CLAIBORNE GUARDIAN.

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B. D. HARRISON,
Publisher and Proprietor.

DRAYTON B. HAYES,
Editor.

HOMER, LA.,
Wednesday.....April 20, 1881.

See Mayor's notice of town election.

District Court will adjourn Thursday.

It is said that one divorce is granted to every eight marriages in Chicago.

We will publish in our next issue an obituary of George W. Price, deceased.

The condition of Lord Beaconsfield is much improved. His physicians are now confident of his ultimate recovery.

George Gill, wife and mother left Homer last Monday on an extensive traveling tour in quest of health and pleasure. May they find both.

It is said that the young man General Lee's daughter was engaged to, was hung as a spy by Garfield during his Tennessee campaign.

The Governor of Massachusetts has appointed ex-United States Attorney-General Devens, to a seat on the supreme bench of that State.

Col. Thomas A. Scott's interest in the Texas and Pacific Railroad which he recently sold to Jay Gould, amounted to nearly four millions.

Ex-Senator Bruce of Mississippi, has declined the position of United States Minister to Brazil, on account of the unhealthiness of the climate.

Col. Thomas A. Scott, the great railroad king of Pennsylvania, has given the princely sum of fifty thousand dollars to Washington and Lee University of Virginia.

A plague of gnats has infested the town since Thursday last. Some call them turkey gnats, others buffalo gnats. By any other name they cannot be much worse.

The new Delaware ballot law is very strict. All ballots must be exactly alike in shape, form and size, and the paper on which they are printed can only be procured from the Secretary of State.

A. F. Jarvis, at one time a prominent citizen of this parish, died in Texarkana on the 13th inst. The deceased was well known here, and connected by marriage with some of the best families of the parish.

Col. J. W. Berry, of Minden, met with a serious accident last week. While attempting to drive his horse on the ferry boat at Sykes' Ferry he was thrown from his buggy and had his arm fractured. He is reported doing well.

It will be seen, by reference to the change in advertisement of "Ragland's Sale and Feed Stable," that Mr. Ragland has associated with him in the business, Mr. W. C. Murrell, and that the firm is now, Ragland & Murrell.

Mr. Evarts, who has gone to Parris to attend the money conference as one of the representatives of the United States, speaks tolerable French. It is said that the French people expect to have another revolution before he finishes his first sentence.

Hon. John S. Young passed through town this week on his way from Monroe, where he had been to attend court, to his home in Shreveport. This gentleman has many friends and admirers here among the people, where he once lived, who are always glad to see him.

The Webster Tribune favors the adoption of Mr. Gunby's resolution admitting young ladies as students into the Louisiana State University. We expressed our approbation of the measure last week, and would be glad to see every journal in the State speak out in its favor.

The President does not appear inclined to withdraw the nomination of Robertson for Collector of Customs at the port of New York. Robertson is very offensive to Conkling, and the prospect of a bitter war between the President and the New York Senator is increasing every day.

The scarcity of cotton seed is occasioning considerable uneasiness in Webster parish. We have heard some inquiries made for seed by our planters, and should the first planting meet with any disaster, seed to replant would be very scarce, and we doubt if the requisite quantity could be had at all.

We call special attention to the announcement of E. L. Johnson, familiarly known as Boss Johnson, for mayor. Mr. Johnson is a good business man, a true gentleman and would make a faithful and excellent officer. We trust he will receive a liberal support. Our citizens can elect no more worthy or deserving gentleman.

This term of court has been the longest holden in Homer for many years. As the court at Farmerville begins next week, Judge Graham will have to adjourn this the third week without having completed the docket. The cases are all of an insignificant nature. Only one or two in which the cause of action is over two hundred dollars in value.

To the Readers of the Guardian.

I have accepted a situation offered me by Major E. H. Burke, of the New Orleans Democrat, which will cause me to be away from home the greater part of the present year. But as neither Mr. Harrison nor I desire that I should entirely sever my connection with the Guardian, my name will remain as editor, and I will furnish whatever I can in the way of correspondence and editorial matter. John E. Hulse, Esq., who supplied my place while I was absent last winter in New Orleans will act as associate editor of the Guardian until further notice; and in all matters connected with the editorial department of the Guardian will represent me while I am absent.

