

Ouachita Telegraph.

G. W. McORANIE, Editor.

Official Journal of the City of Monroe
MONROE, LA., SEPTEMBER 2, 1881.

On last Saturday, the 27th of August, the President had reached a point where to hope for his recovery seemed unreasonable. At this dark hour when the entire country was anticipating the announcement of his decease, the news flashed across the wires that there was a slight improvement. From that time to the hour of our going to press, the improvement in his condition has been steady and pronounced. We still believe that the prospect of his recovery is shadowy in the extreme, yet there is now a hope; and this is an intense relief from the depression of a week ago.

THE ALEXANDRIA, MONROE AND PINE BLUFF RAILROAD.

During several weeks we have hunted and searched in vain among our exchanges to find something tangible to present to our readers regarding this enterprise. Even the surveying party which passed through our city and gave excitement to our citizens for a few days whilst locating the line in and near our city limits, seems to have found a hole or disappearing ground somewhere in Arkansas, as nothing certain has been heard from the party for many weeks.

At last we were rewarded in our search by the following article which appeared in the Daily State, of the 27th. The highly important and gratifying portion of this article is the authoritative statement from Col. Wheelock that "it has been absolutely determined to build this line and that its construction is just as certain as that of the New Orleans Pacific, which is now nearly completed." He further says that "the work will be begun and rapidly prosecuted so soon as the line to Shreveport is completed." This will be good news for all this portion of our country, as we look upon this line, which will bring us in direct communication with New Orleans on the South and St. Louis on the north, as of much greater importance to us in the development of our resources, than the great Western line connecting us with the Southern Pacific. With the commencement of work upon both roads, Monroe must rapidly attain an importance undreamed of heretofore.

We here reproduce the article above referred to:

Yesterday we had the pleasure of meeting Col. E. B. Wheelock, president of the New Orleans Pacific railroad, who has recently returned from New York, where he has been on railroad business. As the early completion of the New Orleans Pacific from this city to Shreveport is now an assured fact, it is needless to devote space to lengthy remarks on that line. It is interesting and important to know, however, that the line from the Iron Mountain road, starting from Knoble in Arkansas, and finally connecting with the N. O. Pacific at Alexandria will be built at an early day. This important road will start, as above stated, at Knoble, or on near the northern boundary of Arkansas, and run south via Forrest City, on the Memphis and Little Rock road, thence through Ashley county to the Louisiana State line, where it will connect with a branch of the New Orleans Pacific, to be built from Alexandria via Monroe through Morehouse parish to the State line.

This latter line will be built by the New Orleans Pacific, under its charter, and the work will be begun and rapidly prosecuted so soon as the line to Shreveport is completed. Then all the force and implements now on the latter work will be removed to the Arkansas extension. The line from Knoble through Arkansas will be built under the charter of the Iron Mountain road.

This line, from Alexandria to Knoble, traverses one of the most fertile countries in the Southwest and will prove of immense value to the trade of New Orleans and in the development of Arkansas and a large section of Louisiana. Col. Wheelock informs us that it has been absolutely determined to build this line and that its construction is just as certain as that of the New Orleans Pacific, which is now nearly completed.

JUDGE WM. A. SEAY.

Universal regret will be felt throughout the State, that this eminent gentleman and scholar has withdrawn from his connection with the Shreveport Standard as its editor. His editorials have been of the ablest in the land; always lively, lucid and learned. Truly has the "Third Estate" sustained a heavy loss in the retirement of Judge Seay.

Capt. Samuel M. Morrison, who has conducted the city department of the Standard, assumes entire control as editor. We heartily wish him all manner of success.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

OUACHITA PARISH,
29 August, 1881.

When the lads at Dotheboy's hall had a sort of rash running through the school, which put them off their feed, old Wackford Squeers, the teacher, (I wonder if there be any such now?) pronounced it "a visitation." "Them lads has a visitation!" and he proceeded to say that visitations were the lot of mortality, and not only that, but that mortality itself was a visitation; concluding with the comprehensive observation, that the world was chock full of visitations!

