PLANTERS' BANNER.

FRANKLIN, La., THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1849.

WHIG CANDIDATES.

FOR GOVERNOR:

ALEXANDER DECLOUET.

FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR:

DUNCAN F. KENNER.

FOR AUDITOR:

Louis Bordelon.

FOR CONGRESS:
FOURTH DISTRICT.

O. N. Ogden.

FOR STATE SENATOR:

STEPHEN DUNCAN.

FOR REPRESENTATIVES:

OCTAVE CORNAY.
F. D. RICHARDSON.

FOR SHERIFF:

ETHAN ALLEN.

FOR RECORDER OF MORTGAGES.

J. A. DUMARTRAIT.

FOR CLERK.

J. V. FOURMY.

FOR ASSESSOR:

WILSON MC'KERALL.

FOR CORONER;

J. S. TARKINGTON.

FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

R. M. SAWYER.

☞ Next Saturday, the Atchafalaya Division S. of T., will be organized at Pattersonville.—The Sons of Temperance throughout the parish are earnestly solicited to be present on that interesting occasion. A public Temperance address may be expected by Mr. Thos. Pooley.

Error Corrected.—It has been reported that Mr. Weldon offered to build the new Court House in this place for less than $10,000.—This is a mistake. Weldon offered to build it for $11,250—the Committee gave it to Judge Baker at $12,000, making a difference of $750 in favor of Baker.

It has been supposed by many that Mr. Weldon of this parish proposed building the court house. This also is a mistake. Weldon is the [illegible] who danced in the position—he lives in Natchez, and is an Englishman by birth. He is said to have forty or more negro mechanics, principally carpenters and brick masons. Some of our citizens seemed to feel much sympathy for him and his colored competition. For our part we go in for those of our own parish in preference to those out of it—home industry in preference to any other.

Mutual Life Insurance.—By referring to our advertising columns it will be seen that an agency of the Mutual Life Insurance Company his been established at Franklin. Mr. R. N. McMillan is the authorized agent of the Company for this place, and Dr. J. W. Lyman the examining physician. It would have been extremely difficult to select two persons better qualified to manage the affairs of the Company. Mr. McMillan's talents, business habits and experience together with his obliging and honorable deportment will render him an efficient agent for the Company, and acceptable to the public; and Dr. Lyman, whose long experience and proverbial success have secured to him the entire confidence of the public, will be certain to secure the entire confidence of the Company whose interests he will represent.

The objects of this Company we consider praiseworthy, and highly beneficial to those who choose to secure the benefits of the institution. Persons having but a moderate property, with a wife and children dependent on them for support, for a comparatively small sum paid yearly can be sure of leaving a comfortable property to their families in case of death. Numerous instances have been given through the press during the last year of families saved from poverty, and wealth by obtaining the amounts insured upon the lives of deceased fathers and husbands. Persons who have abundance of property to leave their children may not feel the importance of this institution, but those who have but little property, and have families to leave behind them, must feel that in case of death to be sure of leaving them in comfortable circumstances would abundantly justify the payment of a small sum from their yearly income.

The Crescent.—We perceive by the "Crescent" of the 4th inst., that John C. Larue, Esq., has retired from the editorial conduct of this paper. Mr. L. is a vigorous, clear and comprehensive writer, and has rendered essential service to the public through the columns of the 'Crescent.' He commenced his connection with the press at the early age of thirteen, and has "filled every station, from a printer's apprentice to that of Editor." He leaves it now with a ripe reputation of the highest character, earned through the columns of one of the best papers in New Orleans. He will hereafter devote himself wholly to the profession of the law, of which he is a distinguished ornament.

We are glad to hear from him, in his valedictory, that "The Crescent" has obtained "a permanent standing." We have long learned to place the highest value on it for the highest respectability. Its candor and impartiality are its peculiar marks of excellence—we had almost said superiority. While other papers professing neutrality, exhibit very evident partialities for certain persons and parties, and decided antipathies to other persons and parties, the "Crescent" has won our admiration, by its entire freedom from these deviations from the neutral course it professes. We hope to see its circulation widely extended.

