

# THE DONALDSONVILLE CHIEF.

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

VOLUME VII.

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## Donaldsonville Chief.

Antebellum Genes.

A Wide-Awake Home Newspaper,

Published Every Saturday, at

Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish, La.,

—BY—

LINDEN E. BENTLEY,

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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### LOUISIANA NEWS.

Plaquemine Observer: Sarah Walker, a colored girl, fell from a pecan tree and was severely injured.

Baton Rouge Advocate: Miss Eliza Bogan, aged about 15 years, had the sad misfortune of getting her right hand crushed in a saw mill.

Thibodaux Sentinel: Cato Shepherd has gone to the penitentiary, for a term of ten years, because he fired into a gang of laborers on the Ridgefield plantation.

Calcasieu Echo: The schooner Alice Taylor, owned in Lake Charles, has not been heard from since the late storm. Mrs. and Miss Sharp were passengers on board of her.

Merchandise Clarion: A colored man named Squire Erwin was shot and instantly killed by Gus Powell, also colored, in prairie Mer Rouge. The murderer was pursued by a posse, but escaped.

E. Feliciana Pat.-Dem: There will be an exhibition of fine mares, colts and sheep, in Clinton on the 27th inst. The planters of the eighth ward of this parish will realize this year over four thousand gallons of sorghum syrup.

West Feliciana Sentinel: Mr. Clifford Barrow met with a serious accident at the gin-house of Mr. Lane W. Brandon—his hand was drawn into the gin, and, with the forearm, terribly mangled by the saws. It was feared that amputation would be necessary.

Tangipahoa Independent: Sunday night, Sam McCoy visited the house of Geo. Washington and called him to the door. Washington saw that McCoy had a gun and sprang back as the latter fired, in time to escape the charge. What transpired after the shooting we have not learned.

Assumption Pioneer: At a colliery given by the colored population on the plantation of Folse & Bro., a desperate attempt was made by Alfred Sullivan to assassinate Edmond Brooks with a razor. Severe but not necessarily fatal wounds were inflicted on Brooks' neck. Sullivan was arrested.

Iberia Sugar-Boat: The bulk of Mr. Samuel Baudlett's cane crop is still under water, caused by the overflow of Bayou Yokely. Mr. Michel Schmulen, a storekeeper on Bayou Cyromort, was brutally assaulted and beaten by Aleck Brashear, a negro. Another colored man, named Scott, interfered and knocked Brashear down; the latter fired at Scott, who returned the fire, shooting Brashear in the leg, which may have to be amputated.

Ouachita Telegraph: Four colored persons were drowned while crossing Ouachita river in a leaky skiff, on their way to a religious gathering. Old man Henry Williams was the head of the party; the remaining three were his wife, Cluissa, Zella Scott and Hannah Brown. Jerry Rogers, a young colored man, was playfully discharging his pistol at random, while on his way home from Monroe, and one of his bullets struck Ann Cahoon, a colored woman, in the head, killing her instantly. Jerry has been placed under \$200 bonds to appear before District Court.

### KATIE'S ANSWER.

Och, Katie's a rogue, it is true,  
But her eyes, like the skies are so blue,  
An' her dimples so swate,  
An' her ankles no nate—  
She dazed and she bothered me too.  
Till one mornin' we went for a ride,  
Within denure as me bride, by me side,  
The darlin' she sat,  
Wid the wickedest hat  
'Neath a party girl's chin over tied,  
An' me heart, arrah thin, how it bate—  
For me Kate looked so temptin' an' swate,  
Wid cheeks like the roses,  
An' all the red posies  
That grow in her garden so mate.  
But I sat just as mute as the dead,  
Till she said, wid a toss of her head,  
"If I'd knowin' that to-day  
You'd have nothin' to say,  
I'd have gone wid me cousin instead."

Then I fit meself grow bowld,  
For I knew she'd not scold, if I towld  
Uy the love at me heart,  
That would never depart,  
Though I lived to be wrinkled and ovid.  
An' I said, "If I dared to do so,  
I'd lit go of this baste, an' I'd throw  
Both me arms round yer waist,  
An' he stalin' a taste,  
Uy thin lips that are tastin' me so."  
Thin she blushed a more illegant red,  
And she said, widout raisin' her head,  
"An' her eyes lookin' down  
'Neath her lashes so brown,  
'Would you like me to drive, Mishter Ted?"  
—Kansas City Times.

