

# ST. LANDRY PARISH CLARION.

"Here shall the press the people's rights maintain, Unawed by influence and unbribed by gain."

VOL. I. NO. 6.

OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1890.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$2 A YEAR.

## THE CLARION.

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OPELOUSAS, NOVEMBER 15, 1890.

Opelousas Union No. 451 meets every other Saturday at 4 p. m., in Chachere's Hall, J. J. Thompson, president; S. M. Peters, secretary.

Caledonia Union No. 663 meets the 1st and 3d Saturdays of every month, at the secretary's home. Rene Carriere president, G. T. St. Cyr vice-president, A. Valin secretary, Mrs. A. Valin treasurer, John Jennings chairman, Walter St. Cyr lecturer, Armand Carriere assistant lecturer, Giffmer Soumier doorkeeper, Albert Rider assistant doorkeeper, Albert Whitley sergeant-at-arms.

Iberia parish gave Hon. Andrew Price 975 votes for Congress.

Another drugstore is about to be opened in Opelousas.

Warmoth was defeated by over 4000, and Coleman over 3000 votes.

Congressman Robertson got 702 votes in his home parish, East Baton Rouge.

The lottery does not like the Farmers' Alliance; neither does the Republican party like it, especially in Kansas.

The police jury has appropriated \$2500 to repair and fit up the Clerk and Recorder's office.

Mr. Eugene V. Richard, born and raised here at Opelousas, died on the 10th inst., aged 56 years and 4 months.

District Court closed here last Saturday, and opened at Crowley on Monday.

It is said that Prof. Koch, of Berlin, has cured a case of consumption by his newly discovered method of inoculation.

The Morgan City Review says: "Seven candidates for sheriff in the field, with the election nearly two years hence."

An oil well four feet deep, yielding one gallon of oil per day, was recently reported in Lafayette parish; how is it progressing?

Rev. Father Jouan of Washington, La., has been appointed to succeed the late Rev. Father Jaquet at New Iberia.

The Louisiana Midland Railroad Company has been chartered, and proposed to build a road from New Iberia to Abbeville and thence to Orange, Texas.

Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas wife of Thos. More, died at their home near Opelousas, on the 11th inst., aged 38 years and 10 months. She was buried at Arnaudville.

After several attempts, and getting too many of the wrong kind and not enough of the right kind of accents, we have just received the bill of a third lot of accents, and hope to publish some French next week.

President Harrison has proclaimed Thursday, the 27th inst., a day of thanksgiving and prayer. On that day the Democrats will do the thanksgiving, and the Republicans will do the praying.

After the passage of the McKinley bill the prices of goods, especially the classes of goods usually bought by farmers and other working people, went up; but Republican votes went down or over, and Mr. McKinley and his party went under.

Another cotton-picking machine is on the tapis. This one is said to be a success, can pick a bale in two hours. One could make money here now. The fields are white with cotton, and the pickers are comparatively few. Some fields have not been picked at all. The hands who made the crop are not sufficient to pick it. The surplus labor of the country seems to have been taken up in the sugar and rice harvests, where better wages can be made. In this section where sugar and especially rice are growing industries, unless there be an increase in labor force from migration, it seems that cotton picking will have to be reduced or checked, on account of the difficulty in getting it picked. Unfortunately rice harvesting, cotton picking and sugar rolling all come together. One planter near here says he has yet about 200 bales of cotton in the field, and that he is bound to lose some seventy-five bales from the delay in picking. Another one with a small but good crop, made chiefly with a hired hand who left when his year expired on Nov. 1st to go to the sugar region, finds it difficult to get his cotton picked at all. We hear that in one section of the parishes the tendency of the laborers was so great to go off to the rice harvesting, that they had to be given one-half of the cotton to pick the other half. Such a dearth of labor was never known here before, or rather the demand never so exceeded the supply.

## SOME KANSAS CRANKS.

Baton Rouge Advocate.

