

The Pioneer.

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CHARLES DUPATY, EDITOR.

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In our last issue, a cordial invitation was extended, on the French side, to all our former contributors to renew their literary and social relations with the PIONEER. We truly welcome them back to our columns, which will always be opened to all communications of general interest. In this parish, we can boast of many writers whose fame is not confined to its narrow limits alone, but extends to the whole country. What have become of our correspondents in Thibodaux and Terrebonne?

Capt. P. A. Charlet and his jolly clerk, Lagrone, came ashore last week and smiled all around. The steamer Assumption is still alive and will make an excursion to the sea shore this day, \$10.00 round trip; cheap enough.

Capt. Joe Dalferes stopped over last week. His excursion to the sea shore was a complete success, as might have been expected. Capt. Joe's popularity attracted a steamboat-full of excursionists, all of whom returned delighted with the trip.

We have received the law card of Beamis & Arnold, Attorneys at Law, Custom House, up stairs, New Orleans, which will be found in our advertising columns, and we conceive that it will not be amiss to call the attention of those in need of their professional services to employ a firm for whose ability, integrity and reliability we do not hesitate to vouch.

The writer is well acquainted with Col. Beamis, who designs attending future sessions of our court, in future he has important professional business.

Col. Beamis is an old and valued, gallant comrade of ours, and can beat us at every game except chess. The name of Mr. Arnold may be obnoxious to the "truly 'loil' of the best government the world ever saw," but we boldly assert that he will never betray a good paying client.

We retain with pleasure and pride the most joyous reminiscences of Col. Beamis, and promise him a hearty welcome at the Washington Hotel in November next.

A fair specimen of the average elective police juryman inquired of us, the other day, if we did not know that President Hayes had removed the "white Naval officer 'pinted by Guvner Nicholls for the port of New Orleans, and 'pinted a colored man, Col. Jim Lewis, in his place." We told him we did, and that it served the "Guvner" right, as he had exceeded his jurisdiction and impertinently interfered with the President's business. After politely desiring us to define the "big words," the parochial legislator retired, evidently well pleased.

The Influence of Public Opinion.

With the advance of civilization, great and radical changes in the forms of government have been brought about among different peoples, gradually tending towards a diminution of power in the hands of the few and adding to that of the many. Even the powerful government of Russia has not been exempt from this influence—a country whose Emperor is less traveled in the exercise of his vast power than any other sovereign of Europe. In our own time we have witnessed the emancipation of thousands of serfs, and their endowment with certain political rights.

True, this great change in public sentiment was brought about very gradually—first, by a comparison with those countries, in which feudal laws had been abolished; secondly, by a desire to excite a feeling of pride and citizenship among the masses of that extensive country. These causes combined, exercised a quiet, but controlling influence on the mind of Alexander, and stimulated him to hasten the period when slavery should cease to exist in his dominion. This decree, which removed the ban of slavery from the heads of such large numbers, was not a revolution, but a step forward in the science of government, and may be cited as an instance in which public opinion, outside of the national boundaries, contributed so materially to a happy result.

Descending from one extreme of latitude, and principles of government to another, we find ourselves and our own State affairs a bright and lustrous example of the influence of public opinion.

The change brought about in our own State affairs may be truly called a peaceable revolution—a complete re-establishment from the wreck of matter, scattered hither and thither by the usurpers, who had thrust themselves into places of honor and trust; that all this should have been accomplished, and these grand results obtained, without the spilling of one drop of blood, was not only unprecedented in the history of nations, but is a great compliment to our Governor, who had charge of a programme, managed with all the skill and forethought that would have characterized a campaign of the great Molke. Although great uncertainty attended the result, yet there was no indecision, no faltering; in fact, nothing was left undone to ensure success.

In the midst of the general and heartfelt rejoicing which animates each patriotic bosom, we must not omit an important factor which exercised a paramount influence in bringing about a victory and securing its fruits.

After the surrender at Appomattox, public opinion at the North and West approved the abuse and wrong to which we were subjected by those who had come to despoil us; the vile slanders of our so-called loyalists were received by willing pears. Time, with its softening influence, gradually wore away the prejudices of those who were not obstinately deaf and blind, and a public opinion slowly gained ground, that Southern men were not the devils incarnate which interested parties had

proclaimed far and wide through the Northern and Western press.

Notwithstanding the waving of the "bloody shirt" throughout the Presidential campaign, the masses had begun to doubt the stories worn threadbare by constant repetition, and the "sober second thought" brought many to the conclusion that the States of Louisiana and South Carolina had some rights which should be respected. This influence happily found vent in the letter of acceptance of Mr. Hayes, and, strange to relate, did partially penetrate the obtuse intellect of Gen. Grant a short time before he vacated the Presidential chair.

It is truly said, that the continual dropping of water will gradually wear away the hardest stone. The efforts of the Democracy to show the world that some of the Southern States no longer enjoyed the rights and privileges of a Republican form of government, after years of trial and discouragement, were finally heard.

