



CLINTON, LOUISIANA: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1854.

We have taken the liberty of sending this our first number of the PATRIOT to a few friends. It will be unnecessary with those who do not wish to become subscribers to return the copy. Those at a distance wishing to become patrons, can accordingly inform us by mail, or otherwise.

We regret to state that a young gentleman of our parish, Mr. JAMES M. FELRE, met with a serious accident on Thursday last by the untimely discharge of a gun, the contents of which entered his abdomen, and he died on the following day.

We refer our readers to interesting political and miscellaneous matter on the first and fourth pages.

By reference to the advertisement of Mrs. M. J. CLIFFORD, which will be found in another column, it will be seen that this lady is about to take charge of the female institution in our town so long and popularly known under the guidance of that inestimable lady, Miss ELIZA J. MILLS.

A Word or Two to the Public.

It shall be our constant endeavor to make the PATRIOT a vehicle to the dissemination of the news of the day, and all kinds of useful knowledge. Our reading matter, original and extracted, will, we hope, be so varied, with politics, miscellaneous sketches, poetry, and agricultural information, that every reader will find something in each number suited to his taste. All events transpiring in our own and surrounding parishes will find a place in our columns; with such intelligence from abroad as will be acceptable to our readers. Whatever is calculated to advance the interests of our fellow-citizens in this vicinity will receive our most cordial support, and our columns will be ever open for the publication of such views as any one may entertain upon any subject touching the welfare of our country and parish. In short, no pains will be spared to render our paper an acceptable visitor wherever it may find its way, and we feel confident that a generous community will not allow our efforts to be passed unrewarded.

The PATRIOT, from its geographical position, must be provincial in its labors, and must be content to follow, since circumstances will not permit it to lead. But while it borrows light from more commanding journals, it will aspire to reflect some little of its own to the guiding and giving expression to public opinion in this part of the country, and to defending those interests beneath its protection. The AMERICAN PATRIOT is devoted to the interests of Native Americanism, from a sincere conviction, on the part of its founders, of the truth of the doctrines, and their peculiar efficacy in healing those evils under which our country is now laboring; but our prime object being to find out what is, and what is not for the good of our country; and believing that the truth in every matter can best be gotten at by looking at both sides of it, and our columns will never be closed against the publication of any views, although antagonistic to our own; provided that such views be couched in terms respectful, and personalities are not indulged in.

The PATRIOT will be issued regularly every Wednesday, and care will be had that no subscriber is neglected. The terms of subscription—three dollars per annum in advance, or five when not paid at the time of subscribing—are established with a view to induce our patrons to comply with our advance rates—which will save money to them, and will rid the publisher the time and trouble of collecting.

The Church.

We are glad to inform our readers generally, that our Methodist brethren have had quite a revival in this place during the last two weeks. The excitement was warm and quite general. Many were brought to see the error of their ways, and many "stray sheep" have been gathered into the fold. We confess that we feel a deep interest in any movement that is calculated to make men better and to moralize the community in which we live. God knows, a reformation in Clinton is desirable. Our brethren of the church have our best wishes for their success, and we bid them God speed in their holy work.

East Baton Rouge Right Side Up!

Dr. Jehu Perkins was elected Representative to the Legislature from this Parish by a majority of only Two HUNDRED votes, over Mr. Knox, the Old Fogey candidate.

THE LAUGH OF WOMAN.—A woman has no natural grace more bewitching than a sweet laugh. It is like the sound of flutes on the water. It leaps from her heart in a clear, sparkling rill; and the heart that hears it feels as if bathed in the cool, exhilarating spring. Have you ever pursued an unseen fugitive through trees, led on by her fairy laugh, now here, now there, now lost, now found? We have. And we are pursuing that wandering voice to this day. Sometimes it comes to us in the midst of care, or sorrow, or irksome business; and then we turn away and listen, and hear it ringing through the room like a silver bell, with power to scare away the ill spirits of the mind. How much we owe to that sweet laugh! It turns the prose of our life into poetry; it flings showers of sunshine over the darksome wood in which we are traveling; it touches with light even our sleep, which is no more the image of death, but is consumed with dreams that are the shadows of immortality.

