

# The Weekly Comet

GEORGE A. PIKE,

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

Official Journal of the Parish of East Baton Rouge. Also of the Grease Tole and Baton Rouge, and of the Baton Rouge and Clinton Plant Road Companies.

Sunday Morning, Sept. 4, 1853.

We are under further obligations to Mr. ALLEN, for Telegraph favors.

Divine Service will be held in the Methodist Church to-day, at the usual hour. Also at St. Joseph's (Catholic Church) as usual.

There will be divine service at St. James (Episcopal) Church on this evening at 5 o'clock by Rev. A. H. LAMON.

We are pleased to notice the return of our friend and fellow-citizen the Rev. J. WOODBRIDGE. There will be service at the Presbyterian church this morning at the usual hour.

We have been requested to say that Preston Pond Jr. (the Whig candidate for Congress for this district) will address the citizens of East Baton Rouge at the Court House in this city on the 7th inst., at 7½ o'clock.

THE MEETING OF SUGAR PLANTERS.—According to the notice in the Advocate, to-morrow is the day for the planters to meet in this city. The object of the meeting as it is understood, is to take into consideration some means to break up the ruinous monopoly of the Cotton market by Liverpool Merchants. How far this object can be attained by a "meeting" remains to be seen. This is rather an unpropitious time for public meetings. We will report the proceedings in our next issue.

By Telegraph we learn that the Mayor of Montreal has been arrested charged with murder by causing the death of sundry persons in the Gavazzi riots.—He has given bail and been released.—The Jewish Congregation of the city of Baltimore has contributed \$600 for the relief of sufferers by the epidemic in New Orleans.

During other excitement, we hope the "Street Lamp Committee" from the Town Council, will not forget to use the power vested in them. The order is now to purchase lamps and posts like the sample on the levee, and we hope it will be done before there is a movement on the part of economists to reconsider the matter.

THE DIGNITY OF THE PRESS.—We are sorry to have to interpose now and then, as "moderator," to preserve "the dignity of the Press." The Gazette in yesterday's issue says the *Vis-a-Vis* "lies," not ordinarily but palpably. This involves a question of veracity. Let us analyze the matter in dispute. The *Vis-a-Vis* is advocating the cause of the Sugar Planters, against what is called the Belcher & Co. fraud; the Gazette is doing the same thing. Now how in the world can they reasonably fall out on the subject. The *Vis* says the *Gazette* expresses opinions decidedly adverse to the Sugar Planters. How could this possibly be? The *Vis* should more properly say he does not understand all the "sugar articles" of the *Gazette*. And the *Gazette* can pay the *Vis* the same compliment, and this should make a mutual offset—a balancing of sugar accounts.

DEATH OF JOHN H. LEATHERMAN Esq.—It is with regret we announce the death of this gentleman, at his residence in Woodville, Miss., on the 19th ult. He was for several years Mayor of that place, and formerly editor of the *Republican*. He was buried in the honors of Masonry and Odd Fellowship, both of which fraternity he was a member.—*Bulletin* 1st inst.

It is with feelings of pride for our citizens, that we have observed the movements of a charitable and benevolent party of ladies, for the past week. Though their effort to get a public meeting at the Town Hall, was unsuccessful, yet nothing daunted they went to work, with their own hands, to accomplish the good work, which was affected through the liberality of one or two of our merchants on Lafayette street. We cannot refrain from making mention of the liberality of one upon whom our community has but slight claim—a merchant at the corner of Lafayette and Laurel street. He generously furnished goods—which were manufactured into childrens dresses, and sent to New Orleans last week.

The Asylums are all crowded with destitute orphans, that have been turned out of house and home by the epidemic—many of them unable to tell their names—infants, and young children, who, if it were not for the charities of christian ladies, they could not be cared for. The ladies of Baton Rouge have added new laurels, to the good name they have ever borne—laurels of Palm and Ivy, that will be ever fresh and fragrant—something to turn to in the future with mingled pride and pleasure—something refreshing to look on, when the hour of affliction comes upon us.

## Telegraphed for the Weekly Comet.

NEW ORLEANS Sept. 3rd.—Death during the 24 hours, ending 6 o'clock A. M. the 3rd inst., 133.—By Yellow Fever, 110.

MR MILSOME, Telegraph operator died in New Orleans on the morning of the 3d inst.

Is the land to be ruled by ignorant and infuriated mobs, or by law and reason? This is the question. We scarcely ever look into a paper lately but what we find some such account as this.

"One of the greatest outrages ever perpetrated in a civilized community, if we have been correctly informed, took place near this city, on the opposite side of the river, on Saturday last. A Mexican was secretly taken up, whipped most barbarously, hung until he was nearly dead, and then, after being let down, was shot. He died of the wounds twenty-four hours afterwards. The officers of justice have made one arrest, and are on the track of others, supposed to be the perpetrators of this horrid and fiendish deed."

This thing occurred in Texas; but there are similar scenes being enacted every day at different places in this enlightened land and Christian community!

