

THE LAFAYETTE GAZETTE.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE PARISH AND TOWN OF LAFAYETTE.

VOL. V.

LAFAYETTE, LA., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1897.

NO. 43.

TO ALL, A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

To-day is Christmas. It is the happy time of the year. The cares and vexations are cast aside, and the mind undergoes a complete change. And this change is not alone confined to the little ones, but both young and old are brought under the brightening influence of the Christmas holidays. This is right, for it is the anniversary that commemorates the birth of Him who brought "peace on earth; good will to man." It is the time of year above all others that life presents its brightest side, that we give and receive gifts, but when the heart delights more in giving than in receiving, a beautiful exemplification of the saying of Christ that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

The Christmas anniversary marks the passing away of another year, and while it is a time of enjoyment and amusement, it always brings to the mind a thought of the past, an anxiety for the future. Life is made up of peculiar elements, and it is well that we have such an anniversary as Christmas. For it stands out as a dividing line between what has been and what is to be. It affords us a pleasing opportunity to take a retrospective view of our past lives, and to look forward to the future with new plans for life's career.

The past year has not been one of continued successes, nor has it been one of successive disappointments; neither has it been a year fraught with all joy nor all sorrow. The silver chain of success has been weakened here and there by the alloyed links of failure. The cup of joy has been made incomplete by the tear drops of sorrow.

But perhaps it is well that it is thus. For it is an axiom of truth that the hand and heart are made stronger by reverses. It is the knowledge of the bitter that makes the appreciation of the sweet.

It may be that we are disposed to believe that we have been less fortunate than others, but such is not the case. No life's song is without notes of sadness, and weaker is this note in proportion to the way one sees the bright or dark side of things.

Taken all in all, we have everything to be thankful for, and in no grander way can we show this spirit of thoughtfulness than by making glad some poor heart during the days of merriment.

Let us not forget that this can be done not alone by giving presents, but by giving words of happiness and good cheer.

The Gazette in all its bounty of heart wishes everyone, young and old, rich and poor, great and small, a happy and delightful Christmas and a prosperous New Year. In the language of old Rip Van Winkle, "May you all live long and prosper."

Shoes! Shoes!! Shoes!!! For men, for women, for boys, for girls. All the new shapes and colors, at popular prices. Moss Bros. & Co's.

Tuesday evening was the last day that the Republicans of the parish could file papers for the nomination of a candidate opposed to the Democratic nominee, Hon. R. C. Landry. To our knowledge that gentleman is the only candidate in the field, and Lafayette will be represented in the convention by a Democrat. The fact that the Republicans of Lafayette consider it futile to put up a candidate, proves, beyond doubt the wisdom of the Democracy's choice. In that selection, all elements were united and all discordant factions harmonized. It proved eminently acceptable to the masses of both parties, and Mr. Landry will go to the constitutional convention truly representing the people of this parish, and no one faction thereof.

LOUISIANA STATE SANITARY ASSOCIATION.

On the 9th of November an important meeting or conference was called at the Crescent Hotel in this town, at which some of our leading physicians and other professional men were present. Dr. Mayer, of Scott, submitted a plan of popular education in sanitary matters for their approval. The plan was wide and comprehensive in its scope, embracing the publication of a sanitary journal, but the original feature and the one most calculated to meet the approval of educators was to establish a school of hygiene on the Chautauquan plan of correspondence, lectures, and summer institutes. The plan met with hearty approval and on the 22d, an organization was effected in Opelousas, the name and style of it being the Louisiana State Sanitary Association, the idea being to have auxiliary circles in every parish of the State. Dr. Mayer was requested to draw up a charter, which he did and it was signed by some of the leading professional and business men of St. Landry, Lafayette, Acadia and Vermilion.

The annual dues are fixed at one dollar; no initiation fee. Members can leave the organization by simply handing in their resignations to the secretary. The liabilities of members are limited to their annual dues. The summer institutes of hygiene will be held at different places throughout the State. Lafayette ought to make a bid for the first one, which will doubtless be attended by some of the leading sanitarians of the State. Just what the program will be we cannot say, as Dr. Mayer declined giving out any definite news until the organization is perfected.

He admits the plan has met the approval of the leading medical men of the State and that later he will furnish the press, as secretary of the organization, with all information on the subject.

A fine collection of New Year presents, at Moss Bros. & Co's.

TARIFF AND PROSPERITY.