ANOTHER WILDER CASE.—In the United States District Court at Philadelphia, on the 13th, John W. Boileau was convicted on eleven bills of indictment with fraudulently obtaining land warrants from the Government. On the event of the verdict the prisoner fell in a fit and raved like a madman. When restored to consciousness the sentence was deferred and a motion was made for a new trial.

OUR CREED.

At a time when the elements political are disturbed to their depths—when the old criteria of orthodoxy are no longer recognized—when new tests have risen in twain the heart of the great parties, which "fought their last fight" on the memorable political battle-field of 1852—when one of the old political organizations stands before the country, confessedly annihilated, and the other, prostrated as it has recently been in every political contest, continues to furnish flickering and uncertain signs of its vitality, by virtue only of the unanimous adhesion of the naturalized vote which has rallied around its drooping banners with a devotion worthy of a better cause—at such a time it has fallen to our lot to figure as a raw recruit in the ranks of the editorial corps. Without flourish of trumpets from those customary heralds of a forthcoming newspaper enterprise, a fatigued prospectus and the preliminary puffs of the press, it has been our desire to assume the duties and responsibilities of our new avocation quietly, yet earnestly, preferring rather to be judged by our deeds than by prefatory pledges, neatly phrased and lightly given, to bespeak a fleeting and fictitious popularity.

The events of the last year stand without parallel or precedent in the annals of the Republic. A political movement has insinuated its secret and mysterious influences over the land, overthrowing in its noiseless course, seemingly without an effort, the serried hosts of Democracy and Whiggery. True, the hour of its nativity was not, like Glendower's, marked by "strange eruptions," yet has its miraculous march from the cradle to vigorous maturity placed it beyond the roll of common incidents. In the ranks of this new political movement, in the unpretending uniform of an AMERICAN PATRIOT, we intend to render such service as we may in upholding the Constitution, the laws and the institutions of this Republic. We avow with a glow of honest pride our sympathy with a party which, though oft times stigmatized as a "common enemy" and a "moral leprosy," in its brief career has put the seal of condemnation upon the iniquities and corruptions, the trickery and tyranny of the old parties, and which has everywhere manifested a spirit of rationality and a sentiment of American loyalty to the Constitution. That it is no idle caprice or momentary ebullition which moves us to declare our fidelity to the principles of the American party, but rather a deep rooted conviction that evils have fastened upon the body politic which require pruning, we shall now endeavor to show.

Instances are neither few nor insignificant in the political struggles of the last ten years, tending to disclose the startling fact that the ballot-boxes are no longer exempt from influences not only degrading to our national character, but imminently perilous to the integrity of the Union. Large masses of foreigners, fresh from the despotisms of the Old World, with no training in the schools of rational liberty, but obstinately adhering to all the prejudices of their nationality, have been made the tools of native knaves and demagogues, in the perpetration of these dastardly blows upon those fortresses of our liberties. That deeds of violence, perjury and fraud, endorsed and countenanced by native traitors, and a foreign mob stalk in the open light of day unchallenged and unchecked by the outraged laws, is a truth too well attested by the election scenes in our large cities to be denied. How is all this to end? Shall we remedy it by throwing wide the portals of the Republic, and extending additional incentives to an emigration to our shores which has no similitude in history, save the march of the barbarian tribes upon civilized Rome? Shall we remove the feeble barriers of the present inoperative naturalization laws, and in the fervor of our propagandism cloth some four or five hundred thousand ignorant peasants, unused to the management of their own affairs, with the attributes of citizenship upon their first landing on our shores, and thus subject the principles of rational liberty to a conflict which they could not possibly survive? Or shall we assert the prerogatives of our nationality, and by wholesome and timely preventive legislation, wrest our sorely tired institutions from the suffocating pressure of this inexhaustible stream of foreign prejudice and superstition? Who is wronged, if Americans, tardily aroused to a sense of danger, resolve at last to govern their own country? Is it the naturalized citizen? Already invested by the magical power of the naturalization oaths, with the inestimable boon of American citizenship, for himself he should ask no more; and if he possesses that true hearted sympathy with the land of his adoption which he has solemnly declared under the sanctity of an oath, her institutions assert their claim to his solicitude above the abjured Father land. Is it the immigrant already landed, whose term of probation is not yet expired? Secured by that Constitution which he has not yet sworn to support, against the *ex post facto* operation of law, he will be permitted to perfect the inchoate right, unmoled by legislation, and he too will soon be placed in the full fruition of the rights and privileges which are the guarantees of the law as it stands. Is it the millions of the Old World, sick, sad and destitute, who are looking across the water to the great Republic as a haven of rest from despotism, famine and unremunerative toil? What right have they to cavil at American legislation? The moment the immigrant arrives at the wharves of our Atlantic cities, the agents of the emigration commissioners provide for him. If sick, he is transported to the hospital and carefully nursed—if hungry, he is fed—if ragged, he is clothed—if destitute, he is furnished with a temporary supply of money—if he brings a family, schools maintained at the public expense are open to his children, and the intelligence offices will soon bring them all to the means of an honest livelihood.