We take up any one of our exchanges and find an account of negroes being burnt at the stake—white men butchered at the hands of a mob—houses torn down—tar and feathers—and fire—add fury to the sword, and other agents for the exquisite vengeance of ignorant and lawless bands of ruffians. We are not speaking now with any reference to Texas and California. We look for this condition of things in newly formed States; but we refer particularly to our own homes, and the heart of what is called civilization. Shall this thing be tolerated? Shall it be said we have laws, when its ministers are pushed aside and the crazy vengeance of the mob acts at one blow, the Judge, Jury, and Executioner? For shame! A primitive state of barbarism is preferable to this condition.

It is said by the papers that Mr. Henry L. Ague, has married Miss Caroline M. Fitz. This is rather a strange combination. We wait impatiently to see the result of this union.

EXTREMELY PARTICULAR.—*Punch* speaks of the old teetotaler who is so true to his principles he won't even mix in society!

LIFE TABLES.—Figures enable us to make many curious calculations with regard to life—its average duration can be shown, and its "tables" are reduced to such scientific exactitude that life insurance can be affected without any risk. Figures also set the double purpose of computing the number of births per second, and they show us what a mountain of mortality, has gone back "to the earth from whence it came." It staggers reason to look at the tables of mortality caused by the accidents of "flood and field," war, pestilence and famine. The *Merchant's Ledger* furnishes us the following facts: The average of births since the time of Christ, is set down at 816 per second. Which gives about Thirty-two millions—the supposed population of the world at this day, and it shows that the round number of thirty-one thousand and forty millions, have gone back like bubbles on the ocean to the undiscovered country." Of this number in the grave, about 9,000,000,000 have died by wars; 7,920,000,000 by famine and pestilence; 600,000,000 by intoxicating drinks; 13,000,000,000 natural or otherwise.

That sterling paper, the *New Orleans Commercial Bulletin* comes to us of date the 1st inst., containing the usual Review of the New Orleans market at the close of the commercial year.

The article is an elaborate one—occupying all one side of that large sheet—and will find its way into the Monthly Review where it will be in form to preserve for future reference.

At an early hour we will lay before our readers, as much of the article as we can condense into our paper—enough to show the condition, past and present of our great Commercial Emporium.

THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES.—The office of this sterling Weekly paper, has been removed from Barelay street to No. 3 Park Place, three doors from Broadway.

The "Tall Son of York," as an old and successful editor, has collected about him a curiosity shop, that it will be difficult to arrange in any other quarters. In his own language every thing appears to be "heels over head;" curiosities, books, manuscripts, letters, papers, &c., are all in "pi," but in a few days we trust to "set things to rights," and then "go ahead" in time—that will make the backers of Flora Temple and Tacony fairly "shake in their shoes." Indeed we intend to make "Rome howl and Syracuse leave his boots."

THE CATHOLIC CLERGY.—The Catholic Messenger of this city says that not many days since ten Catholic priests residing in this city, were lying at the point of death, and three Sisters of Charity were dead, the sad result being caused by over exertion and exposure during the epidemic in the cause of the sick and dying.

On the 24th inst., as we learn, the Rev. Mr. Gauthaux died of the fever at the residence of Archbishop Blanc; the Rev. Mr. Moynihan is recovering; another of his brethren is in the same position; two of the Jesuit priests are sick with the fever.

The Orleanian says that at the Male Catholic Asylum another of the Sisters—Sister Alphonsa—has died of the fever; four are slowly recovering and four or five of the Brothers are attacked.

On the 24th, Sister St. Charles, a native of Quebec, and for fifty years and more a nun, died at the Ursuline Convent below this city. She was aged seventy two years, and has been an inmate of the Convent for over 30 years.—*Picayune* 22.

Wilmer & Smith's Liverpool Times contains an elaborate article upon the frightful increase in England of the horrid crime of infanticide, and strongly urges the establishment of foundling hospitals as a means of preventing its so frequent recurrence. Death and transportation, it says, have in no way checked the universality of the murders of children of shame.

## Learned Professions.

It is really amusing to look into the papers now, and see the various opinions expressed with regard to epidemics, and contagions. The city papers abound with such, and country savans are enlightening the world upon the subject in such a manner as cannot fail to produce in the end (when the epidemic is over,) a very sanative effect. One of the best evidences of the inutility of diplomed professionals, is to be found in the fact that there is no "agreement between them" as regards "causes and effects." We are constantly left to infer that there are no facts. The Medical profession seems now, to be in the same position, that Baron found science when he wrote the *Novum Organum*. If the books only serve to confound and mystify, it would be well to collect them, digest the useful facts into one small volume and consign the rubbish to the flames. The profession might then stand together in solid phalanx to combat disease with such weapons, as the *materia medica* furnishes, instead of standing as they now do, divided upon every question, whilst pestilence sweeps over the land, dealing death and desolation. Are there no facts? Is there not an antidote for every ban? Are not undeviating effects, looked for out of similar causes?

