Ouachita Telegraph.

MONROE, LA., DECEMBER 13, 1878.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

[Shreveport Standard.]

In view of the early assemblage of the Legislature, whose first duty it is to call a Constitutional Convention, we are reminded of the expediency of discussing some matters of importance in connection with the Convention.

The basis of representation for the numerical strength of the Convention is fixed by the number of Senators and Representatives throughout the State. We see at once, therefore, that the delegates composing the same will make a large body of men, 133 members in all. The fact of this being a rather large and bulky number for a deliberative body, and the further fact that one-half the number could perform the same work equally as well, has led us to make the suggestion of a decreased number of delegates.

Again, when we consider that one of the principal objections urged against the calling of a Constitutional Convention itself, was that it would be the cause of a great expense to the State, which could be obviated by voting on Constitutional Amendments, whose passage by the people would cure the defects of the old Constitution and save that expense, the expediency of a reduction of the number of delegates becomes apparent on that score at once. But whatever determination the Legislature may arrive at, in regard to the size and character of the Convention, we think that the Convention itself, should, in deciding to frame a new Constitution, make the proviso that the recently elected Parish and State officers hold over until the natural expiration of their various terms. This, of course, would not apply to the judiciary, but the general benefit to the country in retaining the other officers elect, can be readily estimated in view of the excitement, the expense, the feeling aroused and the general worry and fuss incidental to a campaign, which would be revived.

A GAMBLING INCIDENT.

I once found myself, says the London Truth, on a Steamer going down the Alabama river. These steamers have on the saloon deck a very long cabin, and at one end of the cabin is a bar where liquor and cards are sold. One evening—for the voyage occupied several days—a passenger asked me if I would play at whist. I assented, and a whist party was made up. I soon perceived that I and a decent-looking old man, who was one of the players were being victimized by the two others; but I played quietly on until every one except the Captain, who was seated at the other end of the cabin, had gone to bed; then my brother victem, after paying his losses, which amounted to several hundred dollars, went to his cabin, I took the cards in my hand and asked what I owed. It was $200 or $300. "Captain," I said, "be good enough to come here; I have been cheated." Up jumped the gamblers and asked me whether I wished to insult them. The Captain, a sturdy looking man was now by my side; so I handed him the cards, and requested him to examine them. They were marked in the manufactory, the star on the back of each particular color being made either higher or lower at the corners. The gamblers swore that they knew nothing of it, and had bought them of the bar-keeper. Half a dozen citizens were at once called up to act as a jury, and the bar-keeper interrogated. After some shilly-shallying, he owned that one of the gamblers had given him some packs to sell. This was enough; the engines were stopped, and the gamblers landed in the swamp, where probably they died, for it was a long way from any habitation and, as the Captain said, a place where only snakes could live. It is almost a pity that there is not this sort of prompt justice nowadays in Europe.

NECK-TWISTING IN CHURCHES.

There are practices which are tolerated in religious congregations which Christians, who are jealous of the honor of their Master's house, should utterly condemn. Decorum is the handmaid of devotional feeling, and for this reason a church should never be disturbed by the slightest approach to irreverence. "It is a part of my religion," said a pious old lady, when asked why she went early to church, "it is a part of my religion not to interrupt the religion of others."

And we believe if many a congregation made it a part of their religion not to twist their necks out of joint to witness the entrance of every person who passed up the aisle of the church, it would be better for their necks and their religion. A gross abuse of religious decorum sometimes needs a harsh remedy. We give that adopted by Henry Clay Dean, who was at one time the Chaplain of Congress. The anecdote is from a paper called the Pacific Methodist.

Being worried one afternoon by this turning practice in his congregation, Mr. Dean stopped is his sermon, and said:

"Now you listen to me, and I'll tell you who the people are as each of them comes in."

He then went on with his discourse until a gentleman entered, when he bawled out, like an usher:

"Deacon A——, who keeps a shop over the way."

He then went on with his sermon; presently another man passed into the aisle, and he gave his name, residence and occupation; so he continued for some time.

At length some one opened the door who was unknown to Mr. Dean, when he cried out:

"A little old man with drab coat and an old white hat; don't know him—look for yourselves."

The congregation was cured.

EDISON'S MARRIAGE.

The Problems that Made Him a Truant on His Wedding Day.

