FELICIANA SENTINEL.

. 2. ST. FRANCISVILLE, LA., DECEMBER 8, 1877. NO. 24

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Feliciana, Pointe Coupee and
Parishes.

BALL,

ICIAN AND SURGEON,
Bayou Sara, Louisiana,
residence

TRY.

Dr. E. Green Davis offers
his services to the people of
this and adjoining Parishes.
addressed to him, at his resi-
receive prompt attention.

TRY! DENTISTRY!!

I will attend all calls on
the Coast, from Natchez to
New Orleans; also the back
en accessable with a buggy.
ishing my services, can pro-
me by addressing me, at my

D. STOCKING, D. D. S.,
St. Francisville, La

TINEZ,

Street, Bayou Sara, La.,
DEALER IN
ods, Groceries, Confections, To
cs and Liquors.

HOTEL,

of Camp and Common streets,
New Orleans, La.
FORD & WATSON.
ROPRIETORS.
D.—*Two dollars and fifty*
day.

IRVINE,

Bayou Sara, Louisiana,
LE AND RETAIL DEALER IN
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ce and General Plan-
tation supplies.
ALSO
RWING, FORWARDING
MMISSION MERCHANT
AND
AMBOAT AGENT.

NRIETTA HOUSE.

BAYOU SARA, LA.

be procured by the day, week
and at reasonable rates. In
as in the past, the table will
with the very best fare the
rds. Elegant and well fur-
ms. Accommodating servants
in attendance. Patronage so-
satisfaction guaranteed.

WMAN,

TAILOR,
Sentinel office,
St. Francisville La.,

H. ARNAUD'S

ARBER SHOP AND HAIR
DRESSING SALOON,

M. & A. Fischer, Front Levee
, Louisiana. Sept. 1, '77

M. ROSENTHAL,
[At L. Vresinsky's old stand,]
Bayou Sara, La.,
FAHIONABLE BOOT & SHOE MAKER
Respectfully solicits a share of the public patronage and guarantees satisfaction.

JOSEPH VACARO,
Carpenter and Undertaker,
Will give prompt attention to all business in his line in this andadjoining Parishes. June 28 '76.—1

TO THE PUBLIC.

WEST FELICIANA, June 16, 1877.
To parties living in West Feliciana who shall at any time desire my professional services I would respectfully announce, that they have but to address me at St. Claude, Waterloo, in care of Messrs. Edwin Vigne, or R. Pourciaux.
All calls from the citizens of this Parish so addressed will receive prompt attention and response.
P. G. A. KAUFMANN, M D.

PICARD & WEIL,
Bayou Sara, La.,
Wholesale and Retail Dealers in
FANCY DRY GOODS,
CLOTHING, FUNITURE,
BOOTS, SHOES,
GROCERIES AND PLANTATION SUPPLIES GENERALLY.
☞Highest market price paid for cotton.

FOR SALE.

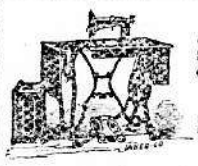
THE one story building on the old Whiteman property, in Bayou Sara, suitable for store house or cabins. Purchaser to remove building within a specified time. Can be had at a bargain.
Apply to E. W. WHITEMAN.
Oct.15, '77-tf.

DRESS MAKING
KNIFE, SIDE, BOX AND BIAS PLAITING.
MISS Z. H. CLEVELAND.
St Francisville, La.,
Takes this method of announcing to the ladies of this and adjoining Parishes, and Counties, that she is prepared to make dresses in the latest styles, and with neatness and dispatch. Plain sewing will also receive careful attention. Knife, side, box and bias plaiting particularly attended to. All at prices conformable to the times.

R. F. BETHANY'S SADDLER AND
HARNESS ESTABLISHMENT
Irvine Building, Bayou Sara.
ALL work done promptly and substantially at lowest cash prices. Special attention given to repairing.
Sept.15,'77.

MRS. H. L. BETHANY,
DRESS MAKING, BRAIDING, PLAITING, &c., executed in the best style and at reasonable rates. Residence opposite that of E. W. Whiteman, Sun St., Bayou Sara.
Sept. 22' 77. 1y.

