

PLANTERS' BANNER.

D. DENNETT, EDITOR.

FRANKLIN, La., THURSDAY, FEB. 8, 1849.

THE PLANTERS' BANNER—ITS TERMS.—It will be remembered that we have not only changed the heading, &c., of our paper, but we have changed the Terms also. We now demand only *Three Dollars* a year in advance—while we charge *Five Dollars* at the end of the year. Those who have taken the paper since the first of last September will be entitled to it to the first of next September by paying three dollars before the 1st of March.

With our limited number of subscribers these are the best terms we can make. A number of Democrats have left us, but we hope the Whigs will make good the loss. Some have requested the Banner stopped, influenced by a strong proscription feeling, others have made the request from motives best known to themselves. We wish not to give offence to any Democrat, but those who take our paper must expect a frank defence or exposition of our political sentiments whenever we think it proper or useful to use our columns for that purpose.—We have no faith in the dodging and wheedling system, and those who expect our humble sheet to be "all things to all men" will find themselves laboring under a positive mistake. The double-faced policy should command no respect, and meet with no encouragement from any party, and those subscribers whose peculiar tastes and principles call for editorial lunches trimmed and pared to fit every man's mouth, are at liberty to cut loose from the Banner whenever they find a slice too large or too small for their own convenience, if they choose to do so.

OUR STREETS.—It will be seen by a notice in another part of the paper, that our Town Council propose to put our streets in good order this season, and keep them in order. This is exactly what we want. The health and convenience of our citizens require it, and since our liquor-shops display so much public spirit, and contribute so liberally towards footing the bills, we shall not be likely to grumble much at the expense of these improvements. If our liquor-shops increase in keeping with the natural growth of the village, we shall be able to pave Main street next year, and shower oceans of shells upon every side-walk within the limits of the corporation. The signs on all these useful establishments called "grog-shops" should be pulled down, and *Pro Bono Publico* should be written on their fronts.

THE CHOLERA.—The epidemic appears, at present, to create but little excitement or interest in this part of the Parish. We occasionally hear of a death or two among the negroes, and often of mild attacks or strong symptoms of the disease among all classes of our citizens, but it is rarely the case that any white person dies from an attack of this kind. We are sure that no one has died of the complaint in the parish, where medicines have been seasonably, and judiciously applied. Negroes who have died of the disease have usually neglected, for a day or two, to report themselves sick. It is very evident from accounts which we get from the physicians, that every case which has been last might have been saved if it had been attended to in season.

The epidemic thus far seems to have groped its way along from one plantation to another, working in a very mysterious manner and increasing or diminishing in violence according to the state of the weather. It goes to a plantation, does its work and passes on, and perhaps will return again after a while. We may yet have frequent and severe cases, but we trust that ere long it will take its final departure.

THE MILEAGE QUESTION.—The people's servants in Congress do not seem inclined to relinquish their hold on the loaves and fishes. The Capitol of late has been a national court-house, and great numbers of the representatives have assumed the position of lawyers pleading their own cases. That fifty or seventy-five dollars per day as mileage fees is too fat an allowance—too much pocket change to be lost without a struggle. Their pleas appear weak, and many of them dishonest, but they are the most plausible that can be produced, and they are bound to produce some shadow of a pretext for supporting a law so unequal, and so extravagant in its allowances. Mr. Greeley and the Tribune are the malefactors upon which they spend their righteous spite. That vile table, and the vile facts which it exposed to public view, and the vile editor that perpetrated so villainous a scheme to rob honorable public servants of their lawful and just dues, have been visited by storms and tempests of honorable indignation. One member, by way of revenge accuses Mr. Greeley himself of having charged too much mileage. He answered that he had refused to receive the extra amount credited to him. He is charged with having made false statements in the list of members of Congress and their extra mileage. He answers that the table was made up by an able and experienced clerk in the Post Office department, and from documents the most authentic in that department. He is charged with having accused members of dishonesty in overcharging.—He answers that he accuses no member of dishonesty—that the law alone is in fault, and that it ought to be amended. They then charge him with being a demagogue, making a great noise about trifles, stirring up a question that has often been stirred up before to no effect, &c., &c. Their spite is shown in various ways according to the various tastes of the belligerents; those that have not the "gift of gab" probably spit upon him, or sit in their seats and make up faces at him. They certainly must make a most insignificant and contemptible appearance for so "honorable a body" as they evidently ought to be. The twisting and squirming which the plain and authentic statements of Mr. Greeley have produced among them show them to be conscious of the truth of his statements, while their avarice induces them to brand him who makes the statements as a demagogue, to save themselves from being charged with dishonesty. Yes, these people-loving, patriotic, self-sacrificing servants of their dear country—these men who could beg votes, and speak hours to their constituents about the glory of their country, and the stability and purity of our Republican institutions, now they are in