Mr. Hulse is an accomplished, scholarly young gentleman, and under his care the Guardian will doubtless be greatly improved. I commend him to the kind consideration of our patrons.

In this connection it may be proper to remark that the controversy between the Guardian and the Farmerville Gazette has been conducted throughout by Mr. Hulse alone, it having begun in my absence. Whether it will be continued or not, rests entirely with him.

Trusting that the patrons of the Guardian may find Mr. Hulse an editor to their liking, and thanking my readers for many kindnesses, I am respectfully,

D. B. HAYES.

Sunday School Pic-Nic.

The committee to arrange for a Sunday School Pic-Nic met at the M. E. Church at 4 o'clock, p. m., Sunday, April 17th, 1881. On motion, T. S. Sligh was elected chairman, and A. H. Davidson secretary.

The motion that the three Sunday Schools of Homer have a union pic-nic on Friday, the 29th day of April, 1881, at or near the spring on Beaver creek, near the four mile post on the road leading from Homer to Arizona, was unanimously adopted.

The secretary was instructed to invite the Arizona Sabbath School to meet and take part in the pic-nic.

W. J. Barrow, A. S. Ford, and Misses Olivia Wilder and Ida Otts, were appointed a committee to arrange about the grounds.

J. W. McHenry, W. W. Otts, T. S. Sligh and A. H. Davidson, committee to arrange for conveyances for those members of S. S. who cannot make arrangements for themselves.

We invite all the friends of the Sabbath Schools to join us in the pic-nic and to take a basket of provisions to the grounds, where we will all enjoy ourselves. We wish all those who intend to attend the pic-nic to meet at the M. E. Church at 8 o'clock Friday morning, 29th April, and form a procession to go to the grounds.

Committee on conveyances requested to confer with merchants in regard to allowing their salesmen to attend the pic-nic.

The secretary was requested to furnish copy of proceedings for publication in the Claiborne Guardian.

Committee adjourned to meet Friday night next.

T. S. SLIGH, Ch'n.
A. H. DAVIDSON, Secy.

SHREVEPORT.

A Terrible Domestic Tragedy—Killing of a Seducer by the Victim's Father.

(Special to the Democrat.)

SHREVEPORT, April 11.—Capt. S. M. Thomas, of this city, went into the room of his brother-in-law, M. Hugh Dickson, living at the Rusle Point plantation, on Red river, in this parish, eighteen miles above the city, yesterday morning about daylight, waked him up out of his bed and shot him through the head with a pistol, from the effect of which Dickson died in about three hours. Thomas had obtained undoubted evidence that Dickson had drugged his daughter and outraged her person. He at once returned to Shreveport and gave himself up. Great sympathy is felt for Thomas in the community, and it is generally regarded that he performed a righteous act. Capt. Thomas is well known in North Louisiana, and during reconstruction represented the Bossier district in the State Senate. Dickson, the deceased, was an intelligent and well educated young man, single, and aged about 35 years. He was born in Bossier parish, and was a planter of considerable means. The tragedy has created a profound sensation here, as several worthy and highly respectable families are involved.

[Associated Press Report.]

SHREVEPORT, La., April 11.—Samuel M. Thomas, of this city, shot and killed Hugh M. Dickson yesterday morning at his plantation, sixteen miles up the river, in this parish. Dickson was his brother in-law and confidential friend, who had chloroformed and ruined Thomas' daughter. She married four month ago and gave birth to a child last week, when she made an affidavit charging her uncle as the father. All the parties concerned are of prominent families. Thomas surrendered, but his course is too strongly indorsed to give him any trouble.

"A 5 line advertisement inserted one week in 300 newspapers for ten dollars," so reads the advertisement of a prominent advertising agency in a New York Daily. A little over three cents for each paper, and about one-third of a cent a line. We have our opinion of any paper that will prostitute its columns in this way, and that opinion is, that failure will certainly be its lot before many moons shall have passed.

Running a Paper.

