

B. D. HARRISON, Publisher.
BRAYTON B. HAYES, Editor.

HOMER, LA.,

Wednesday, DEC. 19, 1877.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 15th.—Lyon muddling cotton 10 1/2.

Ten prisoners gone to the penitentiary from Ouachita parish.

Sitting Bull swears that he will fight the Americans until death.

The Fair Grounds for lease. See advertisement.

Throckmorton will be chairman of the Pacific Rail Road Committee.

We are under obligations to W. J. Taylor, Esq., for a late Shreveport paper.

Go to Dr. Webb's for Christmas novelties, fancy groceries, provisions, etc.

Hon. Randall Hunt will likely be a candidate for Eustis' vacant place as State Senator.

See notice of R. J. Bridges, and don't be ashamed to settle up what you justly owe him. He wants his money.

Go see Ben Butler and the negro preacher at Dr. Webb's, and also the fine stock of groceries and Christmas goods.

Senator Eustis, since his admission, has been giving careful and special attention to North Louisiana mail routes.

It is thought that Acklin will defeat Darrall in the contest for this state for a seat as representative.

The Indian summer arrived late this year. We have it now, and Christmas almost here.

Sandy Johnston and the Judge will sell you all you want in the way of Christmas presents cheap for cash. Call on those amiable youths.

It seems that General Gordon and Mr. Conkling have had a quarrel in the senate, but that by a resolution of that body an effort at reconciliation has been made.

Last year, Texas was first as a cotton raising state having made 730,000 bales; Mississippi second with 639,000 bales, and Arkansas third with 500,000 bales.

The Rapides Gazette has in its last issue an editorial temperance argument, which we think good. Any of our temperance friends may see it at our sanctum.

"What income have they now, since the loss of their property?" said a lady, of a family in a western village. Why, that nice son of their's continues to come in to his meah.

Sunday furnishes every possible religious facility to the people of Homer. We have a morning and afternoon Sunday school, morning and evening services at church, and instruction in sacred music.

The Monroe Observer speaks of overtures having been made by the Police Jury of Ouachita to Claiborne parish to make the bridge over the Choudrant a free one. This is the first we have ever heard of it.

The receiving of bids for the mail routes published in our last issue will be closed on the 21 day of February. There is ample time yet for bids. Blanks, &c., may be procured from the post master at Homer.

Three Texas Pacific Railroad bills have been introduced in Congress. Not enough yet, we fear, to secure the final passage of any bill, with Randall in secret opposing the bills and strong financial influences against all of them.

We are pleased to observe the familiar face of our old friend, Maj. John Neely, on our streets again. Mr. Neely now lives in Fannin county, Texas, and speaks in most extravagant terms of the prosperity of that portion of the great State.

The Sultan of Turkey since the recent disaster to his arms at Plevna invites mediation of European powers. Germany being hostile thereto it is thought that there is no likelihood of mediation, Russians will not advance immediately, but will await effects of the fall of Plevna.

In another column will be found a full description of the Moffet Register and an abridgement of the law passed by the Virginia Legislature in reference thereto. We ask that all give it a careful reading, as it is extremely probable that a similar law will be passed at the coming session of the Legislature.

We are pleased to chronicle the safe arrival home of Mrs. Drew Ferguson and Mrs. J. L. Avery, from a visit of some weeks to Aberdeen, Miss. Miss Mattie Aycock, the daughter of our worthy tax collector, has also returned from a somewhat extended visit to relatives in Alabama. All these ladies, if possible, are improved by their travels.

Special attention of all concerned, is directed to A. McCranie's "Notice to Customers." He assures us that he means just what he says—no more and no less—and that those who do not heed the warning will learn the fact to their cost. To collect by law means law suits, and then judgments, and seizures and sales of property. The money must come—the last call.

CHRISTMAS.

Many and various are the legends and superstitions which have their origin in the profound veneration felt by all the Christian world for the birth-night of the Christ-child. We cannot recall them all now, and indeed have never known a title of the cherished myths about Christmas tide by all those peoples who love the Lord as their Redeemer from the bonds of Satan. One we now remember—that upon Christmas eve the cock is said to crow all night long, that all evil things which infest the air may flee away.

"And then they say no spirit dares stir abroad; The nights are wholesome, then no planets strike; No fairy takes, no witch has power to charm, So hallowed and gracious is the time."