Congress, chameleon like, assume a new appearance, a congressional air, and forget their stump speeches and patriotisms which distinguished them in former days. They go to Congress with the understanding that they are allowed eight dollars a day for their services, while they are allowed more than fifty dollars per day in many instances, and they show a disposition to nearly crucify the man who dares let the public know how much they actually do receive. And when the matter is plainly exposed, they attempt to excuse themselves and the law by charging him who brought the matter to light with being a demagogue, and a scoundrel. Such logic, such honesty, such patriotism have rarely been displayed in the halls of Congress.

When, and how are we ever to find a remedy for such abuses? If the selfishness and avarice of our representatives have become so prominent that they can vote themselves double and treble pay, we have reason to fear that we have not honesty enough in Congress to protect the interests of the country. What makes their dishonesty doubly dangerous is, they propose to change the form of the law, while the substance of it remains unchanged, designing by this to cheat their constituents and the country whom they have solemnly sworn to serve.

We hope the position of every member upon this question will be well marked by his constituents, and that those who vote in favor of supporting either the form or the substance of this law may never see the inside of the Capitol after their terms of office are out, unless they see it from the lobby at their own expense.

For the Planters' Banner.

A late Richmond Enquirer contains the following letter from Washington city:

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22, 1848.

"Mr. Editor—To talk of the policy of proscription for opinion's sake, as one in conflict with the spirit of Republicanism seems to fill the minds of Whig Editors and Whig expectants with horror and surprise. It is spoken of as a new article in the creed of Democracy. Now we hold up the present Administration as an example to the Whigs. Yes, we challenge any man, to accuse the Administration of Mr. Polk, truthfully, of carrying out an extensive system of proscription."

Good!—And so the Democrats have discovered that proscription is a bad thing!—and that it is in conflict with the spirit of Republicanism. No doubt it is; and so is modern Democracy. What a pity it is they had not made their discovery at an earlier day. It is only since the 7th of Nov. last that the light has begun to dawn upon them; and yet it is evident it is not proscription they dislike, but the being proscribed. They are afraid the bitter chalice will be presented to their own lips, after exercising, as they have always done since the day Gen. Jackson was elected President, down to the present moment, the most intolerant, vindictive, and oppressive proscription, sparing no Whig, whose office was worth seeking, they have now become the preachers of mercy.

I thank you gentlemen, you have understood your magnanimity and appreciated it. As for "Mr. Polk's not carrying out an extensive system of proscription"—if not proscribed, there never was a greater falsehood. He, and the men of his stamp around him, never spared any person in office who dared call his soul his own. From Mr. Polk, however, we expected nothing else. The man who played the sycophant to Gen. Jackson, and allowed himself to be bullied by Henry A. Wise, was sure to play the tyrant whenever he got a chance. There was a meanness, too, in his pursuit of small game, of which our own village can furnish an example, and almost every other village in the United States can furnish like examples. Even Mr. Martin Duralde was reformed out of office; but there was a reason for that—he was the son-in-law of Henry Clay. Oh! tolerant, generous, noble minded James K. Polk! may justice be done to your memory by all future generations!