All persons that have ever engaged in any enterprise of a public character have learned how hard the public are to please, and the morbid disposition of a great number of persons to grumble and fault-find. No matter how anything is done, they would have it otherwise. In no department is this wretched disposition of a portion of the public felt more sensitively than by those engaged in the great work of journalism. The editor and publisher may labor to make an interesting and readable paper and to give to every subscriber many times the worth of the subscription price, and yet when the paper is sent out with the very best selections which the editor can cull from the exchanges, and with all the local news he can gather, and with editorials upon such subjects as he thinks will profit and interest his readers, and yet the subscribers will grumble, and men can be found who have never read a dozen papers in their lives who imagine they could get up a better and more readable paper. We have often desired to hear many men whom we have met attempt to preach or to edit a newspaper, or do anything else than what they are doing. Nobody can do these things to suit them, and we would like to hear and see them make a display of their ideal standard of how the thing should be done. When they make the attempt they may please themselves, but somehow or other we have always thought that after all some of us might not be any better pleased with their efforts than they are with ours. We publish our paper every week and try to make it interesting and instructive to our readers, and we do not say it boastingly, but state it as a fact that we do and have always published in the Guardian more original editorial matter than any country paper in the State. But still we hear of people complaining that the Guardian has nothing in it.

We have no idea of ever being able to please everybody, and do not propose to be foolish enough to try; but we do propose to continue to publish a first-class country paper—one which those who read will find well worth the price we charge for it. A great deal of this grumbling results from bad readers at last. They take up the paper and glance over it for something wonderful or strange—fail to find it—throw the paper aside as worthless. Now all intelligent people know that a paper can not, at every issue, contain articles of such a character, but they can and generally do contain reading which will benefit the majority of their readers. We have seen few papers which were not worth more than the subscription price. The great want of the times is not better papers, but more intelligent and appreciating readers. We do not intend to cast any reflections upon the readers of the Guardian, for we flatter ourselves that we have as intelligent and refined a class of readers, taken as a mass, as any country paper in the land, and the hearty support and encouragement they have given us is truly gratifying and highly appreciated.

The division of the Democratic party in the State of Arkansas upon the question of the payment of certain portions of the State debt will likely end in the organization of a new party, which will run a separate ticket at the next State election in opposition the Democratic ticket. The leaders of the movement claim to represent the liberal and progressive element of the party, and believe they can rally to their standard the greater part of the Independent, Greenback and Republican vote. They do not claim to be repudiators, but oppose the payment or the levy of any tax to pay in whole or in part certain bonds which they claim to be illegal. The new party claim to be seventy-five thousand strong, and the leaders are very determined.

Judge Treat of the United States court at St. Louis, has decided that the Singer sewing machine patents have expired. Anybody has the right to manufacture Singer machines. The suit was for a violation of the Singer trade-mark, and the Judge further decided that the plaintiff cannot create a monopoly for the practical extension of a patent beyond its legal term under the guise of a trade-mark. The various sewing machine patents have been an enormous tax upon the people, and their expiration cannot fail to reduce the price of the machines, which have become a necessity in every household. The inventors were long since amply rewarded for their mechanical skill employed in the manufacture of these machines.

Senator David Davis has written a letter advising the disbandment of the Democratic party. Senator Davis says that both parties are controlled by monopolies and neither can assert its will or policy, or that of its constituents. The Senator thinks that if the Democratic party would disband, the Republican party would fall to pieces because it is only kept together by Federal patronage and by the agitation of sectional questions, and the two old parties being destroyed would open the way for new parties representing the will of the people.

For nineteen years our esteemed friend W. H. Scanland, has owned and controlled the Bossier Banner, and in that time has written much that redounds greatly to his credit as an able journalist, a good citizen and a man of pure morals. Such papers as the Banner do much toward the elevation and improvement of society. May Bro. Scanland live to publish the Banner many years longer.

A Noble Enterprise.