Fishing Frolic.

Last Saturday, chance, inclination, and a good horse landed us plump on the summit of the shell-bank at the mouth of Bayou Salé, and in full view of Cote Blanche Bay. We found a large number of the "b'hoys" there from Centreville and from several points on the bayou. Moreover numerous servants were there, and horses, and mules, and such sort of useful living commodities; and the shell-bank was lined with buggies, waggons, carts, and all such things as would naturally be required in making up a "fishing frolic."

For the benefit of those who have never visited this agreeable resort, we will briefly state that the shell-bank of which we have spoken is composed entirely of muscle shells, forming a beautiful ridge more than half a mile in length, from sixty to eighty feet in width, and from eight to ten feet in height above low water mark. This bank has been formed by the inflowing tide and dashing waves. At different points on it are scrubby oaks, sword palmettos, and enough of other kinds of shrubbery to afford a comfortable, though not an elegant shade. As you stand upon the summit of the ridge facing to the southwest,, in your rear is a low marsh clothed with a thick growth of grass, and before you is a broad and smooth sheet of water which reaches far beyond the limits of sight, its farther edge in appearance touching the blue sky. At the extreme edge of the watery surface before you can be seen a few faint shadows of trees peering above the surface as though nymphlike they had just emerged from the bosom of the deep. These stand upon a chain of islands whose surfaces are obscured by the oval form of the intervening waters. Though the distance to these islands is twelve miles, yet the water of the bay is so shallow that in low tides one may wade to them without finding the depth at any place to exceed five feet.

Passing up the shore from the shell-bank to the northwest to a distance of something more than a mile you come to "Salt Point." The shore from this point to the shell-bank is low and lined with shells. In the rear of this point, a short distance, at a well selected location in the edge of the woods fronting the bay, the people of Bayou Salé and Centreville are now building a plain, but very commodious house to accommodate pleasure parties. The house is to have two private rooms for the ladies ten by fifteen feet, a dining room fourteen by thirty feet, and a front gallery eight by thirty feet.

But, to return to the party—as we landed on the shell-bank, the party were scattered on land and water to suit their various tastes. Two gangs, composed mostly of negroes, were stretching their long nets far into the bay, and whenever they made a good haul, the amalgamated mass of fishermen, such as would delight the eyes of a Garrison, encircling their prey, would join in discordant shouts of wolfish delight over their poor victims, and, dirges and obituaries over they would send their poor captives to be devoured by the brother cannibals on shore. While the fishermen were tending their nets, others of the party were bathing in the "pure element," and groups of "little niggers," like geese and ducks, were passing about, sometimes in the water and sometimes on shore as fancy chanced to lead them.

On shore the scene was in a high degree Oriental. If they had used camels instead of horses and mules we should have believed them to be a company of Arabs encamped by the sea of Galilee. Each of the company sought comfort in his own way—some smoked their pipes, others reclined in the shade, sauntered, sat, or leaned against a tree, or with a broken loaf in one hand, and the broad side of a fish in the other ate with an avidity that would have shocked the multitude that the savior fed with "five loaves and two fishes;" for if we are not mistaken it took ten loves and more than twenty sheepheads to satisfy this multitude of modern publicans and sinners; and as to the fragments, instead of "seven basketfuls, "there was nothing left save some bones and a few crumbs of bread.

One of the company, a very benevolent man, passing by with a fine sheephead in his hand beckoned us to follow him. We did so, for it was next after fast day, and whether we had fasted or not one might reasonably suppose we had, and soon arrived at a tent with a fire near by. The fish was quickly dressed, and roasted in splendid order. A better hydropathic pill we never took. We believe in that system of medicine. After eating, our benevolent friend, like Democritus of old, laid himself upon the earth and philosophised upon divers subjects of interest. He showed that spiders as well as men set their traps differently in different countries, that fish are more wholesome when roasted than when fried, that there is a great difference between sheepheads and heads of sheep, that stars are but infant moons that will grow larger as they grow older, and lastly, that somebody had stolen his pipe, tobacco, knife and money. We were aware that all he wanted was to be "put in the papers," and we shall therefore pass over his philosophy and losses in the most profound silence.