Indeed it is not strange that the hours of the night of His birth are thought to be free from ill when we think of all the holy attributes, of the sweets and precious promises given to the world when Christ was born. There is not the whole year round a festival so full of mystic meaning so pregnant with tender and hallowed recollections as Christmas eve. Around it cluster the sweet memories of happy childhood, when full scope was given to fancy, and we heard with credulous ears all the wild stories and romances of Christmas time. Ah! how we regret that the hard realities of life—the teachings of this matter of fact age—are fast removing all those charms which the blessed Christmas tide had for us in by-gone days. And how grievous too it must be to the true Christian to think that too many adhere to the custom of celebrating the day by wild revelries in wine wassail and song.

The Christmas is almost here. Before the GUARDIAN shall again make its weekly visit to the firesides of our gentle readers the anniversary will have passed, and it will have been eighteen hundred and seventy-seven years since the dawn of the Christian era—since the sky above the manger resounded with the sweet echoes of the holy anthem, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and good-will to men." We adhere to and believe in the old custom of extending congratulations to friends upon Christmas morn, and as our readers are our best friends we wish them now, in advance, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, with many, very many, hopes for their happiness and prosperity.

Mexican Troubles.

In spite of the assurances offered the United States by Mexico, the danger of war grows more imminent. The following telegrams, taken from last Sunday's Electric Letter, point clearly to the probability of immediate trouble:

GALVESTON, Texas, Dec. 15th.—"News" specials report El Paso troubles have broken out anew, and fighting between State troops and Mexicans has been going on for two days. Following dispatch received by Governor from sheriff of El Paso county:

"There was fighting all day yesterday at San Elizabe between State troops and Mexicans from both sides of the River. (Signed) Chas. Kerber."

Governor Hubbard has telegraphed to President Hayes stating the above facts and that the Mexican force was too strong to be repelled by the Texas troops, he therefore asks the aid of U. S. troops.

New Orleans, Dec. 15th.—Latest dispatches from El Paso report five rangers and a merchant named Ellis killed by the Mexicans. State troops are surrounded by several hundred Mexicans.

We have often heard of the champion mean man, but until now have had no bright and shining example to offer our readers. The old individual to whom we allude said to a friend of ours: "Squire I do reckon I make the finest bacon and the most of it of any man of my means in the parish, but Squire I sells it all, and buys pickled pork." "Why so, Mr. B.," said our friend. "Wall, you see my folks don't like pickled pork."

This is the kind of a silver dollar the Cincinnati Commercial wants. "A dollar with an eagle on it, whose right wing shall fan Washington city, while his left wafts the dust along the streets of San Francisco and his tail spreading over Hudson bay, while his beak is dredging the mud islands from the stream between the Jetties at Southwest Pass."

THE MOFFET REGISTER.

An Abridgement of the Law Passed by the Virginia Legislature in Reference Thereto.

The law as enacted provides for the taking out of a wholesale license, a retail license and a bar-room license, such as may be desired by the applicant upon the conditions set forth in the act. A license to sell by wholesale fixes the minimum at five gallons wholesale and retail at one gallon. A retail license fixes the maximum at five gallons to be delivered in vessels. A bar-room covers only what is sold to be drunk on the premises. The penalty for violation of any of the above regulations is a fine of not less than twenty nor over five hundred dollars and imprisonment from one month to twelve.

To obtain a barroom or retail license, application is to be made to the court of the county or corporation in which the applicant resides, and if the court is satisfied from the testimony that he is a fit person and the locality suitable, upon filing a bond with security of not less than one hundred nor more than one thousand dollars, conditioned to comply with the law, a license shall be granted. If for any cause a license is refused, an appeal may be taken to the circuit court.

The auditor of public accounts is to provide a bar-room register as hereafter specified, and furnish instructions for its use, the same to be placed in the hands of the revenue commissioners for distribution. Separate registers are to be provided for malt liquors and alcoholic liquors. The commissioners place the registers, and it is made their duty to examine them from time to time. Every register is to be locked after inspection and the key retained by the commissioners. It is made the duty of the retail dealer, upon the sale of every half pint, fraction or multiple of spirits, wines or malt liquors, in the presence of the purchaser, to turn the crank of the proper register until the bell has struck once and the dial indicator has moved one point until the amount sold reaches one gallon.

In the case of a bar-room keeper, upon the sale of each drink, in presence of the customer, he is to turn the crank until the bell strikes one and the indicator moves one point on the dial, or in other words, the half pint or fraction thereof is the unit of taxation on the retail dealer, and the drink for the bar room dealer. The following is the table of rates for taxing dealers:

Table with columns: QUANTITY OF LIQUOR, No. of Registrations, Tax on Aleo-holic Liquor, and Tax on Malt Liquors. Rows include Less than half pint, Half pint, More than half pint and less than one pint, One pint, More than a pint and less than 1 1/2 pints, One and a half pints, More than 1 1/2 and less than two pints, Two pints, Half gallon, One gallon.