The story of Edison's courtship, while it lacks the roseate tinge of romance, illustrates the man's faculty for going to the heart of things with the smallest possible circumlocution. When he was experimenting some years ago, with the Little automatic telegraph system, he perfected a contrivance for producing perforations in paper by means of a key-board. Among the young women whom he employed to manipulate these machines, with a view to testing their capacity for speed, was a rather demure young person who attended to her work and never raised her eyes to the incipient genius. One day Edison stood observing her as she drove down one key after another with her plump fingers until, growing nervous under his prolonged stare, she dropped her hands idly in her lap and looked up helplessly into his face. A genial smile, such as irreverent paragraphists have referred to as "the Edison grin," overspread Edison's face and he presently inquired rather abruptly:

"What do you think of me, little girl? Do you like me? Don't be in any hurry about telling me. It doesn't matter much, unless you would like to marry me."

The young woman was disposed to laugh, but Edison went on:

"Oh, I mean it. Don't be in a rush, though. Think it over, talk to your mother about it, and let me know as soon as convenient — Tuesday, say. How will Tuesday suit you, next week Tuesday, I mean?"

Edison's shop was at Newark in those days, and one night a friend of his, employed in the main office of the Western Union Telegraph Company in New York, returning home by the last train, saw a light in Edison's private laboratory, and climbed the dingy stairs to find his friend in one of his characteristic stupors, half awake and half dozing over some intricate point in electrical science which was baffling him.

"Hello, Tom!" cried the visitor cheerily, "what are you doing here this late? Aren't you going home?"

"What time is it?" inquired Edison, sleepily rubbing his eyes and stretching like a lion suddenly aroused.

"Midnight, easy enough. Come!"

"Is that so?" returned Edison in a dreamy sort of way. "By George, I must go home, then. I was married to-day."

Marriage was an old story with him—he had been wedded to electrical hobbies for years. But in spite of his seeming indifference on "the most eventful day" in his life, he makes a good husband, and the demure little woman of the perforating machine smilingly rules domestic destinies at Menlo Park, and proudly looks across the fields where the chimneys rise and her husband still works on the problems that made him a truant on his wedding day. A swarm of children pluck her gown to share their mother's smile, and lay in wait to climb into their father's lap and muss his hair with as great a relish as if he were not the greatest genius of his time.

A WARNING.

[Natchitoches Vindicator.]

We have a warning to give the Democracy of this State, now that victory has been again given them. We found it the hardest work of the canvass to convince the white Democrat that our party was not responsible for the gross sins of commission and omission of the last legislature. The masses contended, and justly, that they had been promised reform, a correction of Radical abuses, and an honest Constitution, and that the legislature had insultingly deceived them. However, our people rallied to a man on the assurance that those pledges should be kept faithfully and honestly in the future, and we warn the Democratic party of this State of this fact, that if they fail to call a Constitutional Convention for an early day, at the coming session of the General Assembly, the fate of the party is sealed.

It will be beaten in every nook and corner of the State, as it deserves to be beaten. If any parish in this State, whose voters favor a Constitutional Convention, have returned a member of the last Assembly, who voted then against a call, under his promise to do better next time, they have, we fear, done themselves and the State a great wrong. The man who, when brought face to face with an issue, fails and fails as signally and as blindly as many failed in the last Assembly, should never again be trusted to a post of danger or importance.

We feel fully assured that there will be no back sliding this time. The people of Louisiana have spoken in thunder tones for an honest Constitution, and they will be heeded.

Senator Kellogg, of Louisiana, being asked by a reporter what he thought of the late election in his State, said: "It is the same old story of fraund and intimidation; only the frauds were greater and more bare-faced than ever before." Inasmuch as all the previous elections were held under Republican management and made to result in Republican victories, this evidence from a a Republican source is valuable. —*N. Y. World.*

MONROE ADVERTISEMENTS.

BEWARE OF BOGUS AGENTS

AND SPURIOUS MACHINES!

THE SINGER

MANUFACTURING CO.'S

NEW

Family Sewing Machine

NOW SELLING AT THE

GREAT REDUCTION OF $30 LESS THAN FORMER PRICE.

THE BEST IN THE WORLD!

282,812 Machines Sold in 1877.

The Best Always Wins in the Long Run! Buy Only the Genuine! Beware of Counterfeits!

