

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER.

\$1 00

JUSTICE TO ALL.

\$1 00.

VOLUME I.

ST. MARTINSVILLE, LA. JUNE 12th. 1886.

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THE MESSENGER.

Embrace Your Opportunities.

Recently, a friend of the writer, who can see a little further than his nose, in most convincing language, intimated in a conversation, that we seem to have but a poor idea of the possibilities of our affluent lands; that our section is shaped for immeasurable prosperities. At every turn we see hidden wealth smiling and inviting the hand to pluck it from a weary state, and make it of some use, if not to the people, then to our personal interest.

This gentleman, besides the extensive practice of his profession, finds time to attend to a fine farm. Firstly, most of his home necessities, he raises on his farm. He has several heads of fine blooded stock, of different kinds; he has a poultry yard, of the best breed, the eggs from which, when he chooses to sell, readily goes at three dollars a dozen; he has several bee-hives; he has a fine orchard growing; he planted, a year ago, two hundred pecan trees, which are coming up splendidly; and, now, he has recently planted some two hundred fig-cuts, representing different varieties of this delicious and wholesome fruit.

He believes and so do we, that we can prepare dry figs and put them up as well and that will command as remunerative prices, as anywhere. Not long ago, a lady, sent several jars of preserved figs to St. Louis, and they were eagerly purchased commanding fair prices. As this gentleman truly says there are no good reasons why instead of buying this fruit which grows in abundance here, we should not be selling it, and pocket the profits.

The fig is indigeneous we believe, to this climate, the tree bears prolifically, is hardy and lives long. After attaining its growth it requires no care.

We shall watch the experiment of our friend with interest.

Country School Teaching.

MR. PRINTER.—Did you ever teach a school? If you ever have, I guess as how you had a little rather set type, for it is a solemn fact that the schoolmaster of a country school is about the most miserable being on earth. Not long ago I visited the school of a friend of mine, not many miles from this town, and if there ever was anything which could approach Bedlam, it was this school. I had just got fairly seated, when up jumps a young Bedlamite, with, 'Marster, Jo House keeps er pinchin me.' 'Jo, did you pinch him?' 'No I didn't, 'twas Bill Grimes, for I seed him when he did it.' 'Bill, what did you pinch him for?' 'Koz he keeps er crowdin.' Then follows a flagellation. Soon a class of little ones is called up to read. 'What is that?' 'Thath A-er.' 'Very well what is the next?' 'Edno thir.' 'That is B you blockhead.' 'B-er.' 'What is that?' 'Edno thir.' 'What do I do when I look at you?' 'Edno thir.' 'Marster, Tom Bogues keeps makin me

laugh, he-he-he.' 'Tom come here—did you make him laugh?' 'No sir.' 'Well, take your seat.' 'Marster, maint I gwont.' 'No you will all go out directly. The class in spelling book stand up to read. Zekiel begin. 'B-a-k-r Baber. 'The next?' 'S-u-g-a-r.' 'What does that spell?' 'I deno thir.' 'What does your mother put in your coffee?' 'Lasses-er.' 'Next.' 'Marster, maint the boys go out?' 'No. First class in spelling.' 'Marster, Jim Stokes keeps all the squintin spit at me.' 'Well, Jim you must stop after school. Spell Phthisic.' 'P-p-p-p-t-t-h-i-s-i-c-t-i-z-ick.' 'Marster, maint I speak?' 'What for?' 'Koz I want to borry that are strate-ruler, what Jimmy Lumpkin's got.' 'No keep your seat.' Thus my friend and his pack of noisy urchins whiled away the time until the usual intermission—all had gone out but one, who had as I supposed, something of great importance to communicate to my friend, the Marster—he advances towards the desk with all the gravity of a preacher. 'Marster, said he, 'Tom Strout keeps all the time writing love letters to the gals.' I could contain myself no longer—I seized my hat and rushed out of the door.

The lavish contributions by ex-confederates of flowers for Gen. Grant's tomb are convincing evidence that the war is over. Those whom he vanquished have united with those whom he led to victory in paying tribute to his memory. This fact is a gratifying proof that the Union is thoroughly restored—that we have an undivided territory, a union of hearts, a people more closely knit together than has been the case at any previous time in the nation's history. Any attempt to destroy this feeling of amity and good will between the sections will assuredly fail. The party which shall endeavor to destroy this long desired state of harmony and fraternity will merit just what it will encounter—a crushing and overwhelming defeat. The bloody shirt should remain furled forevermore. Certain it is that the party which unfurls it cannot march to victory under the ensanguined banner.

Local Lights.

The Police Jury met last Monday. Keep cool, Audibert's Ice cold beer will do it.

Blackberrying is getting to be decidedly in vogue.

Nature's infernal machine—the cucumber will soon be felt.

When a poor fellow begins going to the dogs, he is quickly hounded down.