The Dickinson County Alliance, of Kansas, has issued a notification to all the members of the order in the State that they must boycott all the State papers, of both the old parties, which criticize the Farmers' Alliance, the Knights of Labor, the People's party, or any of its candidates for office. The boycott is to include not only a refusal to subscribe for the intimated papers but also not to buy any and all firms whose business is advertised in them. But this is not all. Besides dictating what papers shall be taken by the members of their order and what advertisers shall not be patronized, they also go so far as to declare by resolution, as has been done by several other Alliances in the State, that the members shall "refrain from entering upon any political discussion with persons not members of the Alliance, and from attending any political meetings except those in which the Alliance and People's party are interested." Kansas has always been noted for its extremists, and the Alliance of that State seems to have passed under the leadership of the worst cranks of the lot. But crankiness and intolerance are not now confined to Kansas and kindred communities in the North. The same spirit is right here among us in broad and liberal Louisiana, and we must watch for it and rebuke it whenever and wherever it appears. Its encroachment can only be prevented by adopting the Irishman's rule at Donnybrook Fair—hit the first head that you see bob up in the crowd with a top of your Democratic shillalah.

We clipped the above from the columns of a cotemporary, where it evidently had been copied approvingly. Since then the election has taken place and the Alliance in Kansas has shown what it was about. From the sorry figure generally cut there by the Democrats there might just as well have been none there, for the Republicans always swept the State. But at the election last week a new leaf was turned over in the politics of that State. The Farmers' Alliance elected five or six of the seven congressmen of that State. Without the Alliance there would have been no victory. No doubt the great uprising of the people at the North and West, against the oppression of the McKinley tariff, was mainly due to the information disseminated by the Alliance and kindred organizations. We of the South, who are beneficiaries of the Alliance's work, should not question the wisdom of its conduct.

The St. Landry Democrat mentions the need of better hotel accommodations in Opelousas, and suggests that a suitable building be constructed at a cost of about \$12,500 to be raised by a joint stock company. While we entirely agree with our neighbor in this matter, we think Opelousas has greater need of a public school building. This is said to be, next to Natchitoches, the oldest town in the State, not excepting New Orleans; yet it has no public school building, and to the best of our knowledge never has had one. Several females teach public schools in Opelousas, but they furnish the buildings, and get no more salary than where the building is furnished by the public. But female teachers cannot control large boys, and such accommodations as exist are not sufficient for mixed schools; consequently there is really no public school for boys in Opelousas. While the five or six female teachers employed furnish their own buildings, it seems that no male teacher has appeared, or applied for a position, under the same condition. A public school for males, in a town the size of this, is a necessity; and we see nothing in the way but the lack of a building. We do not think that a suitable plain building for a boys' school, need cost over five hundred dollars, not counting the lot. Some money is already on hand, for such purpose and the balance can be raised. Sometime since the town, without resorting to a special tax, built a \$5000 market house, though the butchers at the time were furnishing their own market houses. The town ought to be able to build a \$500 school house.

The merchants of Lafayette have organized to have the Sunday law enforced in that parish. They propose to let "by-gones be by-gones," but in the future all infractions of the law are to be reported to the District Attorney, and he has been requested to enforce the law. These merchants say they "know of no reason why it should be thought that this law is not supported by public opinion," that it is their "firm conviction that the people of the town and parish want to see this law enforced."

A correspondent of the Lafayette Advertiser, thinks the very small Democratic vote polled in that parish for congressman inexcusable, even though there was no opposition; in face of the fact that over 3000 suffragans attended the circus, lost a whole day from work, and spent on an average of \$2 each. About the same thing was done here.

See last page.

