

Washington, D. C. A. MILLER, JR. New York. LAMAR & SLOANE. Boston. W. H. BARNETT, JR. Philadelphia. LAWRENCE. New Orleans. P. HAYMOND. New York. E. J. EYRE.

OPELOUSAS.

SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 21, 1855.

To the Editors of the Opelousas Patriot.

Gentlemen—As a sense of duty to myself, and in defense of my reputation, it becomes necessary for me to correct an error which, by some means or other, has found its way into the Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Public Education. It has pleased that functionary to report me as a defaulter to the State in a sum over sixteen thousand dollars. Now all that is necessary to satisfy the public on that subject is merely a reference to the Recorder's Office in the Town of Opelousas. It will there be seen that every cent was paid the State during its administration of the public funds as Parish Superintendent of Public Education. And I have been credibly informed that our District Attorney, P. D. Hardy, Esq., made due return of my settlement with the State. HENRY E. DUNBAR. Washington, April 18, 1855.

The Courier, the organ of the Foreign party, has not yet ceased to exult over their mighty victory, won in the recent municipal election, when by a union of parties the admission of illegal votes and those of naturalized foreigners, they had only a majority of 10 out of 110 polled. Had we gained such a victory, we should never have opened our mouths about it; but since it is a rare thing for their party to succeed now-a-days, it is not to be wondered at that they blow. This will that they have something to console them, for we think from the signs of the times that very soon their victories of a kind, however foul the means resorted to, will be like angels' visits, "few and far between." Their exultations over this triumph remind us of the old saw, that "drowning men catch at straws." Let them rejoice, however: we are philanthropic, and love to see people happy, although they may be enveloped in darkness. Soon we hope to see the scales fall from their eyes, when they may "see themselves as others see them," and rejoice in their purgation. They may yet escape the condemnation of the wicked, for

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.

Sunday night, about 12 o'clock, a fire broke out in the building situated at the corner of Main and North streets, belonging to Mr. J. Courlet, and before the flames could be extinguished, said building, together with another adjoining, the property of Mr. Honoré Jahan, was entirely consumed.

Mr. Courlet was about opening a coffee-house, and had just received from New Orleans a large stock of fine liquors, etc., which were a total loss.

The other building was occupied by Mr. Pefferkorn, shoemaker, and Mrs. Pigeon, milliner, both of whom experienced heavy losses. The building was insured.

The total loss is estimated at \$8000. It is positively believed that this fire was the work of an incendiary.

The Case Strongly Put.

A friend of ours, in conversation with an anti-Know-Nothing in our presence the other day, advanced an argument that there is no getting away from, and one that ought to be universally acknowledged. The anti is objecting to the prohibition of foreigners, and their prohibition from office. Our friend sustained the American doctrine thus: "Do you suppose," said he, "that if you were to grant the Niagara and become a subject of Her Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria, you could so far forget the country of your birth—your fatherland—as, in a few years, to sever the last link that bound you to it, and swear to abjure its laws and rules, its usages, its institutions and its customs, and be ready, at the command of the Government to which you had sworn allegiance, to point your musket at, and pour bullets into the breasts of your countrymen, brethren and kindred? Could you do this thing?" asked he.

After a moment's pause, the anti replied, "No, I could not!" Well, then," resumed our friend, "how can you expect the Englishman, the Irishman, the Frenchman, or the German to do it? The thing is preposterous. If a man is base enough to forget the land of his birth, the graves of his fathers, the hills and vales upon which he lived in childhood, and the streams in which he sported his infant feet, he will be a traitor to the country of his adoption. Even the lion's whelp loves the lair of its nativity, and the wolf the cavern in which it was born—the sons of the soil, therefore, alone should rule."

This was sensible talk, and right to the point. We would abridge the foreigner of no privilege, of no immunity he enjoyed in the country from which he comes. We offer more—we afford him a home, the protection of our laws, education for his offspring, and every comfort and luxury our teeming land supplies; but we are not willing for him to select our rulers, nor are we willing to make a ruler of him. It is not the policy of the American Party to disfranchise a man for ever—but it is its policy to require the foreigner to serve as long a probation as the native born—to a period when, if ever, he may become at least partially Americanized—to a period of 21 years. [Ab. Virginia.]

CURIOUS COMBINATION.

Mr. Campbell, of Columbus, Ohio, has made an application at Washington for a patent, making a bond of union between cast iron at a very high temperature, and glass in a state of fusion, and designed for boxes in which the axles of wheels revolve. The glass is for the interior of the box, and causing but little friction, it requires but little lubrication, and is, therefore, economical, costing less than cast iron. The Intelligencer says:

"The tests to which the specimen we have seen has been subjected, seem to have convinced us that glass thus embedded in iron could sustain extraordinary pressure and be broken by blows; but a doubt arose in relation to the equality in the contraction and expansion of the two materials, by sudden changes in the temperature. Iron, however, expands and contracts by heat far more than glass, and the cast-iron box being expanded to its utmost by this means, must necessarily be to embrace the glass within it; and this glass being in the form of an arch, with its bases and apex both embraced by the iron, it can yield to no power that is not capable of literally crushing it to powder."

