

THE MESSENGER.

The Lien Law.

A bill has been introduced in the lower house of the General Assembly having for its object the repeal of that section of the law having reference to the giving of a lien on the crop for advances and supplies. And in its stead it is proposed to pass "an act in compliance with article 223 of the Constitution, for the protection of creditors against the fraudulent practices of debtors, and for discovering and reaching the property and funds of debtors." And as a rider to "tax every person in the country parishes who sells wines or liquors in quantities above a gallon, \$3 0 a year, and fine those who sell less than a gallon or allow any liquor to be drunk on the premises, from \$500 to \$1000 for each offense." Such is the proposed remedy for the cure of—what every one who has given the matter any serious thought must admit—a very vicious system. Without a doubt every planter and merchant would hail with pleasure any measure that would tend to relieve them from the sinking condition in which they are placed by force of circumstances. Both have labored too long under crushing disadvantages. Instead of prospering they are getting poorer every day. But, will the proposed bill produce the results its advocates anticipate? most of the small planters of this parish, at least are pretty deep in debt. They make but one crop—cotton, this goes to the merchant. After settlement at the end of the year, the planter has not a cent coming to him—he is at the complete mercy of the merchant. And having but little of what he consumes—the necessities of life,—should the merchant, believing that he is not allowed sufficient security in the future, refuse any further advances, and unless given aid by the charitably inclined starvation and suffering would be the lot of the poor planter. We recognize that the system under which our agriculturists labor at present is sinking him deeper and deeper in the mire of debt, but let not the remedy be too violent. We admit that could the planter be given or had the means to float independent, one year ahead this proposed law would be a God-send, and may yet be, but the measure must be weighed carefully before its adoption, so as not to entail suffering on many.

Our worthy Sheriff T. L. Broussard returned home from Baton Rouge, last Thursday evening having effected his final settlement with the State for the collection of taxes for the year 1885. The following from the New Iberia Enterprise of the 19th. inst., is substantially correct: Sheriff T. L. Broussard of St. Martin, has made his settlement for 1884 and 1885 and the percentage is over 97 per cent, which when we consider the difficulties under which he has had to labor in effecting collections and forcing the payment of taxes, is not merely creditable but exceptionally good. We doubt whether as good a showing has ever before been made in the collection of taxes in that parish.

Court of Appeals.

Judges Moore and Clegg held a session of the Circuit Court, here, last Monday week, and passed upon the following cases:

In the matter of the matter of Jules A. Rasweber vs. T. L. Broussard-Sheriff and Pierre Fauries.

This is a suit by the Plaintiff by way of third opposition to have his lien and privilege on cotton and corn seized by the Sheriff, to satisfy a certain judgment and to have the proceeds of the sale of said seized property paid by preference over the seizing creditor. Judgment was rendered by District Court in favor of plaintiff, and said judgment is affirmed by Court of Appeals.

In the matter of the Estate of Belizaire Elisee Thibodeaux—opposition to demand of administration. The Judgment of the District Court dismissed the opposition—and this judgment is reversed by the Court of Appeals.

In the matter of Jean Gerac and Romain Francez vs S. V. Martin. An action to have assessment for taxes of 1885 reduced. Judgment of the District Court rejected Plaintiff's demand, and was affirmed by the Court of Appeals.

Local Lights.

Fish, craw-fish and crabs are plentiful on the market every Friday morning.

The Corporation authorities have had ditches dug along all the back streets of the town.

The Str. New Iberia, was in port last Wednesday evening and discharged quite a large freight at Landry's Warehouse.

Hon. Alfred Voorhies, member from this parish, is chairman of one committee and a member of several others, of the House of Representatives.

The beneficent rainfall at the commencement of this week did a world of good. Vegetation has taken a fresh hold, as it were, and is growing fast.

An enjoyable soiree was given at Mrs. Baumgardner's residence last Saturday. The young folks speak in glowing terms of the pleasant time they had.

Again the cheering information comes to us that the crops are still growing fine. We hope our planters will extend their highest expectations, for no class are more deserving of success.

The "Dames de Progres," a benevolent colored society, attended an anniversary mass at the Catholic Church, last Tuesday morning, in procession, headed by the Union Brass Band.

The Mikado Social Club has issued invitations for a "soiree dansante," to take place this afternoon at Duchamps's Hall. This sterling organization, composed of the elite as our young men, never do things by halves, hence, we are sure those who attend will have a jolly and pleasant time.

The destruction of the alligator for their skins, has grown to large proportions in the last two or three years. A couple of hunters were out this week killing quite a number.