According to the late census there are about 63,000,000 people in the United States; and of this great number it is said that the small fraction of 40,000 own more than half the wealth of the country, leaving less than half that wealth to be divided in varying proportions between all those millions of people, thousands of them having nothing, and thousands being absolute paupers. It is a good thing for wealth to be accumulated by individuals to a limited extent; but when the bulk of the wealth of a very large, populous and rich country, is lodged in the hands of a few, and that too to a great extent by legislative agency, the great mass of the people feel oppressed and become discontented. While it might not be proper to pass laws taxing heavily the wealth of individuals after it reached a certain figure in the thousands or millions, yet the laws favoring this concentration of wealth should be repealed and no more should be enacted. There is but one way to do this: keep the very rich, and those who would sell their services to them, out of the legislative offices. Those who will serve the people should fill such places.

Last Saturday two colored men riding, and each leading a horse, appeared in Grand Coteau, and offered to sell the horses so extremely low as to excite suspicion. They gave false names, but their real names are Pierre Stevens and Alphonse Stevens, brothers from Belair's cove, and the two led horses were stolen in that neighborhood. They were arrested and brought to Opelousas. In the streets here, still mounted they made a dash for liberty. Pierre Stevens reached Mr. H. C. Comeau's place half way to Washington, with an officer closely pursuing, when he left the horse and jumped into the field; after repeated cries to halt he was shot at and he fell, but he could not be found after a close and thorough search there nor in the neighborhood. Alphonse Stevens attempted the same trick here in town, after dodging his pursuer in the streets; but he failed to get over a wire fence and was caught. He confessed that his brother had stolen the horses.

The Louisiana congressman elected last week are: First district, Gen. Adolph Meyer, Democrat, defeated H. C. Warmoth, Republican; second district, M. D. Lagan, Democrat, defeated H. Dudley Coleman, Republican; third district, A. H. Price, Democrat, no opposition; fourth district, N. C. Blanchard, Democrat, no opposition; fifth district, C. J. Boatner, Democrat, no opposition; sixth district, S. M. Robertson, Democrat, no opposition.

As will be seen by reference to another column, Miss Adah Hollingsworth, the sweet singer of the South, will fill the stage of our Opera House on the evening of the 18th inst., ably assisted by our local artists. It is rarely indeed that one of Miss Hollingsworth's vocal powers visits a country town, and we congratulate our music-loving readers on the treat in store for them.

The contractor for the U. S. building here has been engaged for two or three weeks in making brick; and he is now having materials—sand and lumber—put on the ground, the first site selected near Lacombe's hotel, to start the work.

We understand that the circus here, week before last, took in \$6,350.00. A small part of that sum would build a school house.

## DEFENSE OF NICHOLLS AND WHITE

Editor St. Landry Clarion.

The attempt is being sedulously made by those journals friendly to the Louisiana Lottery Company to destroy some of the prominent leaders of the opposition to the end that upon the ruins of their reputation, prestige and influence the imposing fabric of the lottery's victory might be reared. A recent attack upon Governor Nichols and Judge White led me to say a word in defense of those gentlemen; and for that purpose I published through the kind permission of the Opelousas Courier a communication under the caption of "A Plea for Justice." The substance of that communication need not be repeated here. Suffice it to say that I defended and do defend these gentlemen from any imputation of dishonorable motives, and that I attempted to base my defense upon sound and correct principles. I have been criticized on various grounds by certain pro-lottery journals; and my answer has been withheld until this time that I might answer all in one communication.

1. The Opelousas Courier. This paper says my article is "clever" but is sophistical and based on false premises. Its objection is briefly this: that it was not understood that Morris would not apply for a recharter of his lottery; and that the written statement by McCaleb of Governor Nichols lottery sentiments contains not one word of proposed hostility to a recharter. The editor of the Courier has not read this document very closely. The first paragraph reads: "Governor Nichols is unalterably opposed to granting any more lottery charters to any individual or corporation," etc. Observe that the words used are "any more