The fish that were caught during the day were principally sheepheads. There were some flounders caught, two large dolphins, one red fish, one dogfish, one garr and some mullet.

Well, after eating plenty of fish and drinking plenty of water, and seeing all that we cared about seeing, without thanking anybody for his kindness, we jumped aboard of our four engine propeller, raised steam and left the premises. As a matter of course we must say what everybody always says about such parties—"it was very pleasant and everybody was highly delighted."

Worn-out Lands Reclaimed.—Last week we saw a field on Bayou Salé that has been in cultivation nearly forty years, and six or eight years ago it was considered pretty well worn out, and it seldom produced half a crop. The planter who now owns it has given it a slight coating of stable manure, which he ploughed in, and a finer crop of cane cannot be found on the bayou than that which now stands upon that once barren field. One would suppose it to be new land cane; and the only fault in it is, its rank growth will make it liable to fall down before sugar making. This planter told us that he should have no difficulty in keeping his lands always as rich as he could wish them to be with but small expense and slight trouble. Would not the planters on the Teche do well to manure some of their old front lands? Age and hard usage have sapped some of these lands severely. One fine crop would pay for the trouble and expense of manuring them a dozen times.

Cistern Water for Negroes.—There are many of our planters who do not yet feel the importance of supplying their negroes with cistern water, though both reason and observation should have taught them this fact long ago. It does not suffice to say that negroes are mere hogs, and that it makes no difference what kind of water they drink. Such philosophy has caused the premature death of hundreds of negroes in this country, and it will destroy hundreds of others if carried out in practice.

Some people do not seem to reflect that pure water is even better for a hog than filthy water. Pure water, pure air and pure food cannot be improved upon by filthy substitutes. Either laziness or penuriousness is the mother of this filthy philosophy which gives filth the preference over purity and cleanliness. We have heard of "cane brake philosophy," but this appears to be entitled to a frog pond paternity.

There is no disputing that pure cistern water is highly important to negroes and all others in this country, and he who repudiates this idea, if he be the master of negroes, will find in the end that he repudiates it at the expense of the health and lives of some of his servants, by which he is not only guilty of inhumanity to those servants, but of an unnecessary sacrifice of health life, and property.

We would be glad to call the attention of those who place but little importance to the use of cistern water to the people of Bayou Salé. There are on that bayou twenty plantations and something more than a thousand inhabitants. They nearly all of them have plenty of cistern water to use during the whole year. Though this season has been uncommonly sickly throughout other portions of the parish, yet on Bayou Salé the sickness and mortality have been extremely light The cholera has troubled them but very little. There have not been to the extent over twenty deaths on the bayou, reckoning infants and all others, during the past year, which is only one death to every fifty inhabitants. We believe that cistern water has conduced much towards this result, and we farther believe that it the importance of pure water were well understood every person in the parish would be supplied with it.

The American Art Union.—The objects of this institution appear to be purely American, and from its grand success it appears that Americans are disposed to appreciate it and support it liberally. The constitution of the society was adopted on the 20th of Dec., 1847, and on the 20th of Dec., 1848, one year from its formation, it had 12,475 members, and its receipts were rising $80,000.

It has been often asserted that the fine arts cannot flourish in republics, and that their success can only be found in monarchies and among titled families. The originators of the American Art-Union resolved to prove this statement false, and they have succeeded in doing it.

The society aims to patronize and cherish the talent of the best painters of our country, and where it finds a high order of genius that promises to be an ornament to the country they will not permit it to dwindle for want of care and patronage. The best paintings executed by Americans are purchased by the society, and whoever unites with the institution contributes something towards the elevation and support of the fine arts in his own country.