ST. JAMES HOTEL.
Magazine St., between Gravier and Natchez Alley.
New Orleans.
GEN. CHAS. E. SMEDES Pro.
In Office—Jas. R. Leake, W. S. Bell. R. M. Leake.
Terms Only $2 50 per Day!
The undersigned having purchased the unexpired lease of Messrs. R. E. Rivers & Co., in the above hotel, is now in possession of the same, and has the pleasure of announcing to his friends and the public that it will be kept open the entire summer for regular and transient guests and day boarders on
LIBERAL TERMS.
No pains or expense will be spared to insure the comfort of his guests.
The hotel will be entirely renovated, refitted and refurnished during the summer
CHAS. E. SMEDES,
Proprietor.



A DEALER wanted in every town in the South for the celebrated
WEED
SEWING
MACHINES.
The easiest learned, lightest running most durable and popular machine made Received the highest award at the Centennial.
Special inducements offered. Address,
Weed Sewing Machine Co.,
No. 182 Canal Street,
New Orleans, La.
Jane 1, '77.—1year.

NEW ORLEANS & BAYOU SARA U. S. MAIL PACKET
The superb passenger steamer,
Gov. Allen.
J. J. BROWN.....Master.
S. S. STRECK.....Clerk.
Leaves Bayou Sara for New Orleans every Wednesday after the arrival of the cars from Woodville, and every saturday, at 7, p. m. Returning, leaves New Orleans every Monday and Friday, at 5, p. m
AND THE STEAMER
A. DUGAS.....Master.
Leaves Bayou Sara every Monday after the arrival of the cars from Woodville, and every Thursday at 7 p. m. Returning, leaves New Orleans every Wednesday and Saturday at 5 p. m.
JOHN F. IRVINE, Agent.

FELICIANA SENTINEL.

A DEMOCRATIC PAPER.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF WEST FELICIANA

OFFICIAL JOURNAL CITY OF BAYOU SARA

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

S. LAMBERT. . . PROPRIETOR

JNO. D. AUSTEN.....Editor.
S. O. RHEA.....Publisher.

St. Francisville, Dec. 8, '77

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THE GRAVES OF THE DEAD.

BY FATHER RYAN.

Written at Little Rock, Ark.

[The following lines were suggested by the ceremony at the Cemetery on Sunday, November 4th.]

Out to the graves of the dead,
Who rest in the Infinite calm,
With reverent step, and with bended head,
(The Angels were counting the tears they shed,)
With reasor, and prayer, and psalm,—
The hearts of the people went forth to grieve
O'er the poor and the precious dust,—
With the Christian Priest of the grand "I BELIEVE,"
And the deep and the deathless trust:
And it seemed so strange in a place so lone,
'Mid mourn'ng people and dark-robed Priest,
Where many a tear met many a moan,
That Faith should keep a Feast.

And yet Faith kept it there;
And the desolate Home of death
Was changed at once to a temple fair,
And a glory fell where the whispered prayer
Just rose above a breath,—
For the mourners' lips by the tombs were stilled,
But the mourners' hearts with their faith were filled,—
Each grave became a shrine,—
And on each shrine a shadow fell,
Or was it sunshine? Who may tell?
No hear!—oh! Christ,—like thine!
Thy Altar came with its wine and bread,
With its people and bishop and vested priest,
And Thou didst come to Thy lonely dead,
The Guest to thy Faithful's Feast.

"MISERERE!"—thy song is low,—
And the notes were solemnly sweet;
And with hearts bowed down and footsteps slow,
In worship they walked thro' the place of woe,
Where we all, some day, must meet,—
And the Psalm floated over the sleeping dust
Each tone all-athrall with the tenderst trust
In the Beautiful Christ of God,—
And the sunlight flashed on the tears that fell,
And the wild winds bore the music away,
And it somehow seemed 'tis a brief farewell
We give to those who are 'neath the sod,
And it somehow seemed that we touched their clay
And their souls, in our songs and prayers that day.

What moved the beautiful blades of grass,
That folded the graves with a tiege of green?
Did they hear the sounds of the chanted Mass?
Did they hear the prayers of the people pass
To the God of the world unseen?
What made their stillness speak so much?
Why shone a sun on such a night!
Ah, me! in prayer's transfigured touch,—
'Twas also so;—'tis *only* thus
We meet our dead—and they meet us
When people follow after Priest
To graves where only Faith keeps Feast.

