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Donaldsonville, La.,

LINDEN E. BENTLEY,  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Lieut. Preiser, of the Australian army, cut off his nose while eating pie with a knife, but slapped it right on again and it is nearly ready for use.

A man who bought a thousand Havana cigars recently, on being asked what he was carrying, replied that they were tickets to a course of lectures to be given by his wife.

A few years since there resided in one of the counties of South Carolina two respectable citizens. They were of the same surname; they also were cousins. They were members of the same religious denomination; their wives were sisters. They were both nullifiers when South Carolina took the lead in this political adventure. Each one was the father of thirteen children; each of these men had three sons and ten daughters. Where can a parallel to this be found?

A scientific gentleman who gives much of his time to the investigation of the domestic habits of bugs and butterflies, declares that he has discovered a remarkable fact in connection with eels. A stream which flows through his ranche in San Bernardo, Cal., abounds in eels, and he states that every evening, about dusk, these extraordinary fish leave the river to graze in the meadow. He says he intended to call the attention of Professor Agassiz to the fact, but could not leave the lower country until the great naturalist had departed.

THE TARANTULA.—This species of spider is very abundant on the southwestern frontier, where it is more dreaded even than the American rattlesnake, which also flourishes there in great numbers. In this region the tarantula grows to the size of half a large walnut, being thick and rounded something like the half shell. Provided with eight legs, and covered with long hair, it is described as ugly and disgusting in the last degree. This is an enemy, against whom none can guard, and for whose bite no remedy has been discovered. Such alarm do they inspire, that I have known a large party of men who had camped out all through a snake country and through the midst of hostile Indians, driven from a desirable position by discovering that tarantulas infested the spot. The poison proceeding from their bite acts as quickly as that of the rattlesnake, and they are much more dangerous, because, attracted by a light, they frequently make their way into tents unobserved by the occupants. Their bite sometimes causes death, and, even if a person survives after being bitten, he never fully recovers, and is likely to carry the scar for life.

Our girls want more out-door life, and less reading novels and embroidering in rooms darkened with green blinds. If there is any thing more beautiful than another in a garden of flowers, that thing is a beautiful girl, with sun-bonnet on her head so wide and capacious that you have to get right square before her to see her glowing cheeks that are sure to be there if she is accustomed to all to garden walks and works. Physically there can be nothing better for daughters, and indeed, for many wives, than to take sole charge of a small flower garden. The benefits derived from early rising, stirring the soil, sniffing the pure mountain air, are freshness and glow of cheek, and brightness of eye, cheerfulness of temper, vigor of mind and purity of heart. Consequently she must be more cheerful and lovely as a daughter, more dignified and womanly as a sister, and more confiding as a wife. If you have not the door yard ground, then get a pot and plant the seeds to your taste. The care and attention required to rear and train the growing plants, occupies the mind to the exclusion oftentimes of senseless waste of time. You listless, pale-faced, fragile thing of a girl, throw off your mock delicacy, put on gloves if you will, but work in the flower garden until your cheeks vie in color with the blush of the rose which you cultivate.—Home Journal.

## Annual Report

Of the Superintendent of the Third Educational Division.

OFFICE DIV. SUP'T. PUBLIC EDUCATION,  
THIRD DIVISION,  
Franklin, La., October, 1872.

To the State Superintendent of Public Education, State of Louisiana.

SIR—In submitting to you my annual report at this date, I am aware of the fact that it is far from being perfect in its details, and, in many respects, quite unsatisfactory. On May twentieth of the present year, at the urgent request and upon the recommendation required by law from the State Superintendent, R. K. Dioso was removed and I was commissioned as his successor in office. Mr. Dioso promptly transferred to me a portion of the school records, expressed his satisfaction at my appointment and ceased to discharge the duties of the office. I entered upon my duties immediately after appointment only to find an extended field of labor, requiring a large correspondence and constant travel to make me properly acquainted with its wants. In September Mr. Dioso, contrary to his previously expressed intentions, and to my serious embarrassment as an officer, commenced suit in the Third Judicial District Court, under the intrusion net, and subsequently in the Eighth District Court of the parish of Orleans, in the name of the State, suits for his salary and emoluments of the office. Owing to the neglect of the Attorney General to appear in these cases (being properly notified according to law) and defend the interest of the State, Mr. Dioso was allowed to obtain judgment for services he never performed or claimed to perform, and moneys to which he was not entitled by a shadow of justice or equity. This money, taken from the school fund under the protest of Auditor Graham and myself, through the connivance of the Attorney General, deprived me of the means to visit the majority of the parishes of my division, confer with school officials, and to properly discharge all other duties of my office. With this statement, which will enable you to understand the obstacles I have had to encounter, and an apology for this meagre report I proceed to the consideration of

