



BY M. G. DAVIS:

"THE 'SUN' SHINES FOR ALL."

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VOL. III.

CITY OF CARROLLTON, PARISH OF JEFFERSON, LA., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1860.

NO. 20.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Wife's Dower.

BY A RETIRED ATTORNEY.

Everybody who knew John Gordon knew him to be one of the meanest and most contemptible men that ever was permitted to walk the earth.

John was pretty well off, so far as this world's goods were concerned. His property was all invested in buildings which had cost him some thirty thousand dollars.

Mrs Gordon was a poor woman, and had been obliged to work very hard for a living. Probably she married on purely prudential considerations.

When they had been married some three years, John was taken sick, and lingered along for a year, during which time his wife was an excellent and devoted nurse.

One day I heard that John Gordon was dead. It was a small loss to the community, and I could not think of pitying his wife.

I neither thought nor heard any more of John Gordon or his wife, for two months, when a woman appeared at my office, and introduced herself as the latter.

"Mine is a very hard case, Mr. Doekot," said she, seating herself by my side.

"It seems I am not to have this," she replied, gloomily.

"Peter Gordon has taken possession of the estate, declaring it belongs to him. He says my husband said it belonged to him a few weeks before his death."

"How could that be?" "Peter showed me the deed, and says it has been recorded."

"Does he! So much the better for you, madam. The law gives one half of his personal estate."

"But he sold it for one dollar," interrupted Mrs. Gordon.

"He could not sell it without your concurrence. Did you release your right to dower in the premises?"

"No sir; Peter says I did, though, and showed me my name, duly witnessed, on the deed."

"Didn't you sign it?" "No, sir."

"Then it is a forgery." "I suppose it is."

"You are confident you did not sign your name to the deed?" "I am very sure I did not, and for a good reason."

"How's that?" "I cannot write; I never even wrote my name. I was brought up in the country, where girls did not get so much schooling as now. My folks were very poor, and I never had a chance to go to school," replied Mrs. Gordon with some confusion.

"Did your husband know that you could not write?" "No; I never told him."

I dismissed her with the request that she would call the next day. I went at once to the Registry, of Deeds, and found that Mrs. Gordon had told a straight story.

Her miserable, contemptible husband had given his property to his brother in his last days, so as to cheat his wife, who had cared for him in health, and nursed him in sickness, of her just claim upon his estate!

He was a villain! I need not say I felt a deep interest in the case of my client, and resolved to bring matters to an issue at once.

The next day, when she called, she directed me to her sister

by whom it could be proved that Mrs. Gordon could not write her name, who had seen her mark often, and within a short time.

The person who professed to have witnessed the signature of Mrs. Gordon was a clerk in the office of Peter. My first move was to take steps to arrest him on charge of fraud, and to sue his employer for my client's share of the rents, which he had just collected, and which he had refused to pay over to her.

When I had proceeded thus far, I received a visit from Peter Gordon. "What do you mean, sir?" he asked sourly.

"I mean to get justice for the widow." "Her husband was worth nothing when he died."

"But his wife has a one-third interest in his real estate." "It was sold to me, and she signed away her right to dower."

"Did she?" "Certainly, she did."

"Did you see her sign?" "To be sure I did; so did my clerk."

"There is a warrant out for the arrest of your clerk; and I have some hopes that he will turn State's evidence, and convict his principal."

He started back with astonishment and terror. "I—I don't understand you!" stammered he.

"Don't trouble yourself about it, Mr. Gordon; you will understand it all in due time."

"For God's sake, don't arrest my clerk. He will be the ruin of me," groaned he.

"You should have thought of that before."

"You don't mean to say that everything isn't all right about my brother's affairs! Because, if it isn't, I will make it right, you know," he whined, in supplicating tones.

"You say you saw Mrs. Gordon sign that deed?" "Well—no; not exactly; but I supposed she signed it."

"You know she didn't." "How should I know?"

"She can't write! She never even wrote her name in her life!" "Gracious!"

I pressed the rascal closely, and made him acknowledge that his clerk had signed the name for a consideration. I would have caused both of them to be sent to the State Prison, if Mrs. Gordon had not begged me to spare them. As it was, I secured the entire income of the estate for my client, and charged my bill to Peter, who was but too glad to pay it.