Mr. Squeers had as little reference to his own visitations upon the lads, inflicted with cane, fustian and brimstone, as to that of which I was the author in last week's paper, barring some typographical errors, about which I have grown, taking them in aggregate or detail, quite indifferent, seeing there is no earthly help for them. My epistle concluded with an effort to describe a country grist mill driven by water. I have dealt very little in such wares, but thought my rambling sentences might revive some boyish recollections with both tender and tough old hearts thumping against ribs that were young many long years ago. Very few editors, or writers, but write with some idea of seeing the result, just as one in conversation waits for the impression or response following some wise or unwise expression of his thoughts.

I had a visitor two or three days ago, who had read the TELEGRAPH, and the little description (to which I have referred,) it fell out, had revived the recollection of a mill to which he had once carried corn, and which, I think, was situated in the good parish of Union. Like the mill at the Cypress, this one, in dry weather, would have but a small "head of water," and at such times the old miller would grind only for a few particular friends, and then but a small "turn." Of course the miller was a personage of immense and impressive proportions, and his dictum was the law for all the country around—as respects grinding. His habit was to place a bushel, or so, of corn in the hopper, raise the gate, and, lighting his pipe, (if not already burning,) proceed to the cultivation of his little field which lay hard by, leaving the mill to macerate the bushel of corn without interruption.

One day, after this routine had been properly gone through with, and the miller was ploughing his patch, he heard the deep baying of a hound in the direction of the mill. He at once decided that the dog had come up with a deer in the pond, and that, with his fresh meal, he would have fresh venison for dinner; and so, getting his gun, he cautiously approached the pond. But the barking came, as he found walking on, directly from the mill itself. The rocks were rumbling away, with the barking of the dog now and then—tuned, at times, to a howl, or a canine wail—as an occasional variation. The miller more cautiously found his way into the mill, and surveyed the room for some "varmint." His eyes at length rested on the old hound, that lone beast having planted himself on his haunches beside the meal box, his dreamy eyes resting on the spout. As the meal, said my informant, would ooze out, the attentive dog would lap it up—as Gideon's band lapped up the waters of Jordan. There were interludes, or short intermissions, when the rocks would spin around and the flow of meal would cease. It was during these cessations of the scant supply, that old Rock, tending the mill in solitude and very hungry, would elevate his nose and give the tokens of his fierce impatience, or unappeased and hopeless hunger which had brought the miller from his plow in expectation of fresh venison for dinner. Of such mills as these must be the mills of the gods—grinding slowly and exceedingly fine.

This little story may be used by my readers indifferently, either as a dog story, or a mill story, and they will perceive—what is not well explained by Darwin, or Huxley—the intimate connection between a grist mill and a hungry hound, the relations between the mill and a hungry man being already well understood. I leave learned logicians to discover, having first discovered how a pigeon pie becomes a fish pie, how it is that a man is a dog and a dog wears boots and a standing collar.

From a mill to the visible supply of corn is down-grade—we reach it, as actresses at times reach the footlights, by "a glide." The corn cribs of last year, where corn was cultivated, are much too large for this year's crop. There has been an increase of acreage, but the July drouth came when corn was making, and when planters were

compelled to work their cotton, and the result is, that while there is a large stalk and a big shuck, there is a small ear, but a fine cob, with few grains, and often none in places. I dare say what corn I have seen, and it is a fair average, the grain will not weigh above 40 pounds to the barrel, and of this I consider ten barrels per acre a good average. There will be a demand for corn in North Louisiana which will amount almost to a clamor and will remind old settlers of the corn famine of 1855, when corn was hauled from the Mississippi, with ox teams, to the middle of Texas. The Western cribs, then our source of supply, will be this year nearly as empty as ours. I have not prepared this scant supply of sauce, any more than I have the anticipated high prices for next year; nor do I know, nor do I believe that the present outlook, or its affirmed realization will teach our people that wealth and independence really consist in living strictly at home.