But I detest proscription for opinion's sake a thousand times more than it is detested by any Democrat in the land. It is not for me to judge what Gen. Taylor will do, though I have great confidence in the man. But I hope and trust that he will restore to office every man who was unjustly deprived of it, and who may be found willing to be reinstated. This will not be proscription—it will be *proscribing* proscription. In the next place, I hope he will deprive of office every man who has used his time, his means, or his influence in elections, whether on the Democratic or Whig side. If he does so, God help the majority of incumbents. Beyond this I hope he will not go. It is time that infamous system introduced by Gen. Jackson, and persisted in by all of his little successors, should be arrested. And now, while the Whigs are in power, is the time to do it: for we have seen enough to convince us that it will never be done under a Democratic administration. Gen. Taylor, after he shall have cleansed the Augean stable—after he shall have undone evil as far as practicable, will have an opportunity of exercising toleration, for forbearance and true love of country, which have not been exercised in any administration for the last twenty years.

I have only one other wish, but am afraid to mention it (even though such a man as Taylor be elected) wish is that he may make it a rule never to appoint any one to office who seeks for it directly or indirectly, if any other person equally qualified can be found to accept it. Should that day ever come, offices will be better filled.

JUSTICE.

In the Picayune of the 4th inst., a despatch from Washington states that in an official letter from Gen. Persifer Smith dated Panama, Jan. 7th, the previous gold accounts from California are confirmed. Gen. Smith states that gold to the value of nine millions of francs has been carried to Valparaiso, to be run into bars. Flour in California was \$40 per bbl., and people were fearing a famine.

A late despatch of the Picayune states that the present condition of commercial affairs in England are much improved compared with the corresponding season last year. The impression among commercial men is that a steady improvement may be expected.

The annual product of the whale fishery of the United States is about \$10,000,000.

Free Soil and the Editor of the Banner.

My address of the 15th of January was *arrogantly* based on the *solicitude* that the South should act *wisely and worthily* on the question of free soil. I cannot then appreciate as kind or honest, the effort of the Editor to hold me forth to public odium as the *defender of Northern fanaticism*. He may deprecate this madness in language more emphatic, but he cannot more heartily, than I do, *condemn* it. Of this he might have seen the evidence, at the moment of his sore trials at the baptismal font in search of a new paternity and patronymic for me. In the article on which he was commenting, I say, "I assume the responsibility (an assumption much in vogue it appears) to disclaim emphatically for the South any right to the tone of dictation breathing through the entire set of resolutions as emphatically as it refuses to accept the MAD AGGRESSIONS OF A GIDDINGS on our reserved Constitutional rights, as the deliberate expression of Northern will."

Had I supposed it possible, in despite of this language, to be so misunderstood, I might have indulged a lengthened strain of invective, doubtless, to the education of my readers, and the more perfect satisfaction of this neophyte defender of southern rights.

The Editor does not "remember the particular and extraordinary clause" of the constitution to which I refer, as *invoking* the authority of the north in legislating for the District of Columbia and the Territories, and facetiously says "if we do not succeed in finding it, we shall have to drop a line to Van Buren enquiring for the latitude and longitude of the clause in question." I would do the gentleman what kindness I can. He need not, I think, except for pastime, "drop a line" to Kinderhook, or seek over latitudes and longitudes the clause in question. The grant of exclusive legislation over the District of Columbia, is contained in Article 1st, Section 8th of the Constitution, enumerating the powers of Congress, in the following language of the 16th paragraph:

"To exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such district (not exceeding ten miles square,) by cession of particular states, and the acceptance of Congress, become the seat of the Government of the United States."

This, I presume, will be esteemed a *grant of power*, explicit enough over the District.

As for the power over the Territories, the concluding clause of the same section, in connection with the admitted sovereignty of Congress, established by various decisions of the Supreme court under laws of the land—has been thought to confer an *equal power*, under the assumption of its necessity and prosperity. It is in these words:

"To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into effect the foregoing power, and all other powers vested by this constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof."

I cannot undertake the task of arguing the sufficiency of these grants of power, or at this point of a *supposed necessity of the exclusive grant of a power*, using it, at least conservatively.

When I have shown the power to exist in Congress and not elsewhere, I have, I think, established the necessity of concluding that the constitution invokes their authority (our northern brethren) through Congress, in legislating for the District of Columbia and the Territories. That "they cannot be passive"—The "ode" on "Heaven's Chancery" and "the court of conscience on earth," as our funny editor has christened the expressions used by me, may be in very bad taste in Southern climes, and it is possible that he may, (though more recently identified with Southern interests,) understand better than myself, southern habits of thought, and privileged modes of southern expression. The fault will be, nevertheless, esteemed venial by those who consider, that no exact standard of taste has yet been established.