Thus cared for, with equal protection to life, liberty and property from the laws, with remunerative labor and cheap homes within the reach of all, it is no hardship that he should be commanded for a term of years to stand back from the sacred fountains which water and keep green the tree of his new found liberty.

The characters of races are not unchangeable, but when the mind of the European adult has

once been fashioned by the poisonous influences of a defective education, it is not conceivable that change of climate, and scenery, and the genial influences of this hospitable land, can revolutionize in a moment his habits of thought. A new nature, more consonant with the responsibilities of a republican citizen, more congenial to the novel duties he has assumed, must be the work of time. For an adult immigrant the task is never a light one to forget the lessons of his youth—to weed out the prejudices of nativity and education; change of soil and a transfer of allegiance are the least onerous half of his self imposed duties. With his children, it is different. Sitting in our school houses, side by side with children of American parents, acquiring knowledge from the same class books, playing the same games; they learn to speak the same language and think the same thoughts; and the second generation, cast from the cradle in the Republican mould, arrive at manhood thoroughly imbued with love, devotion, and a shrewd appreciation of the institutions of the land of their adoption.

As an inseparable ally, and by far the most dangerous element of foreign influences, we regard the Roman Church. We are well aware that the American party has been charged with interference with religious opinions and the rights of conscience, because of its hostile attitude to that Church. But this is a slander manufactured out of whole cloth. The one Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, as it claims to be, which sits clothed in historic grandeur upon the Seven Hills, which reaches back to the time when Paul stood before Agrippa, and the primitive Christians found shelter and concealment in the catacombs—which supplies the chasm between ancient and modern times—which has swayed the minds of men for eighteen hundred years, and given them a more comprehensive guidance than any other institution—this *princeps fides* with its long line of two hundred and sixty Popes, stands in no peril from the movement of the American party. Its peculiarities of faith, its salient points of doctrine, it is not intended to question. In the conscientious exercise of his private thoughts the Roman Catholic will be left free as air—his graven images, his marvels and miracles, his Madonnas and Virgin Marys, his idols all jeweled and bespangled, and all the symbols and solemn mummeries of his faith, which are so offensive to the Protestant taste, need fear no heretical profanation at the hands of the new Political Power. They are all his special property; his in public, and in private, in the chapel and the closet; his under the ample guaranty of the Constitution and Laws; and while many may question the fundamentals of his creed, there are none of *American birth* who would so far violate the spirit of freedom as to question his right to its undisputed worship.