THE ELECTORAL FRAUD.

JUDGE BLACK'S REPLY TO MR. E. W. STOUGHTON.

The Stoughton Article in the North American Review for October Plainly Dealt with.

To the Hon. E. W. Stoughton:

If I do not reply to your article in the last number of the *North American Review* you will remain under the delusion that your argument is irresistible. I ill try to correct that mistake by showing that if there be a defense for the Great Fraud you decidedly are not the person to make it. Doing this mainly for your own edification, I address you directly. I separate your personal invective from your discussion of the case, though they are so mixed as to make separation difficult, and will consider your objections to my view of the subject as if they had been expressed in becoming and decent language.

You think, as your political friends in general think, that after the decision of the Electoral Commission against us, we ought to submit in silence and not vex the victorious party with an appeal to the tribunal of public opinion. We have submitted. The proper representatives of both parties agreed to leave the dispute to a body which they constituted for the purpose of settling it. We could not refuse to abide by the award without being guilty of bad faith. We do not now assert the injustice of it, with any view to reverse or modify it. You need not fear the stability of that award, however iniquitous you may know it to be. You can enjoy its fruits in perfect security, and we, the people, will, on our part, "perform the vows which we have vowed before the Lord," however much it may be "to our own hurt."

But to acquiesce without a protest—to confess tacitly that the wrong is right and the evil a good—that is out of the question. In discussing the whole subject with great plainness of speech, we not only obey an impulse, but perform a duty. For this I will give some reasons, and take the chances of making you comprehend them.

WHY IT CANNOT BE CONDONED.

In the first place, it concerns the reputations of nearly all the public men of the present day. You and I are too obscure to be noticed by history, but the great characters of our time on both sides will go down to posterity clothed with honor or covered with infamy, according as they have been trying to further the fraud or stop it. Remember, there was a fraud, and a very gross one, committed by one party or the other. If the State of Louisiana chose Kellogg and the other candidates on the Hayes ticket for Presidential Electors, and the Democratic politicians knowing this, did, nevertheless, deny the truth and fabricated a false return for Tilden, which they persisted to the last in trying to pass for a true one, they were a combination of most redemptionless rogues; and it will be recorded, as an aggravation of their crime, that when the righteous majority of the Electoral Commission crushed out their falsehood they turned about and, with calumnious accusations, charged their own guilt upon their innocent opponents. The converse of these propositions is also true. If the Tilden electors were duly chosen by the people, and the Republican leaders in and out of the State altered the returns, falsified the records, and constituted a counterfeit Electoral College, whereby the people of the State and the Union were cheated out of the President whom they had legally elected by a large majority, then it is only anticipating history to say that all who aided, abetted and encouraged that offense ought to be "classed among the worst malefactors of the age." Seeing the great interest that hangs on this question, is it not fairly worth our while to give it a full examination while the facts are yet fresh in the memory of men?

Another consideration there is, which makes a public appeal upon the subject not only proper, but absolutely necessary, if our convictions are not founded in total mistake. The candidate to whom you are opposed was, as we understand the case, elected by an overwhelming popular vote, and by a majority of at least twenty-three in the Electoral College. But you defeated the legally expressed will of the people and the States, and by means of false tokens and divers covinous practices, contrary to the law and against the moral sense of all honest men. The decision of the Electoral Commission, by making the fraud perfectly successful, invites a repetition of it, and you undoubtedly will repeat it, unless you are in some way deterred. Now, the nation will not submit to another such outrage. We promote your true interests as well as ours, if we prevent you from endangering the peace of the country by trying this kind of foul play over again. To that end the best, as well as the kindest, means I know of, is a complete exposure of the fraud itself, and a free criticism of the commission, which should have rebuked it, but did not.

NOT A JUDICIAL TRIBUNAL.

You deprecate every expression from any quarter which is calculated to loose the confidence of the public in the judicial authorities and think, therefore, that the Electoral Commission should be very tenderly dealt with. Mr. Jefferson said that jealousy of rulers, not confidence was the virtue of all true citizens of a republic. Without stopping to consider whether this applies to Judges, as well as other officers, I answer you by saying that the Electoral Commission was not a judicial tribunal, and did not behave like one. It was a political body organized for a special occasion, to determine a particular question, "according to the best of its prejudices," and it performed the function assigned to it by disregarding the law of the case and shutting its eyes to the facts. The less confidence we have in such tribunals the better; indeed, a reasonable regard for the safety of our most important public rights requires that we should have none at all.