I really think the gentleman would be assuming greatly in assuming unasked the character of a baptismal sponsor for me, whether under the name of a Wilmot, a Clay, a Giddings, or a Garrison. But if I must indulge in terms of endearment for Southern Demagogues, or anaesthetize our Northern brethren without exception, to escape becoming the putative child of Northern and fanatical sires, the gentleman may do his office when he pleases, and select the name to be substituted for that of

R. B. BRASHEAR.

I shall enter into no future defence of my positions.

We regret that Mr. Brashear should get into a bad humor in this discussion. The positive, unequivocal language used in his article of the 15th of January led us to believe that he cared but little what the public thought of his views, that he neither shunned opposition nor feared criticism. Had we supposed him thus sensitive we should have indulged less freely in irony, but our opinions upon the *meaning* of his article, and our criticism upon its soundness we still consider appropriate.

The first clause of the quotation which Mr. Brashear considers a thrust at Northern fanaticism, refers solely to the Southern Resolutions—the second and last clause is a thrust at Mr. Giddings alone. No inference can be drawn from that quotation, nor from any other part of the communication of the 15th ult. that such a thing as "Northern fanaticism" exists at all. So the quotation fails to answer the purpose for which it was made. In his last article he declared himself positively opposed to northern fanaticism. In this there is something tangible; and from this declaration we must admit that he is opposed to it, but we insist that nothing in his former article justified such a conclusion.

Mr. Brashear styles the editor of the Banner—"the neophyte defender of southern rights"—We would remind him that when he deserted the southern ranks it made a tremendous breach! and we rushed into that yawning gap to assist in preventing general desertion, and a final overthrow of the south. It is highly probable that if we had not rushed to the rescue on that memorable occasion, a half Louisiana would have now been for "free soil." We hope the state will accept our services as an unpaid volunteer—we charge nothing for our patriotism and valor displayed on behalf of the south.

The right of Congress to legislate for the District of Columbia we do not question; but her right to annihilate slavery there, or to enfranchise horse and mules we do question, and most positively deny. Mr. Brashear neglected to pre-

sent that part of his position which we attacked. Here is his entire position on this point: "With what face then, can we propose to our northern brethren, the extension of this political evil and this moral wrong, over new territory? Can we say, "it is our evil, our wrong, and that therefore they may be passive while we suffer the one and commit the other? They cannot be passive. The constitution invokes their authority though congress, in legislating for the District of Columbia and the Territories, and at the bar of Heaven's chancery they will not be held guiltless of wrongs done in their name, and by their authority; tho' human expediency may overrun or overleap the court of conscience on earth."

This is a true copy of the original, italicized and punctuated by Mr. Brashear himself. Can he point us to the portion of the constitution that corresponds with such views? We wish not to throw obloquy upon him, we are merely vindicating our first position of which he complains. The charge of being a "funny editor" we regard as a libel, and we could probably recover a round sum if we were to prosecute for damages. Our gravity is as proverbial as a parrot's, and we can sustain this fact by overwhelming proof.

To the charge of "being more recently identified with southern interests," than Mr. Brashear is, we must "plead, guilty," and throw ourselves "upon the mercy of the court." We would be glad to know what penalty is usually inflicted for such crimes. If the laws of this state are too severe on culprits of this character, we may be induced to hunt up Mr. Brashear's trail and seek northern latitudes and "free soil," and become the "neophyte defender" of northern rights.

In regard to our "assuming unasked the character of baptismal sponsor"—we can only say that we volunteered our services as a charitable man would do to an orphan or fatherless child whom no one seemed disposed to claim. In our selection for adopted father we may have erred in judgment, but we conceive it to be rank ingratitude in him to question our *kindness and honesty*.

As Mr. Brashear in his last communication has concluded to meet us with our own weapons, he cannot complain of the wounds received in combat. Had he omitted his irony in his last article, we should have omitted ours in the rejoinder. His position was so extraordinary that he ought to have expressed no surprise at its appearance. At least, we think so.