Not! It is not the Roman Catholic Religion, but the Roman Catholic *Polity* at which the hostility of the new party is leveled. It is not the claim to spiritual, but to temporal infallibility—in the Head of that Church which is regarded by that party as dangerous to American liberties. The belief of the Romanist that the word of inspiration, the deed of miracle, the authority to condemn and forgive spiritually, were transmitted by Christ to the College of Apostles, and by Peter bequeathed in perpetual stewardship to his successors, the Popes, is an incident of his faith of no repugnance whatever to the American party, or any other party of this Republic. Neither is it of the slightest political moment that Holy Mother Church should lead captive the fancy of her devotees, by volunteering to the beleaguered sinner all the delusive but facile machinery of her theory of salvation, such as the mass, holy water, confession, absolution, and that pleasant figment of Purgatory, which holds out to the bankrupts who have staked their souls in the game of life, a snug half-way house on their journey to the lower regions, where they may sojourn awhile, and "play an after game of salvation." But when His Holiness, the Pope, "that fat old gentleman in scarlet hailing from the Vatican," is invested by the Catholic Priesthood, and the Catholic body of this Republic land, with all that he claims of supremacy, not alone spiritual, but temporal as well, a point of subserviency is reached which brings his disciples in direct conflict with the spirit of our institutions and the letter of the Constitution. At this anti-national spirit, this anti-republican cringing to a foreign potentate, whose banner is borne aloft in every land by a priesthood that never dies, and whose most zealous missionaries are a host of Jesuits, active, sleepless, intriguing and unprincipled, whose character for slipperness and subtlety we would not so needlessly asperse as to suppose any one of them hampered with a conscience, the American mind is justly incensed.

It has been remarked that "it is not on the chair and tomb of Peter, but on the seat of Constantine, on the ruins of the Empire, that the genius of the Papacy was enthroned," and there seems to be no reason to doubt that the ecclesiastical strength was first asserted in temporal matters when Alaric sacked Rome, and the timid Emperor hid himself in Ravenna, leaving the Bishop of Rome to gather together the scattered fragments of the Empire, and to concentrate them, if not in name, in substance, around the Pontifical throne. From that distant day to the present time, the grandeur of the Papacy, and the sway of each successive Pope, has been sustained more by political power than ecclesiastical strength and Christian associations. Recognizing no dividing line between temporal and political, and ecclesiastical and spiritual rule, the policy of the "Vicars of Christ" has been to include what they may, and stop where they must.

Arragant and ambitious, pledged to universal empire, mighty in her imposing array of antiquity and monastic asceticism, and in the glorious traditions sweeping over eighteen centuries, absorbing every glory and omitting every shame, forgetting no victory and remembering no defeat, the Church of Rome, acting out the cunning instincts of her system, asserts her domination in the New World. She has her politico-religious emissaries busily at work all over this Union, and the Catholic body is everywhere disciplined through the ballot-box and the public schools, to

promote her politico-religious scheme. It is of the political influence of officious and meddling priests, acting upon an ignorant foreign Catholic body, that the American party is resolved to assert its national abhorrence. In the language of King John to the Cardinal of fair Milan—

"No Italian priest shall tittle or toll in our dominions."
"So tell the Pope; all reverence set apart
To him and his usurped authority."

Against this grasping spirit of the Romish scheme the Anglo-Saxon race have waged unceasing war since those turbulent times when bold John de Wycliffe raised the standard of revolt against the "jus divinum," and bravely asserted the doctrine that "all mankind since Christ's coming have not power, simply or absolutely, to ordain that Peter and all his successors should rule over the world politically forever."

The claim of exclusiveness which so roused the ire of the old Reformer, generating as it does opinions at variance with the Republican standard of civil and religious liberty, is of the essence of the Romish system. Can such a system exist in harmony with freedom? A broad unqualified negative is the response of the American party! All the religious freedom granted to the Protestant sects should be secured to the Roman Catholic, but nothing more. This, we think, is the American sentiment; and when the priest forgets his mission and deserts the brevity, the crucifix, and the cure of souls, for the political arena, and thereby brings the mitre in collision with the civil authorities of this land, he provokes a conflict with a power which, though seemingly sluggish, once aroused will not be easily appeased.

