

Louisiana Sentinel.

SOCIAL SCANDAL IN THE COURTS.

A SUIT FOR DIVORCE AGAINST A TREASURY EMPLOYEE FOR ALLEGED ADULTERY WITH GEN. BANKS AND OTHERS.

[Special Dispatch to the N. Y. Times.]

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8.—Gen. Banks is brought into unpleasant notoriety here in connection with a divorce case. John Q. Thompson, an Indiana newspaper man, brings suit for divorce against his wife, who had been employed in the Treasury Department here, charging, among other things, that she has at divers times and in sundry places committed adultery with Gen. N. P. Banks and others, specifying several occasions during the years 1872 and 1873. He also charges that Banks obtained for her a position in the Treasury Department, and that while there she lived as his mistress. Mrs. Thompson had previously brought suit against her husband for divorce, alleging that he has failed to provide for her support for the last five years, and has been unfaithful to his marriage vows. This suit came on during the special term of the Supreme Court, sitting with equity jurisdiction for the month of July last, and Justice Wylie made a decree granting divorce to Mrs. Martha S. Thompson from her husband, John Q. Thompson. The declaration of the petitioner showed that the parties were married on Christmas day, in the year 1858, and that two children were the result of that marriage. She alleged that he had neglected to support his family for the past five years, spent his earnings in dissipation, treated her with cruelty, and was the cause of her being discharged from a Government place. The day succeeding that on which the decree was made Justice Wylie granted an order setting aside the decision of the previous day on condition that answer was filed by the defendant within ten days. This was done on Tuesday, and the husband recites that the complainant instituted a similar suit in the State of Indiana, and said that she was a resident of that State. He charges that she has failed to observe her marriage vows, and accuses her of improper conduct with Eddie Jullien in 1862, with Miles Hubbard Thompson, a clerk in the Treasury Department, in November, 1864, at the Metropolitan Hotel, at a house on Thirteenth street between I street and New York avenue, and on Sixth street, near D street. He also discovered a correspondence carried on between her and M. H. Thompson in December, 1867, which was wrong and for a wicked object, and which Thompson admitted was so. The husband further alleged that she was guilty of improper intercourse with Nathaniel P. Banks at different times, and with one Joe. Kendall, at the residence of her mother, in Shelbyville, Ind., in the years 1872 and 1873. He asks the court to dismiss the bill in so much as granting a divorce from him.

RETURNING PROSPERITY.

[DeSoto Dem.]

Our people have always contended that the restoration of good government in Louisiana would be attended with a revival of the agricultural and commercial interests. The political party which wielded the sceptre of power in this State during the era of reconstruction proved themselves utterly unfit to govern. To the last it urged its own ability to protect life and property as the chief argument why a continuation of power should be granted to it. During

the whole regime the public mind was in a state of constant fermentation. Public officials were the instruments of daily use in exciting turmoil and animosity between the races. This abnormal condition of things disorganized the system of labor, which is an element so necessary to the advancement of a country's prosperity. Excessive taxation, amounting almost to confiscation, utterly destroyed the values of property. Many of our best citizens, after the patient exertion of many years in the hope of a better day in the future, and repeated failures, at last abandoning all hope of ever ameliorating their condition in life, abandoned the State in disgust, and sought a home in some more inviting field.

But the change in the administration of the State government has wrought a wonderful change in all these things. The firm administration of the criminal laws of the State on the part of those in whose hands it has been placed, and who are able to enforce the laws, has restrained the hand of the evil-doer. Louisiana is now the most peaceful, quiet and law abiding State in the Union. The people have forgotten politics. For the first time since the beginning of reconstruction the people have turned their attention to the peaceful pursuit of home industries. The ever-brooding feeling of discontent has been dispelled from the public mind. Property has enhanced in value, or at least has assumed some solid value. There is no more cry against taxation. In a word, the people are happy—prosperity is returning. We have one of the best, upland parishes in Louisiana. Let the people but encourage the improvement of farms and foster the raising of all articles of necessary home consumption, and hold out necessary inducements to immigration, and the resources of the State will soon be developed, and its lost prosperity regained.

TREACHERY AND COWARDICE.

The Editor of the B. R. Advocate Induced to visit a Private Residence, where he is locked up and a base attempt made to Covert him, by a Lady, supported by two men.

In justice to Mr. Annis, Editor of the Baton Rouge Advocate, we give the following particulars, taken from that journal, of one of the most cowardly, treacherous and disgraceful affairs ever chronicled in any civilized community:

A CARD TO THE PUBLIC.

I desire to make the following statement concerning a cowardly assault that was made upon me on Wednesday at about 10 o'clock. I feel that this statement is due to my family, my friends and to myself.

