

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER.

\$1 00

JUSTICE TO ALL.

\$1 00.

VOLUME I.

ST. MARTINSVILLE, LA. JULY 24th. 1886.

NUMBER 22.

THE MESSENGER.

Our Devil's First Effort.

I set me down,
In thought profound,
This maxim wise I drew:
"You tickle me and I'll tickle you."

The War in The Swamp.

Thursday morning Sheriff Broussard received a telegram from Morgan City to the effect that a war was raging on bayou Boutte, this parish, and that three men were killed and several wounded.

The Sheriff and deputy Fleming left that morning for the scene of trouble.

About half past four o'clock that afternoon, Ernest Miel, one of the participants in the bloody war, came to the office of the Sheriff, in this place, and surrendered himself, in case he was wanted.

From what he is reported to have said it appears that on Friday morning last one Lorenzo Randall, colored, and others passed near his house and insulted himself and family. A short while after that, he heard his cattle, in the pasture, running about as if some one were after them. Proceeding to see what was the matter, he saw Lorenzo who was in the act of injuring his stock. When Lorenzo saw him, he accosted him threateningly and at the same time leveling his gun at him, whereupon he ran behind a tree and called for help. Lorenzo walked around a few steps and fired at him, and he then returned the fire with his rifle wounding Lorenzo. Miel, came to Pattersonville and telegraphed to the sheriff about the matter, and asking him to come and arrest the parties.

After this mission, on returning home, in a skiff, with Valsin and Danl. Sparks, his father-in-law and brother-in-law, and when on the lake he was met by a skiff containing some eight men; some of the men cried to him to stop, hold on, and when within 10 or 15 yards, without more ado, opened a murderous fire on him and those with him. Danl Sparks was shot dead. Valsin was wounded, and so was he, (he has a scalp wound—Ed.) Miel then picked up his rifle and opened fire. He would fire a shot grab the oars and pull a few strokes, repeating this several times until he was out of range of the pursuing party. He says that he don't whether he hit any of his assailants. After reaching home, the skiff with the men who attacked him, passed in front of his house a half hour after he reached there.

He was then in the house by the dead body of his brother-in-law, and his father father-in-law was walking in the yard, at the time, when the parties commenced firing at the house. The old man Valsin was again wounded in the leg. He immediately picked up his rifle and began shooting at them, and they than jumped in the water and disappeared. Miel left there and came to St. Martinsville, with a view, it is said, of having warrants issued for the arrest of those people who attacked him. Miel is now in jail. The

trouble originated because he had purchased a small farm with three or four cows from an old man named Jhonny, at whose request he afterwards took to New Orleans to the poor-house.

Following is the Morgan City Free Press version of the affair.

On Tuesday morning a hard working and honorable colored man named Lorenzo Randall was shot and badly wounded on bayou Boutte by a sneaking fellow named Ernest Mills. It seems that Mills had a flat moured at one of the islands and was engaged in gathering moss and looked upon Randall and his family, who landed for the same purpose as intruders, and shot at the old man without warning. The proper papers have been filed and sent to St. Martin, in which parish the affair occurred, for service. It is to be hoped that Mills will have the full benefit of the law.

LATER.

Wednesday—two wounded men were brought in this morning from bayou Boutte; Henry Randall brother of Lorenzo, shot in the chin and Geo. Noye, shot just below the heart, one of the Deputy Sheriff's posse who attempted to make the arrest. The shooting was done by Mills, Valsin and Daniel Sparks. Noye died about 10 a. m. at the court house. Deputy Sheriff Joshua Thomas with a posse started immediately for the scene of the disturbance to arrest the desperadoes.

About 11 o'clock news was brought in that during the firing last night, Mills and another man were badly wounded, and still another man, name unknown, was killed; this makes a total so far of two killed and four wounded.

STILL LATER.

During the day considerable anxiety was manifested as to the probable result of the expedition under Deputy Sheriff Joshua Thomas, and quite a crowd gathered in the evening at the wharves waiting the return of the boats. At about 10 o'clock loud cries and lamentations were heard from the Berwick side, which was evidence that the boats had reached there, and that more murder had been committed. The news spread like wild fire, and soon several hundred people were rushing to the wharf fronting the FREE PRESS office. The suspense was terrible; nothing could be heard from the mingled voices from across the river but soon the boats could be seen nearing the Morgan City shore. For a few seconds a breathless silence prevailed, but the suspense was more than the heart of a loving wife and mother could bear, and as if fearful that no answer would be returned she called her husbands name a hearty voice came answering back "I'm all right," and the overjoyed woman lifted her hands and thanked god."

