

**The Pioneer.**

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CHARLES DUPATY, EDITOR.

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**The Returning Board.**

The recent indictment of the firm of Wells, Anderson & Co. seems to excite a great deal of comment among the city papers, and the general opinion so far seems to be in favor of their punishment if found guilty.

So far, as they are individually concerned, they are certainly entitled to but little clemency on the part of the people, for they have immortalized themselves by frauds not only unprecedented but unthought of by our most unscrupulous politicians. So far, all agreed as to the enormity of their offense; but it occurs to us that this matter should be looked at from a different standpoint than the commission of a crime by individuals. If our memory does not fail us, a caucus of the members of the House of Representatives was held at the time, when the Commission sent by President Hayes visited New Orleans, and when it was desirable to produce a favorable impression on the minds of these gentlemen with a view to ulterior events. This question as to the future action to be taken in regard to past political events of the Radicals, was thoroughly discussed and resulted in the passage of a joint resolution, approved April 20, 1877, the 5th section of which is as follows:

Desirous of healing the dissensions that have disturbed the State for years past, and anxious that the citizens of all political parties may be free from the feverish anxieties of political strife and join hand in honestly restoring the prosperity of Louisiana, the Nicholls government will discountenance any attempted persecution from any quarter of individuals for past political conduct.

Wells, Anderson & Co. have been indicted for forgery in altering returns, which critics say is not covered by section five of the joint resolution. It is true that forgery is not, strictly speaking, a political offense; but when the facts are taken into consideration and the intimate relation of their crime with the result is looked into, it does not require a very analytical mind to perceive the intimate connection between the two subjects, and that the joint resolution was passed with the object of preventing any prosecution of individuals for acts committed to secure political success in the recent election.

We do not doubt that these points were thoroughly discussed in caucus, and that the members adopted the joint resolution as sufficiently explicit to cover the ground, not considering it necessary to go more into detail.

In the absence of definite language it is always safe to inquire into the intention of the framers of a legislative act and use that explanation in aid of its proper construction.

If the public entertain any doubt as to the extent, and scope of the joint resolution, the facts can be easily ascertained from some member of the caucus.

Under these circumstances it will be the duty of the Governor to act in this matter, not according to a strict and literal interpretation of the Statute, but to modify it in accordance with the understanding of the members at the time of the passage of this act.

The pardon of these individuals before or after trial demands the exercise of great moral courage, for their conduct has been so outrageous that many

persons would strain the limits of justice in order to secure their conviction and punishment as a warning to evil-doers in the future.

Fortunately for our State, we have an Executive who will perform his duty conscientiously, without reference to the clamor of extremists or the wiles and doublings of wire-working politicians. He was in a position to understand the meaning attached to the joint resolution, and will sustain the high character of Southern chivalry by a strict performance of his duty.

**Civil Service Reform.**

Thinking people have long since come to the conclusion that much can be done to improve our government, not as to its theory, which is nearly perfect, but as to its practice, which, in many respects, reflects no credit on our rulers.

For years past the doctrine has generally prevailed that "to the victor belongs the spoils," and among our most energetic canvassers at our presidential election are to be found those who look for office as the reward of their efforts. This custom is not calculated to fill our offices with men noted for honesty, industry and intelligence—one may prove very efficient in a canvass, yet lack the qualities essential to constitute a good officer.

President Hayes is making an effort to inaugurate a new rule, ostensibly, and ostentatiously introduced under the administration of Gen. Grant, but known to the people only as a decided failure. The ruts worn by the long continued friction of government wheels, are rarely left by the machine, and our rulers will find their undertaking beset with many and great difficulties. No one has a vested right in a government office, yet there are many offices, requiring skill, familiarity with details, and are integrity above suspicion, which the right man, and not the politician, should feel. In these there should be no change unless for cause, as the interests of the government are likely to suffer by incompetency, and a want of familiarity with the duties of the office.

Under the English government, their employees have a support for life, with a fair chance of promotion and increase of salary, if they deserve it, and, as a consequence, it is well served by its office holders. This plan would not be practicable with us, as the "ins" would continue to hold office for life, and the "outs" would continue in the cold. This would be looked on as a great crime in a new country, in which each man considers himself as good or better than his neighbor.

