

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER

JUSTICE TO ALL

VOLUME I.

ST. MARTINSVILLE, LA., APRIL 17th, 1886.

NUMBER 8.

THE MESSENGER.

A Vicious System.

The method of farm management, in this parish, is radically defective: The results prove it. Instead of making the two ends meet, we see the ends from year to year, getting further apart. And one of the direct causes that tends to this deplorable state of affairs is the vicious credit system. Fully two thirds of the farmers before a single furrow is turned in the field are in consultation with the local merchant, arranging for the amount of advances the latter is willing, at a crushing price, to grant on a future crop. A lien is then given on everything the poor farmer has, or may possess, including the coming crop. And then begins the working of the credit system. All economy is thrown to the dogs—not satisfied with only the necessities of life, he buys anything, and everything simply because he has the power to buy. In the course of time he grows indifferent as to his obligations. He, of course, works as little as possible or at least in a discouraging manner. At the end of the season, before his crop is even harvested, the merchant is ready to take in everything. Frequently the account is disputed, suit is brought; and then not even a ear of corn is left in the crib. The same farce is played over and over as long as he can obtain credit; and, if he is the owner of a patch of land he is eventually turned out in the wide world, without a thing to his name, save a wife and six miserable babes. Such a system should be speedily eliminated.

An Outrage.

When the people of this town and neighborhood, willingly and cheerfully subscribed means to induce the building of the branch railroad with its terminus here, they labored under the impression that some slight regard would be paid for their convenience. They recognized the fact, through and quick transportation would be beneficial to the industries of the town, and would contribute to facilitate travel to and fro. Hence, they were not slow in their endeavors to secure the benefits they believed would accrue to them. How did the railroad authorities meet this spirit? By an apparent studied effort to inconvenience the traveling public. Passengers taking the train here to meet the west bound train are compelled to lay over at Cade's Station fully three hours—a place that offers but slight attraction. Undoubtedly this long wait works to the detriment of this town, for it will scarcely be denied, that but for this state of things, many from the country would take this route. The ground of complaint should be removed. Let the people of this town place their grievances before the railroad authorities, and we hope, and believe, they will be made to disappear.

Local Lights.

He is now Mayor Chs. Guerinier.
We understand the Base Ball club is about getting in trim.
No town of 2000 inhabitants enjoys more quietness than ours.
We have been having all sorts of weather for the past two weeks.
The assessor is diligently at work taking the assessment of the Parish.
The lot where the engine house stands is now the property of Volunteer No 1.
St. Martinsville can boast of one of the best organized fire departments in the state.
At last the Police Jury has had the "necessary retreat," near the Court House, repaired.

Would you be surprised, reader, at the erection, in the near future, of a new saw mill and shingle mill in this town.

The old maxim a fool and his money soon parted was clearly apparent one day this week. Don't fear we'll tell no tales out of school.

The young colored men, the projectors of the new Hook and Ladder Co., will on the 25th. instant give a Bazar for the benefit of their Company.

We'd be willing to wager that the Recorder's office is doing a fine business, right now. Time for the merchant's to have their privileges recorded, you know.

It is to be hoped that the present town council will devise means to secure the tax payers views on the advisability of having a new town charter. The present one, from its age, does not meet the requirements of the present day.

Send your address to Wm. F. Johnson, book seller, stationer and newsdealer, 308 Decatur street, New Orleans La., and he will send you his catalogue of the best and cheapest books, and standard sheet music in the world.

We have received this week, the Ladies Home Journal, published in Philadelphia at 50 cents a year, by the Curtis Publishing Company. The magazine is filled with a kind of literature and engravings that specially commend it to the ladies. We do not hesitate to recommend it as one of the best.

On Monday the 12th. inst., the sad news reached us of the death of Mary Hayes, wife of our esteemed fellow citizen, John Ennis, after an illness of one day and a half. Aged fifty three years. The departed was exemplary in all the relations of life. A pious christian, affectionate wife, and a devoted mother. To a surprising business, she united a sympathizing heart and an open hand to the poor and afflicted irrespective of color. She leaves a husband and daughter to mourn their loss, the suddenness of the bereavement was a terrible shock, and the sympathies of this community are tendered the family in their affliction.

