

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER.

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JUSTICE TO ALL.

\$1 00.

VOLUME I.

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THE MESSENGER.

The Railroad and Politics.

Judging from an article in last Saturday's Iberia Farmer, the railroad authorities feel a little sore over the action of the Board of Reviewers of Iberia parish, because the assessment of the railroad property in that parish is placed a little higher than last year. The railroad people tried to have it reduced, but the members, thinking that the valuation as fixed was just and equitable, refused to accede to the request made. And because of that refusal "it is reported" that the railroad people are "determined to aid in the election of men who will be more lenient with them—both, at the coming special election for the judgeship and for representative in 1888."

In this connection it affords us real pleasure to say that the railroad people have no hard feelings against this parish. On the contrary, they positively love us; we have their word for it—and, also a sample of their feelings, in one instance at least. Perhaps, after all, our Police Jury possessed a little more sagacity and foresight than they were given credit for; hence did not court the railroad's ill will. Therefore, in the natural order of things, we of this parish should feel happy in the possession of their love. Only that that love is of such a peculiar kind—something akin to the love developed by a ferocious tiger for a plumb baby—we have experienced it and know what it is.

However we hope the report is untrue. When the railroad undertake to subvert the will of the people by a lavish outlay of money, which, would probably be the mode of proceeding, it will soon learn that the people have some rights that even the railroad is bound to respect.

The Democratic Mass Meeting To-Morrow.

We trust that every Democrat who can conveniently attend will be present at the mass meeting to be held in Breaux Bridge to-morrow. The purpose for which called will be seen by reference to our advertising columns. We are on the eve of a district and congressional election, the importance of which is patent, and the party should be thoroughly organized. While there are no differences existing in the ranks in regard to the judgeship, the interest in the future welfare of the party is not such as we would like to see, for, it must be painfully admitted, the party does not present that solid compactness essential to the successful perpetration of Democratic principles and measures. There are a few Achilles, whose worth is recognized, who hold aloof. Those men we would like to see take an active part in the affairs of the party. They are good Democrats and should buckle on their armor. The Democratic party is broad enough to give room and ample scope for the individual

views of all its loyal hearted members, and every man whose principles are in accord with the party welfare, is free to express his sentiments. The Democratic party is big enough to give shelter to all. All that it requires of its members is that they abide by and support the measures adopted by the majority. This is fair and just, how let all good Democrats that can do so meet on that day, exchange views and map out a plan for the future guidance of the party. Don't stay in the rear and kick!

Pride.

If there be anything which makes human nature appear ridiculous, to beings of superior faculties it must be pride. They know so well the vanity of those imaginary perfections that swell the heart of some, and of those little supernumerary advantages, whether in birth, fortune, or title, which one may enjoy above another, that it must certainly very much astonish, if it does not very much divert them, when they see a mortal puffed up, and valuing himself above his neighbors, in any of these accounts, at the same time, that he is obnoxious to all the common calamities of the species.

Y. Z.

Senator Edmunds admitted in an interview during the present week that the Democratic party as it now stands is sure of the entire vote of the solid south, and aptly remarked, "All that is necessary beyond that is to carry New York." It is evident that Edmunds's presidential aspirations have gone into a decline.

Louisiana Sulphur Mines and Oil Wells.

Among the most wonderful of the natural phenomena which are to be found throughout the world, none can surpass in mystery and interest the salt and sulphur mines and the oil wells of Louisiana. The masses of salt buried in the bowels of the earth at Avery's Island are too well known to need even brief treatment now. Giving employment to an army of workmen, the enormous output of pure crystals is distributed by rail and sea to all the ports and cities of the country.

But the sulphur and oil regions of Calcasieu are not so prominent before the public, and have not yet received the magic touch of capital. Lying far removed from mountains, and in a country where the presence of minerals was unsuspected, mere accident revealed the hidden treasures, and hitherto, only feeble attempts have been made to reach these stores of wealth.