### THE SCHOOL WORK.

The Third Division is comprised of fourteen parishes, extending in length from the Southern boundary of Mississippi to the eastern boundary of Texas, a distance of over two hundred and fifty miles in a direct line, with a width of from one hundred to one hundred and fifty miles. Its population in 1870 was 153,051, and is increasing by immigration steadily. Within this large area, which is because of its natural resources and the demands of commerce, destined to become a wealthy and most populous section of the State, are estimated to be between 50,000 and 60,000 children of the educable age prescribed by law. Last year my predecessor reported upwards of 10,000, or only one-fifth of the number in attendance at school. I now report from official sources 8740. Let it be remembered that in this statement I do not include several parishes and portions of parishes from which no report has been received, but in which, from general information I have reason to believe there exists a number of schools, with an attendance equal, if not greater, than that of the past year. I feel warranted in saying that a larger number of schools is now in operation in this division than ever before, and in making the estimate that near 15,000 children have enjoyed their benefits the present year. There has been no lack of zeal on the part of school officials. In several parishes a local tax materially aided their efforts in the prosecution of their work. One of the marked signs of improvement was the building of a number of new school-houses and purchases of necessary and comfortable furniture, which tend to demonstrate that the day of uninhabitable, disease-breeding barns, heretofore used for the congregation of healthy, active pupils, is passing away. It is a general complaint, however, that the present school fund of the State is far from being adequate to the necessities of public education. In parishes where (for various reasons) a local tax could not be levied, and the State apportionments were solely depended upon, schools have existed in irregular terms, or have suspended for several months in the year for want of funds. It is hoped that the school officials, backed by a wholesome public opinion, will have no difficulty in procuring from police juries and other corporate authorities the coming year sufficient aid to meet all necessary requirements.

### POPULAR OPINION.

I have not a single report in my possession indicating opposition to the public school system from political sources. It is a fact worthy of note that some of the most efficient school directors in the division are men who but recently were bitter opponents, but are now warm friends of the system. The public press, as a general rule, have abstained from unseemly attacks, and have given a valuable co-operation in many localities. I am satisfied that if any serious opposition does exist with reference to public schools, it does not spring from the merits or demerits of the system itself, but from religious or aristocratic views held at variance with the genius and spirit of the political institutions of this country. It is well known

that the Roman Catholic Church entertains the belief that public schools are contaminating and injurious, because neglecting the religious education which it deems necessary for the morals of the youth. It is hoped that a more generous and a higher-minded policy will be pursued by the advocates of that church than would be evinced by an effort direct or indirect to deprive thousands of children of aid which is absolutely necessary to fit them for the duties of citizenship and society, because they do not conform to views entertained by them as a fraction of society; rather let all religious exercises be excluded from the school-room, eliminate obnoxious or sectarian matter from school books and let the children of all classes meet without a distinction or a difference from any cause, and leave to the churches and sects the propagation, on an equal footing, of their own peculiar tenets. The wealthy class regard the public schools with a peculiar dislike and an unworthy one. It is well known that previous to the war it was the custom to send the youth of the better class beyond the limits of the State to enjoy superior advantages in acquiring education, and the public schools became almost entirely the receptacle of the children of the poor and laboring class, and consequently became a matter of secondary consideration to the wealthy. School officers were not held to strict account by official restraint or popular opinion to discharge their duties with energy; teachers were not subjected to proper tests; school-houses were few and far between, and too often in a dilapidated, unhealthy condition. The withdrawal of sympathy by the wealthy, the lack of supervision on the part of the State, made our public schools a by-word and reproach. Times have changed. The wealthy class can not afford the luxuries of former years; their children must be educated at home. In many instances a practical view is taken of the situation, and children of all classes are found in the same school preparing themselves for duties which they will perform in common in after life. It is to be regretted, however, that feelings of pride—a heritage of other years—should prevent a large number of parents from placing their children in the public schools; extending a cheerful and hearty sympathy to the poor and tolling teacher; co-operating with school directors and corporate authorities in building neat comfortable school-houses, employing first-class teachers, and making them an honor and a blessing to Louisiana. It is prudence, economy and wisdom, that should dictate this course. It is practicable, it is desirable, that our schools should be increased in number, improved in quality and made equal to those of any other section. It is practicable, and it would require but a small outlay to enable every three or four contiguous parishes to enjoy the benefits of a high school, equal in advantages to the colleges of other sections now patronized at great expense, and draining from the country a portion of its wealth, which should be used in the encouragement of home talent and home enterprises.

