

# The Houma Ceres.

HOUMA:

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1857.

Mr. J. THEODORE MOLLIER, of Donaldsonville, is our duly authorized agent for the Parish of Ascension and vicinity.

## For Associate Justice.

Mr. Editor—Please announce JUDGE J. N. LEA as a candidate for re-election to the office of Judge of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Editor—JAMES L. COLE of the Fifth District, is a candidate for the office of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court for the Second District composed of the Parish of the City of New Orleans, which is situated above the line extending along the middle of the street, until it strikes the New Orleans Canal, and the sea down said canal to the Lake, and the parishes of Jefferson, St. John the Baptist, St. Charles, St. James, Ascension, Assumption, Lafourche, Terrebonne, West Baton Rouge and Iberville. The election is on the first Monday of April, 1857.

## For District Judge.

Mr. Editor—Please announce through your paper the Hon. JEAN JACQUES ROMAN as a candidate for the Fifth District Judge, &c.

## THE BAR AND THE PEOPLE.

Hon. Miles Taylor has our thanks for a number of valuable public documents.

The officers and employees of Jones' Express have our acknowledgments for their polite attentions.

We have received the April number of Peterson's Magazine. A glance at the contents is sufficient to show that the work maintains its wonted excellence and elegance.

POSTPONED SALE.—Attention is called to the fact that the sale of the effects of the late Harry Fleming has been postponed to Thursday, the 23d of April.

On our first page will be found a powerful article from the pen of our fellow townsman, Rev. V. C. Ostrom, on the "Observance of the Sabbath." Do not fail to read it.

We are requested to call attention to the election to be held at the Court House, on Monday, the 6th April, to elect five trustees and a treasurer of the town of Houma.

It is said that the Opelousas Railroad will be completed to Berwick's Bay by the 1st prox. The new steamers to ply between this point and Galveston are already on their way from New York.

Mr. McClure is still in town taking those inimitable ambrotype likenesses. Those requiring his services would do well to call soon at his rooms in the Court House. See Card.

SUICIDE.—We learn that a man by the name of Joseph Lanauze committed suicide at the residence of R. D. Jordan, Esq., in this parish on Wednesday last. He accomplished the act with a shot-gun by placing the muzzle against his breast and pushing the trigger with a stick.—The unfortunate man was a gardener in the employ of Mr. Jordan, and no cause has been discovered for the act, although he had appeared melancholy for some days previous.

STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.—The dwelling of Mr. C. L. Duroy, of this place, was struck by lightning during the storm of Wednesday morning last. The chimney, which is built on the outside of the house, received the attack, and the fluid then followed down the weatherboarding, shattering it into thousands of pieces, and throwing it off to a distance of thirty feet, leaving the end of the building a perfect wreck. The inmates of the house fortunately escaped with no injury but a severe shock, which was so heavy that a clock and other articles on the mantelpiece were thrown into the middle of the room. It was certainly a miraculous escape, as the family were all sitting around the fire at the time.

OPLOUSAS RAILROAD.—The New Iberia Star says:

We have been informed that the New Orleans and Opelousas Railroad Company will positively commence operations at this place during next month. We hope and trust that it may be so, as there has been a good deal of difficulty in regard to where the work should commence. It was the intention of the company to commence it from the Bay, but we learn that they have decided to start from this point and run to Washington. We think it will be to their interest to do so. When the road commences we shall be happy to inform our readers of the fact, Nous Verrons!

ASTOUNDING.—The London Star of Feb. 7th, has news that the Mississippi river was frozen over as far up as Pittsburg!

## The Judgeship.

On the sixth of next month the people will be called upon to exercise one of the most important duties devolving upon them as intelligent electors. We refer to the election of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and of a District Judge to succeed the present incumbent, who presents himself to the suffrages of the people as a candidate for the former office. The only competitor as yet in the field against Judge Cole is Judge Lea, at present a member of the supreme bench. Which ever is successful in the coming contest, we shall have an able and experienced magistrate on the supreme tribunal. Of Judge Lea we can say but little from our own personal knowledge, but those whose position in New Orleans entitle their opinions to respect, accord him all the qualities which constitute an able judge. The imposing array of city attorneys at whose invitation the learned judge offers himself as a candidate for re-election is a sufficient guarantee of his ability to fulfil the duties of the high station to which he aspires.

Of Judge Cole, the other candidate, we can but repeat what our readers throughout the Fifth District know as well as we do: That, during the four years in which he has presided over our courts, he has given universal satisfaction by the promptness and efficiency with which he has discharged his duties, as well as by the wisdom of his decisions, which have found an almost invariable affirmance in the appellate court. Besides great learning in the law and a clear logical mind, he possesses that quality most essential to the conscientious performance of the arduous duties of a supreme judge—a most invincible application to labor.