Chief Deputy Fleming, last Thursday, got wind that one Henry Williams, an escaped convict, was in the vicinity of town. Upon immediate investigation a Henry Williams was found, but he was not the man wanted.

The first week in June, we are told, is the time fixed for the entertainment of the children of the Convent Schools. From appearances, we believe, we are safe in venturing the assertion that they will surpass all previous efforts.

Archbishop Leray, through his attorneys, has instituted suit against the Corporation of St. Martinsville, for "slander of title," i. e., for having erected, without the consent and against the wishes of the said plaintiff a town calaboose, on land claimed by him. Damages in the sum of five hundred dollars and all costs are prayed for. This suit is likely to bring some things to the surface which have been resting quiet for many years.

Deputy Sheriff Amede Champagne, brought in two prisoners (col.) named Augustin Langeon and Jean B. Martinet, last Thursday and they were incarcerated in the parish jail. They are charged with assault and intent to kill one Nicholas Andre. They are from the "Grande Anse," in the upper part of the parish, where the alleged assault was committed. There are at present in jail five prisoners, all black.

Our friend Chris. Fitzgerald has a nobby little apiary—some 30 hives. He will this season get about a hundred gallons of honey and may be more. With the use of a patent extractor working by the centrifugal process, the honey is extracted from the comb without a dreg or single foreign substance remaining therein. The honey is as clear and pure as crystal. Our young friend has not had much leisure to attend to his hives but with what little time he could spare had demonstrated the fact to his satisfaction, that, properly conducted, there is money in it. Those wishing to buy prime honey can call on him.

Why did you strike this man? asked his Honor.

"I had sufficient cause, your Honor. He came to my house the other day on a visit. He criticized my children; he laughed at my daughter's singing; he ridiculed the fish-story I told him; he put my wife to a great deal of trouble at dinner time; he turned up his nose at the vittles placed on the table, and—"

"But all that gave you no excuse to strike him with a stick of stove-wood."

"I know; but let me get through. After dinner he began to talk about the proposed building of the Hall conjointly by the M. B. A. & V. Fire Company. Then I hit him."

"Hall eh! Did he talk about that? I fine you ten dollars for not shooting him."

Legislative Briefs.

The Fontecieu impeachment case was tried yesterday.

The Democratic caucus favors the appointment of Police Jurors by the Governor. Hence, the parish affairs will be continued in faithful and worthy hands. The Democratic party again showed its wisdom.

The Legislature has adopted a resolution of sympathy for Ireland in her just efforts for home rule. Also praising Gladstone and Parnell. The Secretary of State was requested to transmit copies of their resolution to the two latter gentlemen.

Mr. Provost of Iberia, introduced an act in the house to fix and regulate passenger fair on railroads at 3 cents a mile, and imposing heavy fines for its violation. It is to be hoped that the gentleman's efforts will be crowned with success.

There is no doubt that the adoption of Corporal punishment for petit larceny would tend to stop stealing. No one who once submitted to the infliction of the lash would be apt to steal again. The cure would be radical. But we are opposed to any such measure. No barbarity should be tolerated in this State. Hence, we believe the bill will fail of adoption.

The committee on the Constitution will report unfavorably on the bill to amend the Constitution so as to enlarge the civil jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace. It certainly would be to the interest of tax-payers if some of the higher courts were abolished and the Justices of the Peace given power to try and decide minor offences; but, then we suppose the hangers-on must be taken care of.

Our Choice For Congress. Hon. E. J. Gay.

[Iberville South.]

We are in favor of the re-election of Mr. Gay because he is the right man in the right place—he suits the people who sent him to Washington to watch over their interests, which are constantly menaced by a knot of theoretical politicians whose anti-tariff schemes would, if carried out, convert lower Louisiana into a howling waste.

The sugar interests of Louisiana, from which half a million of people derive their sustenance, and to maintain which millions of capital are annually called into requisition, cannot be entrusted to safer hands.

Mr. Gay is one of the largest sugar planters in Louisiana, and has invested thousands upon thousands of dollars to develop the sugar industry of our State—he is a thorough planter and manufacturer, intimately acquainted with the wants of the planter and laborer, and is possessed of business talents which lift him high above the plane occupied by politicians generally.

In supporting Mr. Gay we reflect the wishes of the Democratic party of Iberville, and we trust the party throughout the District will show its preference for him by tendering him a unanimous nomination in convention assembled. It is due to him because he has been a faithful servant and because it is usage.