There is also a specific tax, one-half to be paid when license is granted and the other at the end of six months, the amount of which is regulated by the amount realized from the liquor register. It is fixed for the first year in towns of 2,000 and less at fifty dollars, and over at one hundred dollars; after that it will be determined by the register. It is made the duty of the revenue commissioners to visit each establishment monthly and examine the register and see if same is in order, and also to make a record of the number of drinks of wine, alcoholic and malt liquors registered as sold during the month also the amount sold by retail dealers according to the manner specified, and certify the same to the auditor of accounts, and the treasurer of the county or corporation for the purpose of collecting the tax. Druggists are required to take out a retail dealer's license and subjected to all the duties and penalties of other retail dealers.

The penalties affixed for all violations of the act are very severe, extending in nearly all cases to imprisonment in addition to heavy fines. The Moffet register is the one adopted for use in Virginia and accomplishes the desired purpose. The law has proved very successful, yielding to the State a heavy revenue, and keeps the entire business of distilling, manufacturing or selling any kind of liquors, under the control of the courts, in a systematic manner.

Fall of Plevna.

Plevna, the great Turkish stronghold, has fallen. A desperate effort at a sortie was made by Osman Pasha. He was unsuccessful, and was defeated. His troops perishing with hunger and cold, he was compelled to surrender. This is the most fearful blow the Turkish arms have yet received. The Czar is now enabled to extend his forces, and to bring into more varied operation the large force used in the siege of Plevna. The end of the war is not far off, and that end to our mind can but be advantageous to Russia.

TOWN COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

HOMER, LA., Dec. 11, 1877.

The Board of Mayor and Selectmen met pursuant to adjournment. Present: J. Ferguson, Mayor; M. R. Bryan, A. C. Jones, J. R. Ramsey and A. Weil. Absent: Peter Demetz. The minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

The committee to make up statement of probable expenses of corporation for the year 1878, and to report an ordinance levying a tax to pay the same, reported the following:

Table titled 'Estimate of the Probable Expenses of the Corporation of the Town of Homer for the year 1878'. Items include Mayor's salary, Clerk of Board's salary, Printing expenses, Assessing and collecting taxes, Licenses and Marshal's salary, Improvement of cemetery, For working streets, For Treasurer's commissions, For incidental expenses, For outstanding debts.

(Signed) J. R. RAMSEY, M. REES BRYAN, Com. On motion, the report was received, and ordered to be spread on the minutes. The same committee reported the following:

TAX ORDINANCE.

Be it Ordained by the Mayor and Selectmen of the town of Homer, That there be and is hereby levied and assessed an ad valorem tax of eight and one-half mills upon the value of all species of property, real and personal, situated in the town of Homer, for the year 1878, upon which the State levies and assesses a tax, for general purposes; and a special tax of one and one-half mills as a Cemetery tax; and a License tax.

Upon each and every proprietor or partner engaged in selling spirituous liquors, wines, &c., by the drink, the sum of one hundred dollars; Upon each and every person engaged in selling general merchandise, the sum of fifty dollars; Upon each and every person engaged in selling drugs, the sum of fifteen dollars; Upon each and every person keeping billiard or pool tables, the sum of fifteen dollars for each table; Upon each and every person selling spirituous liquors by the bottle or gallon, the sum of fifty dollars; Upon each and every person keeping a restaurant or eating house, the sum of twenty dollars and fifty cents; Upon each person engaged in keeping a livery stable, the sum of twelve dollars and fifty cents; Upon each person keeping a bakery or beer-shop, the sum of five dollars; Upon each keeper of a ten-pin or bowling alley, or shooting gallery, the same as levied by the State; Upon each hawk and peddler, the sum of fifty dollars; Upon each menagerie or circus, the sum of seventy-five dollars; Upon each and every side-show, varieties and theatre, the sum of twenty dollars; Upon each and every person keeping any game of chance, the sum of fifty dollars; Upon each person engaged in selling stoves or furniture, the sum of twelve dollars and fifty cents; Upon each keeper of a hotel, the sum of twelve dollars and fifty cents; Upon each keeper of a variety store or confectionery, the sum of twelve dollars and fifty cents; Upon each practicing physician and attorney, the sum of ten dollars; Any person pursuing other trades or professions not herein enumerated, upon which the State levies a tax, shall pay ten dollars. (Signed) J. R. RAMSEY, M. REES BRYAN, Com. On motion, the ordinance was unanimously adopted, ordered printed according to law, and the committee discharged. The Mayor reported that he had examined the streets, and found them in good passable condition. The committee on specifications made some recommendations as to the manner of working the streets, repairing bridges, &c., to be incorporated in specifications for 1878. And on motion, Messrs. Weil, Bryan and the Mayor were appointed a committee to let out the contract for working the streets for 1878, either publicly or privately, as they may deem best, according to specifications to be prepared by themselves. On motion, the Marshal's salary for the year 1878 was fixed at four hundred dollars; and the Assessor and Collector's compensation at five per cent, for assessing the taxes for 1878, and five per cent, for all amounts collected on taxes and licenses for said year.

