

# The Daily Telegraph.

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## DAILY TELEGRAPH.

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### OUR TEXAS LETTER.

Interesting Letter From Fort Worth  
Texas.

FORT WORTH, TEX., May 21, 1886.

Editor Daily Telegraph:

After a somewhat dusty run of over 300 miles, I finally arrived safely at my point of my destination at which place however, my stay will be only temporary. I am very well pleased with Texas so far, but it is not so with a great many others whom I have met, especially at Marshall. There I found a great many idle men lying about without funds and without work. This state of affairs, these men say was brought on by the railroad company discharging a good many men and reinstating the strikers, nearly all of whom have returned to work and are still returning as fast as room can be made for them. They say that Texas is not "God's Country," as they were made to believe when they left their homes, and I am of the same opinion. The run from Shreveport to Marshall was very pleasantly spent, there being several Monroites aboard bound for Hot Springs, Ark., and on arriving at Marshall I met one or two others, to whom I put the question: Where have you been? and the answer invariably was: At Hot Springs, which is evidence sufficient that the water to be found there is a good antidote for the overworked and jaded young men of that section of North Louisiana, who need recreation during the summer in order that they may acceptably fulfill their arduous duties during the Fall and Winter months. Having no further business to detain me at Marshall after a good night's rest, I boarded the 10:30 a. m., train, expecting to reach Fort Worth at 8 p. m., (as per time card,) the same day, but lo! on arriving at Hawkin's, a small station, we were informed that a bridge across Lake Cross, a small stream 9 miles west of Ft. Worth, had been partially destroyed by fire that morning, which caused a delay of 7 hours. After a rough trip we finally arrived at Ft. Worth at 2 a. m., the next morning completely exhausted, "worn out" as the phrase goes, but, as Ft. Worth has plenty of the "mattering" which restores a fellow pretty quick, it was not long before I was "taking the town in." At present Ft. Worth is on a big business boom and doing a large business. All of her business men are wealthy and employ a great many assistants, a great many of whom are ladies, who are employed as book-keepers, clerks, sales women, in stores and at sodawater and ice cream stands as well as at various other occupations suitable to the fair sex, which they are capable of filling, but, I am compelled to say, that Fort Worth is a suitable place of location only for the wealthy or for the robust mechanic and laboring man, as everything here is so extravagantly high that it takes the entire salary of an ordinary workingman to keep body and soul together. Board here cannot be had at less than \$35.00 per month and dwelling houses such as those owned

by Messrs R. J. Nelson and L. D. Mc-Lain and Col. Richardson in Monroe will command a monthly rental here of from \$125 to \$150 per month and if situated in the heart of the city even more. Small tenement houses of 2 and 3 very small rooms rent for from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per month.

The farmers in this section are jubilant over the outlook for good crops this year. TELEGRAPHER.

### LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE.

Investigating Committee at Work.

NEW ORLEANS, May 22.—A Baton Rouge special to the Picayune Saturday says: The House Committee on Penitentiary proceeded to that institution to investigate the case of Theophile Chevalier, the negro convict who claims that he was so frost-bitten at Crew Lake in the winter of 1884-85 through exposure that his feet had to be cut off. The committee sat in the hospital of the Penitentiary and examined Chevalier, who spoke partly in French and partly in English.

He said he was born in New Orleans was a cook by occupation, was convicted of larceny of \$5 about eighteen months ago, and sentenced for five years. Some weeks after arriving in the penitentiary, he was sent to work in Capt. Hoskin's camp, at Crew Lake. Two or three months later he was taken sick. His duties were to wash clothes. Did not use warm water because there was no kettle to heat water. The washing was done in the open air. One day when it was very cold his feet felt chilled and he went to the Captain and told him he was too cold to wash. The Captain told him he must wash or be whipped. He went back but soon fell down, and was taken in by some men. He had no shoes on then. During the three months he remained on the works he had no shoes.

He was about three months at work up to the time he fell sick. Was sick Jan. 1, 1885. When he went from the Penitentiary he had some old shoes, but they wore out, and he had no more. The Penitentiary lessees never furnished him any shoes, but did give him some clothes. He was treated like the other convicts. There was not much whipping done as far as he could see. He went back to his work after telling the Captain he was too cold to wash, because he was afraid of being whipped. He worked from before sunrise to dusk, with one hour's rest at noon summer, and two in winter. His companion in washing was an old man, who had a pair of shoes. The doctor attended him the second day after he fell down. There were several sick in the hospital, which was in charge of a hospital steward, who looked after the administration of medicine.

During the two days he was in the hospital before seeing the physician, the latter came in, but did not ask to be treated, as he thought the physician would do so of his own accord. Three different physicians attended him. The doctor came sometimes every two days. The steward of the hospital acted as nurse. One of his feet dropped off, the other was hangin by a muscle. At that time a physician was sent from the Penitentiary to the camp. He cut off that foot with his penknife by severing this muscle, or "string," as witness called it. The foot came off at the ankle joint. It was

afterward at the Penitentiary that the bones were sawed.

