

# Donaldsonville Chief.

Published Every Saturday.

LINDEN E. BENTLEY,  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Saturday, September 1, 1877.

Oh, dan Tone's bayou!

Mr. S. B. Packard, late gubernatorial claimant, takes a front rank among the producers of this State. A pair of twelve-pound twins were added to his family circle recently.

Senator Morton has been very near death's door during the past ten days, from a severe stroke of paralysis. The crisis of the disease has passed, however, and he is gradually recovering.

The Pope is again dangerously prostrated, having scarcely strength to attend to any of his usual daily business. Intrigue relative to the succession has consequently received a new impulse.

Frank Mayo, caught a shark in the bay four feet long the other day. *Attakapas Register.*

A bay four feet long would be called a mudpaddle in these diggins. But perhaps your bay has grown longer since the other day.

Six colored prisoners escaped from the jail of Amite county, Miss., and the Sheriff offers a reward for their apprehension. The fugitives are named, Westley Prophet, Wm. Johnson, Stebney Holmes, Wash Blackman, Seab Anderson, Seab Bacot.

A visit of Messrs. Wells, Anderson and Gantt to Washington has caused much speculation in political circles. One rumor has it that the object of their pilgrimage is to secure the removal of Collector King and the appointment of Mr. Wells in his stead.

The wages of brakemen and firemen on the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago railroad have been restored to the rates prevailing previous to the reduction which caused the late strike. The advance caused much rejoicing among the employees of the road.

The Democratic State convention of Pennsylvania met at Harrisburg on the 22d ult., and nominated John Trankey for Supreme Judge and Noyes for State Treasurer. A lively time was had during the balloting for Supreme Judge, and at one time it seemed as if the convention would break up in a general free fight.

Brigham Young, the great Mormon prophet and leader, died in Salt Lake City, Wednesday evening. He was the Moses of American polygamists, and his death will hasten the downfall of the peculiar institution that has flourished so many years and been the cloak for so many crimes in the fertile plains and valleys of Utah.

The country is still entertained with the spectacle of Gen. Howard cavorting about the wilds of Idaho with uplifted sword, endeavoring to strike Joseph's rear. The wily Indian won't remain in position long enough to be struck, but occasionally dodges around and takes the rear-striking job off Howard's hands, stealing a few hundred of his horses meanwhile by way of diversifying the amusement.

Charles Pages, the colored Postmaster at Baton Rouge, and Wm. Terrell of New Orleans have been arrested and imprisoned, charged with concocting and forging a bogus bond, under which Pages qualified as Postmaster. One of the pretended sureties was alleged to own property in St. Charles parish, and the other in New Orleans, but neither man nor the property can be discovered. It is asserted that Terrell fixed up the bond for Pages in consideration of a sum of money agreed upon between them. Both parties are in prison at New Orleans unable to furnish bail.

A Feliciana murderer, one J. W. Dixon, was recently arrested at Dallas, Texas, on a requisition from Governor Nichols, and is now confined in prison at New Orleans. Dixon was a cotton planter, owning a farm about twelve miles from Bayou Sara, and the man he killed was a colored laborer in his employ, named John Smith. The murder was committed last fall and was wholly unprovoked, the only excuse being that Smith was not rapid enough with his work to suit Dixon, who shot him in the back, using a double-barreled gun loaded with buckshot. Dixon escaped from custody while the inquest was in progress and fled to Texas.

## FRENCH POLITICS.

A fresh instance of the despotic policy being pursued by the MacMahon government in the attempt to prevent a free and untrammelled expression of the popular will at the coming election, is to be furnished in the prosecution of Gambetta, the Republican leader, for his great speech at Lille. The specific charge upon which the prosecution will be based, is "insulting the President," and the trial will be a Star Chamber affair, conducted with closed doors and the proceedings kept secret. Appearances indicate that the court will be organized to convict. We misapprehend the spirit of French Republicans if they will not be enthused rather than discouraged by the tyrannical course of the government, and all indications, as they appear from this side of the water, point to a decisive Republican triumph at the ballot box. Then will arrive the supreme moment for testing MacMahon's professed loyalty to the Republic; then it will be seen whether he will submit to a humiliating defeat, or follow in the footsteps of his late master, astonish the world with a coup d'etat and declare himself Dictator. A soldier by instinct and occupation, the grim old General can ill brook defeat, and his popularity with the army will offer a powerful incentive to the employment of the bayonet to overturn the adverse results of the ballot.

**HARD FIGHTING IN TURKEY.**  
There has been a succession of heavy battles between the Turks under Sulleiman Pasha and the Russians holding Schipka Pass. The Turks are superior in numbers, and have fought with desperate valor, but the strong positions and indomitable courage of the Russians have kept the enemy at bay and inflicted terrible loss upon him. The battle grounds are thickly strewn with Turkish slain, and it is even said that their loss already equals that of the Russians in their disastrous encounter with the army of Osman Pasha at Plevna. Early this week it was telegraphed that the Turks had captured the Schipka Pass, but later advices contradict the report and show that the Russians still hold their positions and have received reinforcements which will probably enable them to defeat every assault of the army opposed to them.

Our friend of the *Vindicator* wants to know "if three cats can catch three rats in three minutes, how many cats will it require to catch one hundred rats in one hundred minutes?" If the one hundred rats are convenient we imagine that about one hundred cats can do the business. *Baton Rouge Advocate.*

The editor's imagination has led him astray on a simple proposition. To catch one hundred rats in one hundred minutes evidently requires a sufficient number of the feline creatures to capture an average of one rodent per minute; and this number is shown by the statement of the problem. If three cats catch three rats in three minutes, ergo, three cats catch one rat in one minute, or one hundred rats in one hundred minutes. At first blush this problem is about as confusing as its more ancient prototype: If a chicken and a half costs a cent and a half, how much will a dozen chickens cost?

