

# Donaldsonville Chief.

## From Grant Parish.

### A Reply to the Letter of Jules Lameroux.

In our issue of November 25th, we reproduced from the New Orleans *Republican* the letter referred to in the following communication to the same journal of the 10th instant, therefore we deem it a matter of justice to also publish the reply:

**Editor Republican**—In a communication to the *Republican* of the fifteenth, over the signature of Jules Lameroux, Grant parish surveyor, there appears such a mass of ingenious fallacies and gross misrepresentations, that I feel it due to this people that an exposition of this man and his probable plans be made to the public. To take up that pernicious article and expose it properly in detail would require more space than I could consistently ask in your columns. I shall therefore only ask your permission to allude briefly to some assertions made by him, which, to my personal knowledge, are false, and tend to reflect discredit upon a people who never did him harm, but who have sustained him in his adversity and shown him more special courtesies than he could reasonably claim.

Mr. Lameroux (for as such I shall call him at present), like myself, is a Northern man. He came to this village about two and a half years ago. The object of his coming to this place, like that of his previous history, is not easily understood, as he evidently possessed unusual business qualifications, especially as a penman and accountant. While Montgomery, as a place of business, offered but poor inducements in the way of remuneration for such qualifications, nevertheless he "anchored" here, and very readily got employment—first as a bookkeeper in the house of Messrs. Dunn & McCain, which position he held about eight months; next, he got a similar situation in the house of Watson & Craig, which he held until last spring, at which time he left here, went to Red River parish, but finding no employment there suitable to his genius, he soon returned to this place, where he remained in idleness up to the time of his mysterious departure, about the eighth of the present month.

Mr. Lameroux, during the time he remained here, conducted himself, in a general way, in a manner that seemed to meet the approval of the citizens, and I do not think he had an enemy, or, at least, I am certain I never heard any one express anything but friendship toward him. But after his return from Red River parish he seemed to hold himself aloof—appeared to desire no business, and, consequently, as I before remarked, remained in idleness. On the morning of the twenty-fourth of October, he walked into town and exhibited to a few of his friends the letter which he alludes to as purporting to be from the Grant parish safety committee ordering him to leave the parish. Those to whom he showed this note advised him to pay but little attention to it, as there certainly was no danger in the person that wrote it, and as to its coming from a parish safety committee, there was not such an organization in existence.

I believe he said but little at the time of the letter himself. Yet it soon became pretty generally known that he had shown such a document, notwithstanding but few had seen it. On the morning of the second of November, Mr. Lameroux reported in town, that at about two o'clock that morning he saw in front of Mrs. Rogers' residence, where he was staying, two men, one of whom snapped a gun at him.

I will here state that every one who had seen the note ordering him away, knew it to be in his own handwriting, although he had endeavored to disguise it; but the parties to whom he showed the note were too well acquainted with both his composition and handwriting to be deceived, as they were the gentlemen with whom he had formerly done business, and when he made his report of having been assaulted at night, his fraudulent scheme became evident to all, and the citizens then saw the trick too plainly. His description of the circumstances connected with his attempted murder was so inconsistent that no one, even those who knew nothing of the deception he had practiced with the letter, could have believed him.

The citizens, after hearing his statement in the morning, now being confident that he intended practicing a political fraud upon them, consulted together, and decided to hold a mass meeting, hearing the statements of Mr. Lameroux in the council, and take some measure, if possible, to induce him to abandon his scheme.

A meeting was therefore held that evening at the Masonic Hall, at which I believe every adult male citizen was represented; and after hearing Mr. Lameroux's statements, adopted resolutions disapproving the exercise of any unlawful proceeding against any citizen, pledging their efforts in bringing to justice any person found participating in any such unlawful actions, and pledging their united efforts in protecting Mr. Lameroux against violence from any unlawful source.

Notwithstanding there was not a person present who believed Mr. Lameroux to be in any danger; that he was known to be the author of the little note commanding him to leave the parish; that the attack of his adversary at night was only a portion of his scheme concocted in harmony and with the perfect co-operation of Judge Phillips, still the citizens passed those resolutions in good faith, and had he really been in danger would have used all their power in protecting him, which he well knew, and which would have satisfied him had he not been practicing a political fraud upon them.

But what does he say in regard to the resolutions in his letter to the *Republican*? He says "that these resolutions are not the spirit of the people of Montgomery even became evident to me before leaving. I tried to negotiate the sale of sundry claims, one for surveyor's expenses in case of a succession, the sale advertised for the thirtieth of November, to come off at Montgomery. I could not get a bid, and only succeeded in getting sixty-six and two-thirds per cent. after applying to a well-known money sharper five miles off."

Here it is plainly shown that he doubted the good faith of the citizens, upon the simple grounds that they would not cash this succession claim, which was the only one he did present. His failure in getting this claim cashed in Montgomery was certainly not due to any ill-will toward him, but was due to two very plausible and legitimate reasons. In the first place, there was at that time no money to spare in the country—the best paper could not have been cashed even at heavy discount; and in the second place, the people of Montgomery knew that he had imposed himself on that administrator as parish surveyor; that he is not now, neither has he ever been, surveyor of Grant parish; therefore his claim was illegal, and was made in fraud.

