

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER.

JUSTICE TO ALL

VOLUME I.

ST. MARTINSVILLE, LA., MAY 15th. 1886.

NUMBER 2

THE MESSENGER.

The Governor's Message.

Gov. McEnery sent in a very interesting message to the Legislature which convened at Baton Rouge, last Monday. Though lengthy it will amply repay perusal. Many important subjects are candidly treated, and should the recommendations, or at least a part of them, be heeded, the people will be greatly benefited. The message shows that many of our complaints are purely imaginary. The crops, its says, have been abundant; the health of the State unexampled; the levees have never been in better condition than now; the public schools have increased in efficiency; the agriculturist's interests are improving; taxes are not onerous; property, life and liberty have been preserved and protected and justice has been speedily administered. One passage in the message which ought to attract general attention reads: "the government must protect itself and in the duty and authority to require enforce attendance in public schools, the State has a right to intervene for its own protection. The ignorant man as a voter is as powerful as the most learned. The people are sovereign and every reason dictates that the voter should be fitted to fulfill the duties of citizenship." This is sound logic. There are many important matters that have been left unsaid, but, we presume, unless the Legislature fails to take them in consideration, the Governor will address a supplemental message to that body covering what was left out. However, taking it all in all, it is a strong document.

A merchant who opens a business establishment does so with a view to sell goods. Some seek after trade, others rest supinely and wait for trade to come to them; some are eager that the people should know what they have in stock, others prefer the people to find out, what they keep in store; some are bold in inviting customers; others seem ashamed, (to judge by their actions) that they are in business; one prospers and the other don't. The prosperous merchants have different modes to bring their wares before the public—some will trust to an elegant fit, hoping the purchaser will boom his house; some will throw in "la gnappe" and trust they will talk about his generosity; some will hang out and expose in front of their stores nearly half of their stock, thinking to appall the cupidity of the passer by; some employ dummies; while a few will use the means of giving the most promiscuous publicity, by advertising in their local paper. This latter class requests you to visit their stock—they are not afraid of the quality of their goods, they invite a comparison of prices, they do not ask you to run all over creation for what you need, since you can find what you want at their counters, in fine they are neither ashamed of their calling nor afraid of competition. Those merchants you can safely deal with.

Progress of The South.

It can hardly have escaped the notice of close observers that the proposition to appropriate funds from the federal treasury to increase the educational facilities of the South received its chief support, if not original suggestion, from the census of 1880. The shock which linking men of the whole country sustained when the returns of that year showed that nearly half the voters in southern states were illiterate had immediate outcome in a movement designed to correct the evil. The idea prevailed then and thereafter that illiteracy with its train of dangers, was being opposed by influences not sufficiently counteractive, and that the south was either hopelessly indifferent to education or financially incompetent to meet emergency. People failed to perceive that though the increase from 1870 to 1880 in the aggregate number of illiterate in the late slave-holding states had been more than half a million, yet illiteracy, considered relatively to the growth of the population, had actually decreased forty-five in every thousand inhabitants and hence had become a vanishing danger. And more than this, no account whatever was taken of the progress southern education had already made, and in increasing degree was still making. It is only within a year that we have come to recognize the hopeful signs of the southern educational work. A sober review of the whole educational field in the south during the decade reveals a steady and rapid progress in the work of common schools in the highest degree encouraging, and points to a gratifying state of intellectual and moral development.

A Palpable Outrage.

The firm of Gates & Veazey of this place purchased in New York lately a bill of goods to be used in connection with their soap factory here. The articles cost \$82.50 and the freight by steamer to New Orleans \$30 making a total of \$112.50 for the entire sum disbursed for the lot of merchandise, freight included, to that city. Transferred to a car the goods were delivered at New Iberia a distance of 125 miles, and the freight charged here was \$112.24, or 26 cents less than the cost of the articles and the cost of transportation to New Orleans.—[Enterprise.]

Local Lights.

A. Hillard, Esq., was in town this week.

Died Sunday May 9th. 1886, Miss Alizia Francois, at the age of 22 years.

Never ask a young lady why her back hair doesn't match that in front.

Sheriff Broussard left last Thursday for Baton Rouge to effect his final settlement with the State for the collection of taxes.

The Mikado Social Club, will spread in a few days, a Terpsichorean feast for its friends, but of this more anon.

Judges Moore and Clegg, held a session of the Circuit Court, here this week. We are not informed if much business was transacted.