## Our Washington Letter.

Across the Mexican Border—  
Departure of the Sioux Delegation—Sitting Bull—Official Delinquents, etc.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 4, 1877.

EDITOR CHIEF:

A sensational report gained currency yesterday that the forces of Col. Shafter and Lieut. Bullis, across the Rio Grande in pursuit of cattle thieves, had been dispersed by Mexican troops. Sheridan's dispatch reassured us, but we learned later that the small force under Bullis which crossed that stream on the 28th ult., hoping to surprise a party of Lipon Indian marauders, had only succeeded in capturing a few horses and mules left behind when the Indians were treacherously informed of the pursuit and fled. Shafter reports that he crossed over on the 30th, by preconcerted arrangement, with seven companies to support Bullis if necessary, and met that officer next day on his way back to camp; and that they were followed some distance by a small Mexican force, but that no hostile demonstrations were made. It really appears that factions in Texas and Mexico are anxious to precipitate hostilities, several Texas regiments being in process of organization, while Diaz, by consenting to the extradition of several Mexican criminals, has made himself odious to an uncertain proportion of his soldiers and people.

After the pow-wow at the White House, and one with Secretary Schurz, the Indian delegation, consisting of twenty-three chiefs and sachems all more or less well known by reputation, started on their return to day, via New York, where they are to be impressed with our prowess by a sail down the bay and a tremendous discharge of artillery. Their chief object in coming was to prevent removal to the upper Missouri; and secondarily to petition for valid titles to their lands, and for churches, schools, ministers, priests and every thing to aid them in adopting agricultural pursuits and civilization. The President promised them all that he could properly influence Congress to grant them; but said the contracts entered into for their this winter's subsistence, after binding themselves by treaty a year or more ago to remove to the Missouri river, had been executed and many of the goods delivered; and as he had no means for further transportation they would be obliged to go there this winter; that in the spring they should select their lands and be protected in their possessions. They left tolerably satisfied by the result of their mission, and happy as children with the overcoat, trunk, and a small amount of money given each by Mr. Schurz.

Sitting Bull utters a blast of defiance. He is on Canadian territory and evidently means to stay as long as it suits his fancy or convenience. According to latest reports he wants peace, if to be had on his own terms; otherwise he prefers war and will return blow for blow, whether dealt by our own or the Dominion government. His marauders are creating dismay among the surrounding tribes; and it is believed here that he will soon be reinforced by the Nez Perces that succeed in eluding Howard, enabling

him to again take the war path full-handed.

The trial of ex-Assistant Secretary Sawyer and his confederates for conspiracy against the Treasury, resulted, unexpectedly, in a verdict of guilty. The motion for a new trial is still pending. There is noticeable quite a feeling of reaction in Sawyer's favor. Like many another man, it is said he lost his head by his sudden elevation, and was used by designing men who appealed to his gratitude through representation of great personal service to him, to forward their schemes. He is much depressed by the adverse result of the trial.

Witowski, Gen. Negley, and several others were called Monday to plead to an indictment for prosecuting a fraudulent claim against the government. Negley was absent, and of those present all save Witowski plead guilty. Negley is charged with having sworn in 1874 to the equity of a claim for \$24,705 for logs alleged to have been delivered to him in 1862, as commander of the Federal forces in Nashville, when, in fact, there was no such delivery. Negley is represented as confident that he can show the prosecution the work of enemies, and as having no foundation.

Goodrich, the swell clerk of the Interior Department who forged the names of several of his fellow clerks to receipts for their monthly pay, got the money and spent it, as is said, on dissolute women, was cornered on Saturday, the regular pay day. At his preliminary examination bail was fixed at \$12,000, failing which he went to jail to await the Grand Jury's action. He has a wife, child, father and mother here, crushed and disgraced by the ruin he voluntarily brought on them and on himself. One of the female sharks, according to gossip, more merciful than the others, demanded more money than he could command, on pain of exposure, hence his crazy recourse.

Congressmen are slowly dropping in upon us, while every train brings more or less of the large number who spend the Congressional season here for pleasure or profit, or both. The quickening influence of the business revival has already made itself felt here in the large demand for houses; and a larger crowd is anticipated than during any winter since war times.