While he was in the hospital the doctors who saw him were country physicians, and said they did not have the tools to operate on his feet. The sores were dressed when the doctors came. The steward of the hospital was a white convict named Brown.

It was some weeks after one foot came off that the other was cut off. "They had to take it off because it smelled so bad."

In the interview between the loss of his feet the doctor came to see him, and had his feet washed. During his sickness he asked to be sent to the Penitentiary, because he thought he would receive better attention. It was not necessary to keep the sick in camp but to send them back to the penitentiary.

After the witness was brought to the Penitentiary his legs were amputated. There is no convict at present in the Penitentiary who was with him at Crew Lake. Does not remember the names of the physicians, or the convict with him in the hospital. Mr. Mata, the clerk was sent for and asked if there were any other convicts who were with Chevalier at Crew Lake. He said there was one in the Penitentiary. In the course of conversation Mr. Mata stated that a convict had lately arrived from one of the jails with frostbitten feet, who had never been on the works.

After examining the stumps of Chevalier's legs, the committee adjourned to another part of the building, and examined Edward Coleman, white, sentenced to death in New Orleans, having been convicted of murder and his sentence commuted to life imprisonment.

In 1884-85 he was in Capt. Husteds camp on the V. S. & P. R. R. Saw Chevalier in Hoskin's camp during the winter. He was trusty and washman. The washing was done under a shed. There was a kettle and fire was used in heating the water. Witness visited that camp every morning to do mechanical work. There was abundance of wood to make fires. The camp was in the depot at Gordens Station at that time. The convicts were furnished with clothes and shoes whenever they needed them. The next time he saw Chevalier was at Crew Lake, in the hospital. This was a month after the cold weather. Did not notice his condition. A guard was generally sent with the prisoner when ever he moved about from camp to camp.

Witness was with Chevalier during the cold spell in December. Chevalier was moving about in good health in the early part of January. Thinks Dr. Shields was the physician in attendance at the time mentioned. Does not recollect the date when he saw Chevalier in the hospital, but it was after January, 1885. He did not know then that his feet had been frost-bitten. He heard very little talk about it in camp. Dr. Worth, a convict, told him about it. This doctor attended to the convicts. The practice is to send very sick convicts back to the Penitentiary from the works. The sick received good attention and physicians were employed to look after the sick. Nurses were also employed.

The committee adjourned until Friday morning.

### THE SOUTH THE FIELD FOR NORTHERN INVESTMENT.

The development of the South with in the past five years has been marvelous. That section seems to be heading for a boom such as in years past opened up our Western prairies. There are seven lines of railroads now building or being negotiated, in the territory, south of the Potomac and east of the Mississippi. These are to be trunk routes going north from the Gulf west from the Atlantic, and while they give facilities to new sections, and all competing avenues, with ways already built between leading points. They aggregate over 1500 miles, and their route is recognized in New England, as the major part of the money going thence is from this section, and the enthusiasm that has cut and is continuing to cut the great North-south trunk complete railroading facilities to be duplicated in the South.

There are reasons for this interest that at a glance are apparent. This is a great agricultural section. Its laborers are en masse and indigent, and rapidly shaping into intelligence. They are placed, populous, plodding and patriotic, from which characteristics come the highest possibilities. The business and the farming people are alert to the needs of the hour, are conscious of the advantages these new transportation routes offer, and enter into the spirit of the occasion with a vitality that assures the certain success of all these plans.

The wealth that lies in the coal, wood and iron of the South is another fascinating attraction, and add to these the local willingness to make the untold of these free from immediate burdens, and the inducements multiply on which we venture to place our capital. Then to these conditions we add the sad experiences of the past, from out of which the whole South craves enterprise, thrift and progress; hence it is a fact that the unrest, which besets the other sections of our land finds no sympathy here, for the lessons of a quarter of a century have been well taught in the South, and her entire populace knows how completely peace and prosperity go hand in hand. This, then, is why we see in this section safe and remunerative fields for capital, and where we foresee for the South a future bright and substantial.

—Boston Gazette.

The most remarkable saloon in this country is that which has been set up in the new Capitol in Albany. It is, in all probability, the only liquor store in the world in a building that cost \$16,000,000, and there must be very few who pay rent to such a landlord as the Empire State. As a blind to their real business, it is said, the keepers of this drinking place maintain a restaurant that cumbers one of the hallways of the great building, littering with tables chairs and lunch counter the main passageway between the Senate and Assembly chambers. This restaurant amounts to very little. Its bill of fare is so limited that there are many free luncheons in down-town New York saloons that offer a greater variety of food than this so-called restaurant.

Chas. H. Spurgeon, the great Baptist preacher of London, is suffering from a severe attack of gout.

Lieutenant Governor Knoblock concluded he would not resign.