A share in the institution costs five dollars, and for this amount, or for a larger amount if more than one share is taken, a member obtains drawings or paintings of a splendid order, and worth the amount paid by him, though they are got up in a manner which costs the society less than that sum so that a surplus may be left to purchase the paintings of such artists as we have noticed above. Dr. G. N. Seagrave is the authorized secretary of the society for this parish. He will be ready to give any information in regard to it that may be called for by the public, and is authorized to receive payment from those who wish to become members of the institution.

Agricultural Interests.—A proposition has been made through our columns to start an Agricultural Society in this parish, and though it meets the approbation of the planters generally, yet we feel fearful that their approval will be expressed by words more than by deeds. The advantages which would be derived from such a society few are able to appreciate. We feel confident that agriculture in all of its various branches would be elevated and vastly improved by such an arrangement.

Our stock, horses, cows, sheep, hogs, poultry—everything that is raised on a plantation would be improved. The importance of improvement in the raising, management and breed of all these is very great, and nothing would impress this fact, together with the manner of improving in these respects on the public mind, so well as could be done through the instrumentality of the society of which we have spoken.

And not only will our stock, &c., be improved, but, by the familiar interchange of opinions between planters, the best mode of cultivating cane, corn, and all other crops, and all fruits adapted to our soil and climate will become generally known and adopted. The planters should be brought together, and they should work together for mutual benefit, and for the improvement of agriculture generally in the parish. Let every one think of the importance of this matter, and whenever an effort is made to form a society such as we have named, let all be prepared to give it their aid and influence.

Question.—Why does cane or corn grow better, and do better on the banks of ditches than away from them? Some may say—"Because they are better drained; others—"Because there is a deeper soil," &c; others—"Because a strong subsoil is thrown from the bottom of the ditches giving the roots of whatever may be planted on it an opportunity to extend themselves into a soil which has never been exhausted by cultivation." We think the last reason the most satisfactory, though the first two may be true in some respects. The soil of this country is deep and strong, and where only a few inches of the surface are stirred by small ploughs year after year a stratum of the fattest kind of soil remains just beneath the surface like unexplored mines. When a heavy plough and strong team throw this treasure upon the surface its worth is noticed and appreciated. Cannot some of our observing and experienced planters give us the result of their experience in relation to this matter? They may give us facts which may induce many to stir a little deeper, and by that means make better crops.

Take Care of your Negroes.—We noticed a few days since in riding over a plantation on bayou Salé that the planter had furnished a fine large portable awning for the protection of his negroes from sudden showers during wood chopping, or at any other time when away from their cabins. He stated that this awning could be removed with great ease from one part of the field to the other, that it could be set up in a few minutes, and that it was large enough to screen twenty five or thirty hands. An awning with a hundred square yards in it would be large enough to answer for any common force, this would not cost over $25, and with care it would last three or four years at least. When hands are chopping wood, how easy it would be to take it along in the morning and stretch it at some central place, and if showers come up the hands can keep dry all day, which is not only comfortable to them, but highly conducive to their health. It is a mistaken notion that some have that negroes can suffer any exposures with impunity. Those who treat their negroes best have least sickness among them, and least deaths. This careless treatment of negroes will not do. It is not only inhuman, but it is unwise and highly detrimental to the interests of the master. Our most thrifty planters are invariably those who feed and clothe their negroes well, take good care of them, and do not overwork them. The curse of Heaven appears to hang over him who treats his negroes with unhumanity.

A Good Idea.—A short time since a planter was speaking to us in regard to Agriculture, and he advanced the following idea which we think worthy of particular notice:

He proposed that the planters in each neighborhood organize in numbers from six to twelve according to convenience, and that they all meet as often as once a week and examine the crops of two or three of the company at each meeting, and continue to go the rounds, examining each others' crops and plantations during the entire cultivating season, and visiting each others' sugar-hourses during the boiling season.

He proposed that each man's crop, mode of cultivating, management of his negroes, horses, &c., be criticised by any one of the company, and that suggestions of improvements be freely offered and discussed by all.

By these means he thought that each planter's improvements would become common property to the company, and that sociability, friendship and improvement would go hand in hand.