### SCHOOL LANDS.

It is impossible for me at this time to present any satisfactory data with reference to interest funds from the accumulation of rents and sales of sixteenth sections. A number of treasurers have drawn from the Auditor amounts which afforded them great relief. It is hoped that treasurers, the coming season, will institute diligent inquiries with reference to the location and description of sixteenth sections, to the end that the proceeds of their rent or sale may be utilized.

### TAXATION.

This word is expressive of a deplorable condition of affairs in every parish of my division. With the return of a more prosperous era, I have no doubt that little difficulty will be experienced in procuring local taxes for school purposes. I have written to some of my secretaries; I know that some of them have displayed a most commendable zeal and deserve great credit for their efforts; and I know that others have worked without avail to secure local taxation. Necessary improvements of a public character, besides the school, must suffer until the burden of bad legislation is removed from the shoulders of the people. Yet, in any event, I hope the corporate authorities may be persuaded to consider the public school as the most important of public institutions, and reflect that patronage bestowed upon it will, in the future, materially relieve the expenses of court-houses and jails, by giving to their charge fewer culprits and enemies to society, made so by their neglect to assume the guardianship of the growing youth.

### LEGISLATION.

It is hoped that our legislators will restrain their earnest desire to win glory and fame by tampering with the school law. Two Legislatures of this State in succession, about once in six months, gave ear to some measure by which both the law and work became complicated and embarrassing. I would respectfully recommend that the law remain in all its details as at present, believing it better to endure a few impracticable features than to rush to an evil we know not of. School officials are becoming familiar with its execution, and they should not be discouraged with a new lesson in the shape of a new law.

### TEACHERS' INSTITUTES.

A teachers' institute was held in this division at Franklin, St. Mary Parish, in 1871. It was well attended, most practical in its character, and enlisted the favor of the teachers. I respectfully recommend that the experiment be repeated, having reason to believe that it will be attended by the most profitable results.

### OFFICIAL REPORTS.

I would respectfully recommend that a system of official reports be adopted of a more convenient and practical form than those now in use. Many secretaries continue with the old forms and express a preference because they convey all necessary information, in mailable shape, and possess and require no complicated tabulations, at the expense of valuable time and labor.

### OFFICIAL VISITS.

It is impossible to estimate the value of a well-timed visit of a school official to the school-room, as an aid and encouragement to the teacher. For reasons already stated I have been deprived of the pleasure of witnessing the manner and method of work performed in a large majority of the schools in my division. The school directors, in a number of parishes, as I learn from the reports of teachers, have exhibited a keen appreciation of their duties, and have gratified teachers and pupils by occasional visits. A director can not, with a clear conscience, report to the Division Superintendent a school-house in good condition or schools under good discipline that he has never visited or addressed, or examined to a responsible extent. He certainly can form no estimate of the value of a teacher until he has visited the field of labor; and he has no right in justice or under the law to employ an incompetent or an unworthy teacher.

### VISITS OF PATRONS.

It is gratifying to receive intelligence that at some points in the division, parents and others do sometimes step into the school-room and watch the little ones. They encourage the teacher by their presence, because teachers are as other people, susceptible to flattery, and it is flattering to them to be made aware by parents that their work is worthy of their attention. The pupils feeling that a bond of sympathy exists between parents and teacher, become morally and otherwise conscious of a controlling supervision, and the teacher's task loses its uncheerfulness and monotony to a great degree. Teachers write to the Division Superintendent in italicized words of indignation, complimented with formidable exclamation points that not one of the many parents in their neighborhood—*not one* of the busy, bustling world has crossed the threshold of the school-house, and they are not appreciated or cared for by a single human being—*no, not one!* A parent is not doing justice to the child, is liable to do great injustice to the teacher, is encouraging poor schools and is neglecting to officials by avoiding the school-room. It is hoped that another year will demonstrate an increased interest in public schools. A cordial invitation is extended to every public spirited individual to visit the schools, afterward criticize their conduct as they shall deserve; and if evils exist and local directors refuse to correct them, let them call upon the editor of the village newspaper and have the aforesaid directors blown to atoms—figuratively speaking.