The Messenger was the recipient of an invitation to a ball to be given in Brusardville on the 25th. inst. We can only wish it the success attending their other balls, knowing by that that it will be an enjoyable affair. The gentlemen comprising the Committee will please accept our thanks for their kind remembrance of us.

Near Burke's Station, last Tuesday morning about 8 o'clock, a man named Rodolphe Sandoz, was killed by a colored man. The cause of the shooting seem to be that the deceased wanted to prevent the latter from putting up a fence on land claimed by both. Sandoz is the same man that was convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary in Iberia but secured a new trial by appeal to the Supreme Court, and on second trial was acquitted.

Excerpta from published "proceedings of the School Board."

"There being several applicants for the teachership thereof, (of Freetown colored school,) the secretary was directed to appear before a committee for examination, &c., &c.,

"A parish superintendent of schools whose duties shall be to visit each school in the parish at least once a month, or as often as required, and make monthly reports to the President of the Board, was ordered to be appointed, and on motion of same, E. R. Knight Secretary was appointed at a salary of one hundred dollars payable quarterly. Said appointment to take effect from and after date.

Our reporter, last week, was a witness to a peculiar instance of bird sagacity. A number of crows were in confab. A venerable old fellow seem to be presiding and the rest sitting side by side, like jurors in a box. "This must be a trial by jury" thought the reporter. A deep-mouthed croaker seem to proclaim silence. And then a chattering between four and five of them commenced, probably the counsel for and against the prisoner. For a sorry looking specimen, was sitting quietly in the midst of several fierce looking fellows; he was no doubt the prisoner. After a prolonged session—the venerable judge seem to croak out something, it was perhaps the charge to the jury; soon thereafter there was chattering from a few, and all at once there was a grand chorus by all. And, after a few seconds, so help us Moses, if the whole crowd did not pounce on the poor prisoner and quickly dispatched him. Fact.

A Few Chips.

Morrison is gone clean daft in the tariff question.

They now call Cleveland the Garfield of the Democratic party.

To do good to our enemies, is to resemble the incense whose aroma perfumes the fire by which it is consumed.

He must have been a most impudent hypocrite who first wrote: I am dear sir, your most obedient and devoted servant.

Remember this: Want of civic pride engenders indifference; indifference is next door to distrust; distrust breeds jealousy; and after jealousy gains a foothold, then chaos.

The speech of Gladstone in the English parliament, shows that he foresees what is coming unless Ireland is granted her demands for home rule. The people of this country have shown their sympathy for the cause of Ireland by a contribution of over 200,000 to help Parnell in his praiseworthy endeavors.

The elections this month, have resulted in overwhelming victories for the Republicans. They are now satisfied that they will go in control of the next Congress. Shouldn't be surprised. When a man goes up a tree and shakes down the fruit, and somebody else gets it, he is very likely to retire in disgust.

What was considered, a few years ago only a fit abode for cattle, bids fair, at an early day to be thickly settled by a class of people who, having the means and recognizing the fertility of the soil, will yet make it a "blooming garden." We mean that section known as the "Mormonteau region" now being filled with people from Iowa and other northern States.

The fearful and outrageous murder of inoffensive men and a woman, by the hired thugs commissioned as Deputy Sheriffs in East St. Louis, the other day is a blot upon the law. Employed because of their brutal instincts, these men who were supposed to uphold the law have frightfully violated its most sacred principles. There is a terrible reckoning in store for these human fiends.

The most casual observer of events transpiring in Congress cannot fail to notice that the Third District of Louisiana is well and ably represented in that body by the Hon. E. Gay. Though this is his first term, he has managed to grasp all public affairs with a knowledge of an adept in legislation. Not a measure, affecting the interests of the State is brought out, but he is found on the right side battling for the welfare of his people.

CONSTABLE SALE.

State of Louisiana—Parish of St. Martin.

ARTHUR CASTILLE } Justice of the Peace
VS. } Court 3rd. Ward.
ANDRE CHARLES } No. 75.

By virtue of a writ of fieri facias issued in the above entitled cause by the Hon. L. J. Bienvenu, Justice of the Peace in and for the 3rd. Ward of the Parish of St. Martin, State of Louisiana, and to me directed, I will offer for sale at public auction to the last and highest bidder, at my residence in said ward, on Saturday the 1st day of May, 1886, the following described property to wit:

One ox.

Terms—Cash.

J. N. BABIN, Constable.