

THE DONALDSONVILLE CHIEF.

A WIDE-AWAKE NEWSPAPER, DEVOTED TO HOME INTERESTS.—TERMS, TWO DOLLARS A YEAR.

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Donaldsonville Chief.

Amicus Humani Generis.

A Wide-Awake Home Newspaper,

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—BY—

LINDEN E. BENTLEY,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Rowell & Chesman, St. Louis
C. A. Cook & Co., Chicago

Baton Rouge Advocate: Louis Vresinsky, late Mayor of Bayou Sara, committed suicide in the county jail at Natchez.

Amite Independent: The trial of Richard Smith for the murder of Mrs. Magee in Washington parish, is still pending before District Court.

Iberville South: A negro named Adler Henderson committed rape on a white woman on the east bank of the river in this parish and then made his escape.

Plaquemines Observer: Madame Maria Sonbray, 74 years of age, recently residing in this parish, died on the cars at Albany, Ga., en route to her old home in Florida, where she desired to end her days.

Natchitoches Vindicator: During this week three persons were fatally burned from coal oil explosions, and Mr. Jules Lambie was drowned in Cane river while endeavoring to save a child from the same fate.

Pointe Coupee Pelican: The body of an unknown white woman was found in the river in front of the Red Store. A double-cased gold watch and a locket were on the body—the likeness in the locket being defaced.

Washington Enterprise: Mr. Cashen, while washing a fish-line in the bayou a few days ago was attacked by an alligator-gar-fish, which fastened its powerful jaws upon his hand. It was only after considerable effort that he was able to loosen the monster's hold, lacerating his hand severely in the attempt.

Franklin Sun: Mr. Wm. Hewitt shot and killed one T. J. Johnson with a shot-gun. The men had quarreled about domestic matters, and Johnson, who was an employee of Hewitt's, had been ordered not to enter the latter's premises. The injunction was violated, with the result noted. Mr. Hewitt surrendered himself for trial.

St. Charles Herald: Charles St. Martin, aged 13, son of Parish Attorney St. Martin, was drowned while bathing in the river. A little colored girl was poisoned by eating the kernel of the stone of a green peach. She was discovered on the road to the railroad station in a dying condition. It is said the liquid found in a peach stone, when the fruit is green possesses the qualities of prussic acid.

W. Baton Rouge Sugar Planter: The proposition to extend the Clinton railroad to Baton Rouge has for the present been abandoned, because the work can not be completed in time to take off the present crops, but it will be pushed forward within the coming year. For the present the road will be carried from Port Hudson down to Port Hickey, about four miles, which will afford a good landing place. The water is receding from the railroad track, and in a few days hand-cars will be running between the river and the Grosse Tete country. Regular steam trains, however, will not be put upon the track until some time next month. Scarlet fever has appeared in the upper part of the parish. No deaths have occurred thus far, although the disease assumes a most violent type.

KING SOLOMON AND THE ANTS.

BY J. G. WHITTIER.

Out from Jerusalem
The king rode with his great
War chiefs and lords of State,
And Sheba's queen with them.

Proud in the Syrian sun,
In gold and purple sheen
The dusky Ethiopian queen
Smiled on King Solomon.

Wise of men, he knew
The languages of all
The creatures great or small
That trod the earth or flew.

Across an ant hill led
The king's path and he heard
Its small folk and their word
He thus interpreted:

"Here comes the king men greet
As wise and good and just,
To crush us in the dust,
Under his heedless feet."

The great king bowed his head,
And saw the wide surprise
Of the queen of Sheba's eyes,
As he told her what they said.

"Oh, king!" she whispered sweet,
"Too happy fate have they
Who perish in thy way
Beneath thy gracious feet!"

"Nay," Solomon replied,
"The wise and strong should seek
The welfare of the weak,"
And turned his horse aside.

His train with quick alarm,
Curved with their leader round
The ant hill's peopled mound,
And left it free from harm.

The jeweled head bent low;
"Oh, king!" she said, "henceforth
The secret of thy worth
And wisdom well I know."