### DONATIONS.

Secretary J. W. Bryan of Calcasieu donated to the school board of that parish the sum of one thousand dollars, as appears by his official report. Besides being one of the most prompt and energetic of the school officials of the division, he stands at the head of the list of benefactors of the schools, whose acts speak louder than their words. In these days of scarcity of school funds, and when teachers wonder and speculate on the probabilities of the future, donations of limited amounts would, no doubt, be thankfully received and appropriated to proper use by the different boards of directors. In many localities the school work has been happily forwarded by the donations of buildings, free of rent, for accommodations of schools. Let donors receive their thanks from the little ones protected from the inclemency of the weather, and let them feel that their gifts are remembered gratefully and thankfully by their respective communities.

### SPECIAL MENTION.

I would not do justice to the school work itself, or to my own sense of its propriety, if I did not call attention to the laborers and the faithful discharge of duty on the part of Dr. G. W. Johnston, President of the School Board of St. Martin parish; Dr. Geo. J. Colgin, Secretary of the Iberia Parish and New Iberia Town Board; L. E. Salles, Secretary of Lafayette Parish Board; Hon. A. J. Sypher, President, J. G. Parkerson, Secretary of St. Mary Parish Board; J. A. O'Neill and W. McKeenell, of Franklin Town Board; Rodolphe Braud, of Ascension Parish Board. These gentlemen appear to give general satisfaction to teachers and the public in their respective localities, and have always been prompt in their co-operation with the Division Superintendent. Their reports indicate better than words the value of their labor, and

their services should not be underestimated by the general public, which can have but little knowledge of the vexations and difficulties that necessarily confront them. I should have been pleased to add other names to the list, as I doubt not there are others equally meritorious, but an absence of information, either of an official or general character, prevents its extension.

In conclusion, allow me to express the hope that the State Superintendent will visit the parishes of this division and examine the general condition of the schools. On every hand an expression of disappointment is made that his visits have not been oftener and more extended in time and length. Very respectfully,  
EMERSON BENTLEY,  
Division Superintendent Public Education, Third Division of Louisiana.

### What Taxes Will You Resist?

[From the N. O. Republican.]

We wish to address a few words of business to the capitalists of New Orleans.

It is said by the *Picayune* and the disappointed McEnery hordes that you are going to organize tax resistance. What tax do you propose to resist? Is it the tax to pay the interest on our State bonds, held either by you or in New York or in Europe? Your New York and European customers bought these State bonds on your recommendation that the interest and principal would be promptly paid. Are you willing to go into a combination now looking to the resistance of the collection and payment of this tax into the State treasury? Is there a capitalist in New Orleans, who holds bonds of the State, who does not want his interest money? It requires the prompt payment of this tax in order to get it, not resistance.

Our State bonds are held in many cases by people of moderate means; by widows and orphans, who are dependent on the interest for a support, and tax resistance takes the bread and butter out of the mouths of these classes. If you, the capitalists of New Orleans, organize your tax resistance societies, or what is the same in effect, if you allow them to be organized in your midst without your open and sweeping condemnation, it will not be the "Kellogg government" that will be to blame if you, and your New York and European customers do not get their interest money. You certainly, then, would not advocate a resistance to the payment of this tax, which is eleven and a half mills out of twenty one and a half, or about one half the entire State tax.

Is it the tax of four mills to build and repair our levees that you propose to resist? What would New Orleans be worth without a system of levees for our State? Until the United States steps in and takes up this burden of levees, the State has no remedy but to furnish the money by taxation to do this work, which can not be left undone without destroying the State itself. Who builds the levees? The Louisiana Levee Company, under a sacred contract with the State. Who owns the stock of the company? Every dollar is held by the capitalists of New Orleans. Do the stockholders of this company say they do not desire any dividends on their stock? Let them assist in organizing tax resistance if they do, and they will not only not get dividends, but they will be compelled to continue to do as they are now doing, viz: to build their levees on credit.

Is it the school tax that you propose to resist? Surely you are willing that the children of the State should be educated.

These are all the State taxes, save four mills for the support of the executive, judicial and legislative departments. Are you not willing to trust the material interests of the State in the hands of Governor Kellogg and Auditor Clinton? As for the judiciary, are they not showing themselves capable of surrounding capital with all needful guarantees? And as for the legislative department, that would have been long since adjusted but for meddlesome politicians, and our word for it, when the "unquestionably elected" of the Legislature come together next winter in regular session, it will form a legislature a majority of whom none can need be ashamed of. Are you willing to say, then, that you will resist even the payment of this tax?

We recapitulate these various taxes, which are the sum total of all State tax assessments for the current year, and hope every capitalist, every party owning State bonds, every party owning levee stock, to say nothing of those interested in having levees built, every person interested in educating the children of the State every person interested in paying the executive and judiciary of the State, we hope all these classes of good citizens will cut out this recapitulation and place it prominently on their desks, and when asked to join tax resisting associations, point to it as a fitting reply.