We submit to any candid reader, that a machine whose sales steadily increase through years of adversity and unparalleled depression in business, while the sales of every competitor fall off heavily year by year, MUST BE THE BEST MACHINE. No SINGER machine is genuine without our trade mark (given above) stamped on the arm of the machine.

Mr. J. E. Behen is no longer our agent and cannot supply the public with genuine Singer machines.

Machines sold on the lease or installment plan.

THE SINGER MFG. CO.,
176 Washington St., Vicksburg, Miss.,
W. H. STOWERS, Manager.

Address J. H. STEEL, Monroe, La.

J. G. SANDERS,

GRAND STREET, MONROE, LA.,

DEALER IN

HARDWARE, GROCERIES, DRY GOODS

AND

GENERAL PLANTATION SUPPLIES

AND IMPORTER OF

LANDRETH'S GARDEN SEED.

KEEPS CONSTANTLY ON HAND

LIME, CEMENT AND PLASTER.

ALSO AN ASSORTMENT OF

WAGONS, WHEELBARROWS, PLOWS.

August 17, 1872. 48:tf

OPERA HOUSE SALOON

DESIARD STREET, MONROE, LA.,

Adjoining the Opera House,

The undersigned having thoroughly furnished the above saloon—built under his directions and arranged expressly for the pleasure and convenience of his patrons—respectfully tenders his services to the public.

The Bar will be found supplied with the very best of

WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS,
BOTTLED, OR KEG BEER,
And at all times with a
PLENTIFUL SUPPLY OF ICE.

Lovers of Billiards will find two elegant tables ready at their command. Polite attention is guaranteed every customer, and the strictest order rigorously enforced at this saloon. G. W. PIERCE,
April 20, 1877. Proprietor.

OFFICE SALOON,

GRAND STREET, MONROE, LA.

[Established 1867.]

The Proprietor assures his many friends and customers that he will constantly keep on hand the finest and best brands of

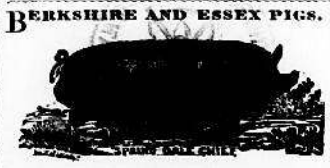
Wines, Liquors and Cigars,

All of which will be served with promptness and politeness.

A. J. KELLER, Proprietor.
October 6, 1877. 1y

MISCELLANEOUS.

BERKSHIRE AND ESSEX PIGS.



Thoroughbred and acclimated. Without doubt the best breed for the South. The subscriber breeds from the finest and best bred imported Berkshires and their produce, such as "Sallie Othello," "Sir Dorchester Cardiff," "Robin Hood," "Toplash," "Stumpy," "Sweet Seventeen," strains. Has three fine boars at the head of the herd. Stock entered for the third volume "American Berkshire Swine Record" where none but thoroughbred stock are admitted.

Pigs for sale at all times, as good as can be found in the United States. Price, boxed and delivered at Trenton or Monroe, La., $25 per pair.

For further particulars, address
C. T. HINES, M. D.,
Downsville, Union Parish, La.
References given if desired.
February 22, 1878. 1y

ONION SETTS,

RED AND WHITE,

12 AT McFEE'S.

MONROE ADVERTISEMENTS.

SHOLARS & KEY,

DE SIARD ST., MONROE, LA..

HAVE EXCLUSIVE SALE FOR THIS SECTION OF THE

CELEBRATED MILBURN WAGON

AND

GULLETT'S COTTON GIN, WITH SELF-FEEDER ATTACHED,

DEALERS IN CHOICE

FAMILY GROCERIES, PRODUCE, BOOTS, SHOES,

AND

GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

July 20, 1878.

H. KINDERMANN,

DESIARD ST., MONROE, LA.,

DEALER IN CHOICE

FAMILY GROCERIES,

WINES, LIQUORS,

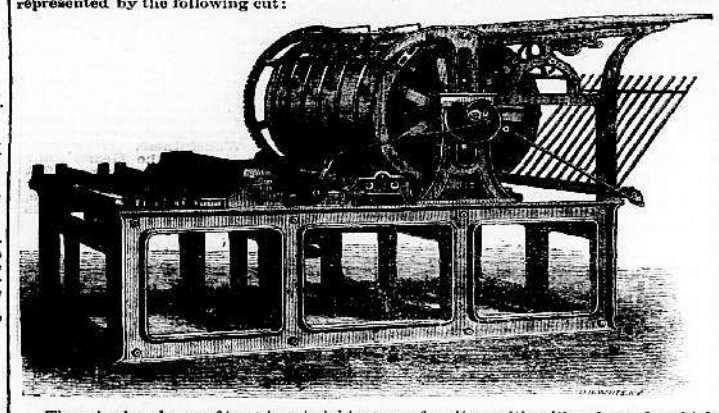
TOBACCO, CIGARS,

CROCKERY, SHELF-HARDWARE, NOTIONS, ETC.