"Happy must be the State
Whose ruler heedeth more
The murmurs of the poor
Than flatteries of the great."

Our Washington Letter.

Border Affairs—The Indian War—Political—The Railroad and Canal-Boat Strikers.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 19, 1877.

EDITOR CHIEF:

The depression wrought by the Star's pacific dispatches among the holders of Texas indemnity claims and among the chiefs of the Mexican annexation lobby who have been howling "on to Mexico" in order to fire the popular heart, has been relieved this morning by advices from Diaz, who appears to have "got his back up," and, according to the *Republican* is very "sassy." It was stated that Ord's instructions had been so far modified as to virtually prohibit the pursuit of marauders across the Rio Grande, because Gen. Trevino had entered into an arrangement with him to prevent any further incursions from the Mexican side, or, in case the robbers managed to elude his vigilance, to promptly arrest and punish them on their return, all with the approval and under instructions from the Diaz government. The conclusions of the *Star* appear to have been wholly based upon a dispatch to the *Herald*; and though it is not directly contradicted by later intelligence, it lacks confirmation, and the general tenor of information from other sources leads to the belief that our relations with Mexico are very critical and that war may be precipitated at any moment by the indiscretion of the insubordinate mob across the boundary stream, called the Mexican Army.

Gen. Howard's victory over the Nez Perces in his late engagement, though gained at a loss reported to fully equal that of the numerically inferior enemy, has to some extent dissipated the anxiety felt as to his ability to successfully cope with Joseph's braves, and discredited his personal enemies who were alleged to have been intriguing for his substitution by Gen. Crook or some other well-known Indian fighter, thus hoping to effect the disgrace which they failed of effecting by their suits brought in the District Courts while he was a resident here and the animus of which was so well understood. It is believed this victory will effectually serve to deter other tribes which were preparing to join the hostiles had Howard been defeated, from any participation in Joseph's revolt and incline them to remain peaceably on their reservations. Reinforcements have probably already reached Howard and others are en route which, with the volunteers authorized, will enable him to vigorously pursue, kill or disperse those in arms against the authority of the Government. Altogether the aspect of Indian matters is much more hopeful than one week ago.

The alleged inconsistency of the President's late decision, exempting members of the Republican National Committee from the requirements of his civil service order has furnished

the text for much unfavorable criticism, not only by Democrats and anti-Administration Republicans, but by those heretofore classed as among his friends. More mature deliberation has probably convinced him, as it has members of the Cabinet, that the effectiveness of this movement to divorce the civil service from politics will largely depend upon the sincerity of those originating and having charge of its impartial enforcement. Certainly so palpable a discrimination in favor of the big fish, while the smaller ones are held to rigid compliance—so rigid that the State Association, made up mostly of Department employees having a politico-social character, are virtually prohibited from exercising any political functions on penalty of dismissal from office of the offender—would subject it to a storm of popular denunciation judging from incipient symptoms; and at yesterday's Cabinet meeting it was determined to include all incumbents of Federal positions as subject to the terms of the famous order. Charges of fickleness and indecision against the President because of this abandonment of a hastily formed decision, are already heard; but they can not materially damage him with intelligent, reflecting men, who rather admire that moral courage and honesty of purpose that prompts such a retrograde movement when its propriety has been demonstrated.

The latest intelligence from Martinsburg leaves the striking firemen and brakemen on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad masters of the situation; and the dissatisfaction has spread as far West as Wheeling and to the Parkersburg branch. One man is reported killed and several wounded in the collision between the State troops and the mob, which seems to have the popular support. The first shot was fired by the rioters. Over seventy freight trains are said to be blockaded at Martinsburg and there is no evidence of an immediate adjustment. Passenger trains run as usual. Since the wrecking of the train yesterday morning at Baltimore there have been no violent demonstrations, though the police are still on guard.