SENTINEL.

## Our New York Letter.

Political—The Cost of Cigars—  
New York and the Canals—  
More Recalcitancy—Business.

NEW YORK, October 6, 1877.

EDITOR CHIEF:

The action of the Republican State convention under the leadership of Mr. Conkling, is still the main topic of discussion. The aggressive portion of the party are those who hold office and those who believe they would have been in office but for the attempt of the President to reform the civil service. This faction of the party applaud Conkling to the echo, and are bitter in their denunciation of Curtis. On the other hand the solid men of the city, of which class the Union League Club are fair representatives, assert that "Mr. Conkling's convention," as they characterize the Rochester gathering, did not represent the party at all, but that the people will sustain Mr. Curtis. They hold that not only the best element in the Republican party, but of the Democratic as well, are in hearty accord with the President, and that the attack of Conkling upon the administration was not only a bad thing for the party, but is the political death of that gentleman. There is no concealing the fact that there is a deal of bitterness in the organization, and it crops out on all occasions as naturally as it did at Rochester. The Conkling people insist that they have made the party and have maintained it, and that to prevent such men from using their political influence because they chance to hold office, is wrong. The President and his supporters take the event very quietly. Evarts says that no matter what the result of the elections may be, this fall, the people will sustain the policy when they come to see its practical effects. And President Hayes says that he is doing exactly what he was pledged to do before the election, and as he does not want another term, it is a matter for the people to do as they choose about.

A very pretty little history came to me the other day. In 1870 a broker named Abbey was told by his physician that cigars were killing him; and his wife induced him to stop smoking, and give her the amount each

day that he was in the habit of expending upon cigars. Now this rich man did not smoke common cigars, not he. He could not resist himself with any thing less than imported Havanas, that cost fifty cents and upwards, each, and he consumed a great many of them. But he did quit, and he did give his wife each day precisely what his cigar bill had been, and he kept it up faithfully. About a month ago, Mr. Abbey went under, and he was very sore about it. He had neglected the usual precautions such people take, and the house he lived in was taken out from under him, as well as all the pleasant accumulations of a lifetime. Mr. Abbey, last Monday, morning, was an astonished man; for Mrs. Abbey, took him out of the cheap hotel in which they had taken refuge, and conducted him to a very neat and comfortably furnished house on 20th street, with every thing in readiness to go to living, and all hers! She had saved the money he had given her, she had invested it, and turned it over and over, until it had amounted to enough to pay for a delightful home, not much inferior to the one he had lost; and this was in his wife's name and could not be taken from her, and from this vantage point, Mr. Abbey feels quite confident that he can go out, and regain his lost position. He saved his health by quitting tobacco—his wife so managed as to give him a new start. A very comfortable wife to have is Mrs. Abbey.

The Erie canal is, practically, a national work, and it is a thousand pities that it is not under the control of the general government. It is the only safeguard the people have against rapacious railroad combinations, and the farmer of Iowa is just as much interested in it as the merchant of New York. The railroads did their level best to keep up the tolls, that the carrying of the grains should be forced into their hands. Despite their efforts, the tolls were lowered, and the good effect was apparent. The amount of grain carried was largely increased, and the canal assumed somewhat the appearance of former years. Another movement in the right direction is being made. It is to close out, once for all, all the lateral canals that do not pay expenses, and make the Erie free of tolls. If this is done, and as an additional measure the canal is enlarged so as to pass a larger boat, the city will recover its lost trade, and New York will be again, what it was, the great exporting point of the country. The Canadians are enlarging the Welland canal so as to admit large vessels, and Montreal is working with all its might to make itself the point of export and import. New York has got to do something to head her off. The Erie canal is the way, and New York sees it. A free canal and a larger one is what New York needs, and the agitation of the question shows an increasing tendency to labor in that direction.

The dreadful list of scoundrels has this week taken on two new names, Gilman and Lyman; the first, one of the saints we are getting accustomed to, who within the church rob the brethren and outside world alike. His acts will be familiar to your readers before this letter reaches them, and they will learn that he was a kind father and true friend—sensitive, aesthetic, intellectual, domestic and pious to a degree. Who can be trusted, is the perpetually recurring conundrum. Not in the case of Lyman, however, who has before done the State some service in Sing Sing, but his case is striking in this, that a known jail-bird could go on so long in successful forgery.

