FELICIANA SENTINEL.

## THE CONQUEST OF LOUISIANA.

### THE REBELLION THAT GAVE FREEDOM TO THE FLORIDA PARISHES.

[Courier-Journal.]

In 1803, in his annual message, Mr. Jefferson, announced that he had bought from France all Louisiana, including the navigation of the Mississippi river free from all interference from any foreign power whatever. Such a claim was constructed to embrace all the territory on both sides of the great river, from its mouth to its source. This stimulated an active spirit of emigration from all the old communities of the South and West, which rendezvoused at Nashville, and struck down South in an almost continuous stream, by a road which is yet called the old Nashville Trace. The trace led them to the shores of Lake Manrepeas and Lake Pontchartrain. Having no facilities for water conveyance, they were forced to call a halt. Here, for the first time, to their amazement, they were subjected to the insolent catechisms of the soldiers of the King of Spain, who, on their part, were no less astonished at witnessing such a flood-tide of immigration into the territories of their master without his invitation.

Thus impeded by the waters and confronted by the soldiers of a foreign monarch, the immigrants were driven to choose between the two horns of a dilemma: whether they should spread out and occupy, possess and cultivate the adjacent country at the peril of collision with the Spanish authorities, or whether they should take the back track to the old settlement, where they had sold out homes and goods and chattels preparatory to emigration. Having no homes behind them to fall back to, they resolved to remain with their wives and little ones, and face the dangers amid which destiny had thrown them; resolved alike to battle with the Spaniards who claimed the domain and the wild beasts who held it in actual possession. This course brought them in frequent collision with the authorities claiming the jurisdiction, who had never ceased to watch their motions with a jealous eye, since they discovered them in such unexpected numbers on the shores of the lakes.

In the summer of 1801, hopeless of help from any quarter, these emigrants flew to arms from all parts of the small Territory, and entered stoutly upon the endeavor to right their own wrongs. To the number of about 200, mounted on ponies, with rifle or shotguns, they assembled in the vicinity of the Spanish garrison at Baton Rouge, and extemporized an organization of their little army by the election of Philemon Thomas, a planter of East Baton Rouge, as commander-in-chief, and Dr—Williams, a fat practicing physician of Feliciana, as chief surgeon, both Kentuckians, I believe, neither posessing any especial qualifications for his new responsibility, except strong native intellectual power and an intense hatred of the Spanish oppressors. When this small force, wholly destitute of infantry and artillery, presented itself before the ramparts of the Spanish fortress and summoned it to surrender, the response was a derisive and scornful refusal. The military annals of Spain furnished no precedent for the capture of a fort by cavalry alone! a—reminiscence which, while it encouraged a feeling of security among the Spaniards, had a depressing influence upon the besiegers; but, having left home to drive out the hated oppressors, they still held to their determination. After having endured the jeers and insulting gestures of those within the fort during the day, and with no matured plans for further operations, with many misgivings of the event of their expedition, while gloomily preparing for the evening meal, to their great joy they discovered the cattle, which had been feeding on the common opposite to the side of the fort where the patriot force had camped, passing leisurely over the ditch and over the embankment into the fort. In the homely phrase of my informant, "He knowed that whar them cows had crossed his pony would tote him as easy as fallin' off a log." The event proved he was right, for during that night the whole patriot force had filed into the fort by the neglected cow path. So quietly had this been effected that long after the parade ground inside was crowded with mounted and armed settlers, the shrill "*alerta*" of the Spanish sentries was heard from the walls fronting the river and the patriot encampment. Awaiting silently the approach of daylight, they prepared to finish up the work in hand.

Astounded at so gross a violation of the recognized rules of warfare as the capture of a fort by cavalry alone, the Spaniards seem to have been as badly demoralized as were the Roman legions by their first encounter with the elephants of Pyrrhus, and by the time the sun appeared above the tree tops the terms of capitulation were all arranged. They asked to be permitted to withdraw unmolested from the Baton Rouge district, with all the subjects of Spain and with all the emblems of Spanish authority, civil and military, which was promptly acceded to, and as promptly carried into execution. Before noon on the same day the exodus began, and soldiers and officers, Regidous, Alcaldes and Alguazils, forming a procession of several hundred souls, took up the line of march for the eastern frontier of the Territory to announce its surrender to the fortified posts of Spain at Springfield and at Manchac.

Don Carlos de Grandpre, the Spanish Viceroy, and Gen. Philemon Thomas, Commander-in-Chief of the patriot forces, met on the parade ground in full view of their commands, for the purpose of interchanging the last formalities of the surrender, each intent on filling a page of history with credit to himself and his country—Thomas with a praiseworthy ambition to bring the closing spectacle fully up to the level of washington and Cornawallis at Yorktown; Grandpre naturally desirous that the closing spectacle of an ambitious career, hummiliating at best, might be relieved of some of its vulgar, common place surroundings. Seeing no one present to impersonate his fanciful creations of what a cavalry commander ought to be, he called for that officer, to whom he contemplated a grateful and formed surrender of his sword. Perhaps he pictured in that personage a golden-crested, haughty, proud warrior, prancing on his gallant steed; to such a gallant apparition he could yield almost gladly, and feel relieved of half his load of degradation. How keen must have been his disappointment when a chuffy man in plain clothes, in appearance half Pennsylvania Dutch farmer, half Kentucky horsetrader, rode up on a pony not much larger than a full-sized sheep, and announced himself as commander-in-chief of the patriot forces. You! exclaimed the high-mettled Spaniard with a withering look of amazement and ill-concealed disdain. Well the sword of the representative of the King of Spain can only be yielded to a gentleman or a soldier! Turning on his heel and forcing his sword back in the scabbard he added bitterly: You appear to be neither. As he withdrew he received the wound of which he died a few days subsequently in the city of Baton Rouge. The wound was inflicted by one of the patriots (it was never publicly known by whom), who probably misconstrued his language and gestures as betokening a resolution to resume the struggle.