They are, and ever have been; and it behoves the professionals to unite their forces in time of peace—to come together and lay down prejudices to the shrine of the united intelligence of the craft. The world is laboring under the weight of too much abstract knowledge—knowledge not based upon fact, but growing out of the verbosity of language. We are laboring under all kinds of evils, Moral, Religious, Civil and Political, to which may be added "Physical evils," which are the legitimate offspring of other "ills."

Why, men are made so badly in the legs, lungs, and liver, that a bare breath of air—intended no doubt, to give health, and strength, blows them down to the shades in Regiments.—We think this an unnatural condition of things, and no better can ever be, unless Preachers, Politicians, and Physicians come back to some of the fundamental truths of nature, against which it is folly for man, in the feeble strength of his vast intelligence, to contend.—The thousand and one different systems of medicine, are continually clashing arms—whilst nostrum vendors and quacks grow rich; and the wrangling sects of religion are firing "grape and canister at one another about the ultimate destiny of the soul, whilst the body is overlooked and forgotten in the contest.

For the past few days we have had a number of deaths in this city—more perhaps than is usual. The cause of some of them are known to us; whilst others, are unknown to any, save the courageous band of seven, (now six) who, in good spirit follow the uncared for stranger to the ground to see that he is placed "due East and West." There is no occasion for alarm, though everything conspires to induce it; and nothing more than magnifying two or three cases into as many dozen. To prevent this, the *Comet* freely volunteers its services to the people to chronicle every death that occurs, and give the cause when it is known. This we conceive is a matter with others that calls for some action from the town council, since the public mind seems resolved that there must be sickness. Another thing, we think a useless observance, and one that could be very well dispensed with—the tolling of St. Joseph's bell, for every man, woman and child. We like to hear St. Joseph's on ordinary occasions—we have listened to him time and again these twenty years—we hear him at the dawn of day to tell us the sun is up—at noon to inform us he has just past the mer-

idan, and at night to tell us that another day "is just laid lifeless in oblivion." This is well. But we ask in the name of the commonwealth that the formality of "tolling" at this season be dispensed with.

We have many strangers amongst us; unacclimated foreigners of that class, always in want and always upon the very eve of starvation. There is no getting them into the country, to till the earth; no, they are the plauge itself of large cities, and the blight and mildew of small towns. Politicians import them—they are the main props of those petty cauldrons of disease and death—the festering sores and ulcers of the earth, known as doggeries, a word not insignificant enough to denominate them. To these may be added a large crew of reeling drunkards—the property of the town, who are morally dead to any sense of shame—and who should be consigned at once to the earth in whisky barrels. This would, for the moment purify the atmosphere.

In conclusion we would say to our citizens on "our own account" be temperate and prudent—change not your habits—sleep in the highest and most airy rooms in your houses—be calm and fear nothing—do as much good as you can, and good will most certainly come of it.

## Other Things.

Judge CLAYTON, Consul at Havana passed through Charleston on the 15th on his way to his residence in Mississippi. In consequence of the unhealthiness of the season, he is absent from his post on leave, until first of November: the Consulate being in charge of Wm. H. ROBERTSON, Esq.

It is stated that \$50,000 have been subscribed in New York, to establish an Administration paper, with Mr. Forney as editor.—Mr. B. W. Brunson has been elected by the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of the territory, to the Grand Lodge of the United States. This will be the first representation from Minnesota.—An insane woman, Mrs. Kirby, some time ago threw herself from a window in Pennsylvania Hospital, Pittsburg, and the shock of the fall has had the effect of restoring her reason.—Cooper once slurred a certain Governor by attributing the disease in the potatoes to the "mortification" they felt at seeing so small a member of their family in the gubernatorial chair.—By arrival at New York, the Commercial Advertiser learns that Governor Gregory of the Bahamas, died, on the 30th of July, of an enlargement of the heart.—The milk-sickness is prevailing to an alarming extent in Lafayette, Indiana.—The Postmaster at Moultrie, Columbiana county, named Foulke, has been arrested on a charge of robbing the mail, and lodged in Cleveland jail. He has been a long time suspected.—The Saratoga Whig notices a change in fashionable dances, and is of opinion that the Schottische and Polka will soon be banished from all fashionable Ball and Assembly rooms.—The Comet which is now seen in the West is that first noticed by M. Klinkerfus, at Gottingen, on the 10th of June last.—M. Agassiz, the eminent Professor of Zoology and Geology in Cambridge University, is now engaged in writing "the Natural History of the Fishes of the United States." He is very desirous to procure specimens of all the fishes in every portion of the Union, and particularly of the fresh water streams in Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. He wishes also the names which they bear in their various localities.

GREENOUGH'S "TRIUMPH OF CIVILIZED LIFE."—The Washington Republic, of Saturday last, says:

The largest of the four pieces comprising this group has been conveyed to the capitol. It weighs ten tons, and was drawn thither from the navy yard by eight horses. Upwards of fifty men were required to remove it from the hold of the Attar Gull, which brought the work of art from Italy. In a day or two the remaining parts will be transported to the eastern portico. They are all boxed, and will not be exposed until they are hoisted on the base they are jointly to occupy. The cost of the group was, we believe, forty thousand dollars.