Judging by the present condition of the cotton manufacturing industry in New England President McKinley's tariff-made prosperity is working very much out of gear. When the Dingley bill was pending in Congress the country was told that as soon as it passed both houses and received the signature of the gentleman who now sits in the White House, there would be an immediate and unprecedented revival of prosperity all over the land; furnaces would blaze, smoke would pour from the chimneys of factories and the wheels of industry would hum with an energy never heard of before. Well, the Dingley tariff has been a law now for five months and the humming is decidedly faint in the manufacturing sections of the country. In spite of the fact that domestic cotton goods are protected under the Dingley law by high tariff duties the cotton milling industry of New England is languishing to such an extent that in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island they have been forced to cut the wages of operatives from 10 to 20 per cent., while some of the mills have shut down entirely, and others are working less than half time, at reduced wages. This is the plain result of the high tariff, closing the markets of the world to our manufactured goods, but it seems impossible for a great many of the cotton manufacturers to understand the fact and they persist in attributing the stagnation of their industry to overproduction and the competition of the Southern mills. It is quite safe to say, however, that their eyes will be opened in time and they will see the extent of the injury a prohibitive tariff has done the country.

PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

While the suffrage question will be, as it ought to be, the predominating one in the constitutional convention to assemble shortly, there is another one which is so intimately connected with good citizenship, that its consideration should follow that of the suffrage as a natural sequence. Every patriotic citizen in the State will admit that an educational qualification is a requisite to the casting of an honest and intelligent ballot, and that on the intelligence of this State and Union rests the security of our Republican government, and the welfare of our society. Other States have already taken the initiative in bringing about this desired state of affairs, and the State of Louisiana would be false to her traditions did she not do her share in the premises.

But it were a waste of time and words to argue on this question of the suffrage, a question on which the good men of the State are agreed. For we believe it to be a conceded fact that the suffrage laws are to be changed, and that intelligence is to be, as it should be, the basis of future government in the Pelican State.

The purpose of this article is to show the necessity of improvement in our educational laws, and the duty the State owes to its people to place a good common school education within the reach of every one of its children. It is a known fact that the right kind of law on the suffrage will debar a large number of white voters in the State, many of them sterlingly honest, but this is an unfortunate condition that can not be obviated. And unless better laws for the promotion of the public school interests are placed in the new constitution, the law makers of that assembly will not have done the just thing by the people of the State. The true statesman does not look at immediate effects for policy's sake. This is the play of the politician. The patriotic lawmaker has an eye for the future. His praises are not the sycophantic approbation of the public, but a consciousness of duty well performed; the approval of his own heart. He looks at it in this way, were it not better by an infinite degree to bring about the permanent establishment of this great Republic, and to insure the stability of its society, than to make laws simply to please, without regard to their ultimate effect.

The two suggestions we wish to present for consideration are 1st, an increased appropriation of money by the State for school funds; 2nd, an improvement in the management of the schools in the parishes. In reference to the first case, there is not sufficient funds to the credit of the schools throughout the State to carry on a full and equal term in every parish. Some parishes have the full ten months, some eight, some six, while others barely get three. This should not be the case. There should be adopted such laws by the State, that every parish would get a full term of the public schools. This may prove a question difficult of solution, but it should be solved along the lines we have suggested. It is an axiom that in proportion to an increase of public school funds, there is a decrease in the criminal fund.

As regards the second proposition we maintain and argue, and we believe with a sound premise, that the superintendent of parish schools should be a practical educator in every sense. He should be a man of good sound judgment, active and enthusiastic. He should be required to give his whole time and energy to public education. His whole time should be spent with the schools in his parish. He should be as might be termed, principal of parish schools. This is not the case now in any parish outside of Orleans, and on account of the law regulating the matter, it cannot be different. The law of the State fixes the maximum salary of parish superintendent at two hundred dollars a year. And for that insignificant sum, no competent man can be found, who will devote his whole time to the work. It cannot be expected of him. The parish superintendent ought to receive a salary of at least \$1500 a year. This will insure the selection of capable men, who will devote their whole time to the work of building up and improving the school system. The question of salary applies with equal force to the selection of good teachers. The men who will make up the coming convention have a big work before them. May they have wisdom to do it well.

America's Best Shows.

The old saying, "nothing succeeds like success" is amply verified in the ever-growing popularity of Hummel, Hamilton & Sells' great shows, and deservedly so, being indefatigable in resources, taking time by the forelock and always on the alert for new attractions until their name has become a synonyme of everything expressive of greatness in the show world from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the combined shows will be in Lafayette on Monday December 27.