Except in Wall street, business is improving every day. The merchants from the interior are finally convinced that the bottom has been reached, and are buying liberally. The city is full of strangers, and everybody is feeling well. There is no question that business men are satisfied that from this time out, there will be an improvement in values, that goods can not go below the present point, and that real estate from this date must improve. Tenants recognize the improved lock of things, and are preparing to submit to an increase in the spring; and, in short, everybody is feeling better. My confidence is not based upon theory, but comes from what I see and know. The dark days are over, and we see clear skies. The strangers among us report the same reason for encouragement everywhere. The West and South are rich this year, and the West and the South make the rest of the country.

SCRIBE.

## Proposed Constitutional Amendments.

The Opeloush Courier thus details the changes in the constitution, which, in the editor's judgment, are necessary to a proper and economical administration of the State government:

1. Limiting the appropriations and expenses of the General Assembly, and fixing the per diem and mileage of members.
  2. Amending Article 66 of the present constitution with reference to the signing and promulgation of acts of the Legislature by the Governor; also authorizing the application of the Governor's veto to a section or part of a bill.
  3. Abolition of the present system of Parish Courts and of the office of District Judge.
  4. Extending the jurisdiction of the Parish Courts so that it shall embrace the jurisdiction now exercised by the District Courts.
  5. Creating Circuit Courts of Appeal, the circuits to embrace six or eight parishes—said courts to pass upon matters of fact and of law, to be composed of the Parish Judges of the several parishes of the circuit, and their respective salaries not to exceed \$3500 nor be less than \$2500.
  6. Abolishing the country sessions of the Supreme Court, confining their jurisdiction to questions of law, and reducing the salaries of the Judges to \$4000.
  7. Taking the judicial offices entirely out of the theatre of politics, by giving to the Governor the authority to appoint the judges, by and with the approval and consent of the Senate, and making their terms of office sufficiently long to compensate men of the proper standing and capacity for the abandonment of their private pursuits.
  8. Taking away all fees of office from the Auditor, Treasurer, Attorney General and prosecuting attorneys and limiting their compensation to their salaries.
  9. Fixing the Governor's salary at \$6000.
  10. Restricting the legislative power to matters of a general nature; requiring the enactment of a uniform law for the charter and government of municipal corporations; prohibiting personal statutes and special legislation; abolishing monopolies and prohibiting their creation; restricting the taxing power of the Legislature to raising a revenue to support the State government and public schools, pay the capital and interest of the State debt and pension the veterans of 1812.
  11. Prohibiting the Legislature from passing any law authorizing the Governor to remove an officer, either elected or appointed.
  12. Prohibiting a member of the House or Senate from holding any Federal office, or any office of trust or profit in the State, the tenure, duties or emoluments of which may become the subject of legislation.
  13. Extending the term of office of Sheriffs to four years.
  14. Prohibiting taxation by the municipal authorities of the several parishes beyond the rate of the State tax.
  15. Prohibiting persons from voting who have not paid their annual poll tax.
  16. Abolishing Art. 132 of the present Constitution prohibiting sale of land at judicial sales in quantities larger than fifty acres.
  17. Abolition of the office of District Attorney, substituting in each parish a State's Attorney to be appointed by the Police Juries, for four years, to be paid annual salaries by the several parishes, to be regulated by them.
  18. Requiring the Legislature to pass a law prohibiting Justices of the Peace and Constables from receiving any fee or perquisite in criminal cases, and providing for their compensation otherwise; also fixing their term of office at four years.
  19. Guaranteeing to all citizens equal civil and political rights, an equal participation in the public schools, and making it felony for any officer or custodian of the school funds to speculate in, or use for his private benefit, said funds.
  20. Requiring the Legislature to pass a law making it felony in any Tax Collector or custodian of the public funds who shall fail to account for and pay over the same, and prohibiting the Legislature from relieving such officials or their sureties, in any case in which they incur liability to the State.
  21. Adopting the provisions of the Pennsylvania constitution against lobbying in the Legislature.
  22. Providing a mode and manner of calling a constitutional convention.
- Five of the amendments above suggested were submitted to the vote of the people by the Legislature, at the last general election, and the result of the vote has not yet been declared, and probably will never be. If the changes proposed be wise and salutary, it will appear at once that they can not be effected except through a constitutional convention; because, if there was no other obstacle, their number would render impracticable the attempt to submit them separately to the vote of the people.