From an old well bored, in 1871 to the depth of 1270 feet, though 80 feet, of the top of the pipe has been broken off and drawn out, oil and water with traces of sulphur are still flowing. The first well of the present company, about 500 feet deep, is sending up two streams of water one beautifully clear and cold, the other with a large percentage of sulphur. The

first flows naturally from a depth of about 200 feet, while the next comes up through an inner tube inserted and driven 200 feet deeper. South of this is the celebrated oil well of Calcasieu. Capt. Seymour now has this well so checked that only the necessary amount of oil for filling orders is allowed to run. It was below the oil bearing rock of this well that the mine of pure crystal sulphur was struck. A well was started by the company a few days ago to ascertain in what direction the main beds of sulphur may be reached.

The railroads and others who use this oil are very much pleased with its quality, and it is to be hoped that the present company may be so encouraged by the results of their first essays that they may make strenuous and persistent efforts to develop these resources so important to the labor and to the wealth of Louisiana.—N. O. City Item.

The pre-emption repeal bill and the bill forfeiting the Northern Pacific land grant, as has been intimated would probably be the case, were postponed till next session. The Democratic House passed these measures, in response to the demand of the people, but the Republican Senate refused to give its assent unless they were so modified as to practically destroy their purpose. The spirit of hostility toward bills of that character manifested by the Senate was such as to render agreement impossible. It is just as well to let the questions in dispute between the two branches of Congress go to the people for judgment.

North Carolina Democrats, according to one named Strudwick, believe that "while public office is a public trust, the trustees must be Democrats."

Local Lights.

Beer on ice at 5 cents a glass at B. Audibert's.

The political cauldron is boiling.

The "war fever" has kind of subsided.

There will be several races on the race track, to-morrow.

The kite flying season has opened very briskly, and the young ones are happy in consequence.

We are now having beautiful weather and our farmers are not backward in taking advantage of it.

There is some talk that the M. B. A. will soon give an entertainment for their building fund.

Two car-loads of calves were forwarded to New Orleans from this place, last Thursday.

The heat this week has been very intense—its enervating influence was very inconveniently experienced.

We call the special attention of our readers to the advertisement of Mr. J. A. Hitter, displayed in another column.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Lassus, of Pattersonville, are in town for a few days and are the guests of Mr. B. Audibert.

We had a pleasant call this week from our young friend, George Baily, who is in town visiting friends and relatives.

Every day this week a number of carts were hauling fire wood, to different places in town.

The colored people of this town will give a grand excursion, from St. Martinsville to New Orleans, on the 18th. of September, for the benefit of several colored societies.

The testimony developed at the preliminary trial of the Bayou Bouitte warriors covered about the grounds as the details, of both sides, published in this paper the same week of its occurrence. Both sides claiming to be in the right.

Miss Corine, the charming daughter of Mr. A. V. Fleming, arrived from the Convent of Opelousas, last week, and will spend the vacations with her family. Miss Louise Jagou, a most charming young lady of Opelousas, is spending a few days in town and is the guest of Miss Fleming.

Beer on ice at 5 cents a glass at B. Audibert's.

Extract from the published official proceeding of the Police Jury, of date 5th. of July:

"On motion of Mr. Gutekunst, seconded by Mr. Duchamp, voted upon and unanimously carried. Be it resolved that the Police Jury hereby compliment Mr. T. L. Broussard for the satisfaction he has given to the parish of St. Martin as Sheriff and Tax Collector of said Parish"

The social event of the season was the soiree at Mr. A. Labbe's residence, last Sunday, given by that gentleman's charming daughters, the Misses Marie and Laure. It seemed as if all the beauty of the town and adjacent country had congregated there. It was as delightful a soiree as it was a successful one. There were very near a hundred young people present. The spacious grounds were beautifully lit up by many suspended chinese lanterns, and the large house was tastefully decorated, the whole presenting "un coup d'ail feerique."

Mr. Peters, the enterprising manager of the Keystone plantation, has just completed work on the public road leading through that plantation for some two miles, and we can affirm that the work has been well done. The road bed has been rounded off, perfectly drained, and made as smooth as a plank road. A ride over this road is most enjoyable, especially so after a jolt over the rough roads that generally exist in other portions of the Parish. Mr. Peters deserves credit for this boon, and any traveler who passes over this road will give him a word of praise. We would advise some of our "sticks in the mud" planters to see and examine this work, with a view of putting their own roads in like condition, or at least make an effort in that direction.