If the offices are not to reward success in elections it is probable there would be more honestly conducted canvassers, but much more lukewarmness among the actors. We see but one chance for reform in these matters, continue to bestow offices as at present, but select honest and intelligent men to fill them, and many causes of complaint which now exist will cease, and a Republican form of government will receive greater honor and reverence than at present.

Bob Ingersoll has been orating on Voltaire's end, in San Francisco, and offers to bet \$1000 that he died quietly and peacefully.

**Honor, to Whom Honor is Due.**

This week has been noted for the visit of Governor Nicholls to our parish, the first time his public duties have enabled him to visit the warm friends of his youth and manhood, since his election in November last.

He was most warmly welcomed, and his fellow-citizens would have gladly detained him for some days longer, but he felt compelled to return to the scene of his duties.

On the eve of his departure he was serenaded by the Nicholls & Wiltz brass band of Plattenville, consisting of twenty musicians, under the leadership of Mr. Dedrick Ohlmeyer. It was a grand compliment to his Excellency, and one he highly appreciated, as the members composing the band rode sixteen miles to accomplish their object. They favored the Governor and the ladies present, with many beautiful airs, (among others Gov. Hendrick's quickstep), all of which were executed in a masterly manner.

We were all happy in the presence of a Governor, whom we could welcome with such heartfelt pleasure, and as the serenaders bade us good night, the leader called for three cheers and a tiger for the Governor "whom we love so well."

**Weather and Crops.**

We are in the midst of a heated term, even for our latitude, and "how hot it is," has become the usual mode of salutation when friends meet. The mercury still ranges in the nineties, except in some localities it rises high enough to peep over one hundred.

The thermometer does not fairly indicate the warmth of the individual—with a refreshing breeze we rarely consult it; but when that breeze suddenly dies away, as it generally does about five o'clock, then we are actually overcome and ready to give up.

Some neighborhoods have been favored with refreshing showers, to the great advantage of the cane and late corn, but the general cry is for a good soaking rain that will wet the roots of vegetation and start a rapid growth. Notwithstanding the drought the plant cane is green and glossy in its appearance, indicating steady growth. The stubble does not appear so thrifty, and both that and plant are backward as to size.

The area of land planted in corn has been considerably increased this year, and averages well where the showers have not been "few and far between." A good corn crop will add materially to the sum derived from the work of the year and diminish the amount of money necessary to carry on farming operations in 1878.

Our planters have gone to work this year with cheerfulness and a determination to secure success. They will pay their taxes for the support of a government of their own choice with alacrity, knowing full well that the money will be honestly applied to diminish the indebtedness of our State, and that the schools for the education of their children will be conducted in such a manner as to make the tax raised for their support a profitable investment.

We hear of some sickness in

the parish among the children, the result probably of the warm weather.

The bayou is falling slowly and the cultivators of rice rejoice thereat, as they will have water enough for the irrigation of their crops until the daily showers commence. We learn with pleasure that the crops of corn in the Brules and bayous in the back part of the parish are very good—they were not injured by back water, and their lands are very productive.

**ASSUMPTION PIONEER.**—We have read with pleasure a highly complimentary notice from our valued contemporary, the PIONEER of Assumption, the old-time Franco-American journal which has been suppressed for several years by the events of the late war.

The PIONEER was the first paper established in Assumption parish and was founded by the lamented Eugene Supervielle about twenty-five years ago. Our cherished friend, Charley Dupaty, purchased the paper in 1858, and has been running it uninterruptedly ever since, save the suspension occasioned by the war, Southern reconstruction, etc.

We heartily welcome our old Franco-American friend to our exchange list, and sincerely trust that through its influence and power our beloved French tongue will not only be reinvigorated, but forever perpetuated in this portion of Louisiana where around it cling so many delightful and tender memories.—*Vigilant.*

We have received this week the PIONEER of Assumption, published in French and English by Charles Dupaty. The PIONEER was the first paper established in the parish of Assumption, but owing to Radical sway in Louisiana it had to suspend together with many other Democratic journals. Several of these have revived since the establishment of the people's chosen government. We welcome with joy these representatives of the ancient glories of Louisiana. The PIONEER promises to be a good paper.—*Marksville Bulletin.*

An exchange says: "Very few Russians can read and write." Any man who has tried to spell out the shortest name on a Russian war map will not be surprised at that.