The strike of the boatmen for \$1 per ton freight on the Chesapeake and Ohio canal continues. Of the 500 boats employed very few, if any, are at work, save those engaged in carrying freight other than lumber and coal. Georgetown, as the shipping point for most of the coal, is seriously affected, as is the whole district to a lesser degree. The blockade is at St. John's Run, 124 miles above Georgetown. The strikers have hired pastures for their mules and the men appear supplied with all the delicacies of the season, by the B. and O. railroad many charge, and its officials are credited with having engineered the strike. SENTINEL.

A Human Salamander.

A famous man was M. Chabert, the "fire king, fire eater and poison swallower," rather less than half a century ago. By trade a baker at Paris he gained much notoriety by his fire-resisting qualities. According to the stories told of him he would rush into a burning house and bring out the inmates. Once passing a smith's forge he took out a white-hot piece of iron with naked hand, placed the end on an anvil, and asked the smith to hammer away. The son of Vulcan, too much alarmed, ran away, fearing that a denizen of the nether regions had made his appearance. For a time Chabert was inspector of the royal kitchen at the Tuileries; but he was prone to go into the heated oven and give out the dishes of baked viands with his hands. The king, fearful of the results from such proclivities, discharged him with a small pension. He went to Vienna, and in the presence of the imperial family sat in a tar barrel flaming and smoking until he was blackened like a negro. Coming to England, he exhibited at White Conduit House, where he entered a huge oven, took in a leg of mutton, shut the door, sang some French songs and came out with the mutton baked. On other occasions he bore the heat of an oven raised to 500 degrees. Repeatedly he swallowed phosphorus and prussic acid, or appeared to do so; but when Mr. Wakeley, editor of the *Lancet*, proposed to administer the last named powerful poison as a test Chabert refused to comply. This and other circumstances led to the failure of the fire king as a profitable exhibition.

The Donaldsonville Chief has bought out the *Ascension Laborer* office, and has now become a leading journal of the State.—*Carroll Conservative*.

Our New York Letter.

Poisoning an Oarsman—Mortality—Summer Places—Temperance—Life Insurance—Business.

NEW YORK, July 21, 1877.

EDITOR CHIEF:
It has become a settled matter that there is no such thing as honesty or honor, in any thing connected with sporting matters. The races at Jerome and Fleetwood Parks are all arranged beforehand, and the innocent people who bet on horses may do so with the certainty that the ring have agreed with the owners as to which horses should win, and by how much. Occasionally an honest man undertakes to row, or run, or fight, or walk, or do something, and if he can not be bought he is disabled in some way, if it is the interest of the gamblers to do it. A rowing match, which excited much interest among the sports, was arranged between Riley and Courtney. Courtney was known to be the best man, and bets on him were three to one. A little ring of sporting desperadoes took all the bets they could, and an immense amount of money was staked on the event. At noon of the day of the race, Courtney was in excellent condition. He sat down at his hotel to take the little refreshment allowed him, a cup of iced tea being a part of it. He drank it, and noticed that its taste was unpleasant. A few minutes after he was taken very sick; he vomited severely, and fell into a stupor from which he did not recover till night. Riley rowed over the course alone, the judges awarded him the race, and the money in the pools was paid over to his backers. Courtney had been drugged with arsenic. This is no more than is done every day on the race tracks in the city, and is a fair illustration of the honor of the sporting men.

The excessive mortality among children in the city is occasioning alarm. The deaths last week were over 500 in excess of the corresponding week for years, the mortality being mostly confined to children. It is not, as usual, confined to the tenement houses, but the children of the better classes have suffered terribly. The weather has been unusually severe, and the streets and alleys were never so filthy. The accumulations of last winter were left on the ground till late in the spring, and then were not wholly removed. Under the hot July sun the gutters and back yards of the densely populated streets in the lower part of the city emitted a concentration of stenches that singly were enough to kill a healthy adult, to say nothing of a weak and insufficiently nurtured child. The germ of disease once set afloat was carried into the better regions, and the child of a wealthy man died as an atonement for his neglect of the poor, "whom we have always in some measure, checked the disease.