Mr. Lameroux was appointed some time last year as parish surveyor, but he never gave bond, neither did he ever take the oath of office.

Again he says in that letter: "I have heard since I came to this city that a Northern man was as well received in Grant parish as if Southern born. It is a total fallacy." Now I do not know what could have been his object in making such a statement as this. I think I am qualified to say that it is altogether erroneous and without the slightest evidence of support. I am a Northern man, and came directly to this place from the North about three years ago; and that too, without a relative or an acquaintance in the State. During the late war I served as a federal soldier three years and three months in the twenty-eighth Wisconsin regiment of infantry, and as such have an honorable discharge. Politically, I am a Republican, and I can say, with all candor, that notwithstanding it is generally known that I was a federal soldier; that I am a Northern man and have Northern sympathies; that I have never, since I came among this people, had the slightest reflection cast upon me because of my politics or my Northern origin, nor have I ever observed the slightest distinction drawn in society here between the Northern and Southern strangers. Mr. Lameroux's case not excepted, and if a Northern man behaves himself as a gentleman here, I am certain he will soon have just cause as I have to admire the noble, generous and hospitable character of the citizens of this country.

It is true I am not an office-seeker, and I am certain if I never hold an office except by misrepresenting an innocent people and claiming myself a martyr to my politics for the purpose of inspiring sympathy among those who have the power of appointing me to office, as Mr. Lameroux has done, I shall never hold an office.

Again, Mr. Lameroux states that "about a year ago he married the daughter of a once member of the confederate legislature, who stood deservedly high in the community, but after their marriage even her school-mates refused to recognize her, and all join in lamenting that she has thrown herself away by marrying a Yankee." This is another gross misrepresentation. His wife has not, neither has she ever had a schoolmate living in this parish, and as to the others of her lady friends abandoning her, I need not mention more evidence of their approving her marriage than to state that the ladies generally in town at the time she was married contributed wine and cake for the occasion. But I will state here that he was married under the name of Jules L. Logan, which I suppose is his true name, notwithstanding he has left his signature in attesting many important documents as Jules Lameroux, and I see he passes under that name in New Orleans, though he is a little fearful the Logan will leak out, as in a letter a few days since to his wife he charges her particularly to address him while in the city as Jules Lameroux.

The object of his passing himself under different names is unknown to me; but I do know, and it is generally known here, that he was married under the name of Logan; but that occasion was the only one on which I ever knew him to sign his name as such. Again, he says: "When the news of Capt. White's murder reached Montgomery, even the ladies of one family clapped their hands and shouted as if they had heard glad tidings. School-boys with revolvers a foot long standing on the streets, etc." Here it is plainly shown that he doubted the good faith of the citizens, upon the simple grounds that they would not cash this succession claim, which was the only one he did present. His failure in getting this claim cashed in Montgomery was certainly not due to any ill-will toward him, but was due to two very plausible and legitimate reasons. In the first place, there was at that time no money to spare in the country—the best paper could not have been cashed even at heavy discount; and in the second place, the people of Montgomery knew that he had imposed himself on that administrator as parish surveyor; that he is not now, neither has he ever been, surveyor of Grant parish; therefore his claim was illegal, and was made in fraud.

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It is so much the worse if he swore to that statement, but he seems to charge the thing in part to the *Republican*, and excuses himself, as he was on oath, for saying things he never thought of. If Governor Warmoth would learn the condition of Grant parish, I think it due to his people that he seek such information from persons who would speak the truth, especially when put on oath.

JOHN P. GOUDER.  
Montgomery, La., November 30, 1871.

We, the undersigned citizens of Montgomery indorse the above letter: A Vanhook Ragau, Justice of the Peace; Isaac A. Marks; Philip Bernstine; David Hardy, notary; R. E. Jackson, Mayor; Thomas O. Harrison; J. M. Bell; Dunn & McCain.

"school-boys" with revolvers a foot long, standing on the streets," etc., I know to be alike untrue, and Mr. Lameroux knows it himself. We have a quiet little school here, and a more civil collection of boys was never assembled together, and Mr. Lameroux, I have no idea, ever saw one of them carrying a pistol.

Mr. Lameroux's scheme, I am satisfied is a political one, ingeniously concocted for the purpose of meeting with public sympathy, and thereby obtain a position in some of the public offices of the country. I am honest in my convictions as to his object, and what I have said in regard to his misrepresentations (though I have not noticed half of them), I know to be true; and if the authorities feel interested in the matter, I hope they will send up one or more sensible, honest, unprejudiced gentlemen, and learn from other sources whether I have spoken the truth or not.

Personally, I have nothing against Mr. Lameroux, as we have been friends since our first acquaintance. But I have felt it my duty to this people that the fallacy of his letter, as it appears in the New Orleans *Republican* of the fifteenth inst., and the exposition of his plans be laid before the public.