A report is telegraphed from Washington that the Secretary of War has decided to expend a sufficient amount from the general harbor and river improvement fund to close the bursted dam at Tone's bayou, on Red river. This intelligence has been received with great satisfaction by merchants, steamboatmen and planters interested in the navigation of the Red. A stream of water 250 feet wide and six feet in depth has been flowing into the bayou, lowering the channel of Red river to such an extent that only small boats of the lightest draught can get to Shreveport with cargoes in any degree commensurate with their size and tonnage.

Ben DeBar succumbed to the paralytic stroke which recently attacked him, and departed this life at his home in St. Louis on Tuesday last. He was 61 years of age, was the oldest theatrical manager in the country, and had been on the stage since 1832. His death will be generally regretted, and particularly in St. Louis and New Orleans, where he was almost universally known and beloved. He was an excellent actor, his specialty being low comedy. His favorite character was that of *Falstaff* in Shakespeare's "Merry Wives of Windsor," and in this role he had no equal in America.

The Illinois Central Railroad Company has purchased the Mississippi Central, and now owns a continuous line of track from Chicago to New Orleans.

## THE SOUTH'S INTEREST IN THE GREAT LABOR STRIKE.

BY EMERSON BENTLEY.

Taking the press for a guide, one might be led to suppose that the South had no interest in the great Northern labor strike, save one, of exaltation at the failure of the advocates of law and order to head it off in its incipency. With a singular carelessness or flippancy the question is discussed as if it involved simply the goring of a neighbor's ox, and not influence to be felt ultimately in every section of the country. The delusion will have a short life. The South has a very deep interest in the wide-spread revolt of labor against capital; and it is because her combinations of capital are being wielded grievously against her laboring classes, and are thereby creating bonds of sympathy stronger than race prejudices or State militia in the direction of society.

It is worthy of remembrance that it was on Virginia soil that old John Brown opened the war against slavery; and State militia did not keep the influences of the deed from marching on with astonishing rapidity. The ill-paid railroad men of Martinsburg, West Virginia, were the first to begin the revolt against exacting railroad corporations which subsequently became general in the land. The State militia fraternized with the mob and failed in the purpose for which they were summoned to arms. In both instances the cry of "madmen," "fanatics," and "more troops" for the protection of capitalists was raised, but after the deeds came a host of moral reflections. The John Brown "mob" somehow came off victors in the light of subsequent events, and it is quite popular for State Rights Democracy to pledge allegiance to the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the national constitution.

The disagreeable scenes of the labor strike have ended, but the question of the proper relations between labor and capital is made paramount. Before the revolt there was no hope of redress, because corporations having "no souls" exercised great weight in the making of laws, and gave slight heed to workingmen's petitions. Now, the moral floodgates of public opinion are thrown open, and the discovery is made that there are two sides to be viewed, and mutual arbitration, possibly supervisory laws, will be adequate for a substantial redress of grievances. And the strikers, putting aside their mob proclivities, are moving steadily to the ballot-box for workingmen's candidates, and compelling the politicians to recognize their citizen power.

If Pennsylvania miners, with salaries of \$13 per month, fail to provide for families of five with comfort, the same thing can not be expected of Mississippi negroes with \$8 or \$10. There is a similarity in the grounds of complaint. In the one case it is the mine owners in combination against the miners; in the other the planters against the field hands. The mine owners meet and fix the rates for the miners; the planters meet in associations to determine the wages of field hands. The capitalists in both cases avoid councils in which the laborer will have a voice or representation—and taxation without representation is tyranny. The miner was taxed by capital below a living basis and he revolted physically and politically. He will demand of the legislators dependent upon his ballot a fair adjustment. The negro of Mississippi was ruled out of legislative representation by the white line policy; he is ruled out of an adjustment of wages; he is no longer a free agent, but subject to the caprice of capitalists. The enforced cheap labor of negroes makes the South an undesirable locality for poor white laborers, who can not comfortably compete with it in the ordinary vocations. It also rivals the agricultural labor of the West and the manufacturing labor of the East to a constantly increasing extent. This originates a union of interest between the laboring classes which may be manifested in an early practical way in efforts at common political action.

At all events the discussion of laborers' rights is safely based on the broad principle of American representative government, which few of the present generation will have the hardihood to deny, and are embodied in the traditions and fundamental law of the Republic. With an increase of knowledge concerning the individual's rights and powers of citizenship, new political currents will move among us. The White Line combination of capitalists have all to lose and the negro laborers to gain in the outcome of the great labor strike. The South must bow her head to the political power of her workingmen with due reverence, and will no longer continue to treat them with half-heartedness, neglect or disdain.

Hon. P. G. Deslonde, ex-Secretary of State, has filed, or is about to file in the Sixth District Court of New Orleans, a suit against ex-Governor Kellogg, to recover the sum of \$8153, alleged to be due plaintiff as official fees for affixing the seal of the State to 8153 consolidated bonds issued under the funding act. The plaintiff's petition avers that these bonds were taken from the office of the Secretary of State by Gov. Kellogg, after positive assurance from him that the Secretary's fees would be paid. The money has never been forthcoming, though frequently demanded, and hence the law is resorted to. This suit, if prosecuted, will attract much interest and attention.

Washington advices report that influence has been brought to bear upon President Hayes by Congressmen and others to induce him to revoke the call for an extra session of Congress in October. The President announces, however, that after mature consideration of all matters bearing upon the question, he deems an extra session necessary and will not recall his proclamation.

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