The blazing sun must be endured by the poor of New York during the week, for they must work to earn their bread. But on Sundays, every one of them who can raise the means takes his wife and family to where a mouthful of fresh air is attainable. The poorest go to Central Park, for five cents will take them there. Last Sunday 100,000 people visited the Park; poor mothers with their sickly children staying all day, having taken with them the lunch and supper, that the little ones might get as much of life as possible to fortify themselves for the intolerable heat of a close tenement house for the next six days. There were 30,000 people at Coney Island the same day, and every land and water route leading out of the city to cool, fresh air was crowded. Fortunately there are many such places about New York, and they are of cheap and easy access.

The temperance movement is progressing favorably. All the noted orators in the country are brought to New York by turns, so that the feeling is not allowed to die or lessen. Mother Stewart, who started the crusade movement in the West is here, and is speaking every day and night, with great effect. Murphy will open his peculiar work next week; and

Gen. Gibson of Ohio, and other noted orators, are held in reserve. The legal part of the work is better organized than it has ever been. The rumshop that is caught without a license, or that in any way transgresses the law, is held to all the penalties prescribed. And as good lawyers with plenty of money are employed, they worry the sellers terribly. It is no joke to them to be arrested, for the old tricks of indefinite postponements and straw bail are not allowed to work. They have worried nearly two hundred bucket-shops out of existence. The excise law which restricts the sale of liquors to inns, is being rigidly enforced; and consequently all the dirty little gin mills are putting up the requisite three cots in their little, dirty back-rooms. The temperance people are working for a decision to block this game, and they will doubtless get it.

The Universal Life Insurance of this city is now in hot water, the State Superintendent having made it the subject of a special report, in which he charges mismanagement on the officers and recommends that the company be placed in the hands of a receiver. The company will resist such a step, and insists that its affairs are in a solvent condition. But suspicion in respect to other companies has so often been confirmed, that the public is quite prepared to believe the worst, and the company is already dead in public estimation. Mr. Ender, the Vice President, is also the financial manager of the Charter Oak of Hartford, which is pretty generally understood to be in a bad way; although, as in the case of the Universal, its solvency is insisted upon by its officers and by some outside experts besides. But a clean reputation is so vital to institutions whose breath of life is the popular confidence, that to be suspected of weakness or fraud is almost the same as to be guilty, in disastrous effects; and only those companies can hope to prosper, who stand, like Caesar's wife, above suspicion.

Business begins to revive with the confidence the new crop inspires. Orders for goods are coming in already from the country that has harvested its wheat. There will be a good fall trade. PIETRO.

The Mixed School Question.

(Louisiana State Register.)

In this city the subject of mixed schools is again attracting considerable attention. Owing to the recent action of the school board, the whole question is being discussed with a vigor worthy of a new issue. This question has long been settled, if not in accordance with law, to the general satisfaction of the people who are mostly interested. The constitution of the State declares that "no separate schools shall be established by the State of Louisiana." It is an open question whether this provision was intended to apply to either the city or parish schools. That it applies to schools established by the State, such as the Agricultural and Mechanical College, we presume no one disputes. The white people of this State have never manifested any eagerness to send their children to a colored school. A portion of the colored people have occasionally demanded as a legal right the privilege of sending their children to school with whites, and in order to maintain a proper political standing, it was necessary for some white Republicans to maintain that the constitution did not recognize any school where both races were not indiscriminately mixed. In many localities in this State there have always been separate schools. C. C. Antoine, late Lieut. Governor of the State, was a member of the convention that framed the present constitution. It is reasonable to suppose that he understood its meaning, and especially of the article relating to schools. He was for many years a prominent member of the school board of Caddo parish, and he doubtless exercised a controlling interest in it. The schools in that parish have always been separate. In Baton Rouge, J. Henri Burch was a long time secretary and treasurer of the board. As he controlled the funds and was a State Senator, he also had a great influence in a school board that was appointed principally on his recommendation. There have never been any mixed schools in this parish. Senator Stamps was also a member of the school board in this city. In his district the schools have always been kept separate. These facts conclusively prove that a large portion of the more respectable and better informed colored element are of opinion that the constitution does not establish mixed schools. If they believed differently Messrs. Antoine, Burch and Stamps would certainly have enforced the law when they had the power.