In Tuesday's issue the following harmless paragraph appeared in the columns of this paper and had no reference whatever to the party who took exceptions to it and to no other lady in this community:

The young man at Baton Rouge who was fined ten dollars for robbing the nest of a mocking bird, may be seen any fine evening on Boulevard, meditatively humming to himself: "O, tis 10 to the mocking bird"—Carroll Conservative.

"Look here, Mr. Conservative, that slander has run its course, and its about time the weary pencil of ye pun-gent scribe should have a rest. For the 99th time we reply that the "young man" didn't rob the bird's nest, wasn't fined ten dollars and doesn't warble; even "neath the window of his darling." The fact of the matter is, that a young man was arrested on such charge but upon positive proof that he was not guilty was honorably acquitted. His own story about it was that he found a young bird on the ground and to save its life picked it up and turned it over to his "sweetheart" and she has carefully cared for the bird, and to-day it is a full-fledged songster."

At about half-past 9 o'clock Jos. Gil came into my office and stated that he had been held responsible for the appearance of the above and desired me to go with him to the house and explain the matter to the lady. He did not state who held him responsible or who the lady was. I told him he was certainly foolish and to go and explain to the lady that there was no reference in it to her, that it was merely a harmless paragraph that reflected upon no one. He then departed and in the course of half an

hour a George Potts came to my office and expressed a desire to see me. I invited him in. He then stated that his wife (or some lady at the house, I do not remember exactly his words) desired me to come down to his house and explain the contents of the above paragraph. I told him there was nothing in the paragraph that referred to his wife, that I did not know his wife was any way connected with the matter and that certainly it could have had no reference to her. He remarked that that was all right, or words to that effect, and that in order to satisfy her of that fact it would be better for me to go down and make that statement to her. I then remarked to him, that in order to gratify the lady and to assure her it had no reference whatever to her I would go down to her house. When we arrived at the house I saw Mr. Gil inside and was requested to walk in and take a seat. I took a seat next to the door and was requested by a lady, whom I afterwards learned was Mrs. Potts, to take another chair near the southeast corner of the room, which I did. Immediately she shut the front door, instantly turned the key and I think removed the key from the lock and put it in her pocket. After locking the door she approached me with one hand behind her and remarked, you have been slandering me, sir, and I intend to learn you a lesson, or words to that effect. I remarked: no madam, I have not and proceeded to make a statement of the facts as I had been requested by Mr. Potts to go there to do. Without waiting to hear my statement she commenced striking at me with a cowhide. I raised my umbrella up before my face in such a position as to ward off the licks. After she had struck some four or five licks Mr. Potts came up to me and jerked the umbrella out of my hands. I then held up my left arm to fend off the licks and as one of the licks struck me in the hand I involuntarily closed my hand on the cowhide, and when Mr. Potts saw this he caught hold of me, pulled me back and remarked in a very rough voice "none of that, sir," when she continued to strike at me. When she had struck twelve or fifteen licks she stopped and by force they extorted a promise from me to publish in my paper the statement that was made in Tuesday evening's issue. Then the door was opened and I was allowed to depart. This is a plain and truthful statement of the facts as they occurred from beginning to end, which discloses one of the most treacherous and cowardly acts, on Mr. Potts's parts, that any man, with the least pretensions of a gentleman, could be guilty of. He not only treacherously inveigled me into his house for the diabolical purpose above stated, but aided and abetted and I verily believe compelled his wife to assault me herself rather than take the responsibility of a man and demand of me an explanation, due from one gentleman to another. For this treachery, for this cowardice I brand him before this community as one unworthy the notice of decent gentlemen, as as one so low and contemptible that a gentleman cannot call him to a personal account for his conduct. Such treachery, villainy and ruffianly cowardice is unbecoming a man and is entirely too low and contemptible to merit further notice at my hand. I regret very much to intrude this personal matter before the readers of this paper, but under the circumstances I feel that it was unavoidable and would be excusable.

W. C. ANNIS.

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[Signatures of Judges.]



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NOTICES OF THE PRESS.

Our cotemporary, the Boston Globe, speaks very highly of both advertiser and goods, and honorable in his dealings, and reliable in his goods, a commendation we heartily echo. Louis Dispatch, Dec. 7, 1876. The house is a thoroughly reliable one in every respect.—Baton Globe, Oct. 25, 1876. His reputation for honesty, fair dealing, and liberality is unequalled by any advertiser in the city.—N. Y. Day Book, Dec. 16, 1876. Advertisers more and sell cheaper than any man in New York.—Herald, April 12, 1877.

F. STOCKMAN, 27 Bond Street, N. Y.