Those Prophets of Old.—How rich the following paragraph appears, which was originally printed in the English Quarterly Review, in March, 1825:

We are not advocates for visionary projects that interfere with useful establishments. We scout the idea of a railroad as impracticable!

What can be more palpably absurd and ridiculous than the prospects held out of locomotives traveling twice as fast as stage coaches? We should as soon expect the people of Wollwich to suffer themselves to be fired off upon one of Congreve's ricochet rockets, as to put themselves at the mercy of such a machine going at such a rate.

What is the difference between an emperor and a beggar! The one issues mandates; the other manifests toes without his shoes.

If a tree were to break a window, what would the window say? Tremendous.

An inspiring sight for a glazier; the early dawn when it breaks in the windows.

OFFICIAL

CARROLLTON COUNCIL.

REGULAR MEETING.

WEDNESDAY, August 22, 1860.

Present: Hon. A. S. Ferth, Mayor, and Messrs. J. Davenport, F. Fischer, William Mayo, G. Herrle and Charles Engleman.

Absent: Messrs. J. R. Hutchison, George Brookes and F. Schuler.

The minutes of July 25 and August 8th, were read and approved.

Treasurer Kern's Report for the two weeks ending August 8, 1860, was read showing a balance of \$5 01 cash on hand.

Treasurer Kern's Report for the two weeks ending this day, was read showing a balance of \$59 71 cash on hand.

A letter was read from Mr. J. R. Hutchison tendering his resignation as Councilman. On motion, it was laid on the table subject to call.

The following report was read and received, and on motion, the action of the Mayor was approved

CARROLLTON, August 8, 1860.

Hon. Mayor and Council.

GENTLEMEN: I respectfully report to you that I drew warrants on the 4th inst., for thirty-four hands amounting to \$799 25 per Commissary's Pay Roll, for July for work done on the Levee, making the Resolution of 2nd of May, for my authority. Said resolution does not in so many words refer to Levee hands, but believing it to be the intention and meaning of it to apply to all hands employed by the Commissary, I applied it in this case in order that the hands should be satisfied and the work continue. To avoid any further difficulty, I suggest that you pass a Resolution authorizing the drawing of warrants for Levee and Shellroad hands at the end of each month as in the case of the Street hands; and ask your approval of my act in the premises.

A. S. FERTH, Mayor.

A letter was read from Comptroller Porter, asking what disposition shall be made of certain tax-bills of 1859, returned by late Collector Duffy, as uncollectable, to-wit: No. 416 against Joint Committee of the Parish \$550 and No. 1,163 against New Orleans, Jackson & Great Northern Railroad Company, \$5.

On motion of Mr. Engleman, they were ordered filed away.

The following report was read, received and ordered spread on the Record.

Hon. Mayor and Council

of the City of Carrollton.

Gentlemen—I respectfully report the following balances standing on the Books of the Corporation against Mr. William L. Duffy, this day, to-wit:

Balance against W. L. Duffy as Treasurer.....\$3,684 52

Balance against W. L. Duffy as Collector..... 772 74

Total.....4,457 26

C. C. PORTER, Comptroller.

August, 22, 1860.

Commissary Deibel's Reports for June and July of work done on Streets and Levee were read, received and ordered filed.

A report from Treasurer Kern was read, stating that the late Treasurer had not posted his Books since April 1860. On motion, it was received.

A report was read from P. A. Bivens, Secretary of the Parish Committee, giving a list of bills approved by said Committee on the 30th of July 1860, and amounting to \$4,875 22. On motion it was received to be filed.

A letter was read from Mrs. E. M. Gardner of Plaquemine Parish, asking to be released from payment of taxes on two slaves hired here, for the reason that she has paid taxes on them in Plaquemine. On motion, it was received, and referred to the Finance Committee.

A letter was read from F. Kern, offering himself as a candidate for the offices of Treasurer and Collector. On motion, it was received.

A letter was read from Mr. L. Millaudon, asking permission to fence in Squares, Nos. 90 to 94, 106 to 110 and 122 to 126 with all the streets adjacent and comprised between Canal Avenue, Lower Line, Seventh and Tenth streets. On motion, it was referred to the Streets and Landings Committee.