NEWSPAPER OFFICE FOR SALE!

AT A BARGAIN!

I have for sale a complete newspaper office, consisting of three presses, type, cases, stands, imposing stones, paper cutter and all other material required to print a seven-column newspaper. The newspaper press is a power press, in splendid order, and is represented by the following cut:



There is abundance of type to set eight pages of matter, with a liberal supply of job and display type in addition, and the whole is in perfect order. The material can be removed and a paper issued readily within ten days from the time the office is set up.

The press and material are the same with which the late *Louisiana Intelligencer* was printed, and will be sold at less than one-half the original cost. Delivery will be made the moment a sale is effected. ☞ Terms liberal and easy.

Monroe, La., March 24, 1878. G. W. McCRANIE.

BRYCE RILLS,

CORNER GRAND AND GRAMMONT STS., MONROE, LA.,

DEALER IN

BOOKS, STATIONERY, MUSIC, NOTIONS,

Glass, Willow and Wooden Ware, Tobacco and Cigars.

LAZARUS, MORRIS & CO'S AGENT FOR SPECTACLES AND EYE-GLASSES.

OILS, NEEDLES AND ATTACHMENTS FOR ALL MACHINES.

Mr. Milton has charge of the Gun and Sewing Machine shop in rear of store. All work guaranteed.

JOB PRINTING

PROMPT, NEAT AND CHEAP,

—AT THE—

OUACHITA TELEGRAPH OFFICE.

FURNITURE STORE,

AND FURNITURE REPAIRING.

The undersigned respectfully informs the public that he has now on hand a well selected stock of *Office and Household Furniture, Wooden coffins, Metalic Burial Caskets, Coffin Trimmings such as Handles, Plates, Screws, etc.* Terms, Cash. Store on Grand street, near the Courthouse.

J. E. PETERS.
Monroe, La., March 18, 1878. n26-tf

OLD NEWSPAPERS

FOR SALE AT THIS OFFICE.

OUACHITA LIVERY STABLE,

VALENTINE F. VOGH, PROPRIETOR,

Cor. Third and DeSiard Streets, Monroe, La.

Horses, buggies and hacks kept for hire. Horses and mules bought and sold. Good lots and sheds for drovers connected with the stable. Horses and mules boarded at reasonable terms. Personal attention paid to feeding all stock.

☞ Bastrop and Farmerville stage office at this stable. March 29, 1878.

POSTAL INFORMATION.

RULINGS

OF THE

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

MISCELLANEOUS.

There is no law authorizing the return of money for postage overpaid.

Under no circumstances can a postmaster open a letter not addressed to himself.

Postmasters and assistants cannot be contractors, or concerned in carrying the mails.

Additional postage rated upon packages to be collected on delivery must be paid with money.

When the departure of the mail is between 9 o'clock p. m. and 5 a. m., the mail should be closed at 9 p. m.

Unpaid letters containing orders for goods cannot be lawfully carried by the mail carrier outside the mails.

It is no part of a postmaster's duty to attend to the business of private individuals except as a matter of courtesy and when agreeable to himself.

There is nothing contained in the Postal Laws or Regulations, which exempts postmasters or their assistants from working on the public roads.

A postmaster is not obliged to accept in payment of postage any currency which may be so mutilated as to be uncurrent. See ruling No. 103.

The Postal Laws place no restraint on common carriers in conveying second and third-class mail matter outside of the mails.

Section 8, act July 12, 1876, p. 167, U. S. O. P. G., will give postmasters at fourth-class offices all necessary information in regard to their compensation.

When two or more kinds of mail matter are inclosed in the same package the entire package is subject to a higher rate.

Railroad companies are not obliged to deliver the mail into or take it from a post office which is located more than eighty rods (1,320 feet) from their depots or stations.

If under the laws of his State it becomes necessary for a postmaster to work the public roads, he should leave his office in charge of a competent assistant while he is so doing.