MARSHAL'S REPORT.

To the Mayor and Selectmen of the town of Homer: Gentlemen—I have the honor to submit the following report of money collected by me since my last report:

Table with columns: Name, Amount. Items include S. Y. Webb, license, M. C. Lawrence, license, Mrs. Cooper, tax, Awbrey, fine, Geo. Gill, Thos. Kight, Barrett, license, Lida, fine, Total, Cy Treasurer's receipt, to bal.

Respectfully, MARTIN NALLE, Colr.

D. W. Harris, Tr., in act. with corporation: Dec. 6. To bal. on settlement, Dec. 10. To scrip of collector,

Table with columns: Description, Amount. Items include Total, Dec. 10. By coms. on \$48 39, 1 20, scrip to Board, 45 25, Balance on hand, D. W. HARRIS, Treas., The scrip turned over by the treasurer, (\$45 25.) was counted, checked and burned. The Mayor and Marshal were appointed a committee to examine store in Mr. Muller's shop, and have the same removed, if thought to be dangerous. The Board then adjourned till next regular meeting. (Signed) J. FERGUSON, Mayor. Attest: B. D. HARRISON, Clerk.

Shreveport Bad Roads.

Messrs. Ellington and McHenry, lately returned from Shreveport, inform us that at one point the road in Red River swamp is impassable and that negroes are making a handsome speculation by charging wagoners exorbitant prices for the privilege of driving through the fields along side the road. These prices range all the way from five dollars down. Surely the merchants of Shreveport derive enough advantage from the trade of Claiborne and other parishes east of their city to justify a small expenditure to stop this outrageous imposition. With such difficulties to encounter we feel loath to advise our farmers to haul their cotton Shreveportward.

GRAND ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PUBLIC!

AN EXTRAORDINARY OPENING OF Fall and Winter Goods,

AND A CONCERT OF Centennial Curiosities,

Now on Exhibition at the Mammoth House of D. STEIN & CO., FARMERVILLE, LOUISIANA.

OUR Stock has been carefully selected in the Northern and Eastern Cities, to suit the people, and we are determined not to be undermold by any House in North Louisiana or South Arkansas.

Cotton is down, and Goods must follow!

We are now offering Goods at the following Low Prices: French Calico, 1 yard wide, 10 cents; Calicoes, from 5 to 6 cts, colors guaranteed; Sea Island Cotton, the best, 1 yd wide, 10c; Linseys, from 15 to 20 cents; Large size Shawls, from 75 cents to \$15; Ladies' peg Shoes, \$1 and upwards; Ladies' fine Dress Goods, 20c, worth 40c; 2 yard wide Brown Table Cloths, 35 cents.

We have the largest lot of FLANNELS, QUILTS, JEANS, OSNABURGS, BLANKETS, BED TICKINGS, CASSIMERE and DOMESTICS, which we sell at astonishing low prices.

Our Stock of Ladies', Men's and Children's Shoes were selected, in Philadelphia and Boston markets, with great care as to durability and style. We are receiving daily the latest styles of CLOTHING and FURNISHING GOODS for men and Boys. HATS of the latest fashion for Ladies, Gentlemen and Boys.

Call and examine our magnificent stock of French and German HOSIERY, which we offer at great bargains.

Saddlery, Hardware, Tinware, Queensware, Furniture, Drugs, Perfumery, &c., in great quantities. The world-renowned SINGER SEWING MACHINES, at reduced prices.

BUGGIES and WAGONS of the best make, at the Mammoth Store of D. STEIN & CO.,

And everything usually kept in a first-class Country Store. If you do not see what you want, ask for it. Hides, Tallow, Wool and Cotton taken in exchange for Goods. Farmerville, Louisiana, October 31, 1877.

