

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TIMES. L. DUPLEX, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR. Published every Wednesday and Saturday.

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New Agencies. LOUISIANA. W. H. SIMONS, Alexandria. E. MONTAGNE, New Orleans. A. L. HAY, Traveling Agent.

MISSISSIPPI. Mr. J. B. Chandler is the duly authorized agent of the State of Louisiana and Mississippi for the sale of Louisiana and Mississippi bonds on the New Orleans, Jackson and Great Northern Railroad.

TO ALL CONCERNED. I have received from Mr. Fitzgerald, P. M., at every point, a large number of Letters from every point, which will be delivered at the Natchitoches Times Office for the convenience of this community.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We would call the attention of our correspondents to this important point: When you prepare your manuscript for the press, write only on one side of the paper, clearly and legibly, so as to prevent unnecessary confusion on the part of the compositors.

STEAMER DORA MARTIN.—We learn that the steamer Dora Martin, Capt. John Martin, on her way down to New Orleans has struck a snag at Blair's plantation, on Red River, and will be a total loss to the owners.

Mr. A. W. Hamilton, Clerk of the Court, has informed us, that hereafter, all the business in his office will be conducted on the cash principle. We congratulate him for this determination, as it is really impossible now, with the high price of every thing, to enable any man in office to work on credit.

Our neighbors of Coushatta Chute are trying to establish a private line, between this and their place, for carrying the mails as we understand, the contractor, Chaffin of Minden, has given instructions to his mail rider, to leave all packages belonging to the former place.

We hope our friends will be successful and as a matter of course, we intend to do every thing in our power to have their matter settled at once.

The River is reported to rise slowly.

FOR SALE. Splendid TWO STORY BRICK residence occupied by L. Duplex, together with two large improved lots, out houses, Store, Warehouse, and other buildings.

French vessels were passing St. Thomas for Vera Cruz, with troops to reinforce the Imperialists in Mexico.

TO OUR PLANTERS. We call the special attention of our planters and others contemplating with Freedom for labor, to the fact, that it is very necessary that they should close their contracts as soon as possible.

There seems to be a compromise between the government and the State with regard to the repairing of the levees along the bank of the Mississippi River, and as the government has consented to repair one half (250 miles) it is necessary to perform this labor with the surplus Freedmen who have not made their contracts according to law, and of those who refuse to contract.

Major-General Humphreys has charge of the conditions of the Levees, and when he is ready for laborers, then those that have not contracted according to circular No. 29, will of course be deprived of cultivating their plantations.

The Constitutional Amendment. General Palmer has issued a proclamation declaring that slavery has ceased in the State of Kentucky, and in consequence of the ratification of the Constitutional amendment.

There has also been some confusion concerning the number of State Legislatures which have thus far ratified the amendment. A list which we believe, was first published in the New York Herald, and has since been very extensively copied into other papers.

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The Dead Tree by my Chamber Window. Before my chamber window, stands a decaying tree. Through all the blots and stains of its yellowed leaves, a new phase of life is daily unfolding.

Here we must live ourselves very high to take in its full scope. The first Empire, an Empire purely military, and which sold Louisiana to obtain bread for its armies, never had its like.

Let us look at the right from that elevated standpoint, whence we distinguish the legitimate things and let us start from this truth, though not radical fact.

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Latest News. THE SECRETARY OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT. Washington, Jan. 9, 1866.

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