Weekly News Summary.

Domestic.

Ex-Gov. Tilden sailed for Europe on the 18th.

First National Bank of Ashland, Pa., suspended.

George Kuntz fatally stabbed Jas. Murphy in New Orleans.

The cotton worm has appeared in various portions of Texas.

A barrel of offal exploded at Philadelphia, killing a workman.

A Pittsburg foundry and machine shop burned; loss \$300,000.

The Fire Insurance Company of Patterson, N. J., is bankrupt.

New Orleans subscribed for \$205,600 of the new 4 per cent. bonds.

Charles Sprule, a New Orleans baker, hung himself with a sheet.

Another \$10,000,000 of government bonds of 1865 have been called in.

Gov. Hampton visited Salem, Va., and was tendered a hearty public reception.

Chicago savings banks checked a run by enforcing the thirty days' notice rule.

Members of the Republican National Committee holding civil offices, have all resigned from that body.

Gen. Sharpe, Surveyor of the port of New York, was knocked down and beaten by a dismissed employe.

President Hayes and Cabinet have accepted an invitation to visit the Louisville exhibition September 27.

Brutus Ducommun, a young New Orleans portrait painter, committed suicide by shooting himself while intoxicated.

The steambot I. N. Camden exploded both boilers near Wheeling, killing Wm. Barnard, pilot, and four of the crew.

Indians killed three men and a girl on Cow Creek, W. T. Another band murdered a party of thirty-one Chinese miners.

Wm. Anderson's residence near Worthville, Ky., was fired while the family were asleep. Anderson's daughter aged 16, went to the front door, and was fired upon by concealed parties and killed.

Foreign.

England is sending troops to Malta.

The Russians took 2000 prisoners at Nikopolis.

Cossacks burned half a dozen villages south of the Balkans.

The American ship *Sterling* was wrecked at Salt Point, England.

Egypt has sent an additional contingent of 3000 troops to Turkey.

Herzegovinian and Montenegrin insurgents have formed a junction.

Yeni Sagra was captured by the Russians after a brilliant engagement.

All able bodied Turks in Rumelia are being enlisted for the defense of Adrianople.

Grand Duke Nicholas' position at Tirnova has been rendered secure by reinforcements.

An alleged plot to assassinate the Czar was discovered and a number of his staff officers were shot.

The Russians have two bridges over the Danube at Simniza and are building a third at Nikopolis.

Osman Pasha has been made commander-in-chief of the Turkish army, vice Redif Pasha, dismissed.

Osman Pasha defeated three Russian corps at Pleona, capturing a large quantity of ammunition.

Hobart Pasha has command of the Turkish Black Sea fleet, with instructions to bombard all Russian ports.

A heavy Russian force is marching towards Widin, and the Romanians will bombard the place from Kalafat.

It is stated that the Sultan thinks of abdicating in favor of Youssef Izzeddin, son of the late Sultan, Abdul Aziz.

In a fight between government troops and revolutionists at Puerto Plata, San Domingo, the latter were routed.

The Russians have occupied Kustendje on the Black Sea, Tchernovoda on the Danube, and hold the railroad between those places.

The English House of Commons defeated John O'Connor Power's motion for the release of Fenian prisoners. The vote was 235 to 77.

FRUIT FAIR.—The New Orleans *Times* of the 21st says:

The Fruit Growers' Association of the Gulf States closed their fourth annual fair last evening. The fair was the most successful yet given by this association, and the officers and managers express themselves as much gratified at the numerous and varied exhibits, and the interest manifested by growers and the people generally.

The attendance of visitors has been large throughout, and yesterday and last evening two or three thousand people visited the Hall. The auction was the liveliest part of last evening's entertainment. The auctioneer was witty, the people in good humor, and the fruit brought good prices. The awarding of premiums will be made public Sunday morning.