lottery charters," not other lottery charters. His hostility is to any more lottery charters whatever. Whether such charters be new ones or successive extensions of an existing one. Governor Nichols says he wants no more lotteries. He did not say he did not want any other lotteries. All lottery charters are to be opposed unconditionally. He makes no discrimination in favor of the Louisiana Lottery and nowhere announces that he favors it. He merely says that no good could come of an attempt to abridge its present privileges. Governor Nichols's position is perfectly consistent. He was an Anti-Lottery man in 1879; and the act which repealed in 1879 the charter of the lottery was passed during his administration and bears his honored name. I presume also that his personal and official influence was exerted in the Constitutional Convention to prevent the incorporation of any lottery charter in the constitution of 1879. Mr. Morris was therefore charged with full notice that Governor Nichols was no friend to his lottery scheme. That he knew this fact well Morris shows very plainly by the very effort he made to do his chartered privileges from any aggressive action on the part of this administration. What right had he to suppose that Governor Nichols and Judge White had changed their anti-lottery opinions. A condition of things once shown to exist is presumed to continue; and this presumption of hostility on the part of these gentlemen was further fortified by the significant words "I am opposed to granting any more lottery charters to any individual or corporation" used by Governor Nichols in his conversation with McCaleb. The document containing these words was shown to Morris. It was sufficient of itself to put him on his guard. Governor Nichols could have no design to entrap Morris because when he uttered whatever of what had passed between McCaleb, Forman and Morris, McCaleb stated: "I did not state to the Governor anything as to my conversation with Mr. Forman." The very man whom Morris chose as the medium through whom to tender his contribution is and always was an anti-lottery man—and he himself (Forman) said to Mr. Morris at the time: "You know that I have always been opposed to the lottery. I am still opposed to any new lottery franchise and to any extension of your charter," etc. How can it be claimed that it was not understood that Morris would not apply for a new charter when he submits his contribution to a candidate of well known anti-lottery sentiments and when he selects a staunch and pronounced anti-lottery man through whom to tender his contribution? If he intended then to raise the lottery issue would he not think these gentlemen would stultify themselves and go back upon their whole political records by aiding to extend the life of a corporation which they had a few years before destroyed? The agreement not to ask for a renewal of his charter was a condition exacted of Morris before any promise was made not to interfere with his chartered privileges. He freely consented. It was besides a natural thing for him to desire to let go in 1894. He was virtually pledged to do so by promises made to the convention in 1879; he had already amassed a fabulous fortune; he was being abused and possibly in some quarters socially ostracized. It is easy to understand how he could say he never wanted to hear the word lottery any more. This promise therefore of Morris was part of the compact; and it is strange to hear of charges of bad faith in Governor Nichols and Judge White; when no word is said of the treachery of Morris by which the compact is virtually annulled. This agreement by Morris was both expressly and tacitly made; expressly because of the very significant words of Governor Nichols in the very instrument of writing submitted by McCaleb that he (Nicholls) was "unalterably opposed to any more lotteries; and tacitly because unless a man expressly abandons former opinions they are tacitly read into any agreement that he may make and form part and parcel of it under the well known legal rule of interpretation of agreements that "whatever is part of law, general custom and practice is tacitly read into a contract." "In contractibus tacite insunt que sunt legis, more et consuetudinis." Governor Nichols and Judge White's opinion in regard to lotteries was known to be hostile; no change in such opinion was announced; it was presumed to continue hostile; and that opinion was read tacitly if not expressly in any agreement they might make. That which above all demonstrates that Morris agreed not to ask for a renewal of his charter is the fact that he has never—and his leading journals have never denied that he made such a promise or that he uttered the words attributed to him by Mr. Forman that he wanted to give up the lottery business after the expiration of his present charter. Morris' deepened to Europe this summer without making any such denial. The fact of his making this promise is therefore established by positive and circumstantial evidence, and is proved as certainly as most facts can be which depend upon human testimony. So much for the position of the Opelousas Courier.