A PLEA FOR FRENCH.

It is indeed deplorable that the rising generation of Creoles show a tendency to abandon the language of their fathers and mothers, and they are in many cases encouraged to do so by them. Once the French language has disappeared, one of the distinctive features of Louisiana life will have disappeared. A people should be as zealous in maintaining its distinguishing characteristics as every person of his individuality.

A Creole who doesn't speak French is to me an anomaly and one who has long lived among them without acquiring the language shows a lack of appreciation which very nearly approaches contempt. I appeal to you Creoles! Don't let the French language be supplanted in your homes and social circles. English, we are compelled to use more or less in business, but let us reserve our beautiful French language for home use. Let the first lisping syllables of our children be in the "doux parler" of France. Let our young people use it in their social intercourse. At the risk of being thought rude, speak it on all occasions to your acquaintances who speak it though others be present who do not understand. Perseverance on these lines will soon restore French to its proper place in Creole life, and force those who do not speak it to learn it. It were better that a few speak French without the proper accent than for many to speak English badly.

What a shame if posterity should not know how to properly pronounce the names of their towns, streams, etc., given them by their forefathers! What a shame it would be not to be able to read the epitaph on the tombs of their grandfathers! Let it not be.

Where is your pride, O Creoles! Will you be crushed out and exterminated as a people? Will you part with your language, customs and manners at once, so admirable, so enviable, so distinctive? For the sake of what is styled progress, will you annihilate yourself by adopting manners and a language which are not adapted to you and make you appear ridiculous in the eyes of outsiders? Reflect and you will not.

Parlons toujours le francais et ne l'oublions jamais.—G. C. B.

Register before the time allowed by law elapses.

A fresh lot of fancy candies at Alex. Delahoussaye's.

SOUTHERN LYCEUM BUREAU.

We have communicated with the authorities of the Louisiana State University in regard to their connection with the Southern Lyceum Bureau. They have made arrangements to hear the following lecturers: Frank Beard, cartoonist of "Ramshorn"; Dr. P. S. Henson, orator, Gen. J. B. Gordon, Robt. J. Burdette and others. If a similar association is established in this town, by engaging these men about the same time that they appear in Baton Rouge they can be obtained much cheaper. By the formation of a branch society, the people of Lafayette will be enabled to hear the foremost platform lecturers and orators of the country at a minimum price.

A suitable present for your wife or sister, a nice pair of kid gloves. We have the best in town, all colors at \$1.00. Mouton and Salles.

The Board of Health imbroglio in New Orleans grows worse muddled every day and hour. Rumors are flying thick and fast and physicians from the country cannot go down on business without being accused of being candidates.

L. F. Rigues has just received a fresh lot of chocolate creams.

ORTON WRITES

And Tells of the Doings of the People at Great Scott.

Messrs. J. C. Besse, E. Bourdier, L. Keller, and J. Gilbert, of Rayne, were visiting in Scott last Sunday, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Budro.

The big circus is coming to Lafayette and from all appearances Scott will be well represented. The bill poster of the circus was in Scott last week, and did not seem to use the paste very much. He gazed at a few coons playing seven up and then returned to Lafayette thereby slighting Great Scott. A few hand bills were scattered by the wind apprehending us of the coming event.

Great Scott is several bales of cotton ahead of Rayne and Carencro so far this season. Wonder what's the matter?

The charming and accomplished Miss McCord made a flying trip to New Iberia last week.

Dr. E. Perrault returned from a New Orleans trip last week.

The celebrated Rayne string band will be in Scott New Year's eve, the guest of Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Budro to play farewell partings to '97 and greetings to '98.

There is no doubt that Great Scott will have the finest float at the Lafayette Mardi Gras in '98, and will have the choice of King and Queen.

A few new buildings are going up, and Scott is growing, if not on a boom.

Mr. Leo Justice left last Tuesday for the city. ORTON.

Death of a Venerable Citizen.

There died at his residence in Carencro, December, 16, 1897, one of the old citizens of Lafayette parish, Mr. Joseph Prejean, the venerable head of a large family and the respected friend of all.