We repeat, whatever may be the result of the election, we shall be satisfied; though we cannot disguise our strong predilections in favor of Judge Cole. When two such aspirants for the high honors of the judicial ermine divide the opinion of the bar and of the people, it is painful to see any attempt made to draw a contest of which reason alone should be the impartial arbiter, within the clamorous arena of political partisanship. It is with great regret that we observe a tendency among certain journals who have espoused the cause of one or other of the candidates, to excite party prejudice for the purpose of influencing the election. We trust that the people will disregard such attempts, and vote for the man they prefer, without reference to party.

We learn that at a meeting of the members of the bar of our District, holden at Thibodaux, on Tuesday last, the Hon. Jean Jacques Roman was designated as a candidate for the judgeship. No doubt the selection will meet with the most hearty approval, and that by their vote the people will ratify the action of the attorneys, and testify their appreciation of the high qualities which have commended Judge Roman to their choice. If experience, learning and integrity are the qualities of a good judge, then Judge Roman is fully qualified to discharge the duties of the office to which he is called. His character and abilities are too well known and appreciated to require at our hands any elaborate commendation. Our ticket then is—For Supreme Judge, James L. Cole; for District Judge, Jean Jacques Roman.

## The Branch Railroad.

We now look upon the branch to connect with the Opelousas Railroad as a fixed fact. During a recent journey we fell in with a number of the most influential men connected with the Opelousas road as well as the most substantial planters of our parish, and they all expressed themselves in very sanguine terms as to the early success of the project. Steps are now being taken to have a survey made, and other preliminaries arranged. In a few days we expect to publish an estimate of the cost of the work, and the terms upon which it can be contracted for. The Opelousas Company are ready to extend every assistance to the enterprise, except direct contributions, which would not be justified under present circumstances, as all their available funds must be employed in extending the main trunk. Let those interested not be idle; let every man use his influence and apply himself with energy to the task, and in a few months we shall accomplish our object and find ourselves enriched by the enhanced value of our property.

## The Slave Depot.

We have before us a copy of the bill introduced by Gen. Munday into the State Senate at the beginning of the session, establishing a Slave Depot for the confinement and maintenance of runaway slaves. The bill was properly referred, received a favorable report from the Judiciary Committee, and passed the Senate on Saturday last, without a dissenting voice. We trust the House will concur with equal unanimity in it before adjourning, for the matter is one of considerable importance to the whole public.

The first section of the bill requires all persons arresting runaway slaves to convey them immediately before a justice of the peace, who shall commit him to jail, or, if known, to his owner or overseer, who shall pay the person for taking him up six dollars if arrested in the woods, or three dollars if on the public road or on a plantation, together with costs of maintenance, mileage, fees, etc. A slave delivered to the jailor is to be advertised in the nearest newspaper three times, and on payment of costs, the owner can prove property and recover the same. If slaves so advertised are not claimed within sixty days from the date of the advertisement, they are to be sent to the State Depot at Baton Rouge. Sheriffs going to and returning from the Depot are to receive mileage at the rate of ten cents per mile, and for non-compliance with the provisions of the Act, are to pay a fine of \$250, besides being liable to whatever damages may occur to the slave through violation of the law.

The municipal authorities of the city of Baton Rouge are authorized to employ the slaves placed in the Depot, on any street or other work, provided they will maintain them while so employed. The keeper of the Depot is instructed to advertise all slaves placed in his hands for three months in the weekly issue of the State paper, and in case they are not called for within twelve months, he is to hand them over to the person who has charge of the State hands, and by him to be placed in the service of the State. Whenever the owner of such property shall appear and claim slaves so employed, on making title good, and paying up all costs and expenses that may have accrued, they are to be delivered up by the State.

The last section of the bill requires the State Auditor, in his annual report, to prepare a list of all the runaways employed in the internal improvement service, containing such description as may lead to their recovery by the owner, which shall be published in the State paper once a week during the five weeks next preceding the meeting of the General Assembly. (Baton Rouge Advocate.)

MORE TRACES OF SIR JOHN FRANKLIN'S PARTY.—Capt. Sherard Osborne has forwarded to the editor of the London Times the following extract of a letter, dated Red River Settlement, Hudson Bay Territory, December 6th:

I received a letter from Roderick by the last mail, and he expresses a wish that I should write to you by the first opportunity, and state more particularly about the reports we heard last summer about some traces of whites being seen in the North. I have just returned from —, who was at Norway House last July, and saw the man who brought down an express to Sir George Simpson, from Mr. Anderson, in Mackenzie's River (district), stating that Indians had brought over reports to one of the trading posts in that quarter, that Indians had seen two or more encampments of whites on an island on some point where Anderson and Stewart turned back, (in 1855,) and that one of the encampments particularly was quite fresh, supposed to have been abandoned a day or two before the Indians saw it, and from the traces thought there might have been ten or twelve men. I could not hear of the exact locality, further than that Anderson and Stewart were within a very short distance of the place where the traces were seen. I hope you have heard more particularly of the report.