Drayton B. Hayes is now connected with the New Orleans Democrat as special traveling correspondent. In addition to the other duties of a traveling correspondent, the following special work has been assigned to him: To furnish the Democrat with full accounts of the parishes in the 4th and 5th Congressional Districts; their geographical position, population, size, soil, water courses, minerals, school and church facilities, &c., &c. This work is undertaken by the Democrat for the general good of the state, without hope of other reward than such as will accrue to it and other enterprises from the increased prosperity of the state caused by a flow of emigration. This week Mr. Hayes will spend in Webster parish, collecting data for the article on that parish. Next week he will go to Union parish. He will be grateful to the people wherever he may go for aid in this great and valuable work. While there are some persons who may be honestly opposed to emigration for what they conceive to be valuable reasons, there can be no doubt in the minds of the majority that Louisiana would be benefitted by an addition to their population of honest, energetic and industrious white people. We have a State second to no other one in the Union in all those advantages sought by agricultural classes. Capitalists, too, will find, when the facts are made known to the world, that they can invest their money to a splendid advantage right here in the way of manufactories, &c. The Democrat proposes to let the world know what Louisiana really is and then men seeking homes or to invest their funds will have only themselves to blame if they do not take advantage of all the State offers them.

There is a movement on foot in Mississippi to unite the Republicans, Independents and Greenbackers in opposition to the Democrats in the approaching State election. It is said that ex-Gov. Alcorn will be the Fusionist's candidate for Governor, and they count on many Democratic votes. The President favors the movement, we suppose, with a view of breaking up the solid South. One feature of the movement is to put good men on the ticket, and thus overcome the fear of the whites of negro dominion. In case this movement should succeed in Mississippi, similar attempts will be made in other Southern States.

The Chicago Times says that the Illinois Legislature is an ignorant and corrupt body, and launches forth into the extreme proposition to do away with all State Legislatures and let Congress make all our laws for us. The New York Sun very properly severely denounces such revolutionary doctrines. There are as many people displeased with Congress as with the Illinois Legislature. If the suggestion of the Chicago Times was adopted, these people would call for like action in regard to Congress, and leave us without any government at all.

We publish to-day two telegrams from the New Orleans Democrat with regard to the killing of Hugh Dickson by Col. S. M. Thomas, his brother-in-law. The editor of the Guardian knows both parties well, and saw them together in New Orleans a year ago. Our opinion of Mr. Dickson was a favorable one. We were therefore profoundly astonished to hear of this fearful tragedy and its horrible cause. Of course there can be but one opinion as to the justice of the dead man's fate, if he was really guilty of the alleged offense.

The trial of Beaumont Buck has resulted in his acquittal. He was acquitted by a New York, and not by a Texas jury. If he had been acquitted by a Texas jury the Northern papers would have howled about the admission of an acquitted Texas criminal into the classic precincts of West Point. As it is they are compelled to recognise the verdict of a jury composed of their own intelligent citizens. It makes a vast difference to the Northern mind which looks upon a Southern jury as twelve empannelled criminals.

Justice Woods, of the United States Supreme Court, recently rendered a decision which shows that the railroad corporations of the country have little to hope for from him. He decided that the legislature have the authority, and the power to delegate that authority to a commission to regulate fares and freight, and held that it was the duty of the State to regulate the passenger and freight trafic on railways, and to insist on reasonable rates.

The parish has lost in the resignation of B. R. Coleman as Parish Surveyor, an efficient and faithful officer. We regret the force of circumstances which rendered his resignation necessary. J. H. Simmons has been appointed Mr. Coleman's successor, and is a gentleman well qualified for the position, and will make a good surveyor.

The New York World's Fair Commissioners are cheerful again. They say now that they have received sufficient pledges to assure the success of the show. It is further announced that it will be held in the same building as the Philadelphia Centennial, it having been purchased for the purpose.

The weather for the last week has been quite favorable for the planters. From the best information we have, we judge that the bulk of the cotton crop is planted. There is considerable complaint about the corn not having come up well. A warm rain would be very acceptible and beneficial.