In respect of the cotton crop, there is one point of some encouragement—the price will be better than that of last year. It may be, too, this being a dry year, that the yield of lint will be greater in proportion to seed cotton than last year; but I have heard planters say that they will not make more than half an many bales as last year, and my own limited observation leads me to believe that with all of last year's bad weather the present crop will fall twenty per cent short, even with the present favorable weather for picking. How it is elsewhere, I do not know, but herabouts cotton stopped making ten days ago, (there has been no rain for four weeks,) and except on low lands and young cotton, the bolls are open nearly to the top. An ordinary picker may easily gather, even this early in the season, 200 pounds per day, and receive 50 cents per hundred pounds for picking. The picking has gone on briskly for ten days, but the opening has gone on equally as fast. It is picked clean, and we shall have good seed next year.

Another paragraph brings me to the weather, or rather to its effects, the weather being about the same elsewhere, except in Mississippi where they are having a canvass for Governor. (I vote for Lowery, the gallant soldier whom I last met at Decatur, on Hood's march into Tennessee.) The drouth has lasted but about four weeks, but the grass in the old fields is burned up, and out in the hills where I was the past week hunting, the dogwood trees are dying. All the bayous are as dry as a bone. Hogs, cattle and wild animals in the river bottom are driven to the river for water—even the holes about the roofs of fallen trees, the last to go dry, having not mud enough for a pig to enjoy. It is a mysterious dry spell. The river lazily runs along—at its source a mountain stream—and men find it on small mules with sacks of meal. Mr. Sandford, just below, came over this morning from his place, and said it was not knee-deep to his horse. When I scramble down the river bank to the little spring of clear ice-cold water, or when I get into the swamp, now hard as pavement, where the high-water mark is twenty feet up the trees, what wonder is it that I mentally exclaim, "What a Country and what a People! It is this variety, do you know it?" which keeps us busy thinking and acting, and prolongs, with the grace of God, our unprofitable lives.

I have not reached the question of a new Constitution,—and may never again reach it, having slipped up so infernally once,—nor do I find time to discuss what will be the result of the President's death, nor of the administration and execution of the laws in Louisiana as we all behold it. As a fact, and in the freedom which I take in correspondence, I have for the present, put politics aside. When I go fishing I go a-fishing; when I go a-cattling I go a-cattling. Louisiana!

G. W. M.

We clip the subjoined paragraph from the Vicksburg Herald regarding one of the ablest and most experienced editors in the South. The trenchant articles of Col. McCordle, the old Mississippi war horse, have attracted more attention throughout the country than almost any other Southern editor. In Washington, at the head of a National Democratic paper, he will certainly be "the right man in the right place."

We violate no confidence in stating that Col. Wm. H. McCordle, of this city, has been offered and has accepted a leading editorial position on a new Democratic journal in Washington City, the first number of which will appear about the 10th of September. The new journal is to be established as the exponent of the National Democracy, and in its columns the Democrats of every section will be treated with equal and exact justice.

Trenton Department.

BY "CHARLIE CHRISTOPHER."