And thus was Baton Rouge captured and the republic of Feliciana established, with only one person killed.

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Last week on the Melodia plantation, six miles below Thibodaux a little colored girl amused herself with a can containing coal oil, sitting on the stove or near the fire until it heated and exploded, and causing her death....About the same time, at the residence of Mr. Hedley, an old colored man who resides a few miles further down the Bayou his daughter, a grown woman undertook to fill a burning lamp, by which process the oil caught fire bursting the can and covering the unfortunate woman with the burning oil from head to foot. If not yet dead the Physicians say she cannot possibly survive. Her Father was badly burned in an effort to save her, and her mother so badly injured that she died two days afterwards.—[*Thibodaux Sentinel.*

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### COWARDLY SLANDERERS.

Of all the detestable mortals that fatten themselves upon society, those whose hearts and tongues delight in traducing others and publishing to the world the foibles of their brothers and sisters, magnifying them from mole hills to mountains, are the most to be dreaded in a community. The man or woman who comes out boldly and charges wrong where he or she knows it to exist, commands respect in any society, but those who whisper idle rumor from ear to ear, adding to it as they go, leaving, leaving their slime wherever they wind their loathsome track, are fit only for "treason, stratagems and spoils." No man is safe where such vipers exist. No character secure from covert assaults where such beings with the image of God upon them, while Satan rules their every impulse, are abroad in a community. The fair fame of the noblest man or the truest woman is the mark at which the slanderer aims his poisoned, subtle darts. Envy, suspicion, malice and all the evils turned loose from Pandora's box are concentrated in the heart and on the tongue of the traducer, and the venom of the serpent is emitted in every word he utters; Such characters deserve to be frowned down, upon the first aspersion they are heard to make; contemmed by all honorable citizens, and driven from all decent and respectable society.

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### DISGRACED.

Alexandria, (Va.,) Gazette.

The people of the United States were publicly disgraced and humiliated before the world, in the capital of the country, Wednesday, when a man charged with felony, undergoing his trial, was permitted to leave the prisoner's box, in the courtroom, in order that he might go to the Senate Chamber, take his seat as Senator from South Carolina, and vote upon laws for the government of the nation, as Mr, Patterson did. Such incidents afford delight to the enemies of the republic, and certainly bode no good to it; but what else can be expected when States, in possession of their own people, send such men as Mr, Blaine to the senate, and when one of the two political parties into which the country is divided come within a few votes of nominating the Maine Senator for the presidency? The people choose their own representatives, and rarely fail to select those who represent them fairly. Evil times have come upon us, for no people can, or deserve to prosper, who delight to honor and elevate to high places men who have been proved to be dishonest and corrupt, and unless a change in the moral and sentiments of the voters, and that for the better, and speedily, take place. America will add another to the long list of disastrous failures of free institutions.

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The bank along the river front between the corporate limits of this city and the *Arlington* place is caving in rapidly in several places. In front of what is known as the Newcomb old field there is a very dangerous cave that has already cut nearly to the levee. *An* early examination of these caves by the proper authorities would be of great advantage to the planting interests in that part of our parish....We learn from S. M. Robertson, *Esq.*, that an attempt was made last Monday, morning to assassinate Mr. Thomas Green Davidson, in the parish of Livingston, about fourteen miles from Point Vincent, while en route for that village. He was riding in a carriage with another gentleman and when they had arrived at a point about fourteen miles from Point Vincent a man concealed in the switch cane fired into the carriage with a double barrel shot gun. One buck shot struck Mr. Davidson in the neck, but the wound is not dangerous. The party who committed the deed has not yet been discovered.—[*B. R. Advocate.*

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One extreme leads to another. That is the reason a young man who begins by treading on a lady's foot often ends by kissing her lips. And, we may add, the same rule applies on the other side, when a girl who has wasted hours of time and skeins of chenille embroidering on a pair of slippers for Henry's exquisite feet, soon begins to claw the capillary vegetation out of the top of his head for coming home at two a. m. and trying to sleep in a coal-scuttle.—Hawkeye.


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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Leaves Bayou Sara | 10 | A. M. |
| " Waterloo | 11 | " |
| " Hermitage | 12 | " |
| " Port Hudson | 1 | P. M. |
| " Canaan | 2 | " |
| " Allen Depot | 4 | " |
| " Baton Rouge | 5 | " |
| " Plaquemine | 7 | " |
| " Bayou Goula | 8 | " |
| " Donaldsonville | 10 | " |

THURSDAY EVENINGS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Leaves Bayou Sara | 6 | P. M. |
| " Waterloo | 7 | " |
| " Hermitage | 8 | " |
| " Port Hudson | 9 | " |
| " Canaan | 10 | " |
| " Allen Depot | 12 | " |

FRIDAY MORNINGS.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Leaves Baton Rouge | 7 | A. M. |
| " Plaquemine | 9 | " |
| " Bayou Goula | 10 | " |
| " Donaldsonville | 12 | " |

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[Signatures of Judges.]

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