**STATE OF LOUISIANA.**

PARISH COURT.

PARISH OF ASSUMPTION.

No. 1163.

*Succession of Armelise Landry, deceased widow of Gedeon Guedry.*

WHEREAS, Jean Baptist Guedry of this Parish, has petitioned the Court for Letters of administration on the estate of Gedeon Guedry:  
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 9th, 1877.

**STATE OF LOUISIANA.**

PARISH COURT.

PARISH OF ASSUMPTION.

No. 1091.

*In the matter of the Succession of Celestine Aucoin, 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 9th, 1877.

**AUSTIN BABIN,**  
J. M. LAMARE, Manager.  
GENERAL

**Produce Merchant**  
No. 151 DECATUR ST.,  
NEW ORLEANS.

Consignments of Cotton, Sugar, Rice, Fruits, Vegetables, Poultry, Eggs, Wool, Moss, Hides, &c. respectfully solicited.

**COPY.**

THIBODAUX, LA., July 2, 1877.

In a personal difficulty between myself and Mr. R. N. Sims in this place on the 13th of June, 1877, being under an erroneous impression regarding a certain fact connected with a certain law suit pending in the District Court of Assumption parish, wherein a question of appeal arose; said erroneous impression being that the decision of the District Court would be submitted to, whereas Mr. Sims says he intended the decision of the Supreme Court, and never intended at any time to create the impression on my mind that the District Court was meant. I believing, from conversations had with him and my counsel, that the decision of the District Court would be final, and believing that my belief as to that fact was erroneous, I hereby retract the language used by me towards Mr. Sims on the said 13th of June, 1877, and apologize for all that occurred on that occasion,  
L. SUTHON.

Witnesses:

WALTER GUION,  
RUFFIN BEASLEY,  
J. S. BILLIU,  
J. A. BLANCHARD.

**SUCCESSION SALE.**

STATE OF LOUISIANA.

PARISH OF ASSUMPTION.

PARISH COURT.

No. 1162.

*Succession of Berthol Monson and Lazarrva Gomez, his Wife.*

**BY VIRTUE OF AND IN OBE-**

dience to a decree of sale rendered by the Hon. the Parish Court of the parish of Assumption, on the 6th of July, 1877, I will offer for sale at public auction, on the premises in Brule Dalferes of this parish, to the highest and last bidder on **Wednesday, August 8th, 1877,** between the hours of 10 A. M. and the following described property belonging to the above succession, to-wit:

1st. A tract of land situated in the parish of Assumption, at the place known as Brule Dalferes, measuring three arpents, more or less, front on a depth of seven arpents, more or less, between parallel lines, bounded above by land of Robert Maurin, in the rear by land of Trasmond Melancon, below by land of Julien Acosta, and in front by a public road leading to the main public road of said Brule; together with all the buildings and improvements thereon and thereto belonging to the exception of the buildings and improvements belonging to Vincent Fernandez thereon.

2nd. Another tract of land situated at the same place as the preceding and a little below it, measuring two arpents, more or less, front on a depth of seven arpents, more or less, between parallel lines, bounded above by land of Desiré Acosta, in the rear by land of Trasmond Melancon, below by land of Oscar Martinez and in front by a public road leading to the main public road of said Brule; together with all the buildings and improvements thereon.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

The movable effects for CASH, and the landed property, one-third cash, one-third in March 1878, and one-third in March 1879, represented by the notes of the purchasers payable to the order of the administrator of said succession, with interest from and after maturity until paid at the rate of eight per cent per annum, and secured by the vendor's privilege and special mortgage under the pact *de non alienando* on the lands sold; the purchasers, in case suit or other judicial proceedings be instituted to recover payment of said notes or any part thereof, shall pay ten per cent on the amount sued for, including principal and interest, for attorney's fees, the same to be also secured by the same privilege and mortgage as the notes above mentioned.

N. B. Actual corporeal possession of the lands above described shall not be given until the first of January next, 1878; and Mr. Vincent Fernandez shall have the right of removing his buildings and improvements from the firstly described tract of land by that time.

FRANK R. COMEAU,  
Auctioneer.

Parish of Assumption, July 6, 1877.

**FOR SALE.**

Two Mules and One Horse.  
Apply to **FRANCOIS GAUDET,**  
Napoleonville.