We feel very composed about the question at issue between the north and the south, and apprehend no danger whatever to the union. Calhoun can raise no formidable war-whoop at the south, and Giddings cannot induce the north to violate the constitution. Peace and justice are dear to the hearts of large a majority of the American people, and no ultra speeches nor flaming resolutions can entice them from their attachment to these blessings. Their principles are fixed, their minds are made up, and no power on earth will prevent them from acting accordingly. We say, let the ship of state sail on. With canvas spread, a republican chart, good sea room and old Zack at the helm, she will outride every storm that she may meet on her voyage.

ROBERT WILSON.—This gentleman, who for the last ten years conducted the Planters' Banner, published at Franklin, parish of St. Mary, in a manner creditable to himself and advantageous to his patrons, left this city on Saturday for the "gold region." If a nice sense of honor, spotless integrity, and untiring energy be among the elements of success, Mr. Wilson may well look forward to a career of prosperity in this new gold-laden country. He has promised to correspond regularly with the Delta. Our readers may anticipate both interest and pleasure from the perusal of his letters.—Delta.

BAYOU PLAQUEMINE.—The water of this bayou has at length risen to such height, being within a few inches of the top of the Levee in many places, that serious apprehensions are entertained that the embarkment will give way in some spots, which would create much damage to planters.—Southern Sentinel.

STATE OF SOCIETY IN THE GOLD REGION.—Mr. Ten Eyck, American Commissioner at the Sandwich Island, writes home to his friends in Watertown, N. Y., under date of August 6th:

I have visited the diggings, some forty miles along what is called the American Fork of the Sacramento; almost every yard is occupied and all are getting out quantities of ore. I have about \$5 worth of gold dust which I washed out myself in the course of two or three hours. I shall keep it, of course, as a memento of what I myself have done in gold digging. The effect of this discovery will be bad for the morals of the country, and will ruin all its prospects as a farming or agricultural country. I would not again go through what I have to see the country, and I would not settle down to live in it for all the gold in the mines. The mode of life is horrible, and a more dissipated and immoral set of people I never yet saw. People are flocking in here from all parts of the coast, and as soon as the news reaches foreign ports, the worst of their population will emigrate hither. I pity any decent white man who may live in this region six months hence.

STUFFING AND OVERWHELMING.—The Boston Transcript says:

"A runaway soldier in California, is said to have discovered a lump of gold weighing 839 pounds 11½ ounces; he was afraid to leave it, and had mounted guard upon it. At the last account he had sat there sixty seven days, and had offered \$27,000 for a plate of pork and beans, but his offer had always been indignantly refused, and the poor fellow only laughed at for the niggardliness of his offer, by parties going farther on, where the article was said to be more abundant.

Canton, in China, is 19,500 from New York by way of the Cape of Good Hope, and the time occupied in the passage out and home is 354 days. The distance by way of Cape Horn is 21,500 miles, and the length of passage 390 days. The distance to San Francisco is 19,000 miles by way of Cape Horn—and only 5,000 by the isthmus of Panama. The distance to Canton by way of Panama is set down at 10,000 miles.

On the 16th of Jan. last, the Sub-Treasury contained \$1,400,000 in specie.

We take the following from a letter in the N. Orleans Crescent; written by a gentleman who went passenger in the Falcon from N. Orleans Chagres:

Panama, Jan. 7, 1849.

After landing at Chagres I found it impossible to get my baggage on shore under two days. The vessel lay about one mile and a half from land, with which there was no communication except in canoes.

The natives here we found as black as midnight. They imposed on us and took advantage of our necessities in every possible way, charging us \$1 for a cup of coffee, and \$3 per day for board, comprising two meals—and such meals!

When we wanted to go up the river, three of us paid \$10 for a canoe to take us to a place called Gorgona, a distance of about forty miles. To travel this it took two days, during all of which time we were seated in a small canoe, exposed to the pelting of the rain and the scorching rays of the sun. At Gorgona we found the prices and the same fare as at Chagres. The natives are honest—that is, they will not steal—but they will have their pound of flesh, and a little blood to boot.