In reply to the question, "What is a kiss?" somebody replies: "A kiss is, as it were, a seal, expressing our sincere attachment—a pledge of future union—a present which, at the same time it is given, is taking from us the impression of an ivory coral press—crimson balsam for a love wounded heart—a sweet bite of the lip—affectionate pinching of the heart—a delicious dish which is eaten with scarlet spoons—a sweetmeat which does not satisfy our hunger a fruit which we plant and gather at the same time—the quickest exchange of questions and answers between two lovers—the fourth degree of love."

An agriculturist near Brussels, in Europe, has been making a series of experiments with the most satisfactory results in restoring rancid butter to its original sweetness and freshness of taste. The operation is perfectly simple and practicable. The butter is beaten in a sufficient quantity of water, into which had been mixed chloride of lime at the rate of about twenty-five or thirty drops to every two pounds of butter. After bringing all the butter into contact with the water, let it stand for an hour. Then pour off the solution, and wash thoroughly with clean water. The small quantity of chloride used is declared to be abundantly sufficient.

ABOLITION MERCHANTS AND THE DAY BOOK.—We wish it distinctly understood, says that most excellent paper, the New York Day Book, that we do not ask the subscription, nor advertising of any abolitionist here or elsewhere, and whilst we proscribise no man nor set of men, we claim it as our right to denounce both the sentiments and the practices of those merchants who, while reaping a rich reward from their business connection with Southern merchants, are using the fruits of that trade to rob the Southerners of their property.

We are in daily receipt of letters asking us to point out to our Southern readers these individual merchants, and many of our subscribers claim that they have as much right to information respecting the sentiments of merchants with whom they do business as to know the quality and price of merchandise.

Now, it must be plain to every man that the Day Book cannot give a list of all the abolition merchants in town, if it were so disposed, but we can, by restricting our advertisements to such as agree with us in sentiment, give our Southern readers a tolerably correct idea of who it is safe for them to deal with, and we therefore make this announcement that we not only do not ask, but hereafter shall refuse, the advertisements of those who use the profits of their trade to war upon the South.

OLDEST MAN IN AMERICA.—A correspondent in the Cassville, Ga., Standard, says there is now living in Murray county, Ga., on the waters of Holly Creek, a Revolutionary veteran who has attained the age of one hundred and thirty-four. His name is John Hames. He is known throughout the region in which he lives by the appellation of Gran'sir Hames. Gran'sir is contracted for Grand Sire. A grand sire he truly is. As I was on my way to visit this relic of the expired eighteenth century, I inquired of an oldish gentleman, of about sixty, if he knew him. "O yes, I know him," said he, "he is my grandfather!"

John Hames was born in Mecklenburg county, Virginia, and was a lad of ten years old when Washington was in his cradle. He was thirty-two when Braddock met his disastrous defeat in the Monongahela. He, with several of his neighbors, set forth to join the headstrong and ill-fated commander, but after several days' march were turned back by the news of his overthrow. He migrated to South Carolina nearly a hundred years ago. He was in thirteen considerable conflicts during the war of independence, and in skirmishes and encounters with Indians, with Tories and with British, times beyond memory. He was with Gates at Camden, with Morgan at the Cowpens, with Green at Hillsboro and Eutaw, and with Marion in many a bold rush into a Tory camp or red coat quarters.

Very learned physiologists have asserted that every event and every scene in a man's life remains indelibly engraved upon the register of the brain, and that they may be again brought clearly before the mental vision when the impressions of contemporaneous circumstances are shut out, as in sleep or trance. In that case, what a wonderful panorama must sometimes be spread before the mind of that old man.

A SURPLUS OF DOCTORS.—According to a correspondent of the Medical World, physicians have multiplied so rapidly in this country that new-fledged M. D.'s are puzzled to find a community which require their services. They are exceedingly numerous in the Eastern cities, while the West is actually overrun with the sons of Esculapius. The writer says he has recently made extensive exploration to and over the far-off West, and finds the condition of things as stated. In all the thriving towns and settlements in Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska, there are more medical men than patients. One or two invariably monopolized the business worth having, but even the most celebrated are poorly compensated, while the prospect is not bettering. The writer very wisely counsels his young brethren to become farmers.