Entertaining these views, we shall advocate either a total repeal of the naturalization laws, or a material extension of residence before naturalization. Our efforts shall also be zealously directed, in our humble sphere, to exclude foreign influences from place or power in every department of the Government. Should it be our good fortune to contribute in restoring the good ship of State to the guidance of honest and capable American pilots, the consciousness of having "rendered the State some service" will be our ample reward.

CONGRESSIONAL NEWS.

By Telegraph.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—In the Senate to-day the bill introduced at the last session of Congress relative to the naturalization of the children of American citizens born abroad, was passed. The Pension bill was then taken up, when Mr. Fessenden, of Maine, moved an amendment, placing the widows of officers and sailors in the navy on the same footing as those of officers and soldiers in the army. The amendment was rejected and the bill passed.

In the House, Mr. Whitfield, the newly-elected Delegate from Kansas, appeared, was qualified, and took his seat.

The bill for the suppression of small notes in the District of Columbia was passed.

Dec. 21.—In the Senate, to-day, Mr. Slidell, of Louisiana, presented a petition in favor of the privilege, to Americans, in foreign countries, to worship God and bury their dead according to the dictates of their own consciences.

Mr. Sumner, of Massachusetts, offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Foreign Affairs to inquire into the expediency of offering the mediation of the United States in the war now existing between the Allies and Russia.

Mr. Dawson, of Georgia presented a petition from the Georgia Legislature for the establishment of a Navy Yard at Brunswick, in that State.

Each of the above subjects was appropriately referred.

In the House, a message was received from the President enclosing a copy of the correspondence between the State Department and the Government of the Netherlands, in relation to the case of Capt. Gibson.

Mr. Orr, of South Carolina, hoped the Committee on Foreign Affairs would give prompt attention to the subject, and the message was so referred.

Dec. 22.—In the Senate, to-day, Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, offered a resolution, which was adopted, making inquiry of the Postmaster General if any contract has been made for the carrying of the mail between New Orleans and Cairo, and, if not, why such a contract had not been effected.

THE NEWS FROM EUROPE.—The battle of Inkerman, of the bloody issue of which the telegraph, says the Bee, has only furnished a faint idea, now stands before us in all its horrors, and must forever remain inscribed on the page of history as one of the most terrible dramas either of ancient or modern warfare. All the conflicts of modern times, going back as far as the fatal day on which Napoleon's star waned, pale into insignificance when compared with the engagement of the 5th November, in which for nearly ten hours fifteen thousand of the Allies stood the onslaught of forty thousand Russians, commanded by able generals, and animated moreover, by the presence of two of the sons of the great Emperor. The accounts of this terrible affair will be read with intense interest, though not without a thrill of horror at the fearful sacrifice of life which accompanied this so called victory. On the side of the Allies no less than one-third of the entire force engaged was actually put *hors de combat*, while the losses of the Russians, even by their own accounts, more than doubled those of their opponents.

In some respects the battle of Inkerman was nobly contested. The positions taken by the Russians at the commencement of this murderous conflict were skillfully chosen, and the courage displayed by them in stubbornly resisting the fierce charges of the British bayonets, and the awful carnage of the Minie rifle, was singularly cool and resolute. But all accounts agree in stating that the tactical management of the battle by the Muscovite troops was blundering and bad—that they unnecessarily marched huge masses of men into the midst of a fire which mowed them down by platoons, suffering immense loss and ultimate repulse from a far inferior force, which covered by the crest of the hills that dotted the field, tore the advancing columns to pieces by a steady and unremitting fire. The English ought to have been annihilated, had the Russians maneuvered half as well as they fought. This great battle is another striking evidence of the vast superiority of military science and complete discipline over brute force and unyielding bravery. But we have no space to pursue the subject—tempting as it is.

We have pleasure in presenting a journal bearing the above title to the public, and in the first number we propose to add a word, as is usual, by way of introduction to the reader, and to a declaration of the political character of the paper to be sustained.

The politics of the PATRIOT, inferable from the name it bears, will be native American—politics which we believe to be good and wholesome, and upon the eventual success of which the destiny and welfare of our democratic institutions must depend.