A notice was read from Sheriff Drex, for the appointment of an Appraiser in the suits Town of Carrollton, vs. Succession of Wm. Jones. On motion of Mr. Mayo, the Mayor was authorized to appoint an Appraiser.

A petition, notice and demand was read from Clerk Baisson, in the suit of the City of New Orleans, vs. Town of Carrollton—No. 1,801 for \$2,440 and interest. On motion of Mr. Davenport, the papers were referred to the Finance Committee with power to act.

A letter was read from Messrs. Lethique & Madero, of Jefferson City, contractors for hauling shells and bats, asking the privilege of running their carts without License.

A motion of Mr. Engleman to grant the request was decided to be lost.

On motion of Mr. Engleman it was after suspending the Rules.

Resolved, That the Mayor and Comptroller are authorized to issue public cart Licenses to expire on the 31st of December, 1860, to all persons who pay the half of the yearly price of said Licenses as fixed by the Ordinance of December last; provided, it is shown, that the Cart for which License is granted has not been run the whole year previously.

The following report was read, received and adopted, and the contract and bond approved.

Hon. Mayor and Council.

The Mayor and Finance Committee respectfully submit the contract made by them with R. L. Preston, Attorney, to attend to the Law Business of the City at \$25 a month and 25 per cent commissions on all money collected and paid into the Treasury, and report, that

they accepted Mr. Thomas L. Preston as security on the Bond of said R. L. Preston for \$2,000, subject to the approval of the Council.

(Signed,) A. S. FERTH, WM. MAYO, CHAS. ENGLEMAN.

The following report was read, received and adopted, and the Quarterly Report of Treasurer Duffy, ordered spread on the Minutes.

Hon. Mayor and Council.

Your Finance Committee to whom was referred the communication of Mr. W. L. Duffy of July 3d, 1860, on the subject of an alleged robbery of the funds of this City, to the amount of \$1571 25, beg leave to report: That after a careful examination of all the information we have been able to get on the subject, we cannot possibly agree with Mr. Duffy, that the loss should fall on the Corporation and therefore recommend the Council to repudiate all such propositions.

Your Committee find the Report of Treasurer Duffy for the three months ending April 30th, 1860, to agree with the Comptroller's Books, and therefore recommend its reception and that it be spread on the record: At the same time, we have to report that the Treasurers own Day Book shows the receipt of \$100, more during that quarter than he reported either to the Council or Comptroller by proper voucher.

(Signed,) CHAS. ENGLEMAN, WM. MAYO.

Treasurer's Report for the Quarter ending April 30, 1860.

Balance last Report.....\$1,265 81

Received since.....

On Real Estate Tax.....\$2,158 29

On License Account..... 265 66

On Public School acct..... 639 50

On Bills Receivable, (Market Notes)..... 482 50

On Bills Receivable, (License Notes)..... 75 00

On Cemetery account..... 39 00

On Timber tax..... 15 60

On Flatboat tax..... 10 00

On Recording Fees..... 6 50

On Interest account..... 10 20

On Miscellaneous Revenues..... 1 50-3703 75

..... 7,969 56

Disbursements:

On Salary account.....\$1924 30

On Public School..... 1139 10

On Law Suit..... 228 50

On Streets & Bridges..... 653 55

On Shell Road..... 248 45

On Fire Department..... 275 00

On Criminal Fees..... 165 65

On Expense..... 77 00

On Stationery..... 28 00

On Parish Courthouse and Jail..... 43 25-4782 80

Balance..... 3,486 76

On hand 20 License Notes amounting to..... 891 00

Nine Market Notes to gether..... 1417 50-2228 50

..... 5525 26

Also, a Note of Attorney Upton, of Four Hundred and thirty one Dollars..... 431 00-431 00

Wm. L. DUFFY, Treasurer.

City of Carrollton, April 30, 1860

The following resolutions from the Finance Committee were read, received and adopted after suspending the rules.

Resolved, That the Comptroller be and is hereby directed to notify Mr. W. L. Duffy as Principal and Messrs. Pascalis Labarre and Gustave Leroy as his Securities, of the exact balance standing on the Books of the City against said W. L. Duffy, and demand payment thereof from each of said parties, and in default of payment within ten days after notice, the Comptroller is further directed to place a controlled bill for the amount due, in the hands of the Attorney, for collection by suit.

