of the many polite invitations to feast upon roast Turkey and the et ceteras usual on such occasions; but, in the recollection of our oldest citizen, never have the heralds of merriment and good cheer, had such disagreeable weather, and such unfavorable auspices to contend against in the fulfilment of their mission as on the present occasion. Yet for all this we hear of none who did not enjoy themselves. Our Landlady spread the festive board and invited all who wished to come and partake of her hospitality and a merrier time we have never had, and happier guests we have never seen than on this occasion. Egg-Nog in the morning, and Roast Turkey at dinner together with spirit stirring wine, and every thing else that the most fastidious appetite could wish for. Taking all things into consideration, Christmas passed with more than the usual spirit of hilarity.

### New Firm.

By reference to our advertising columns it will be seen that our young friend Brooks has become one of the proprietors of the Houma Drug Store. We wish the new firm all the prosperity imaginable, and if energy attention to business, and the manifestation of a disposition to accommodate customers, be an evidence of success, then will our most sanguine expectations fully realized. Persons wishing any thing in the novelty line would do well to call on MESSRS, FREZELL & BROOKS, and our word for it they will not go away dissatisfied.

FROZEN TO DEATH.—JOHN McSHANE, who was a driver of one of the Expresses was found frozen to death on the morning the 26th, near Bayou Cane, on the road from Houma to Thibodaux. His wagon was run into a ditch, and one of his mules thrown down, and in attempting to extricate them, the devoted driver perished. We learn that he was of temperate habits, and his death cast a shadow of gloom on the faces of many of our citizens, whose favor and esteem "Irish John," had won by his gentlemanly conduct, and politeness.

We are again forced to make an apology for the nonappearance of our paper on Christmas week. We had our type nearly set, and one side worked off when we and our Devil were both taken sick, and were brought to a perfect "standstill," in our business. We do not intend to promise that this shall not again happen but we do say that it was unavoidable, and if a like occurrence happens in future, it will not be our fault.

TRUE GREATNESS.—Chief Justice Marshall was in the habit of going to market himself, and carrying home his purchases. Frequently he would be seen at sunrise with poultry in one hand vegetables in the other. On one of these occasions, a fashionable young man from the North, who had removed to Richmond, was swearing very violently because he could find no one to carry home his turkey. Marshall stepped up, and asking him where he lived said, on being told.

"That is on my way, and I will take it for you."

When he came to the house the young man inquired.

"What shall I pay you?"

"Oh, nothing," said the Chief Justice, "you are welcome; it was on my way, and no trouble."

"Who was that polite man, who brought my turkey home for me?" inquired the young man of a bystander.

"That," replied he, "is John Marshall Chief Justice of the United States."

"Why did he bring home my turkey?"

"To give you a severe reprimand, and to teach you to attend to your own business," was reply.

True greatness never feels above doing anything that is useful; but especially, the true man will never feel above helping himself. Dr. Franklin, when he first established himself in business at Philadelphia wheeled around the paper he purchased for the printing office with his own hands.

### Domestic Economy.

PICKLE FOR BEEF.—To eight gallons of water add one quart of Molasses, three pounds of sugar, four ounces of salpeter, and fine salt sufficient to make it so strong that it will bear up an egg. This quantity will suffice for two quarters of beef.

TO KEEP PLATED WARE CLEAN.—Camphine and Rotten Stone produce, when applied, a quick, bright, and durable polish.

MARKING LINEN.—The preparation used for wetting linen before marking with ink is a drachm of salt of Tartar dissolved in one and a half ounces of water.

TO SOFTEN HARD WATER.—Half an ounce of Quick Lime dissolved in nine quarts of water and the clear solution put into a barrel of hard water, will render it soft water when clear.

TO MAKE BOOTS WATER PROOF.—Melt 3 oz. each of rosin and beeswax, and stir in 1 pint of boiled oil, and heat all well together; when partly cool, add 3 oz. of oil of turpentine. Apply not with a brush.

FOR THE PIP IN CHICKENS.—Take off the indurated covering on the point of the tongue, and give twice each day, for two or three days, a piece of garlic or onion the size of a pea.

SHOE.—Whenever shoes or boots are taken from the feet, it will greatly prolong the upper leather from cracking if the wearer was to bend back the sole of the shoe on the knee, or the back of a chair, and also pinch up the upper leather; it should be done when warm from the feet. Shoes worn only once a week should be done in this manner every Sunday night. When put on again the next Sunday morning, they will have the feel of a new pair.