The best feature in our Government is the sovereign power of the State is lodged in the hands of the masses—the masses whose province is to look well to the state of their political affairs, and as the sovereign physician to heal all the breaches and imperfections which may discover themselves in the administration of law and justice. The cloak of secrecy which the founders of the Native American party have seen fit to throw around all its movements, has prevented the principles and purposes of our action from being generally understood. The objects and views of the organization have been misrepresented—partly by those who do not properly understand them, and especially by those who, actuated by selfish considerations, conceive they have an interest in breaking down the Order; while the secret character of our great organization has heretofore denied to the individual members of the order the privilege to correct the misstatements, and to refute the sophistical absurdities deduced from them. The secret movements and deliberations of the American party has been strongly urged as an objection to it; discarding, as its opponents say, a distrust of the capacity and intelligence of the people. But such objections should bear in mind that the members of the organization are units of the masses and have as much interest in the welfare of the country as those who so hotly oppose their secret movements. It is "anything rotten in Denmark," the members themselves, who know most of their principles and designs, should be the best to put an end to their political iniquity and give the alarm.

The secrecy of the organization has been the life of it, and had the doctrine of Native Americanism been promulgated in any other manner than it was, it would have been crushed in its first budding by those who had not the honor of first starting it, and whom it was destined to jostle in their fat places.

But the doctrine now has taken such a strong hold on the popular mind, and so many, from a conviction of its truth, have united with the Order, that to be called a "Know Nothing" is no longer a badge of reproach, and to keep secret our views and political aims is no longer necessary. The doctrine is so acceptable to the masses, and meets their views so well that it has spread like wild-fire from one extreme of the Union to the other, leaving every city town and neighborhood with its patriotism. Now the Order is fully able to stand erect, to walk abroad in open day, in all the vigor and pride of its manly strength, and the members are willing to rest its perpetuity on the soundness and good faith of its doctrines.

To refute the false charges which have been made against Native Americanism, to show the futile character of the objections which have been urged against it, and to expound the whole doctrine fully and fairly to the people, leaving them to judge of for themselves, is the design which led to the establishment of the PATRIOT. When once properly understood, the political views of the American party will be appreciated, and many who have been misled by demagogic partisans will find that the reforms sought for in some departments of Government are not such *raw-heads and bloody-bones* as they are imagined, and that the Know Nothings are not such cut-throats and common enemies as they have been represented.

Next to self-preservation, the love of one's country in the bosom of every good citizen is the second law of nature. A judicious system of legislation well carried out, and a pure administration of justice is the dearest idol to every noble American's ambition, because on those depend his own welfare, the welfare of his offspring and friends. When the legislative enactments which have been thrown around our political institutions to protect them from outrage and corruption are openly disregarded and trampled under foot, what surely have we for the future?

To guard with jealous vigilance against every infringement of his own rights and the laws of his country, is characteristic of the freeman, since upon these too hang all the law and the prophets. The doctrine of Native Americanism is, we believe, instinctive in the bosom of every native born son of our land, and no one can look upon the corruption of the foreign vote, the barter and sale to which it is subject, without feeling indignant at the outrage which the objects of benevolence would perpetuate upon us.

The signs of the times show that there has sprung up in our country in the last few years some evils which require at the hands of the sovereign power a ready and efficient remedy. The causes, fruitful of evil will, if not stayed, in the course of time, eat through the entrails of our peace and corrupt the very fountain head which sustains our political institutions. We must either wholly turn away that flood-tide of immigration which is pouring into our country at every sea-port, or we must so remodel the process of the naturalization that this foreign vote may be thoroughly Americanized, before its influence shall be allowed to touch our laws and politics.

We do not wish to infringe too long on the time and patience of the reader. This theme and many other interesting topics will be discussed more fully at a future time.

Let us covet nothing out of our reach, but content ourselves with things attainable and at hand, and without envying the advantages of others; for greatness stands upon a craggy precipice, and 'tis much safer and quieter living upon a level.—[Seneca.]