It was fortunate for the peace and well-being of the country that this change in public opinion culminated at this particular epoch. In our own State the minds of our most conservative citizens had waxed desperate and were prepared for any action, however violent, which would restore the rights of which they had been for a succession of years deprived, and rid themselves of the cormorants who had for so many years trodden their rights under foot and preyed on their substance.

Under our form of government, "Public Opinion" is sometimes very slow in its operation, but it is an effectual remedy for the evils which are sometimes developed, even if the "best government on which the sun ever shone." Fortunately, in our misfortunes we were endowed with sufficient patience and self-control to await the proper moment for action.

Let us credit Mr. Hayes with having had the acumen to give a proper interpretation to this growing sentiment and the moral courage to enforce it; and in the midst of our mortification for the slur which has been cast on our institutions, let us acknowledge that this one act of justice goes far to elevate his character, and in the far off future will serve to obscure the crooked path by which he attained his present elevation.

The Police Jury of St. James parish has fixed the salary of its District Attorney *pro tem.*, at \$600 00. In this parish, this office has been practically abolished, as its Solons will only allow \$100 00 per annum for salary. Of course no reputable attorney will accept the position at these figures without degrading the dignity of the profession.

Tax payers, we are told, can not correct errors in their assessments without a District Attorney *pro tem.*, as such errors must be passed upon by the courts contradictorily with such officer.

Retrenchment should not be counfounded with reform. Go slow, gentlemen.

A Hint to Mothers.—"Madam, did you ever lift a dog by the tail?" "Why, no, you cruel thing, you." "I don't know, because I just saw you carry your little child across a gutter by one arm. A dog's tail is a good deal stronger than the ligaments of a baby's shoulder."

Assessment and Taxes.

Our Assessor, appointed under the new law, has posted his notices throughout the parish, and it is incumbent on all good citizens to comply with its provisions.

Few persons pay taxes willingly. This is one of the subjects on which people are allowed to grumble without hindrance, and as it is human nature to cavil and find fault, no more harmless subject can be selected. During Radical rule great complaints were made: First, that assessments were unequal; secondly, that many escaped assessment of any tax; and, thirdly, that many who were assessed finally found themselves set down in the delinquent list, and, unfortunately for the finances of the State, remained there.

We would suggest to the Assessor the calling together of a number of the large tax payers of the parish, and adopt some general rule which would be uniform in its operation and just to all. No man who enjoys the right of voting should object to a contribution of his mite, however small, to the support of the government; and as there is a large number of voters in this parish who have heretofore been passed over for political reasons, it is the duty of our Assessor to remedy this omission. The sum of ninety cents of each poll tax, when collected, goes to the support of the public schools, and should be paid regularly in order to promote the success of education, the corner stone of our political fabric. Schools, roads and levees are all essential to our advancement, convenience, and protection—all of them are the legitimate objects of good government, and should receive the cordial support of all citizens who desire the prosperity of the country.

The Big Rise from the Missouri.

[St. Louis Times 12 inst.]

The rise in the Missouri continues sweeping down with unabated fury. At Lexington, yesterday, the current was fully nine miles an hour, and at Booneville it was so swift that the steamer Alex. Kendall was unable to stem it. The bulk of the water comes from below Sioux City, and is out of the Platte and Kansas rivers, and other small streams entering the Missouri from the south. The rise from the Yellowstone and mountain regions is sufficient for navigation purposes, but is doing no damage. How long the rise will continue remains to be seen, as it was raining at Bismark, St. Paul and elsewhere in the North-west yesterday. At Kansas City, the river is some two feet higher than in 1866, and all the bottom plantations are overflowed and stripped of everything that would float. Hundreds of acres of driftwood, rails, etc., are rushing onward with a velocity startling to behold. Chickens innumerable, and, in some instances, cattle and hogs have been swept away, and the fowls may be seen perched upon the debris. Here, the water had reached 25½ feet by the gauge last evening, and it is expected to attain to the thirty-foot mark by this afternoon. This will be two feet lower than it was a year ago, when it reached the sidewalk on Front street. It is fortunate that the floods below Cairo will have exhausted themselves before this immense body of water arrives, otherwise it would prove disastrous to the cotton planters. As it is, they will in all probability escape without material injury. The Ohio is in good boating stage from Pittsburg down.

Fortunately for the denizens of the low lands, the heavy floods from above will reach us on a

falling river, otherwise this immense volume of water would be productive of great destruction on the back lands watered by the open crevasse at Morganza.

According to our experience for many years past, the late rise in these rivers rarely effects any harm, unless, as it sometimes happens, finds the lower streams full to overflowing.

Crops.

The weather during the past week has been unusually warm even for the month of June, and the showers have been few and far between. The corn and cane would be greatly benefited by a good season. A great deal of corn and cane are receiving the final working, though the cane is rather small for the season.