The young folks had an enjoyable soiree at the residence of Mr E. R. Knight, last Tuesday.

Hon. Alfred Voorhies, was up from Baton Rouge, this week, spending several days with his family.

Nearly printed ball programmes, with pencil, &c., attached, ready for use, for sale at this office. You can buy one, two, or as many as you need.

The heavy rainfall during the week has benefitted some, while some complain of too much. Its ill wind, etc.

When in need of fresh and cheap groceries, don't fail to remember that Mr. E. R. Knight asks a share of your patronage. See notice in another column.

The 15th. instant is the time fixed for the trial of the Fontelien impeachment case. Mr. Ben Kirkman, the sergeant at arms of the State Senate was in town last Tuesday serving subpoenas on witnesses.

That sterling organization the Mikado Social Club, which has done so much to bring our young people together, and afforded so much enjoyment to all, have sent out invitations for their first anniversary ball, which takes place on the 26 instant. It promises to be the event of the season.

This week has been, indeed, a rainy one. And it has tended to give an impetus to the growing crops. Corn, cane, cotton and other plants, we are told, have taken an upward tendency, and so has the grass for that matter. Taking all in all, it has done more good than harm.

We believe, Mr. W. G. Ervin, was the first man in this parish to demonstrate beyond the shadow of a doubt, the adaptability of our soil for the growing of oats. He planted some few years ago a couple of acres of "Texas Rust Proof" and they came up fruitfully. And, if we mistake not he has every year since planted a patch. He no doubt finds it pays.

At all hours of the day and night, citizens living in a certain locality of this town are regaled with an amount of scurrility that is simply intolerable. The property occupied by the parties in question, belongs to a prominent citizen, and we will refrain from, at this time particularising. But patience has a limit, and unless this nuisance is soon abated, we will more particularly refer to this matter again.

A Stereopticon Exhibition will be given at College Hall on the 15th. and 16th inst. We are told that it will be under the charge of Rev. Parmentier, and that the money accruing therefrom is destined for the general fund to build a Catholic Church in New Iberia. Such being the case we trust our people will turn out in large numbers and give a generous aid for this worthy object. Let it not be said that a worthy and charitable cause appealed in vain to St. Martin. Besides, in attending this entertainment you will be sure to get your money's worth.

Mr. J. A. Hitter is making the hats and belts for the members of Home Hook and Ladder Co. The hats are similar in shape to those of the other companies, being neatly trimmed in black. The belts are made to match the hats. Mr. Hitter is doing tasty work. The truck has been ordered from Oconner and Sons, New Orleans, and will probably be here during the coming week. The young colored men, will present a fine appearance when they turn out.

Statement of Taxes, Collected by T. L. Broussard,

Sheriff and Tax Collector, for the Parish of St. Martin, from the first day of September 1885 to the first day of May 1886.

Debit.	
Amount due the Parish as per Roll of 1885.....	\$10 515 60
Special tax of ".....	4 779 04
	15 294 64
Back taxes & int ".....	476 00
Total amount due the Parish	\$15 770 64
Credit.	
Dec. 1st. 1885, cash paid par'h Treasurer, back taxes, int	\$138 68
Parish taxes 1885.....	1 576 82
Special " ".....	416 66
Jan. 4th. 1886 paid par'h Treasurer for back taxes, int. 1886	134 20
Parish taxes " ".....	5 261 28
Special " ".....	2 695 20
Jan. 19th. " ".....	\$8 090 68
paid parish Treasurer	
Parish taxes 1885.....	1 500 02
Special " ".....	715 27
March 8th. 1886	
paid parish Treasurer	
Back taxes, int.....	32 49
Parish " 1885.....	850 91
Special " ".....	383 02
June 7th. 1886 paid parish Treasurer for	
Back taxes, int.....	170 63
Parish taxes 1886.....	658 60
Special " ".....	282 12
Deduction list, erroneous and double assessment & properties sold to State in 1885 and carried on Roll.....	623 87
Property sold to State in 1886 for taxes of '85	242 32
Total amount collected with deduction list	\$15 773 09
The Sheriff has also turned over to the Parish Treasurer, for school funds, besides the above amount, Poll tax collected.....	\$1 472 00

DIED.

MOUTON.—Saturday June 5th. 1886, at 1 p. m., at the age of 5 months, Alice, child of Jules J. Mouton and Theodora Ledoux.

The Messenger tenders its sympathy to the family.

Card of Thanks.

We offer our sincere thanks to the Gentlemen of the Brass Band for their attendance at our Exhibition; also to the Ladies who gave us such generous assistance with the refreshment tables.

Sisters of Mercy.

Sunday School Meeting.

Bishop Mallaleu, and Rev. J. F. Marshall and others, will lecture at the Sunday School Meeting, at the M. E. Church on Friday, June 18th. at 3 o'clock p. m. Divine services at 8 o'clock p. m. All are invited to attend.

Rev. Ed. Field.