The V., S. & P. R. R. has been vitilized by European capital, and is to be rapidly built to completion. This is now the generally accepted verdict. For a period stretching over more than a quarter of a century, this nightmare of probability has created a feeling of insecurity to the permanent investment of capital here. Nearly two decades have crept upon us since the South began her reactionary struggle from the shock of war, and Trenton has all along maintained a vicarious existence, every breath of this road's completion, but announcing its doom, if a reality. To-day we are witnessing progressive manifestations of activity, and are beginning to observe the first substantial indications toward closing the link which, while binding us alike to the great thoroughfares of the west, yet destroys our business interests. Our rather facetious contemporary tells us "the voice of the pile-driver is heard in the land." This is one of the ominous signs which is cleverly punned upon. We are forced to admit we do observe signs that truly give evidence that something is going to be done. Without entering into detail as to what they are, it is only necessary for our purpose to simply note them. The query with us is, what will become of Trenton in this event? Of course our ideas are merely speculative and indicate nothing more than those that are individually entertained. We are therefore reasonable enough not to be misled into the idea of its benefitting the place, as far as its growth is concerned. We know, that some of our merchants will go hence; to places which will grow into existence immediately upon the line of the road. We are aware that the bulk of the business which comes to this place, comes directly from those sections of country through which the road passes, and will necessarily curtail immensely the traffic carried on here. We think that Cottonport will be the depot for Trenton and for all the country immediately north of this place. In view of these contingencies which bear the light of reason, the question of sustenance as opposed to decadence becomes of vital importance. Trenton's existence as a commercial place is to suffer then; to what extent time alone can determine, but it must. With this somewhat gloomy and lugubrious forecast of opinion, there comes the cherry and impressive knowledge that we contain within ourselves the elements and surroundings of strength that properly directed will give us permanence. It lies within the domain of her citizens yet to control her destiny, despite the ravages which have and will be made upon her vitality by enterprises which are either directly or indirectly applied. She has established and maintained a nucleus of power which is felt throughout the State and that upon the base-rocks of the most elevated moral principles. Go where you will and measure in the balance with her a similar town as to population, etc., and selected too for its high moral characteristics and you will find a favorable balance with the very best. The homes of her people are "lovely for situation," and are nestled in their cottage beauty and comfort amid the rich and luxuriant trees that line the banks of the Ouachita. When we say beauty and comfort, as belonging to our community's homes, these are not merely referable to the superficial aspect that presents itself, but they enter around the hearth-stones, and find these characteristics, exemplified in her family circles. Religion is held in supreme reverence, and is fostered by a large and full attendance upon divine worship. Rightly then, do we have the nucleus of strength, and can safely and surely withstand disintegration, if we will. We, therefore, would suggest the idea that in the establishment of a first-class college, or academy, which will be so far-reaching in its educational advantages as to make it attractive, we will have fixed our interest upon a "sure and steadfast" basis. The locality is undoubtedly inviting, morally, hygienically and topographically. We have a lot in view which we have no doubt could be secured at little cost, whose surroundings are splendidly adapted to such an end. An effort untidely made by a community whose social relationship is as firmly and friendly cemented as is the one in which we dwell, cannot fail to build up an enterprise requiring this important prerequisite. Let us preserve our entirety of interests as a town and seek those sources that will aid us to accomplish greater. We have introduced this idea of making this an educational point to be deliberated upon, instead of sending our young ladies and gentlemen abroad let them be educated here and let others seek our "academic shades" to store their minds with knowledge. We intend to say more hereafter.

COTTON PRODUCTION IN LOUISIANA.

We have received from the Census office of the Department of the Interior a report on the cotton production of the State of Louisiana with a discussion of the general agricultural features of the State, prepared by Eugene W. Hilyard, professor of agriculture in the University of California and special census agent. This work contains a great deal of valuable information regarding the production of the great staple in our State. From a statement by Superintendent Walker we learn that this is intended to form a part of the complete report of the cotton culture of the United States to be issued this fall. This part regarding Louisiana was the first completed and has been issued in a separate edition.

The work before us contains not only the tabulated statements usually to be found in the Government Reports of such a character, but other and varied matter of information which will render it interesting to those seeking information as to the relative value and attractiveness of the different soils and sections of Louisiana. Regarding the State at large we select the following items of interest: Area planted in cotton, 864,787 acres; total number of bales (375 pounds), 508,569; bales per acre, 0.59; seed cotton, pounds per acre, 837; lint per acre, 279 pounds. Of other items the following: Total population of the State, 99,946; white 454,954; colored 184,492; acres of tilled land 2,507,935. The State is divided into seven regions or districts—alluvial region, north of Red river and south of Red river, tide-water parishes, bluff region, Attakapas region, long-leaf pine region and oak uplands.