MAY PARTY.

We have received an invitation to a public ball, to be given by Mr. Louis A. Patin at his hotel in Grand Coteau on the evening of the 3d of May next, and shall endeavor to profit by the polite invitation.

CUBAN OUTRAGES.

Late telegraphic dispatches bring us the welcome intelligence that the President of the United States has at last determined to make provisions for the recruitment of any further insults that may be offered to any of our vessels by those of Spain in the waters of the Gulf. Com. McCauley, the commander of the Gulf squadron, has been ordered forthwith to pour a broadside into any Spanish vessel which may henceforth attempt to molest our steamers. Every available vessel is to be immediately dispatched to the Cuban coast. The Washington Evening Star says it will prove to have been much mistaken, if the Spanish steamer recently engaged in stopping American vessels in the Gulf of Mexico be not brought up "with a round turn" within thirty days.

CORRUPT OFFICERS.

We had reason some weeks since to suspect that we had been foully dealt with by some of the Postmasters or their deputies in hindering the spread and circulation of our paper; therefore when we had returned to us, within a week after its issue, two copies of the "Patriot" from New Orleans, addressed to gentlemen of that city who had authorized their names to be enrolled among our subscribers, with the endorsement on the margin "Never called for—Not taken out of the office," we determined to see if there was not something "rotten in Denmark." Accordingly, we wrote to each of the gentlemen, asking them whether they had not subscribed for the paper—whether they did not want it, and whether it was by their authority that it was returned with the marginal endorsement. A prompt reply has been received from one of the gentlemen, who says in part, "I am at a loss to know by what authority the Postmaster here sent my paper back with the words endorsed thereon, 'Not called for.' I do want your paper and wish you to send it to me."

Now we ask if such conduct is not little and contemptibly mean, and if any man so unprincipled should be retained in office. The New Orleans Postmaster is the one against whom the charge lays; yet we can hardly believe Mr. Kendall, whom we know personally and familiarly, guilty of so little a trick. We would much sooner bring the charge against some office this side of New Orleans; and since the expose of this affair, we may probably have done parties to whom we sent specimen numbers, that were returned with marginal notes, injustice in our minds, having once been on the eve of giving the name of a party in St. Martin who wrote on the margin, "Professing to know something, I cannot tolerate a paper that knows nothing," returning it in a letter envelope, and taxing us with ten cents postage. The trick was very small, whoever did it; but we now suspect that it was done by some postoffice defaulter. We may time remain ignorant of the offender, but, like murder generally, sooner or later it will out; and when it does out, it will be well for one so mean, that he fortify himself strongly against justice.

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Sam in the South.

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The success of the American party in the South is of great importance, we agree with the Patriot, itself a Southern journal, in thinking. For, as the old party now stand, the salvation of the Union may depend upon the union of all conservative men of every section. The result in New Orleans will prepare the minds of the South for harmony upon the great questions which distract the country, while the election of competent officers will enable it to maintain and administer its interests with energy and success.

We have had similar demonstrations of the applicability of the American party's principles to the South, as well as at the North, in the results of the recent elections in St. Louis, Louisville, Augusta, Richmond, Columbia, Annapolis and Nashville, in the States of Missouri, Kentucky, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. And we are prepared to see, when the time comes, the State elections in each of these States going in precisely the same way.

From Virginia, for example, we daily hear that the American majority of the most unquestionable, and that the American majority will not fall short of twenty thousand, and that it need not surprise any one if it should reach forty thousand.

Thus, while this movement is seen rolling on its victorious way in the North, overpowering all opposition in Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, and Ohio, we find it crossing Mason and Dixon's line, and making telling demonstrations here in the South.

This shows the respectability of the American party, and that the principles of the new party are adapted to any latitude, and will remedy the political evils of any community, North or South.

The great body of the American people, the Democracy, "the greatest number," evidently entertain this view of those principles, and are carrying them into practical operation as fast as they can. The experiment is destined to be tested to the fullest issue, and this without any aid from the Democratic candidate in 1860. The aggregate vote polled for Governor was 64,000. The representation in Congress is entirely Democratic.

The richest denomination, we see by the census tables, is the Methodist, who set down at 814,571. The next is the Presbyterian, with 414,369. The Episcopal, which in number of members stands fifth, ranks third for church property, being estimated at \$12,000,000. The fourth is the Baptist, \$10,931,331; the fifth the Roman Catholic, \$8,373,938; and the sixth, the Congregational, \$7,973,967.

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"Young America" Delinquent.

The Rev. W. H. Milburn, who was lately elected chaplain of the House of Representatives, delivered a lecture at one of the Methodist churches, in New York, on "Young America"—a good topic, one which was eloquently treated, if we may judge of the lecture by the following summary of it, copied from a New York paper:

Young America he said, is something more than a political doctrine. It is republicanism in labor, in literature, in life. It is republicanism with hands and feet, shovel and tongs, axes and plows. It is republicanism in the pulpit, in the press. It is republicanism getting out of forms into every day facts, and stamping its name on things as well as words.