2. The St. Landry Democrat. In my "Plea for Justice" I took the ground that it would not do to charge Governor Nichols and Judge White with ingratitude to the lottery because they accepted its money even unconditionally and spontaneously contributed, and are now engaged in the task of defeating it. Where there is no obligation, there is no ingratitude. I contended that there were occasions—particularly in politics, when we could accept assistance and fall under no personal obligation. All candidates for office do this and are not necessarily accounted ingrates because they cannot or will not reward all who supported them. It is therefore ridiculous to assert that the lottery's contribution created an obligation on the part of Judge White and Governor Nichols to aid the present lottery movements. On this principle no man in the river parishes can honorably be opposed to this lottery proposition. He is under obligation; he is bought; his gratitude has been purchased. We have every right to presume that in making his contribution the lottery chief was actuated by a patriotic desire to assist in placing good men in office rather than by any personal preference for Governor Nichols as an individual or by any understanding that Governor Nichols would assist the present lottery venture. If it be asked, since the use of lottery money does not create any obligation on the part of those benefitted, why then did Governor Nichols refuse a proffered donation of \$100,000 for levee protection during the recent overflow—though he accepted money on his own behalf? I do not believe in flattering the people and so can assert that Governor Nichols is far better able to appreciate the relation which in this case subsists between him and the lottery company than the vast body of the people can their relation with the lottery. Many ignorant and unthinking people might imagine that from motives of gratitude they should support the lottery—though they are really under no sort of obligation to it except upon the hypothesis that they were bought by the profuse and tardy generosity of this company. The St. Landry Democrat itself recognizes the existence of no obligation and merely complains of abuse which Morris has received. Neither Governor Nichols nor Judge White have ever abused Morris. For what others may do they are not responsible; and I take occasion to enter my earnest and indignant protest against the indiscriminate virulence with which some extreme and over-zealous opponents of the lottery attack those who favor the acceptance of this proposition in the ranks of whom are found some of Louisiana's true sons—men who are hedged with the purple shadow of an royal a manhood as hedges the best and proudest in the land. If it be treachery and ingratitude on the part of candidates for office to accept the unconditional services of those whom they will not be willing to reward when installed in power, then the world is indeed full of treachery and ingratitude, for this very thing happens in every campaign and will happen "to the last syllable of recorded time." And I can see no difference in principle, as it appears the Democrat can, between receiving that support and those services in votes and receiving them in money. The principle is identical, the distinction without a difference. The species of help alone is different. In the one case, it is votes, in the other money. Votes are transmutable into money; and money may easily be transmuted into votes—not necessarily in a criminal and corrupt way, but gratiam convivis querendo and all the other well known methods by which political favor is obtained. The lottery people judge Governor Nichols and Judge White by a severe and more austere code of ethics than they apply to other men in politics or that they submit to themselves. They might as well blame the national Democratic campaign committee for accepting unconditional and voluntary contributions from individual protected manufacturers of the east (which nobody doubts but what they have done), and then blame the Democratic party for revising the tariff against the interests of these same manufacturers, as to blame Governor Nichols and Judge White for merely allowing Mr. Morris to further public interest and demonstrate his own civic wisdom by helping to put them in office, even if they do subsequently adhere to those sentiments of hostility to Morris' scheme which had passed into the history of this State and of the existence of which Morris was charged with personal notice. Assuming as I do that the highest interest of the State demand the defeat of the lottery in its bold, daring and unscrupulous attempt to fasten its deadly fangs upon us for another quarter of a century, I cannot but feel myself to condemn any measures short of what is positively criminal and unlawful taken with the view of compassing its destruction. In this case it seems to me that the end justifies the means. Ordinarily the moral rule is otherwise; but cases often arise when the good to be obtained so far exceeds the evil done to attain it that if the moral law is violated, it is really violated in its own interest. In cases of self defense, the end justifies the means. The suppression of the negro vote in many parts of the south—a thing otherwise indefensible because right if White supremacy alone can preserve our civilization. An employer is not a traitor to moral principles if suspecting on good grounds the honesty of an employee, he simulates friendship for purposes of detection; nor is a sheriff or detective immoral because he has to resort to treachery and falsehood to entrap a criminal. Does a doctor lie in an immoral sense when he tells a really very sick man that his condition is not critical, if he believes that such assurance will bring that repose and tranquility of mind to his patient which is highly conducive to the recovery of health? Even in the case of Lafitte mentioned by the Democrat I have no doubt it would be perfectly in consonance with practical moral principles "to induce him to resign, as a friend," not for the purpose of robbing him, but for the double purpose 1st of wrenching from his practical hand that ill gotten wealth which should be restored to its rightful owner