We would suggest the idea that such an organization throughout the parish would be a capital stepping stone to an agricultural society, and that after the formation of such a society it would be the best kind of pillow for it to rest upon. The two arrangements would work in Harmony, and each would benefit the other.

Improvement in Raising Corn.—We saw a few days since, on Bayou Salé, the result of raising corn on old cane rows without disturbing the roots of the cane. Corn was planted in the rows of old stubble cane, the hills being about the usual distance apart. When the cane came up it was cut down as weeds would be.—There was no difficulty in checking it so that it did no harm to the corn, and it was all destroyed in due time. The corn was cultivated with but little trouble, the ears were full and heavy, and the crop was fully equal to that raised on any other part of the plantation. In addition to this the same field and the same rows are now clothed with a crop of pease, the finest that can be found on the whole place.

The planter informed us that he had never before raised so fine a crop of corn with so little trouble. He stated that it seemed to him that as soon as the cane dies the roots begin to nourish the corn, and that by the time the pease are planted the roots become so far decayed as to act as the richest kind of manure. The planter who tried this experiment has the reputation of being at least *one* of the best planters in the parish, and his statements and opinions upon this subject are entitled to the highest respect. Try it, planters, and if you like it, consider it an improvement, and adopt the plan in future.

Communicated.

We think it but right to tell those who may use Dr. Rabé's cockroach poison, that they should be careful not to let their poultry eat any of the dead insects, as it will poison them also. One widow lady of our acquaintance lost eight hens and one hundred chickens by feeding them on a basket full she had collected; and though rather inclined to *en bon point*, and past that period of life, when either sex is inclined to quick evolutions, yet, I tell you, the widow was *hopping*.

We apologized for the Doctor, by saying that the medicine would certainly not have been what he pretended it to be, unless it killed the *hen* as well as the *cock-roaches*, he having advertised it as a specific against the whole roach family, male and female. If the largest sized gobbler could have swallowed the look of the widow (one, generally, of the softest and most bland of her sex, always using her pocket handkerchief when she speaks of her departed man) we do not think he would have ever gobbled more;—it was worse than a cock-roach with *pisen* in it.

It is but justice, however, to state, that the medicine, used with precaution, is a most valuable specific against one of the plagues of Egypt; for we are informed by our Hebrew correspondent, the learned professor Wexel, that one of the plagues enumerated, should have been translated *cockroaches*, and not by the unmentionable name used in the vulgate. S.

Cartwright on Cholera.—We have received from the author, Dr. Samuel Cartwright late of Natchez, now of New Orleans, his pamphlet on the pathology and treatment of Cholera. Notwithstanding the remark of the distinguished author, that it "is intended for medical men—not for sophomores or pretenders, but for intelligent and well read members of the profession," we have given it an examination, which induces us to commend it to the attention of all enquiring minds. As we are no physician we shall be excused for not recommending its remedies; which, however, are highly extolled by the friends of the Alopathic practice.

It would afford sweeter happiness in the hour of death, to have wiped one tear from the cheek of sorrow, than to have ruled an empire, or to have conquered millions.

Communicated.

Mr. Editor,—With Hudibras, I believe that,

"He who fights and runs away
May live to fight another day."

I therefore act on this principle, and ask that you strike my flag, as a Candidate for the office of Sheriff; hereby withdrawing from the contest.

In this communication permit me to tender my thanks to the citizens of St. Mary, of both parties, for their support of me in my late appointment to the Sheriffalty, and to those friends who have, up to this moment, adhered to me in the present contest. But as the track is not fenced in, and the field is large, it was to be expected that there would be some bolting. The winning post being yet distant, I will pay forfeit (to the Printer) and avoid the possibility of having the flag dropped in my face.

Respectfully your Ob't Serv't,
L. R. CURTIS.

Parish St. Mary, August 8th, 1849.

Correspondence of the Planters' Banner.

Panama, June 16th, 1849.