Parties addressed have the option to refuse to take any package or packages out of a post-office or the hands of a letter carrier if for any cause they do not see fit to receipt them.

Postmasters are authorized to use official stamps in payment of postage upon communications notifying publishers that their publications are refused or not called for by the parties addressed.

Postmasters or other persons are not permitted to set apart for the sale of articles of merchandize, any part of a premises owned or rented by the government for post-office purposes.

Letters from the Pension Office shall be delivered only to the person addressed or to a member of his family, or to a legal guardian of the pensioner, and under no circumstances to an attorney, claim agent, or broker.

Postmasters cannot deliver letters which may be addressed to or deliverable from other post-offices, except in cases of letters addressed to a discontinued office nearest the office where such letters are sent for delivery.

There is nothing in the Postal Laws or Regulations authorizing a postmaster to close his post-office while he is at dinner. A post-office should be kept open during the usual hours of business in the place.

The executive order of March 3, 1873, prohibiting the holding of State and Municipal offices by persons holding civil offices under the Federal Government, does not apply to deputies or assistants employed in post-offices by postmasters.

When the mails arrive after the usual business hours, the postmaster need not keep his office open for its assortment or delivery; he should, however, be ready to deliver all letters, etc., immediately upon opening the office in the morning.

Undelivered printed matter should not be returned to a publisher except he furnishes postage at regular rates to prepay such return. Under section 457, Postal Regulations, a postmaster should notify a publisher before he places his undelivered papers among the waste to be sold.

A mail carrier should not receive mail-matter unless he is one mile or more from a post-office, and when received such matter should be delivered into the next post-office at which he arrives. This ruling does not refer to mail-matter properly inclosed in government stamped envelopes

The practice of placing letters or other mail-matter under the straps or within the staples of mail pouches by mail messengers, contractors and postmasters is regarded by the Post-office Department as a violation of the provisions of section 340, Postal Regulations, ed. 1873, and notice is hereby given that such practice must be discontinued. Letters inclosed in stamped envelopes of proper denomination may be carried outside the mail, but they must not be attached to the mail pouches in the manner above indicated.

Official postage stamps or stamped envelopes must not be used by postmasters in payment of postage on packages of mutilated currency addressed to the Treasurer of the United States for redemption. Postmasters are not obliged to accept in payment for postage, stamps, stamped envelopes, wrappers, etc., any currency so mutilated as to be uncurrent or the genuineness of which cannot be clearly ascertained. If they nevertheless take mutilated or uncurrent money they must do so at their own risk. Sending the same to the United States Treasurer for redemption is not an official transaction, therefore they are on the footing of private individuals, and must prepay the postage with the ordinary stamps.

The insertion of a new date or figure in a circular subjects the same to letter rates of postage when sent in the mails.

A box fastened by screws is held to be a package which cannot be conveniently examined by postmasters, and is therefore subject to letter rates of postage.

Manuscript letters transmitted by mail are subject to postage of three cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof, when sent in sealed or unsealed envelopes.

A registered letter may be delivered to a person in whose care it is addressed, provided the person named in the address has not ordered it not to be so delivered.

Ordinary cards, having writing thereon in addition to the address, are subject to postage at the rate of three cents for each half ounce or fraction thereof.

Letters relating to the cargo being at the same time conveyed, may be carried by a steamboat outside the mails free of postage.

Catalogues are subject to postage at the rate of one cent for each two ounces or fraction thereof.

Packages of merchandise not prepaid in full at the rate of one cent for each ounce or fraction thereof, should not be forwarded in the mails.

Tobacco may be admitted into the mails when so wrapped as to prevent its sifting out, and at the same time as not to preclude a ready examination of the package without destroying the wrapper.

A business card may be sent in the mail without any envelope, prepaid with a one cent stamp, provided such card contains no written matter in addition to the address. It may also be sent in an unsealed envelope under the same rules.

To paste or attach anything whatever to or upon a postal card, except the name and residence of the person addressed, renders the same unmailable as a postal card.

Anything other than an address written or printed upon the side of a postal card which contains the words "write the address on this side, the message on the other," renders the same unmailable as a postal card.

Cutlery, including all edged tools, is held to be unmailable under section 133, Postal Laws, as liable to injure persons handling the mails when put up as third-class matter.