THE WILD WOMAN OF ALABAMA.—We published yesterday an account of a wild woman, who was recently found in Marengo county, Ala., who was followed by a beautiful white ram, which had occasioned no little excitement in that county. Later dates inform us that this "wild woman" was apprehended by a "party of huntsmen," a few days since, among the "Mossy Hills," six miles north of Linden, after an exciting chase of two days. This has created a great excitement among the boys, the right of property being protested.—Charleston Mercury, 11th.

FATAL TRAP.—Near Troy, Bradford county, Pa., lately, a woman had been annoyed by the mysterious disappearance of her butter from the premises, without being able to detect the thief. At last she procured a quantity of strychnine and worked it into a batch of fresh butter. This she placed where it would be taken by the thief. A few days thereafter two children fell ill and died, and several of the boarders fell sick, and were at last accounts in extreme danger. The woman was immediately arrested, and lodged in Towanda jail.

A BIG SPECULATION.—One of the biggest speculations of modern times is the Illinois Central Railroad. Congress granted to the Company, for the purpose of aiding in its construction, several millions of acres of the public domain, out of the sales of which, in the first eleven months of the past year, \$4,484,400 were realized, at an average of \$15 per acre. How much was sold previously, we are not informed, but the receipts were probably treble that sum. The Company still have land for which they demand \$25 per acre, and before it is half disposed of they will doubtless advance to \$50 an acre, and get the sum of thirty or forty millions more. The whole cost of the road was not more than twenty millions of dollars, and this corporation has received from Congress a bounty for its construction, out of which they realize fifty and possibly sixty millions of dollars.

We predict that the construction of the Southern Pacific Rail Road through Texas by the company engaged in the work, will prove a speculation that will throw the Illinois affair entirely into the shade. Let the road once reach the Louisiana line and connect with the Opelousas road, and the public will soon see how towns will spring up along its line, enhancing the value of the company's lands a hundred fold.—N. O. Bulletin.

THE MAELSTROM EXTINGUISHED.—The great maelstrom on the coast of Norway, of which every one who was ever a school-boy has read, it appears either never had an existence, in fact, or has become extinct through the operations of Nature's laws. The Scientific American thus speaks of it through a correspondent:

I have been informed by a European acquaintance that the maelstrom has no existence. A nautical and scientific commission went out and sailed all around and all over where the maelstrom was said to be, but could not find it; the sea was as smooth where the whirlpool ought to be as any other part of the German ocean.

We presume the above is correct. Late geographers and gazetteers barely allude to the maelstrom. Colton, in his large atlas, gives the site upon his map, but does not allude to it in his description of Norway. Harper's Gazetteer, in its article upon Norway, says that "among the numerous islands on the west coast there are violent and irregular currents, which render the coast navigation dangerous. Among these is the celebrated Mal-Ström, or Mœkenæsström, the danger from which has been greatly exaggerated, since it can, at nearly all times, be passed over even by boats." The romance of the maelstrom has been pretty effectually destroyed.

A COLD WEATHER ANECDOTE.—Among the many sharp things in "Peters Spirit," is the following: A heavy fire having occurred in Cleveland, a safe-manufacturing firm in New York wrote to the sufferers from the fire to ascertain how one of their safes had stood the scorching. The proprietor wrote back that the safe was "safe"—that it was wonderful, and adds that the night previous to the fire one of the clerks placed a Shanghai rooster in the safe for safe-keeping. In the morning the safe was dug out red-hot, opened, and the rooster found "leaning up against the ledger, frozen to death."

A FAT OFFICE.—The office of Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island must be an exceedingly desirable one for a man of small means and large family! We notice that the Legislature of that Commonwealth has reduced the salary of the Lieutenant Governor from \$500 to \$200. (This sum is not so small as some would suppose, taking the fact into consideration that the officials of the State, while transacting their business at the Capitol, can go to their homes and get their meals, no matter in what part of the State they may reside.)

THE LAWYER AND THE JUDGE.—A certain judge was reprimanding an attorney for bringing several small suits into court, and remarked that it would have been much better for all parties had he persuaded his clients to leave their causes to the arbitration of two or three honest men. "Please your honor," retorted the lawyer, "we did not choose to trouble honest men with them."

A lady traveling in a stage-coach with a troublesome barking dog in her lap. A gentleman, a fellow passenger, complained of the annoyance. "Dear me, sir!" exclaimed the lady, with an air of astonishment, "I wonder you complain of my dog; everybody admires it; it is a real Peruvian."

"I don't complain of your Peruvian dog, ma'am," replied he; "but I wish he would give us less of his Peruvian bark."

An Irishman, who was giving his testimony in the Boston Municipal Court lately, convulsed the bar, thickened the jury, and raised a smile on the bench by the following statement:

"Ye see, may't please yees, that this man got a stroke and fell down. Every body round called out—'Ow, he's kill!' This I steps up, and I hollied out to the crowd, 'If the man is kill, why don't ye stand back, and give him a little air!'"