

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER.

JUSTICE TO ALL

VOLUME I.

ST. MARTINSVILLE, LA., MAY 1st. 1886.

NUMBER 10.

THE MESSENGER.

The M. B. A. Entertainment.

Sunday the theatrical performance given by the Mutual Benevolent Association, of this town, despite the inclemency of the weather drew a fair audience in Duchamp's Hall, and we are told the result in a financial view proved satisfactory. The play performed was a one act comedy written by our townsman, Felix Voorhies Esq., for the occasion, and we must say that its success was so great as even to overtop the highest expectations of our friend the author. From the raising of the curtain to the end of the play, the audience was kept in uproarious merriment, and its appreciation was expressed by frequent applause and quantities of bouquets were thrown on the stage.

The play is entitled, "L'hotel du Lapin Etripe,"—it is well written, well planned and full of apt repartees and unexpected situations. In the cast was the author, who, as a matter of course, rendered his part admirably. Albert, in the character of Mrs. Bequette, Charley as Dan, as Coco Labraise, and Edward, as Cesaire, his friend, all four sons of the author sustained their respective parts splendidly, as was attested by the deafening applause with which they were greeted. Mr. Vasseur Mouton and Mr. Alfred Hitter, as the traveling clerks, were exceedingly amusing, and the characters well played. Mr. J. B. Pene, as the cook, and Mr. Alfred de Laureal, as "L'homme presse," and Mr. Lionel Guerniere, as the waiter, also deserve special praise for their acting as it was as perfect as amateurs can reach. All told it was a big success. The Messenger warmly congratulates Mr. Voorhies, on his success, which by the way, is not his first in that line, and we dare say that every one present entertained the same feeling.

Weather—Crops.

The fact is, this weather that we have been having furnishes a theme not quite as agreeable as prolific. For, it assumed so to speak, all kinds of proportions—one day, cool, clear, and bracing, the next, sky overcast with threatening clouds, which after frolicking would burst and inundate "the earth." Last Tuesday was particularly a disagreeable day—rain, and a heavy one, with a strong wind blowing from early morn' till after close of day.

At this writing, a mild pleasant day we are enjoying.

The agriculturist in consequence, are not in a happy frame of mind; some see a great drawback, others while not so gloomy, are by no means satisfied. After a hard rain like the one of last Tuesday, many are under the impression that ground plowed but not planted will necessitate re plowing, while some say that by running the plow in the middle of the rows, planting and then cover, will answer. But, be this as it may, those with whom we have conversed have a mighty far off expression in their eyes. However we can but hope for the best.

MAY.

Contributed.

"Hail, bounteous May! that dost inspire
Mirth and youth and fond desire;
Woods and grooves are of thy dreaming;
Hill and dale both boast thy blessing."

Selected.

"The custom of observing May-day, or the first of May, with floral and festive ceremonies, is older than the Middle Ages, and is probably the lineal descendant Roman Floralia, or festival in honor of Flora, celebrated from April 28 to May 2nd.

"In England, the custom of going out a-Maying is mentioned in Chancer and Shakespeare. Before sunrise young people went to the groves to gather flowers and branches of foliage to adorn the village May-pole, around which the dancing was kept up. A queen of the May the most beautiful in the village was elected for crowning.

"If this pretty custom ever was in vogue here, it must have fallen in "innocuous desuetude," for our "recollection extends not to its remembrance."

"However, its observance is on the tapis, for to-morrow, when, should the intentions of the projectors be carried out, it will be a novelty in our midst.

To-Morrow.

The Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1, will be tendered a benefit, by the ladies, under the direction of Mrs. de St. Laurent to-morrow. We are told, and also note, by the public announcement, that unusual attractions will be offered for the amusement of all those attending the entertainment. A lengthy and varied programme has been prepared, and nothing has been left undone to make to-morrow evening "a red letter day" in the annals of the amusement line in this town. The cause for which given should be sufficient but as value for your money will be given, we hope a large crowd will be in attendance.

Nothing Dishonorable.

Attorney General Garland's testimony in the telephone inquiry shows conclusively that he has been guilty of no dishonorable conduct. It would have looked better had he not taken, when a Senator of the United States, the Pan-Electric stock tendered him, but the company was not asking, and there was no reason to suspect that it ever would ask for legislation to promote its interests. In fact, the circumstances were such that it could not be benefitted in that way. As attorney general Mr. Garland had nothing whatever to do with bringing the suit to test the validity of the Bell patent.