CELEBRATED CORN BREAD.—As prepared at the St. Charles Hotel, New Orleans:—Beat 2 eggs very light, mix alternately with them one pint of sour or butter-milk, and one pint of fine Indian Meal, melt one table-spoonful of butter and add to the mixture, dissolve one table-spoonful of soda or saleratus in a small portion of the milk and add to the mixture the last thing, beat very hard and bake in a pan in a quick oven.

BLACK CAKE THAT WILL KEEP A YEAR.—Sugar 1 pound; butter 1 pound; flour 1 pound; ten eggs; 1 pint of brandy; raisins 2 pounds, currants 2 pounds. Mace, nutmegs, and clover to flavor. Bake it well.

Horses should always be watered in the evening, after they have eaten their fodder or oats. They should be kept well covered while standing in the cold after hard driving, or when put into the stable sweating.

Never wash the legs of a horse with cold water when he is warm, not even in warm weather. Cold water may be used for inflammation, but only when the horse is cool.

Horse should stand on a level floor. If slanted, it will strain their muscles.

Let your expenses be such as to leave a balance in your pocket. Ready money is a friend in need.

The man who will not, when necessary, incur hazards, for the sake of acting well his part in life, will never achieve success, much less distinction.

Heaven and immortality are themes of profitable reflection; but, unfortunately, many persons think more of new dresses and late fashions than they do of their future destiny.

TO SHAKE OFF TROUBLE.—Set about doing good for somebody; put on your hat, and visit the poor: inquire into their wants and administer unto them; seek out the desolate and oppressed, and tell them of the consolations of religion. I have tried this; and found it the best medicine for a heavy heart.

TALKING.—The rules to form a young man are, to talk little, to hear much, to reflect alone upon what has passed in company, to distrusts one's own opinions, and value others that deserve it.

During the search "instituted" by the Newark Times for female composers, it is reported that the following dialogue took place:

Brister—"Good morning, Mr. Henpeck, have you got any daughters that would make good type setters?"

Henpeck—"No; but I've got a wife that would make a very fine "devil."

A wise man will stay for a convenient season and will bend a little, rather than be torn up by the roots.

Evil company is like tobacco smoke; you cannot be long in its presence without carrying away a taint of it.

When once infidelity can persuade men that they shall die like beasts, they will soon be brought to live like beasts also.

Wise men are instructed by reason, men of less understanding by experience, the most ignorant by necessity, and brutes by nature.

Many a true heart; that would have come back like a dove to the ark, after its first transgression, has been frightened beyond recall by the angry look and menace—the taunt, the savage charity of an unforgiving spirit

### THE GRAVE YARD.

BY MARTIN V. R. SUMMERS.

Great monument of God's almighty power,  
Up to whose thrones all mortals kneel,  
Here let me come and spend a fleeting hour,  
In sweet communion with the silent dead.  
Here friends and foes at last must come and lie,  
The rich, the poor—the wicked and the just,  
For God hath said that all must die,  
And moulder quickly to their mother dust.  
Conquerors and conquered, now together lie,  
Forgotten long, uncared for and unknown;  
With none to view them with a ridding sigh,  
They slumber here neglected and alone.  
Perhaps a mother's fond lights are here,  
For whom to heaven her prayers have here,  
The touch now watered by her silent tear,  
Whilst they, unconscious, sleep amid the dead.  
And in the silence of yon willow shade,  
A low-dewy bough wave solemnly around,  
Friends have a grave, with tears and sorrow made,  
And o'er a parent leaped the tall-tale mound,  
No more her soothing hand shall grieve yon woe,  
O'er cheek-long moistened by the struggling tear,  
No more shall speak, to counsel or to save,  
No more—for they have laid her silent here.  
Beneath each mound: a once loved form is lain,  
Now safely housed, in this, their last abode,  
Their race is run—the end of life's a gain,  
And each has gone to meet his father—GOD.

The great saint, Interest, rules the world alone.

Never make money at the expense of your reputation.

Take no physic when you are well, lest you die to be better.

Truth is like a torch, the more it is shaken, the more it shines.

Be generous to those who hold different opinions from yourself.

It is more disgraceful to distrust one's friends than to be deceived by them.

Their pleasure and their will, are measures princes take, of right and wrong.

In governing others, you must do what you can do, net what you would do.