V. S. & P. Railroad.

As there is no question in which many of our readers feel a more lively interest than in the completion of the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Railroad, we publish the following article, taken from the N. O. Democrat. This article contains the latest and best information we have in regard to the matter:

It seems almost certain that the V., S. and P. railroad, more familiarly known as the North Louisiana road, has been purchased by the company of which Col. Tom Scott is the head and representative. This road is now about seventy-six miles in length, and runs through the alluvial region lying between Vicksburg and Monroe. With a little reparation and with such improvement as may be necessary to raise the road-bed above high water mark, it must be regarded as a very valuable piece of property. Connecting the Ouachita with the Mississippi river, laying under tribute rich bottoms of the Roundaway, Tensas, Jo's Bayou, Macon and Boeuf, and operating as a low-water outlet for all the produce of the Ouachita, Bartholomew, Saline, and the other streams north and west of Monroe, this road, even as it stands, is capable of a great and lucrative development. It has not, in the past, attained as a large usefulness as it might have attained. A lack of means to place it in full condition and to develop to the utmost intrinsic capacity has prevented the present as the past managements of the road from reaping benefits which, under more favorable circumstances, they might easily have reaped. The road has always been trammeled and embarrassed by financial difficulties. It has always been compelled to forego a great many advantages which the management fully recognized, but which they found themselves unable to realize. And the same causes which have curtailed their usefulness have at last operated to force them into this sale, by which the control, if not the exclusive ownership of property, passes into other hands.

We frankly avow that, on many considerations, we shall be sorry to see displaced the gentlemen who for so long have been prominent in the management—if, indeed, such displacement be contemplated by the purchasers. These gentlemen while they may not on all occasions have been able to do everything they could wish for the people in their territory, have certainly been animated by the kindest spirit and the most friendly purposes. The people recognize this and are correspondingly grateful. But it is impossible to deny that all the substantial interests of the section will be promoted by the road passing into hands that are competent to achieve its legitimate destiny and to lift it up to the height of usefulness it has a right to occupy. Valuable though it be, even in its present condition of development, it will if extended and properly connected, become enormously and incalculably valuable. It is possible that the Shreveport extension still remains the most important field of progress open to the road, but there are other extensions which will contribute vastly to its business, and may eventually become most potent factors of its wealth. A branch running northwest to Camden and Arkadelphia, taking Bastrop and Ouachita City in its way, and another running due north to Hamburg and Monticello, would bring to the road and, naturally, to New Orleans prodigious streams of commerce. And should these things be done, with a latitudinal line to Shreveport, tapping Minden, Homer, Vienna and Sparta, the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific railway would become one of the greatest carriers of produce in the country.

The fact that the road has been sold to Col. Scott's company contains every assurance that the new owners will perceive the advantages within its reach, and that they will have the means as well as the inclination to seize these advantages. Let us hope that it will be so!

The Washington correspondent of the New Orleans Times, telegraphs that journal under date of the 12th inst., as follows:

The colored delegation from Louisiana, Pinchback, Dumont and others, start home to-night. They got nothing decisive touching appointments. In the new United States District Court of Louisiana appointments have about been decided upon. They are: Boarman, Judge; Dan Gorham, United States District Attorney; Ross Wilkinson, of Caddo, or Martinet, of St. Martin, United States Marshal. Martinet is Darrall's man and will probably get it. Antoine stands first for the Shreveport postoffice.

It is alleged by the dissatisfied that this year winter's tale is altogether too long.

We notice that our friend, A. Moyaux, jr., an able an enterprising journalist and editor of the Country Visitor, will publish soon the Country Visitor's Magazine, containing discriptions of the Louisiana and Mississippi Lake and Sea side resorts, sketches, novelettes, poetry, &c. The magazine will be sold at ten cents a copy and we doubt not will repay perusal.

It is now said that the new book of Jefferson Davis, "The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government," will issue from the publishing house of the Appletons in a short time. The New Orleans Times says that an agent is in that city soliciting subscribers. The book has excited great interest throughout the entire country.

On each side of every compartment in the railway car of India is a revolving lattice, which is kept constantly wet by a reservoir of water on the top of the carriage. A revolving lattice is in the form of a spokeless wheel, and is constructed of fibrous particles of bamboo, cocoanut and rice straw. When this is thoroughly wet the hot air passing through becomes cool and delicious.

A young man who didn't like the color of his hair wrote to a chemist, asking: "What is the best dying receipt?" The chemist wrote back: "Fool with an empty shotgun."

A married woman said to her husband, "You have never taken me to the cemetery." "No, dear," he replied, "that is a pleasure I have yet in anticipation."

Hunting bear is good sport, but when the bear hunts the hunter it looks like carrying the joke too far.

Some people think that in not minding their own business they are serving the Lord.