Garden truck is abundant, though greatly retarded by the dry season. There is a good prospect for peaches and figs, though the former crop is by no means a certain one in our latitude. Figs, on the contrary, rarely fail, and it occurs to us, that some process of preparing them for market should be ascertained and used. The patent dryers used for either fruits in the West, might be advantageously brought into requisition.

The cabbage crop is said to be a fine one, and this suggests the idea of making "sour kroust" for the laborers in the rolling season, when vegetables are in great demand.

The supply of Irish potatoes has been unusually abundant, owing to the cool spring. To Lafourche we yield the palm for the production of onions.

Our old boss has launched forth to the public an old-time leader in his native tongue—one that will set Gentil, Dumez and Bellow, Michelet, Limet, and all the bullfrog-eating members of the Latin press race in Louisiana, scroaking. Send in your bullfrogs, French contributors. We will take every species of crustacea, from a crawfish up to a soft-shell crab, and reptiles, from a lizard up to a crocodile, in payment of old dues.

The Thibodaux *Sentinel*, in its district court notes, says that a colored man named J. C. Whiting, has been admitted to the bar, and has located in Thibodaux. We saw him up here and consider the name a misnomer. It should be Blacking. If Mr. *Sentinel* will refer to his Well's Familiar science or Davies' shades, shadows and perspective views, it will be demonstrated to his mind that black is the absence of color. Then why apply the term colored to any object that is utterly devoid of the new saddle, orange or banana hue? This influx of Georgia black men, both of the laboring and professional classes, is unaccountable to us. What is the matter? Has h—ll broke loose in Georgia?

If they don't have a hanging soon in Thibodaux, the *Sentinel* will either be compelled to draw upon its inventive editorial sensational faculties for original matter, or dry up. You advertise bolts, nuts and tin horns—then why do you not bolt right ahead, give some nuts to crack, or a few blasts from the tin horn. We are morally confident it is in you—not the tin horn, but the materials for the blasts.

The Hon. Edmond McCollom, of Terrebonne, was in the village during last week, on a visit to the Hon. R. R. Beasley, his former colleague in the Wheeler adjustment Legislature. Considering our delicate relations with Mexico, the Sioux Indians, to say nothing of the existing unpleasantness in Turkey and other European complication, the visit of Mr. M. to Dr. Beasley is significant. Billy Wheeler was not in town and not, to our knowledge, present at the conference of the distinguished diplomats. The last time we saw Billy he was on a big drunk, and he is now, we understand, assisting some planters in adjusting a cane crop. Badinage à côté, Mr. McCollom is a very intelligent and affable gentleman, and we trust his stay here proved pleasant, and agreeable. The diplomatic interview hinted at herein related, doubtless, to the formation by the two bachelors of a more perfect union. Set your caps and look sharp, young ladies.

Col. Hoffman, an ex-officer of the Northern army, has published some interesting memoirs of the late war between the States. Referring to Beast Butler's infamous "woman order" in New Orleans, he says the staff emphatically disapproved of and condemned it when it was read to them by Butler, and that Butler replied to these objections by saying that such an order would be hailed with great applause in New England, and would make him popular with the school marms of that section who had a great jealousy and hatred of Southern "ladies."

CITY HOTEL.

CORNER OF RAILROAD AVENUE AND IBERVILLE ST., DONALDSONVILLE, La. P. LEFEVRE, Proprietor.

The Bar is supplied with the best Wines and Liquors.

STATE OF LOUISIANA.

PARISH COURT.

PARISH OF ASSUMPTION.

No. 1168.

Succession of Arnelise Landry, deceased widow of Gedeon Guédry.

WHEREAS, Jean Baptist Guédry of this Parish, has petitioned the Court for Letters of administration on the estate of Gédéon Guédry:

Notice is hereby given to all whom it may concern to show cause within ten days why the prayer of said petitioner should not be granted.

By order of the Court, THOMAS DIVINE, Clerk of Court, Assumption, La., June 22d, 1877.

STATE OF LOUISIANA.

PARISH COURT.

PARISH OF ASSUMPTION.

No. 1091.

In the matter of the Succession of Celestine Anconin, deceased, widow of Victor Savoy.

Notice is hereby given to the creditors and all persons interested in said succession to show cause within ten days from the present notification, if any they have, or can, why the account presented by Clairville J. Savoy, administrator of said succession, should not be homologated and approved, and the funds distributed in accordance therewith.

By order of the Court, THOMAS DIVINE, Clerk of Court, Assumption, La., June 22d, 1877.

Lost or Mislaid.

A promissory note, dated November 7th, 1876, payable to my order on June 1st, 1877, of one hundred dollars, with eight per cent. interest from date until paid value received.

[Signed] Veuve JEAN LAFITTE.

All persons are warned against negotiating the same as payment thereof has been stopped.

HIRAM H. CARVER,

H. H. CARVER,

Attorney at Law, NAPOLEONVILLE, LA. Will attend promptly to all business entrusted to him in the Third and Fourth Judicial Districts.