and 2d of dragging the plate himself to the bar of public justice to answer for his crimes. In all these cases we agree with Edmund Burke "that the rules of morality may be suspended in behalf of its own principles." Such cases however lie upon the very border land of morals; the line of demarcation between what is right and wrong is often shadowy and dim; and the best and purest men may differ in conduct, according as they see one way or the other. You perceive that I have recourse to fundamental principles in this defense; I do not quibble; the issue is not squarred and I am happy to believe that the standard of ethics applied in practical life sanctions these principles, though they may not square with the nice and visionary morality of the pro-lottery press, one of the peculiarities of which is that it is afflicted with such an obliquity of moral vision that the nicest deviations by anti-lottery men from even doubtful moral principles are readily detected and exposed while they appear totally blind to the moral guilt of those who defeat a bribery resolution, or of that larger number who advocate a measure which establishes a scheme for widespread and public gambling for a quarter of a century through the agency of a corporation which "besides the narrow State like a colossus," darkens the land with its malignant presence and whose intriguing hand in politics virtually wrests from our people their political autonomy. For the profession of the principles enunciated in these communications, I am prepared and willing to assume all responsibility. My views in the abstract may be disapproved by some, but I scarcely believe that popular condemnation will be visited upon a man when he exerts himself by tongue and pen in what he honestly believes is the joint service of his friends and country.

The Baton Rouge Advocate. This paper makes an extract from my letter in which it was said that Governor Nichols and Judge White were not only justifiable in accepting the lottery's voluntary and unconditional contribution, but that judged from the standpoint of an enthusiastic and ardent opponent of the lottery, they were in duty bound not to allow the opportunity to pass unimproved of obtaining those positions of power and authority where they might be able to frustrate the possible treachery of the lottery in making an effort to secure a new lease of life in spite of the declaration of its chief that no such attempt would be made. It seems that those views have "startled" the editor of the Baton Rouge Advocate. The principles upon which I base my defense of Governor Nichols and Judge White may be novel, but preceding portions of this communication it seems to me show clearly enough that their moral soundness can scarcely be controverted. They are not as the Baton Rouge Advocate says "contrary to all preconceived ideas;" they are in harmony with the practice of mankind in similar circumstances. It is the captious spirit of the pro-lottery press when considering anything in defense of Nichols and White which renders these principles unsatisfactory. The editor of the Baton Rouge Advocate laments my want of "ethical culture," and speaks rather like a medieval monk writing a moral treatise than after the fashion of a journalist in the swift current of the nineteenth century. He argues for "ethical culture" with a wealth of scholastic refinement which reminds the reader of the casuistry of the middle ages. You would think you were reading the moral speculations of a transcendental philosopher who occupies his learned leisure with meditation on the whichness of the whence. It may be that I am so mentally and morally obtuse that I cannot nose out immoral principles as infallibly as the Advocate can, and I would like en passant to ask the Advocate in virtue of what consistency it can attack Governor Nichols, Judge White and their defenders for a woeful lack of "ethical culture," whilst the Advocate itself expressly approves, or tacitly approves by failure to condemn, the vote of the lottery majority in Senate and House by which the investigation of charges of bribery was defeated? In the minds of many people these charges were not without foundation; the defeat of the resolution leaves no room for doubt that would think you were reading the moral speculations of a transcendental philosopher who occupies his learned leisure with meditation on the whichness of the whence. 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