From Gorgona to this place we were brought on horses. For the transportation of myself, two companions and our baggage, we paid \$60, the baggage being to follow us on the same day. The distance to this place is 21 miles, for which we took a guide. When we had proceeded five miles, the road became so bad that our horses were swamped at every step, and at last broke down completely. I fell off my horse about eight times; and the mud was so deep, that we had to pull each other out. Our baggages, although it was to start on the same day, did not arrive for four days; so that for nine days I have not had a change of clothes, nor a dry stitch. After our horses broke down, we gave them to the guide to lead, and commenced operation on foot. This, however, was not very agreeable. My clothes were so heavy with mud, that I was compelled to take off every thing, excepting drawers, shoes and shirt—sinking into the mud, every step, above the ankle, and having to ford three rivers on the way. After two days, traveling the twentyone miles we arrived here—after which, for two days, I could scarcely move hand or foot. You can scarcely conceive what we suffered on this journey, unless you have a very good stock of imagination on hand. I can assure you that I often wished myself safe back in New Orleans.

In Boston the intensity of the epileptic increases. The Journal of the 25 ult. says:

"Every body seems to be on the point of going to California, judging from the preparations now making in Boston, and other Northern seaports. Vessels can hardly be purchased, at the present time, and those which do change owners, have brought double their value, for two months past. An impulse has been given to business of all kinds, by these movements, and our merchants and mechanics are slowly, but surely, acquiring wealth, indirectly, from the gold diggings. Ship Capitol, with 159 passengers, and brig Josephine, both for California, sailed on Wednesday forenoon. Her outward manifest is 173 feet long, and has 165 articles of entry. It is the longest manifest ever produced at our customhouse. She is fitted out by the Messrs. Harnden. The Schooner Boston also cleared at Boston, on Wednesday, for Valparaiso, Chili, whence she will clear for San Francisco. She has twenty-nine passengers, but no cargo but her stores. Great expectations are formed that she will make the passage to San Francisco in as short, if not a shorter period, than any sailing vessel now on the way there. Being a British vessel, she will be obliged to put into some port, and clear again for California."

The New York Express gives the following account of a new and practicable "idea," which has been started in that city:

The California Guards are organized in New York city, and will constitute a regiment of one thousand men, who are to offer themselves to the Government to serve in California for three years, taking their pay from the mines, clothing themselves, and being armed with rifles and supplied with all necessaries by Government, and to be sent to California at the public expense! Gen. McLeilan, of Texas, has been elected Colonel, and Gen. Arlington Bennett, of Long Island, Lieutenant Colonel.

The Vote of France.—The whole number of votes thrown at the Presidential election in France, not including Algiers, is set down at 7,449,471. Of this number Louis N. Bonaparte received 5,534,523; Cavaignac, 1,448,304; Ledru Rollin, 371,431.

In the year 1844, 57 American ships cleared at the custom house of Canton—this year about 65 American vessels are engaged in the China trade.

The number of emigrants to the United States during the year ending on the 30th Sept. 1848, is estimated at about 230,000.

Diary.

At Centreville on Tuesday, 23d ult. Ann, daughter of Mr. Alfred Smith, aged 5 yrs. At Centreville, on Friday, 2d inst. Ferdinand, son of Mr. Alfred Smith, aged 7 years.

Avis.

Toutes les personnes qui ont des réclamations contre la succession de feu Robt W Stewart sont invitées à les présenter à

J. A. TESSIER, administrateur. Franklin, le 31 Janvier, 1849—5f

Steamboat for Sale.

The subscriber offers for sale the steamboat Little Rock, now lying at the plantation of Mr. Ephraim Carlin. Said Boat is 150 feet in length, 27 feet beam, and 6 feet hole. Her machinery nearly new, being made in 1844. She has a Lever Engine of 100 horse power, and 2 Boilers, 30 feet long, and 40 inches in diameter.

Any person wishing to buy either the Boat or the engine can obtain it on the most favorable terms. For further particulars apply to Mr. George Armstrong, near the Franklin Exchange, in this place.

Franklin, Lou, Feb. 1 1849. Wm C. HUSTON