	Mills.
Interest tax	11
Levee tax	4
School tax	4
General expenses	4
Total	23

We can not think, with this statement before them, that the capitalists of this city will longer allow the *Picayune* and the McEnery rabble to say they are pledged to tax resistance.

## An Octogenarian Sees His First Locomotive.

[From the Ouachita Telegraph.]

Sixty years have elapsed since Father Abraham Pipes of Jackson parish migrated to the Ouachita Valley. In January, 1812, he together with Dan'l Colvin and a Mr. Sims, all having families, landed at Monroe. They came by river on a keelboat, no steamboats having ever disturbed the smooth waters of the Ouachita at that day. Monroe was then known as the Post of Ouachita, and could even then boast of three stores, one kept by the father of Gen. Pargoud, another by Lindenau and the third by some one else. Trenton was not thought of until at least twenty-five years afterwards. Our friend Maj. Bry, now something more than a youth, was then two years of age, a baby babbling French. His father, Judge Bry, was hearing out his fortune on his place just below town, and Father Pipes says was so thoroughly democratic as to go barefooted whenever he felt inclined. In that year, (1812) Louisiana became a State of the Union, Claiborne was elected Governor, war was declared with Great Britain, and the first steamboat, which Father Pipes saw, landed at New Orleans. The round trip to New Orleans and back to Monroe required six weeks. The trade at Monroe consisted in the exchange of coffee, powder, lead, etc., for deer and bear hides, skins of beaver and otter, bear oil, and cotton cloth. The latter article was eagerly bought by the merchants of the country ladies, at one dollar a yard. Just think of that, young misses, when you are spending your grandmothers' earnings!

Father Pipes settled three miles from the site of the present village of Downsfield, and has ever since lived within twenty miles of the place he first settled. He enlisted in the war of 1812, and is now drawing his pension regularly, which with his earnings as a book agent gives him a tolerably fair living. He is eighty-four years of age, canvasses on horseback a considerable territory and bids fair to live several years yet. He is a superannuated minister in the Methodist church, but frequently goes into the pulpit and preaches the word of his Lord and Master, never without close attention and certain effect.

This pious and venerable pioneer came to Monroe last week on a curious mission. He has seen this country changed from a wilderness to a country of plantations, towns, churches, school-houses and highways. He has seen almost two generations grow up and pass away. Many and various and wonderful, indeed, were the changes he had personally seen transpire. The old keel boats had gone, and he had on the fleetest packets sped by the same hills and breaks he had crept by on his keel-boat fifty years before, grateful even that he was moving so rapidly. But there was one vehicle of the many mighty things wrought out by inventive genius Father Pipes had never laid his old eyes on, and he came to Monroe, not being far distant, to see that curiosity before he was called to sleep with his fathers. The object of his search and curiosity was a locomotive and cars.

It afforded the writer more real satisfaction than comes very often in the busy hours of bustling life to accompany Father Pipes to the depot and become his cicerone. To describe what are the feelings of a man of years who first stands in view of a locomotive with steam up, itself, an object that only itself can describe, is a task not to be attempted. Father Pipes, a man of no mean colloquial powers, stood mute in wonder and admiration of the beautiful mechanism and life-like engine of power before him. "Well! well!" he ejaculated as he gazed at the engine and long train of cars standing on the track, and then overpowered with thought, he lapsed into a dead silence. But the vigor of his limbs seemed partly to return, and he stood intently scanning the machinery, almost forgetting he had a cane, until we proposed to see the engine house and shop. Here he obtained a close view of an idle locomotive, and for some minutes stood silently surveying its parts. At last the engineer of the train blew his whistle, and soon the iron horse, wheezing and frying, slowly began to move. The old gentleman regarded this, the climax of the scene, with even greater admiration than he had the motionless train, and as it rolled away down the track, rattling, rumbly, he followed it with his eyes until the end of the rear car and the ascending smoke and steam were all that could be seen. We together turned away, and Father Pipes, mounting his faithful bay pony, rode into town and back to the home of his friend.

The writer went to his office wondering what would be the changes of the next sixty years, and what at the end of sixty years there could possibly be that would possess the novelty and interest to a man of eighty-four that the locomotive had for Father Pipes.

A Conscientious man is so bashful he can not look a needle in the eye, and permits his letters to accumulate in the post-office, rather than ask the lady clerks for them.

Josh Billings says: I will state for the information of those who haven't had a chance to lay in insect widum as freely as I have, that one single hornet, who feels well, will break up a whole camp-meeting.