We publish in full the special report as to the parish of Ouachita:

POPULATION: 14,685.—White, 4,502; colored, 10,183.

AREA: 640 square miles.—Woodland, all. Alluvial land, 340 square miles; long-leaf pine hills, 190 square miles; oak uplands, 110 square miles.

TILLED LAND: 48,847 acres.—Area planted in cotton, 29,040 acres; in corn, 13,143 acres; in sweet potatoes, 379 acres; in sugar-cane, 36 acres.

COTTON PRODUCTION: 18,729 bales; average cotton product per acre, 0.64 bale, 918 pounds seed-cotton, or 306 pounds cotton lint.

Ouachita parish, nearly equally divided between upland on the west and lowland on the east, has long-leaf pine hills of the usual character in its southwestern portion; the lower slopes of the ridges bearing an oak growth, while the crests are sandy and covered with long-leaf pine, the latter gradually disappearing as the bayou Castor is approached.

The northwestern portion has hilly oak-uplands with admixture of short-leaf pine, as in the adjoining part of Union parish. Among the oak and hickory timber of these uplands, the large-leaved magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla*) is noteworthy, being rare elsewhere in the State. It usually denotes a soil rich in lime, and therefore thrifty. In the lowland swamps the genuine tupelo (*Nyssa uniflora*) forms a prominent (and, in Louisiana, somewhat unusual) feature.

Between the long-leaf pine hills and the oak uplands west of Monroe, there lies an extensive cypress brake, known as Choniere au Tondre, embracing about seven square miles. Numerous bayous emptying into this brake overflow much land, and render it difficult to reclaim.

The area lying east of the Washita river is wholly alluvial, except only a narrow upland ridge, with oaks and short-leaf pine, between the river and bayou Lafourche. Much of the alluvial land is above any overflow experienced so far. This is especially the case with "the Island," lying between the Washita river and bayou DeSiard, which is considered the garden spot of the region, producing both corn and cotton in great perfection.

On the Washita river, near Monroe, the prevalent timber growth is water oak, sycamore, honey locust, and black locust, indicating a soil containing much lime.

The river and navigable bayous render the alluvial country very easy of access, and afford great facilities for transportation of produce.

UNITED STATES SIGNAL SERVICE.

[Mobile Register.]

We have received through the courtesy of W. W. Eichelberger, Sergeant United States Signal Office stationed here, a copy of Signal Service Orders No. 55, which details the arrangements which have been made, with the cooperation of the railroad and telegraph lines in the Southern States, to secure reports of the rain-fall and maximum and minimum temperatures, collected daily with reliability, and disseminated rapidly throughout the commercial centres of the cotton belt, from April 1st to September 30th inclusive.

We have also received a copy of the instruction to Special Observers, Signal Service, U. S. Army, in the cotton belt. These instructions, while they are absolute, are easily followed, and cannot but prove valuable and interesting to all classes.

The cotton-growing region is divided into districts formed with regard to railroad lines, and to secure the best telegraphic facilities. The districts embrace the territory adjacent to the more important cities where stations are located. Each has a centre for the

concentration of reports which will be known as a sub-centre, the name of which will be used to designate the district. Each centre includes a number of stations. Several districts will be grouped together in one division.