During his lingering illness, "Old Mr. Joseph," as he was affectionately termed, was fortified by the sacraments of the Catholic church, of which he was a pious and consistent member; and his hours of suffering and last sad moments were soothed by the loving ministrations of his devoted children. And so he awaited the coming of death. Patient, calm and peaceful, confident in the mercy of God, full of prayer and faith, and unafraid of the end.

Mr. Prejean was the embodiment of the old Creole, and filled honorably and usefully, the sphere in which he moved. Some few years ago he was a member of the town council of Carencro and has always, in every capacity, enjoyed the esteem of his fellow citizens.

Firm in his friendships, staunch in the support of the religion in which he lived and died, possessed of the beautiful spirit of old time hospitality, mild and dignified and unassuming, and, with his snowy hair and beard, the picture of a patriarch, he will long be remembered by those who knew him, as a type of noble old age.

His funeral on Saturday morning, in spite of the inclement weather, was attended by a very large concourse of people from Carencro and the neighboring towns.

A grand mass of requiem was chanted by his devoted friend and pastor, Father Laforest, assisted by Fathers Young and Leothier, of Grand Coteau; the latter of whom delivered a most eloquent oration, taking as his theme, the shining example of a Christian life, as exemplified in that of the lamented dead.

Mr. Prejean was laid to rest in the cemetery of St. Peter's Church among the friends and kindred who had gone before—the tears and prayers of his many mourners forming a loving tribute to his memory. A FRIEND.

A Child's Christmas.

The following composition on Christmas was handed us by Prof. R. E. Cunningham. It was written by little Winnie Pefferkorn, and coming from a little girl only nine years old is of so much merit that we take pleasure in publishing it:

"Christmas is a jolly day. We celebrate Christmas because Jesus Christ was born on that day. On Christmas-eve night we pop fire-crackers, Roman-candles, sky-rockets. We have a good time on that night, especially we young children. St. Nicholas brings us pretty toys such as dolls, pianos, carts, sets, etc. We go to bed early and sleep sound, while St. Nicholas puts our toys in our stockings and pillow slips. We have nice toys on Christmas. We wish our fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers a merry Christmas, and we enjoy the rest of the day. We eat candies, cakes, fruits, turkeys, pigs, chickens and luscious dishes. We run about in our glee popping fire-crackers. I receive nice presents from our father and mother. On that day we generally have Christmas-trees with all kinds of things on it, with pretty candles upon it. I attend early mass that day at five o'clock and enjoy the rest of the day. I wish that all my school-mates would spend a merry Christmas and a happy New Year."

Every day strengthens the belief of eminent physicians that impure blood is the cause of the majority of our diseases. Twenty-five years ago this theory was used as a basis for the formula of Brown's Iron Bitters. The many remarkable cures effected by this famous old household remedy are sufficient to prove that the theory is correct. Brown's Iron Bitters is sold by all dealers.

Diamonds, diamonds at Bios-sat's.

Patureau & Pefferkorn are the sole agents for the Lake Charles Laundry. Send them your work, and you will shine out of sight.

Be sure and hear that new musical instrument, "Criterion," at Bios-sat's.

Moss & Mouton are now ready to issue receipts to their customers. Don't all come at once. Any time before the first of January will answer.

Fairs at Carencro.

On Dec. 25, 26, grand bazars and fairs will be given at Carencro for the benefit of the church which was destroyed by a storm. The pupils of St. Ann's Convent will take part in the entertainments. On above dates the fairs will be for the white people, and on Jan. 1, 2, for the colored folk.

Linless cotton seed for sale by H. A. VanderCruyssen, Lafayette, La.

L. F. Rigues sells fancy candies, chocolate drops and mixed candies.

Judge Albert Voorhies and wife passed through Lafayette last Sunday. They were on their way to New Orleans, their home, and had come from Rayne, where they had been visiting their daughter, Mrs. Geo. Mouton.

A good shave is what every man wants when he goes to a barber shop. The Railroad Shaving Parlor is the place to get a shave that you will appreciate. No dull razors used. Ask for Patureau and Pefferkorn and they will accommodate you.

Free to Ladies Only.

A beautiful Floral Calendar for 1898. To ladies who have taken Brown's Iron Bitters will be sent free a beautiful Floral Calendar, without advertising on it. Send two 2c. stamps for postage. Write address plainly and be sure to mention this paper. Brown's Iron Bitters Co., Baltimore, Md.

Cotton seed giving 4 to 5 bales to an acre for sale by H. A. VanderCruyssen, agent for the African Lumber cotton seed.