Resolved, That the Mayor is authorized to draw his warrants on the Treasurer, in favor of the following persons, and for the amounts set opposite their names, for Jury service in the June Term of 1860.

E. Commagere, for Recording Judgments.....205 00

J. D. Kamper, Justice Fees in Tax Suits.....719 75

(Signed,) CHAS. ENGLEMAN, WM. MAYO.

The following report was read, received and adopted.

The Committee to whom was referred the matter of a certain Right of Way and the communication of G. C. Duncan, President of the New Orleans, and Carrollton Rail Road Company, proposing to adjust the difficulty concerning that Right of Way, by a donation of the excess of the Square A. 16, over the dimensions sold to Paul Koerber, and represented by them to be about 26 feet width and 87 feet length, which excess is to be used in the widening of Levee street at the point where the Lake Rail Road turns, report: That we find some difficulties in the Way, which are not easy to adjust and therefore, your Committee recommend that the Council accept the proposition of the Rail Road Company, with the proviso, that the Company puts the City in possession of said excess of land and in default of doing so within a reasonable time that measures be taken to move the curve of the Lake Rail Road, which now encroaches on the Banquette of Levee and Upper Line Streets.

A. S. FERTH, J. DAVENPORT, F. FISCHER, GEO. HERRLE.

The following resolution offered by Mr. Herrle, was read and adopted after suspending the rules.

Resolved, That the Mayor is authorized to draw his warrants at the end of each month, in favor of the hands employed during the month on the Levee and Shell Road Works, now in progress and for the amounts due said hands as set forth on the Pay Rolls of the Superintendents of said Works, and certified correct by the Streets and Landings Committee or a majority of said Committee.

On motion of Mr. Engleman, it was Resolved, That the Mayor be and is requested to petition the City of New Orleans, to make and continue the Canal Avenue Shell Road through the limits of said City, to the Shell Road of the Canal Company.

Sundry bills were read: and on motion the rules were suspended and the Mayor was authorized to draw warrants for the following persons and amounts named.

J. G. Drex, transferred Jury Certificate of Elijah Bell.....\$22 50

J. G. Drex, transferred Jury Certificate of B. Bronsema 18 00

John Francis Jury Certificate..... 6 00

Louis Deeneres, 866 bbls shells 242 48

P. C. Peret 1059 bbls brickbats 243 57

P. C. Peret 564 bbls brickbats 129 72

P. C. Peret 10404 bbls brickbats 239 31

L. Millaudon 4565 feet Bridge Lumber..... 91 30

E. Commagere, Recorder 148 Transcripts..... 74 89

W. L. Duffy, costs and commission paid in 1859, etc..... 28 80

H. H. Gogreve, mails, etc..... 12 35

Wm. Herrle, mails..... 8 65

J. Davenport, 1 gunnel..... 8 50

A. Jones, iron pants..... 1 50

F. Wattle, 1 Sign "Carrollton Pound"..... 2 80

F. Brauns, removing 15 eggs and 1 goat..... 4 00

Shoeb Barra removing dogs..... 4 80

Joint Constable Warrants: Sheriff Drex, maintenance of prisoners.....\$119 45

Sheriff Drex, fees in Criminal..... 91 57

Sheriff Drex, conveying prisoners to Penitentiary and Asylum..... 65 79

Police Jury Right Bank, Criminal fees paid Justice of the Peace and Constable..... 137 94

R. L. Preston, District Attorney 15 Convictions in June..... 19 65

E. Buisson Clerk, costs in Criminal cases..... 63 38

J. D. Kamper, Justice of the Peace fees in Criminal cases..... 51 32

S. Kerner Constable, fees in Criminal cases..... 49 45

Jefferson Journal, Advertising for Election in 1859..... 14 15

S. N. Cannon, sundries for Jail and Courthouse..... 2 39

Brookes & Pursglove, repairing Pump..... 92

S. J. Peters, Jury Service in 1857..... 26

A motion of Mr. Engleman that the Council proceed to the election of Treasurer and Collector, was carried and the President named Messrs. Mayo and Davenport, Tellers.

On the first ballot, Mr. Frederick Kern, received six votes and the President declared Mr. Kern, duly elected.

On motion the Council adjourned until Wednesday, September 5, 1860, at 5 o'clock P. M.

A true copy. G. C. PORTER, Secy.