Partition Sale.

Succession of Dempsey Applewhite. BY virtue of a commission to me directed by the Honorable Parish Court of the parish of Claiborne, I will sell, at the Court-house door in the town of Homer, on

Saturday, the 12th day of January, 1878, the following described tract of Land, situated in the parish of Claiborne, to-wit:

The northwest quarter of Section fifteen, Township twenty-two of Range five. Also, the west half of the southwest quarter of Section eighteen, same Township and Range. Also, the east half of the southeast quarter of Section thirteen, Township twenty-two, Range six. To be sold by order of Court to effect a partition. Terms of sale: Cash. H. W. KIRKPATRICK, Sheriff. Dec. 11, 1877. (pf \$6) 17:ts

Partition Sale.

Succession of Jesse Applewhite. BY virtue of a commission to me directed by the Honorable Parish Court of the parish of Claiborne, I will sell at public auction, at the Court-house door in the town of Homer, on

Saturday, the 12th day of January, 1878, the following described Land, situated in the parish of Claiborne, to-wit:

The west half of the southeast quarter of Section nineteen, Township twenty-two, Range five west. To be sold by order of Court to effect a partition. Terms of sale: Cash. H. W. KIRKPATRICK, Sheriff. Dec. 11, 1877. (pf \$6) 17:ts

Mt. Zion Seminary.

The exercises of this Institution for the year 1878, will commence on

Monday, the 4th day of February next.

Rates of tuition \$2 and \$3 per month, from day of admission. Board \$8 per month. W. H. LESLIE, Principal. Dec. 5, 1877. 16:2m

CHARLEY YANCEY'S WAGON,

TOM EGAN, Driver, MAKES Weekly Trips to Shreveport. Sea Care and attention given to all orders. Prices low, and prompt trips made. Give Tom your business. Oct. 24-10 1/2

NOTICE.

HAVING been constituted by regular power of attorney the agent and attorney-in-fact of all the heirs of the succession of Merrell Monk, Sr., deceased, with full power to settle all the business of the deceased, I call the attention of all parties concerned to this announcement— That I will pay immediately upon presentation all claims against the deceased, and I demand immediate payment of debts due to the estate. The business must be closed out at once. Let this notice be warning to all persons concerned. THOMAS J. MONK. Nov. 21, 1877. 14:1m

Price of Hauling Reduced.

NOW is the time to have your Cotton hauled to Shreveport and sold, for \$1 per hundred. I will make weekly trips to Shreveport. Personal attention given to all orders and sales. W. H. ELLINGTON. Oct. 17, 1877. 9:3m

E. J. CARSTENS & CO.,

Dealers in China, Glass and Crockeryware, Tin and Wooden Ware, Cutlery and House Furnishing Goods of every Description.

A COMPLETE STOCK OF FINE GILT AND DECORATED CHINA DINNER, TEA and TABLE SETS; BOHEMIAN GLASS, FAISSET, FANCY ORNAMENTS.

Fine Silver-Plated Knives, Forks, Spoons, Castors, Pitchers, Fruit Baskets, etc.

Children Carriages, Looking Glasses, Bar Fixtures.

A large assortment of TOYS and Musical Instruments.

Goods carefully packed—no charge for packages. No. 37 Texas St., between Market & Spring. SHREVEPORT, LA. Oct. 24, 1877. 10:3m

DRY GOODS,

GROCERIES, VARIETIES. I HAVE OPENED AND AM NOW SELLING at the Store-house lately occupied by A. W. BARROW,

A large stock of DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, CLOTHING, BOOTS, SHOES, and all articles usually kept in a first-class store. My terms are strictly and emphatically cash. I have purchased my stock in person, and have exercised the greatest care in their selection. My prices are as low as those of any other house in the country. Give me a trial, and you will be satisfied. M. C. LAWRENCE. Oct. 17, 1877. 9:3m

BARGAINS!

GOODS AT SHREVEPORT PRICES AT THE EMPORIUM OF ALEX. WEIL

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—I respectfully invite you to inspect my large and beautifully selected stock of FALL AND WINTER GOODS, consisting of Dry Goods of every description—Clothing, Hats, Boots and Shoes, and almost everything kept in a regular store. Having determined to change my business from the old established rule of long credit and no pay, to that of cash, I will make it to the interest of those purchasing goods to buy of me. Before buying elsewhere, please call and examine my stock. "A penny saved is a penny made." Oct. 24, 1877. 10:3m