D. Dennett, Esq.,

Dear Sir:, To-day I received the Banner of May 3d, 10th, and 17th. One letter I wrote from Gorgona seems to have been lost. I continue therefore from my last in your paper. I got up the river safe and without any accident. The scenery is quite romantic. The ordinary time is ten days, and the distance about 60 miles. At Gorgona I saw your predecessor Wilson, engaged in business. We crossed the Isthmus, or better say the land route in one day. My horse kept me above the common run of mankind; but sometimes my spectacles and hat were knocked off by overhanging bushes, but my legs fared safe. They might have been jammed a little, in one or two places. Upon the whole, all the talk about the horrible route, dangers, hills, precipices is all nonsense. Anybody who has travelled, will pass this route and enjoy himself. Arrived in Panama, I found it very small town, which would be smaller still if the ruins were out side. One third of the town, may be said to be ruins, and old Churches; and as it stands, you may go from one end to the other in two minutes.

To keep fresh air out (I can assign no other purpose) they have a wall around the city. All the people here are very kind; at least I found them so. The Americans, who were here at my arrival, are all gone. There is plenty of shipping in port, and no passengers for them. I have made here, a pretty little sum of money, by opening an extemporaneous "Apothecary's Hall, but, in a few days, I shall pack up and transfer myself and Co., to the land of dust. By the bye, I came near biting the dust myself. I have been very sick by crossing the Isthmus five times myself, to see after my goods.

To avoid vexation, I give the following opinion:

1st That this route is, at present the best known.
2d That the expenses of a man and trunk of 110 lbs., or crossing from Chagres to Panama, is not more than $30,00.
3d. That any surplus freight is expensive, and that no package dare exceed 100 lbs., as that each 100 lbs., costs about $9.00 to fetch.

Messrs. Leach & Co. have established a regular line, and I recommend them to patronage. The worst thing a stranger can do is to contract with the natives. He may think he saves something, but he will find out his mistake soon enough.

When the packages exceed 100 lbs., they are carried by men, and there they are subject to be opened, detained, stolen, and every mishap imaginable. Provisions should never be brought across the Isthmus or attempted. They cost more than they come to. The fact is, if you were to go to California take with you a carpet bag, and all the money you can rake and scrape, and you will get along.

These are my views of the Isthmus. The trip is by no means unpleasant at any time of the year, and if you get a shower on you, why, you can dry yourself again.

I have felt truly sorry for the misfortune your town has met with by the visitations of the cholera, but I hope Franklin will continue to prosper and flourish, and certainly, I can only feel good will for a place, where, upon the whole, I have always been well treated by the respectable part of the community. I hope yet to return to you in a few months, and live among you peaceably and contented, at any rate, I have told them all here that there is no better place than the Attakapas, and I *believe* it.

This will finish my correspondence from Panama. You will please direct your papers to San Francisco, from May 17th, as I like to keep up a regular file. From San Francisco you will hear from me again. Until then adieu.

W. RABE.

A Family Poisoned by an Unnatural Son.—*Cincinnati*, July 21.—A most revolting and unnatural attempt to poison a family of nine persons was made in this city yesterday. It appears that Captain Sammons, with his family consisting of 8 or 9 persons, was poisoned by arsenic being put into their tea. A woman who was employed as seamtress in the family, Mr. Hanson, an engineer, and three others are dangerously ill. Capt. Sammons is very sick, but will recover.

James Sammons, his son, has been arrested on suspicion. He was known to have purchased the poison last evening. Young Sammons has of late led a somewhat dissipated life, and it is thought that his object in poisoning his father, mother, and whole family, was to come into possession of their property, supposing, doubtlessly, that their deaths would be attributed to the prevailing epidemic.

Capt. Sammons is connected with the Louisville mail line, and has been residing with his family in this city, for about two weeks.

Perfect Happiness.—A laundress who was employed in the family of one of our former governors, said to him, with a sigh:

"Only think, your excellency, how little money would make me happy!"

"How little, madam?" said the Gov.

"Oh! dear sir, one hundred dollars would make me perfectly happy."

"If that is all, you shall have it," and immediately gave it to her.

She looked at it with joy and thankfulness, and before the Governor was out of hearing, exclaimed.

"*I wish I had said two hundred.*"