The following are the districts and stations adopted: Divisions and main centres are: Atlanta, New Orleans, and Memphis; Districts and sub-centres are: Savannah, Charleston, Wilmington, Augusta, Atlanta, New Orleans, Mobile, Galveston, Vicksburg, Montgomery, Memphis, St. Louis, Little Rock. The stations are: Cedar Keys, Live Oak, Fla.; Albany, Macon and Columbus, Ga.; and Eufaula, Albany, Goldsborough, Charlotte, N. C.; Columbia and Spartanburg, S. C.; Gainesville and West Point, Ga.; Pass Christian, Columbus and Meridian Miss.; Morgan City, Monroe and Alexandria, La.; Evergreen and State Line, Ala.; Houston, Austin, Waco, Dallas and Corsicana, Texas; Troy, Selma, Uniontown, Tuscaloosa, Birmingham, Tusculum, Decatur, Stevenson, Ala.; Grand Junction, Tenn.; Texarkana, Fort Smith and Arkansas City, Ark.

The railroads on which the stations are located are omitted. At every station observations will be made by the railroad authorities for rainfall, maximum and minimum temperatures, direction of the wind, and state of the weather at six o'clock p. m., local time. Similar observations will be made at all sub-centres and main centres.

The rainfall and maximum and minimum temperatures will be sent by telegraph to the sub-centres of districts to which the stations belong. There the average of rainfall, and temperature will be made up and sent by special message to the main centre of the division.

At each main centre the observer having collected reports from the sub-centre of his division will send them by special message to the other main centres. Reports thus received at each main centre will be sent by special message to each sub-centre of the signal office's division. The reports thus received at sub-centres will be duly filed and preserved as office records. By this interchange every sub-centre will receive for each day the average rainfall and the mean maximum and the mean minimum temperature for all the districts in the cotton belt.

Tables are given for calculating the average rainfall of a district, and the mean temperature. The Signal Service observer will prepare bulletins from the reports received, and post them at the cotton exchanges and elsewhere, where they will most benefit the public.

HOW TO WIN SUCCESS.

There never was a period in the history of Louisiana when greater necessity existed for the exercise of the recuperative energies of our people than at the present time. Fortunes have melted like mist before the rising sun; those who were in independent circumstances have lost their means of support. Many under these circumstances have become dependent—they fear that their opportunities have gone by; that the tide in their affairs has been at its flood and is now subsiding; and that the future has no encouragement for them. This is all wrong. In a great agricultural State like Louisiana, if a man possesses health, energy and perseverance, "time, faith and hope" will accomplish much. Some of the most distinguished men that ever lived rose from obscurity in early life. Adversity tested their energies, but only to urge them to still nobler achievements in letters, science and the arts. They saw the necessity of an extraordinary struggle, and nervousness for the trials and temptations of life, they rushed on to the contest and, in most cases, with success. They learned by actual experience that "life is real, life is earnest."

A new era of prosperity is dawning upon our beloved State. Our people are fast realizing the fact that success depends entirely upon their stout hearts, strong arms and clear intellects. Fortunes of untold amount lie hidden in our virgin soil and forests. But it requires energy and perseverance to secure them, and we rejoice to see that hundreds and thousands of our best educated and refined young men and women—who have been reared from allience to poverty—are manfully struggling for success in the various callings of life—even manual labor. They have learned that honest toil is not degrading. They can, if disposed, make our waste places blossom as the rose. It is only by actual trial that we realize the spirit of manhood within us, and with a moral courage, worthy a lofty and intellectual nature determined not to be discouraged by a single failure or misfortune, or heartened because clouds and darkness occasionally obscure the prospect.

Let us invite to our State and parish capital and skilled labor. Cut up our large tracts of unutilized land, and sell them to such persons as are known to be sober, industrious and good citizens. Give them every inducement and encouragement possible. Every acre of land cultivated adds so much to the wealth of the State. School and churches will multiply; taxation will be reduced; and crime and pauperism will disappear from the hearts of our people. The gloom of the past is but the repulse of the glory to come. The clouds of misfortune have given place to blue skies and golden sunshine. We feel sure that the work has gone by, and firmly believe that a brilliant and glorious future awaits Louisiana—the Sugar Bowl of the Union—so rich in tropical plants and fruits—if her people are governed by the proper motives, pursued steadily and vigorously laudable objects, contentment, peace and prosperity will assuredly be found.