Since writing the above Mr. Lameroux, or Logan, has returned to Montgomery, thus proving by his actions what we knew to be true before, viz: that he really had no fears in staying in Montgomery, and that the little note ordering him away was the work of himself. How long he expects to remain with us I do not know, but he can certainly do so with perfect safety as long as he desires.

He did not know, however, till after his return that his letter in the *Republican* had been seen by the citizens of Montgomery. Conscious of the foul misrepresentations in that letter, and the great injustice he has done the citizens, he very naturally has kept himself, since his return, close at home, preferring solitude to the keen reproach that his guilty conscience would heap upon him on meeting his friends. Several days have elapsed since his return, during which time he has not appeared in company at all. Moved by the impulses of a guilty conscience, he yesterday addressed a short letter to Messrs. Dunn & McCain, from which I extract the following:

D. and McC.—I understand that I have been severely censured for a communication over my signature in a New Orleans paper. It was manufactured from a sworn statement made by me before a committee appointed by Governor Warmoth to investigate and report on the condition of Grant parish, and although warped, I do not deny the spirit of it. I am made to say things in a manner I never should have thought of, and it was to the Governor and not to the paper. The heading of the article was the work of the paper, as Ku-Klux does not occur in my statement, etc.

J. L. L.

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## The Navy.

Mr. Robeson repeats the stereotyped demand of Secretaries of the Navy for an increase of our naval force, but he makes a suggestion for the gradual reduction of the number of the officers, partly by adding two years to the term of service at Annapolis, and partly by allowing the grade of Admiral, Vice-Admiral and Commodore to lapse with the lives of the present incumbents. Thus he calculates we shall save about \$500,000 a year and dispense with nearly 300 unnecessary officers. Of the present condition of the navy he says very little. We have 179 ships. Of these twenty-nine are sailing vessels, fifty are monitors, seventeen are under repairs, thirteen have never been launched, and several never will be. The list includes every sort of craft, down to dispatch boats, receiving ships, floating hospitals, and so on, and embraces a very large proportion of wooden vessels which are actually not worth putting in repair. We have fifty-three vessels in service (including all sorts), and these are armed 601 guns; six others are fitting out and nearly ready for sea. The offensive strength of the navy at the present moment is represented by the five squadrons in commission, comprising in the aggregate forty vessels and 445 guns. No information is given in the report as to the internal efficiency of the service, though it is well known that the Navy has been distracted by intestine disputes. Mr. Robeson acknowledges the failure of the Korean expedition, but believes that it has contributed materially in its effects to the consideration and comfort, and perhaps to the safety, of our citizens located there—a pleasing and sanguine assurance which it would be cruel to disturb. He regards both the surveys for an interoceanic canal with satisfaction, but gives no decided preference to either the Tehuantepec or the Darien route. Both are practicable, and the choice between them must be governed chiefly by considerations of expense.

—New York Tribune.

The ex-Queen of Hanover is a nun.

## An Instructive Parallel.

The commendable tone which distinguishes the Warmeth journals, in their notices of the death of our Lieutenant Governor, is in marked contrast with the barbarous peans of the Custom-house organs on the announcement on a former occasion of the serious illness of Henry Clay Warmoth. Nor less noticeable is the reverence with which the former bent over the grave of an adversary, while the homage of the latter would be paid by a sacrilegious pyre over the shrine where their idol reposes, in which friend and foe alike would be immolated in a diabolical rite. Instead of testifying their unaltered devotion to their departed leader, in the becoming garb of unaffected grief, the eulogies of the anti-Warmoth editors and penny-a-liners consist in inflammatory appeals to the bad passions of the hour. Nor inconsistent with their characteristic venality is that monstrous theory of the death of O. J. Dunn by which they would arraign his political opponents before the bar of public opinion, and incite his race to avenge his untimely demise in a holocaust of blood. When a faction, composed of unscrupulous malcontents, resort to such desperate and unusual measures to prolong its vile existence, its malady is desperate indeed, and its recovery is doubtful under any treatment.—Iberville News.

Some one was telling me the other day (says a newspaper correspondent), a new story about the late Dean Richmond, who was known far and wide for his profanity and gruffness of manner. Richmond was here at the time, and my informant, who was then a boy working in a printing office, wished to get a pass over the Central Railroad. With this purpose in view he entered the office where the magnate was, fearing that he would be rudely rebuffed when he made his mission known. After a moment's hesitation he said, falteringly:

"Mr. Richmond, I believe?"  
"Yes; what do you want of me?"  
"I should like, sir, to get a pass from Albany to Buffalo, so I can go up on the boat for nothing."  
"On what grounds do you ask for a pass?" (This with a rising and very rough voice.)  
"On the grounds, sir, that I don't want to pay my fare."  
Richmond, without another word, wrote out a pass and handed it to the applicant.  
The boy took it, saying, "Thank you; thank you, Mr. Richmond."  
"You needn't thank me, youngster. I'm glad to accommodate you. You are the first person I've ever known to ask for a pass on the right grounds."

What is the difference between a coat and a baby?—One I wear, the other I was.

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