An honest man is believed without an oath, for his reputation swears for him.

Traits of character which you seek to conceal, you had better seek to reform.

Keep clear of the law, for, even if you gain your case, you are generally a loser.

Of all the ills which love brings, jealousy is one for which women have the least sympathy.

### NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

#### ROAD NOTICE

Of the First District, from the upper line of Messrs. Leys Bush and Joachim Guéno, to the line between Thibodaux and Terrebonne.

THE State of Louisiana—Parish of TERREBONNE.

To Judge G S Guion, Mrs Nerisse Bergeron, Uzebe Bergeron, Hubert Bergeron, Theodule Stephen, Mathurin Dalgé, Theodule Malbrough, E T Burnham, Mrs Van P Winder, Mrs Celeste Tanner, the estate of H C Thibodaux and B C Thibodaux, J C Potts, estate of H C Thibodaux and Jesse Beatty, Eugène Dugas, W D Downing, R C & S C Lawless, A Liérette Jos LeBlanc, Mrs Saturnier Levrout, Florantin Boudreaux, Edouard Guanoie, Remi Bourgeois, Tobias Gibson, T H Peregoy, Frank Grinage, Henry White Neville Fields, Louis Maillio, R H Grinage, Cocton N C Wade, W H H Rider, H McGaw, Mrs A Gaubert, Valentine Berger & Simon Brown, Jos Clingman, Drs W & J L Jennings, Mrs A Bergeron, John R Aisland, the estate of Jacques Bonvillain, Edouard Robichaux, Clairville Guedry, Dorville Babin, Napoleon Babin, Pierre Lambert, Valentin Babin, estate of Louis Pitre, Louis Couloitre and Robert R Barrow, and all other persons owning land in the said district:

YOUNG, each and all of you, are hereby notified to make and repair your roads, ditches and bridges on your lands situated in this Parish, on the right bank of the Bayou Terrebonne. Said repairs to be made in the manner pointed out by Art 7 of the Regulations of the Police Jury of said Parish, within twenty days after the publication hereof, otherwise I shall proceed to cause the same to be made at your expense in the manner pointed out by Law PARISH TERREBONNE, Dec 14th, 1855.

P. H. DARCE, Road Inspector.

#### ETAT DE LA LOUISIANE—PAROISSE TERREBONNE.

AVIS de chemins du 1er District, à partir de la limite supérieure des M. M. Leys Bush et Joachim Guéno, jusqu'à la ligne entre Thibodaux ville et Terrebonne.

Au Juge G. S. Guion, Madame Nerisse Bergeron, Uzebe Bergeron, Hubert Bergeron, Theodule Stephen, Mathurin Dalgé, Theodule Malbrough, E T Burnham, Madame Van P. Winder, Madame Celeste Tanner, l'Etat de H. C. Thibodaux et B. C. Thibodaux, J. C. Potts, l'Etat de H. C. Thibodaux et J. Beatty, Eugène Dugas, W. D. Downing, R. C. & S. C. Lawless, Liérette Jos LeBlanc, Madame Saturnier Levrout, Florantin Boudreaux, Edouard Guanoie, Remi Bourgeois, Tobias Gibson, T. H. Peregoy, Frank Grinage, Henry White Neville Fields, Louis Maillio, R. H. Grinage, Cocton N. C. Wade, W. H. H. Rider, H. McGaw, Madame A. Gaubert, Valentine Bergeron & Simon Brown, Jos Clingman, Docteurs William et James L. Jennings, Madame Alexandre Bergeron, Jno. R. Bisland, La succession de Jacques Bonvillain Edouard Robichaux, Clairville Guedry, Dorville Babin, Napoleon Babin, Pierre Lambert, Valentin Babin, La succession de Louis Pitre, Louis Couloitre et Robert R Barrow, et toutes autres propriétaires de terres dans le district ci-dessus mentionné.

Vous, et chacun de vous, est par la présenté notifié de faire et de reparer vos chemins fossés et ponts, sur votre terre situés dans cette paroisse, sur la rive droite du Bayou Terrebonne. Les dites réparations devant être faites dans la manière prévu par l'article sept des réglemens du Jury de Police de la dite paroisse, dans vingt jours après la publication de cet avis sans quoi, je procéderai de faire les dites travaux à votre dépens de la manière prescrite par la loi.

Paroisse de Terrebonne, 15 Décembre, 1855.

P. H. DARCE, Inspecteur des Chemins.