Look at it in labor. It honors the law of exertion. Acknowledging its divineness and content with its discipline, it teaches that the labor of every man is republicanism applied to cloths, bricks and mortar, anvils and looms, fields and forest. And especially it affirms that labor is God's great earthly instrument for elevating man in the scale of being.

Labor educates common sense—opens the physical sense to broad perceptions, and the hand to wide grasp—enlarges the area of possibilities, and commands the commodities of the universe. Labor is in partnership with electricity, light and heat. It is in league with the revolving seasons, with dew and the cloud, with the stars and the sun. It is the human side of Providence, and wherever it is well and faithfully done, Providence is the promise of success.

By labor "Young America" is the foe of aristocracy; for it depends upon it, neither laws nor usages can put down aristocracy. Labor is the great suppressor; and in the second and third generation, it gives laws to fashion, taste and custom. "Young America" begins with bricks and finishes with marble.

But "Young America" infuses itself into literature. It writes no great poems, it is true, but it writes great things, nevertheless. There is a chivalry in its enterprises in this way that is quite inspiring, and if Orpheus made the tree dance, it quickens printers' types with the very motion of vitality. It prints every thing, even to things shocking and shameful. The literature grapples with that fashionable monster called Pretension; and fierce havoc it makes, even to its own hurt. Across the water, Dickens and especially Thackeray, have set up a police system for the arrest of snobs and pretensions; and woe to the men and women who fall into their clutches!

"Young America" has taken newspapers under special patronage. It has shown its good sense therein for nothing moves now without newspapers; and whether right or wrong, the world has entrusted its advance to them, has become their client, and the editors or writers of the papers in this new court of the country. You wonder that no great statesmen are appearing; explanation is easy; Newspapers have come to represent the people; they are the statesmen, legislators, and cabinet.

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"Pipe Laying" is practiced to a considerable extent, as appears from the politicians in Canada. A late official investigation by the Provincial Parliament exhibits the extraordinary fact that, at the last election in the county of Saguenay, 14,369 votes were polled, whereas the county only contains a total population of 19,965, and an aggregate of legal voters of 10,644. Fifteen in the arms of their mothers were held up and their names recorded as voting by the returning officers. Queen Victoria's name was down more than once among the list of voters, and Lord Elgin's seventy-two times.

WHAT-DO-YOU-CALL-EM.

The steamer A. L. Shotwell has been raised. The amount of damage to her freight is not heavy. Dr. Woodson Wren, of Natchez, Miss., died at Port Gibson on Monday week.

Dr. S. D. McNeil, the eminent physician, died of apoplexy in New Orleans on the 15th.

Gov. Johnson, of Tennessee, has accepted the Democratic nomination for re-election.

An autograph letter of George Washington was sold recently in London for £5.

Mrs. Gen. Twigg died in New Orleans on the 15th ult.

The remains of the late H. R. W. Hill have been removed from New Orleans to Tennessee.

The Pointe Coupee Echo says the water is lower in False River, at present than ever before within the recollection of "the oldest inhabitant."

The steamship United States, which arrived at New York from Havana on Monday, made the trip in three days and twenty-three hours.

The Massachusetts Senate, on the 9th inst., has passed a resolution, with only one dissent, declaring that no foreigner shall be eligible to office.

Fifty arrests have been recently made in Paris, on account of the alleged discovery of a plot to assassinate the Emperor Louis Napoleon.

In Johnson's Dictionary we have the definition of *garret* as the "uppermost room of a house;" and *garret* is a word which is used in the London *Atlas*, and solicits subscriptions for that (weekly) paper.

Lord Erskine, the eldest son of the celebrated Chancellor Erskine, died at Brighton, England, on the 15th. He was Minister Plenipotentiary to Washington in 1804.

The cold weather has been very unfavorable to the Potomac fisheries. Very few fish have been caught, although about a month of the fishing season has passed.

On the 2d inst., there was a municipal election in Yazoo City. All the councilmen, eight in number, were elected by the admirers of "Sam," by a majority of about three to one.

Among the patents lately issued from the Patent Office, Washington, is one "for improvement in scrapers for removing dirt from boots and shoes."

Mr. Smith, a chemist, of Anchester, in Scotland, is said to have discovered a means of transferring the impression of natural objects to glass with minute accuracy.

In the new city of Lawrence, Kansas Territory, the principal streets have been named after the thirty-one States. Ten parks are laid out in the city.

There is a regular "rush" for Nebraska. We perceive that Judge Bush Elm, for many years a resident of Montgomery, Ala., has removed to that Territory with his family and slaves.

M. Varnavas Pangolos, the oldest of the patriots who struggled for the independence of Greece, and one of those who sacrificed a large fortune to the cause, died lately at Athens, at the extraordinary age of 111 years.

We learn from the "An Baren (Ark) Intelligencer" that