Mr. R. Dyer advertises in to-days paper. In handing his card for insertion, he said he is ready to compete with any one for cheap prices.

The property of the Estate of Chas. Guerinere, as advertised was sold last Wednesday, at public auction and brought very low prices. The Cypress Island plantation for instance, sold for only two thousand dollars.

There was a croquet party at Mrs. W. A. Bienvenu, last Wednesday, where were congregated the beauty of the town. It was a very enjoyable affair.

Reports come to us that the crops are growing splendidly. The acreage, we believe, is larger than last season, and should our planters be favored with propitious weather, a large crop will be made.

The curs are getting disagreeably numerous, and it is about time for his Honor the Mayor to issue and edict to dispatch them to the "happy hunting grounds."

Mr. Charles Bouigny, who was stricken with an attack of apoplexy, some weeks ago, is, we are glad to learn, doing well, and, will soon we hope, be up and attending to his usual avocations.

We want this to go on record: We have land, in this parish, susceptible of the highest improvement, and that, we can if we choose raise all we consume. And if the best results are not obtained the fault lies at our own door.

One hundred dollars looks like a pretty steep price for a two months old calf, but Dr. H. P. Guilbeau, of Breaux Bridge, don't think so, for that is just the price he paid, the other day, for one of that age, with a pedigree ever so long.

We are in a position to aver with positiveness that the public schools, both as to attendance and good order, are in a flourishing condition, and the progress of the children in their studies, is also, very satisfactory. Our efficient School Board, is employing the means at hand to the best advantage.

Mrs. Hypolite Martinet, aged years died last Saturday and her mortal remains were interred in the Catholic cemetery Sunday evening. A large concourse of friends attended the funeral. This venerable old lady was endowed with a beneficent spirit—thoroughly charitable, deeply religious, and was a kind mother, and good friend. She leaves a large family to deplore her demise. She was the mother of L. A. Martinet, the editor of the Louisiana Standard. Peace to her ashes.

From the New Iberia Enterprise of the 8th. inst., we learn that "last week, on Friday or Saturday, as the steamer Durio came through the bridge across the Bayou, at Breaux Bridge, the bridge keeper seeing that the smoke-stack would strike the raised span of the bridge, let go the crank and the span came down on the boat, and the pilot house and cabin as well as smoke-stack were wrecked, The Durio belongs to the Iberia Oil Mills of Gates & Veazey, who will put in a claim for damages against the parish of St. Martin." At this writing, our knowledge of the facts in the premises extend no further than what is gleaned from the statement of our contemporary, hence we refrain from passing any comments thereon, at this time.

Not content with throwing dead cats, dogs, cattle and other offal in the Bayou, now comes some unknown to us ignoramus, who, not knowing to what consequences his act may lead, has, sometime during the night of last Monday, dumped a barrel of fecal, barrel and all, in that stream. When it is known that many people use this water for household purposes, such reprehensible acts, must be nipped in the bud. And, if none are existing, a stringent ordinance to cover such cases, should be immediately adopted, and, we know, we can trust the Mayor for its proper enforcement. We hope, we will be pardoned for bringing this matter before the public but it may be the only way to meet the eye of the offender.

A Card of Thanks.

Extract from the minutes of Vol. Fire Co. No. 1, held on May 6th. 1886. On motion of Mr. Aug. Maraist, duly seconded and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the sincere thanks of this company be and are hereby tendered to the ladies and gentlemen who contributed to the entertainment given on the 2nd. of May, for our benefit, be it further resolved that a copy of the above resolution be furnished by the Secretary protem, to the St. Martin Reveille and the Messenger for publication.

A true copy from the minutes.

W. A. Bienvenu
Sec'y. protem.

A Card of Thanks.

St. Martinsville, May 5th. 1886.
On Motion of Mr. W. A. Bienvenu seconded and unanimously adopted.

It was resolved that the thanks of the St. Martinsville Mutual Benevolent Association be and are hereby tendered to Messrs. A. de Laureat, V. Montou, L. Guerinere, J. B. Pene, J. A. Hitter, Felix, Edward, Daniel, Charles and Albert Voorhies, for their kind assistance in the entertainment of the 25th. of April last, given for our benefit, and that this resolution be spread on the minutes and published in the St. Martin Reveille and Messenger.

A true copy from the minutes.

Raphael DeBane Sec'y.