Pioneer Land and Loan Bank, San Francisco, has gone into liquidation. Liabilities \$250,000.

## Weekly News Summary.

Foreign.

Madame Titiens died at London. Two feet of snow in Schipka Pass. Bad weather has suspended operations in Bulgaria.

Asiatic cholera is gaining headway in Asia and Japan.

Jules Simon has been very ill, but is now out of danger.

Rumors of an alliance between Italy and Germany are denied.

Louis Olivier Boudreau, a French Senator, is dead, aged 86.

Total Russian losses to September 12, killed and wounded, 52,000.

Another Russian army corps is being organized for service in Bulgaria.

The Midland Railway Company, England, was defrauded by some of its officers.

Steamship Cornwall, bound from New York for Bristol, is ashore near the latter place.

Montenegro terminates this year's campaign with the capture of Banjan or Upper Herzegovina.

Russia has contracted for 186 miles of railway, huts for 150,000 men and hospitals for 15,000, in Bulgaria.

Newspaper correspondents will be excluded from the Russian lines excepting on days of engagements.

An insurrection in Doghistan was suppressed by the Russians. A rebel force of 6000 was totally dispersed.

Nine persons were arrested in Madrid for possessing arms and ammunition; they resisted, and one was shot dead.

Hard fighting has occurred between the Turks and Russians in Armenia, resulting to the disadvantage of the latter. Both sides lost heavily.

Domestic.

U. S. Supreme Court opened Monday.

Episcopal convention in session at Boston.

Gen Sherman and staff are at San Francisco.

Allegheny Savings Bank, Allegheny, Pa., suspended.

Forty-two cases of yellow fever at Port Royal on Monday.

A large fire burned the business centre of McKeeverville, Pa.

Two murderers, Henry Shaw and Gus Johnson, escaped from jail at Atlanta.

Gov. Wade Hampton will speak at the State fair at Raleigh, N. C., next Thursday.

Thos. W. Kearney is the Democratic nominee for State Comptroller of Maryland.

The Grand Division of Conductors' Brotherhood held its annual session at Elmira, N. Y.

A panic caused a run on the Cape Cod savings banks and several suspended temporarily.

B. F. Stokes, secretary of the defunct Market street railway, Philadelphia, has become insane.

The car shops and stables of the New York Dry Dock Street Railroad Company burned; loss \$500,000.

Minnesota Democrats held their State convention at St. Paul and nominated Mr. Binning for Governor.

Steamship Constitution took fire fifty miles west of San Francisco. She reached shore safely and was scuttled.

The western abutment of the great iron bridge, which spans the Missouri river at Atchison, caved into the river.

Secret service officers at Philadelphia arrested Thomas Van Hooster and Thos. Lewis, notorious counterfeiters.

Over 30,000 people viewed the body of Archbishop Bailey at Baltimore, Monday. The funeral took place Tuesday.

Troops are pursuing the rebellious Apaches, in New Mexico, so closely that the Indians must surrender or be captured.

Jas. A. Clough, a steamboat clerk, attempted to commit suicide by cutting his throat, at New Orleans. He will recover.

Rev. Lucius Page, author of the History of Cambridge, lost \$25,000 by the late robbery of Cambridge National Bank.

Two French ladies were killed near Boston, Mass., while driving across a railroad track in front of an approaching train.

Three road agents attempted to capture a train of freight wagons near Custer, D. T., but one was killed and the others driven off.

Two hundred convicts on Blackwell's Island revolted because their usual rations of tobacco was stopped. The disturbance is under control.

W. C. Gilman & Co., New York brokers, committed forgery aggregating \$250,000. Mr. Gilman is believed to have committed suicide.

Three ladies and the colored driver were thrown from a carriage, at New Orleans, and all were seriously bruised. One of the ladies had a leg broken.

The Pennsylvania Coal Company miners, in mass meeting assembled, resolved almost unanimously to resume work upon the company's terms.