A Worthy Move.

We understand that a project is on foot to ask the town council to make a special appropriation for the fire department of this town. And should this be for some cause, unfeasible, then the request will be made, for the council to formulate an appeal to the tax-payers, whereby they will be placed in a position to express their views in regard to the levying of a special tax, yearly, for the object above mentioned. We have now three companies, and, we think, it is rather too heavy an expense on the individual members thereof, and wrong, to expect them, out of their private funds to provide for the necessary equipments. While the members, or companies, have asked no help, it is none the less but just that the property owners should willingly contribute, or be taxed a mite towards keeping the engines and appurtenances in good working order. We advance an opinion held by many in saying that with a thorough, well-organized and well-equipped department, insurance would be greatly lessened, and the money so saved would be quite a sum. Therefore, we trust those who have this matter in hand, will hasten to feel the public pulse, and be successful in their endeavors.

Local Lights.

The parish hotel has only one inmate.

The District Court has been in session this week.

Died Saturday April 24th. Jimmy Regis aged 22 years.

We have a sort of and idea that a shingle mill here would pay.

Ice cream, Sherbet, Soda water and Cakes at Hebert's ladies parlor.

They are talking of organizing a Knights of Honor Lodge here.

The rains of last Tuesday caused the Teche to rise considerably. It is now bankful.

Always remember when you want to buy the best to consult our advertising columns.

Mr. Desire Bonevalt has opened a barber shop, in the rear of Mr. G. Fournet's coffee house.

Married at New Orleans, Thursday April 29th. Louis L. Baker of this town to Miss Maggie Lewis of New Orleans.

A colored denizen was arrested and brought before Judge R. DeBlanc, last Tuesday accused of stealing meat &c. from another gent. of dusky hue, on the Baneker place. A little 13 year old black chip was the main witness. A little interrogation elicited this information: the boy said that he (the boy) had stolen the things at the instigation of the accused, being promised two dollars for so doing. The accused denied all knowledge of the theft. Both bound over to appear before the District Court.

Hon. Alfred Voorhies, Representative from this parish, takes his departure to-morrow for Baton Rouge, where the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana convenes next monday.

Str. A. Durio, towing a barge loaded with lumber, passed bound up, last Wednesday evening. The Durio was also heavily laden with lumber. We believe her cargo is destined for Breaux Bridge.

Mr. Henry Molaison, whose several college friends in this town, will, we are sure be pleased to learn that he is now the river reporter of the New Orleans Daily Chronicle. Until taking charge of his new position, he was second clerk of the Str. Warren, plying in the Opelousas trade.

In conversation with one of our merchants, the other day, he expressed the belief, that why, and the wherefore of our trade depression was found in the fact that the town is surrounded by country stores. He counted fourteen. And said that the trade which formerly came here is being done at those places. Some truth in this.

A Few Chips.

East Carroll parish does not owe a cent, and has 1800 dollars in the treasury.

E. A. Burke, can go to Congress, from the Second District, if he feels inclined that way.

The Opelousas Courier says that Sheriff Duson ascribes the fact of only one prisoner being in the parish jail to the good effects of the Sunday law.

The Picayune very aptly says that "reformers are persons who want other persons to reform. The prohibitionist is a man who wants his neighbor to quit drinking.

Representative Provost does not favor appropriating the people's money for the maintenance of a State militia, in as much as the money spent for that purpose can be better employed.

An earthen pot filled with gold coin that the cashier of a local bank values at \$12,000 was turned up by the plow a few days ago by a farmer at work in his field at Batesburg S. C.

A petition from colored men has recently been sent to Congress asking for the creation of a negro territory, the object being to secure a place where the negroes can live by themselves as the Indian do in the Indian Territory.

The Democrat Tribune, of Minden, says "it is better to have a majority of the Police Juries in fourteen Parishes Republican than to have a majority of the parishes under the government of ring politicians who care nothing for the people." As soon as the coming legislature adjourns we hope to be in a position to sling this query: "Where was Moses when the light went out.

Real facts of the Ford case, a complete history of the trial and conviction of the accused, the execution of condemned etc. Can be had at the Post Office, price 15 cents.