Another voice from the boats informed the people that "everybody from this side is safe but

LEVY PETERSON IS DEAD

and two more wounded.

It was then learned that when the sheriff's posse neared the scene of the conflict of the previous day they were

fired upon by the outlaws and Peterson was killed and two others were wounded. The fire was returned and it is believed that

THREE OF THE OUTLAWS FELL.

The firing became so hot that the posse were obliged to leave the boats but they drove the scoundrels to cover and captured some of their guns.

The Ballot Box.

Facts of interest to certain individual voters, entailing grave responsibilities. Facts that have slept the sleep of death, thereby not only causing distraction of public business, but brands each individual of that cast, as a traitor to the most sacred trust ever confided to man; and to his astonishment when his Representative is guilty of theft, in genteel terms a defaulter, the voter that assisted to elect him to an office with that power, as his agent is equally criminal.

"Sacred Trust." Why the Government of this the most magnificent Republic in the history of the world achieved under trials and sufferings that beggars description; was bequeathed to the citizens of the United States: I hope my fellow-citizens of the cast above alluded to consider themselves a part of that community, and will endeavor so to prove themselves. That inestimable gift, is a Beacon Light rebuking oppression and tyranny, is a movement the grandest the Sun ever shone on, to the departed heroes whose manhood placed the Crown that now glitters on the cause of humanity. It has its history embedded in the memories of a grateful people, by the fires of war.

[To be continued]

Unite on One.

We believe it is pretty safe to say that Mr. Theodore Fontellieu will be a candidate for the judgeship of this district at the election to be held on the 2nd. day of next November.

He will, no doubt inaugurate his campaign in a short time.

To defeat him will require the putting forward of a man strong with the people,

That man, we honestly believe is James E. Mouton.

Without wishing to detract from the merits of the abundant material to be found in the district, we believe he is the most available man at this time.

He can carry this parish by a handsome majority.

He is St. Martin's choice.

Iberia, also, from reports has a favorite son whom she would like to see on the bench.

Joe. A Breaux is in every way fitted for the position.

Now it behoves the partisans of these two gentlemen to find means to settle on the candidacy of one or the other of them.

While we do not mean to speak for them, we doubt not they will abide by a fair decision of the people.

Will the selection be made by a primary election, or by a convention?

It is for the leaders to say.

All we ask is for the people to have a voice in the matter.

Peculiar Kind of Love.

"The Morgan people love the people of St. Martin." *Randolph Natili before the Board of Reviewers.*

The Benevolent Association of this town gave an excursion to New Orleans on the Morgan road, last week, paying for six coaches \$774 to that company. In returning home, before taking the cars at Algiers, the company insisted that the coaches were too crowded and compelled the managers of the excursion to take an extra coach demanding \$35 extra pay for same. There was no necessity for this extra coach, but it was forced upon the gentlemen having charge of the excursion. If this is an exhibition of their love, God save us from their hatred.

A Query.

The assessment of the Morgan railroad in Lafayette parish, adjoining this parish has been placed at \$7500 per mile, against \$6000 last year. In this parish fixed at 5500 per mile for the main line and \$3500 per mile for the branch. Can any one tell us why the railroad track is more valuable in Lafayette parish than in this parish?

Local Lights.

With continued favorable weather a fair crop will be made in this parish.

The Board of Reviewers got through its labors at last. Were they satisfactory?

The Str. Queen City, in place of the Str. New Iberia, of the Belt line was in port last Wednesday.

Mr. E. R. Knight, keeps in stock a fine grade of chewing and smoking tobacco. Try his 5 cents a package tobacco.

Our young friend Chris Fitzgerald is now working in the foundry of Messrs. Edwards and Hautman, in New Orleans.

Our friend Numa Domengeaux of Breaux Bridge, was among the passengers on the last trip of the steamer Danton.

We gladly place on our exchange list the *Plaquemine Protector*. It is a splendid paper and has all the elements essential to prosperity. Our good wishes go with it.

We gladly welcome in our midst Mr. Elijah Crawson and family. They will occupy for a short time, the residence of Mr. Wm. Eastin. We presume it will not be long before they will move on the plantation recently purchased by Mr. Crawson just outside of town.

EDWARD SIMON,

AND

JAMES D. SIMON.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW,

—and—

NOTARY PUBLIC.

Office near the Court House.
St. Martinsville, La.