You are welcome to the admission (if you think it will do you any good) that I look not only with contempt, but with abhorrence, upon all these special tribunals which have disgraced the history of our race on both sides of the Atlantic, including the Star Chamber, the Court of High Commission, all military and all ecclesiastical commissions, and all commissions for political purposes. If I could revive in this generation the stern hatred which our fathers felt for those dangerous enemies of liberty and justice, I would be a great public benefactor, and you would never get another commission of any kind to uphold fraud, to sanctify persecution, or to oppress the innocent.

A CASE FOR PLAIN SPEAKING.

You take violent exception to my use of the word "conspiracy," as applied to those unlawful proceedings which resulted in defeating Mr. Tilden's large majority. Of course you prefer your own euphemistic phrase, and call it taking "a political advantage." But I cannot see wherein my term is wrong. Your objection is like that of ancient Cistol to the word "steal," for which he wished to substitute "convey."

To say conspiracy, fraud, or anything else which implies that your friends in Louisiana and their allies were guilty of crime, is, in your opinion, coarse and brutal. Your refined taste has been deeply offended in this way, not only by me, but by the whole Democracy, wherever they have written or spoken on the subject, either in Congress, before the commission, or elsewhere. The impoliteness of making the accusation has been uniformly heightened by the rough boldness with which it was proved to be true, and by "blistering words" in which it was denounced. Perhaps all the Democrats were wrong to some extent. It may be that we ought not to have spoken out in harsh terms of censure, or said anything to disturb the serenity of the knaves who did us this terrible injustice. But if you are not altogether blind you must see that this was, in our situation, simply impossible. Here was a great nation which had suffered by misgovernment more than any other under the sun—her property taxed almost to confiscation—her industry crushed to the earth—her public domain squandered away—her best citizens starving by the hundred thousand in the midst of the plenty which their own labors had produced, while corruption was revelling in high places and fattening on the general distress. The people determined to reform the administration of their public affairs, and restore their own prosperity, by choosing rulers whom they could trust for that purpose. They expressed their will to that effect legally, constitutionally, and peacefully, and they were defeated by an impudent swindle. Is it any wonder that the great heart of the Democracy swelled with indignation? Even if their feelings found vent in language too passionate, you ought to remember, with Burke, that "something must be pardoned to the spirit of liberty."

I concede, however, that no feeling of resentment will excuse us for charging a conspiracy where none existed, of fraud where none was committed. Even if we were wronged, that does not give us the privilege of applying terms which do not express the real nature of the injury. We can justify our words only by showing that we use them truly, in a sense authorized by the law and the common speech of the country. Otherwise our language is, like some of yours, mere vituperation, disgraceful only to those who utter it. Accepting, therefore, the *onus probandi*, let me bring your attention to certain facts well and publicly known.

IT WAS A CONSPIRACY.

It is proved, if human testimony can prove anything, that the people of Louisiana did, on the 7th of November last past, duly, and by regular ballots, make an appointment of Presidential Electors known to be in favor of Tilden and Hendricks, and authorized them to cast the vote of the State. It is just as clear that the appointment made by the people was set at naught by a gross falsification of the records and returns of the election. This was effected by the corrupt agency of certain local officers, combined with other persons in and out of the State who incited them to it, abetted them in it and helped them to clothe the client in what they said were the "forms of law." Is it a misnomer to call this a conspiracy? That offense is defined as a combination of several persons to accomplish an unlawful purpose, by concerted action. How can you get your friends outside of this definition? Persons acting in this way are always treated as conspirators, and by the law of every civilized country in the world, they are severely punished. Take one simple and actual case out of thousands that might be given. Divers dishonest men of St. Louis combined to defraud the United States of their revenue from distilled spirits, and they did it by a preconcerted series of false and deceptive returns, which certain public officers confederated with them passed off as true. This was held, and justly held, to be a conspiracy, and some of the parties to it were sent to the penitentiary.

Perhaps you do not see the parallel—but the analogue is perfect, except in this: that in the case which you defend the object of the combination was to cheat the people of their right of self-government, while the purpose of the St. Louis conspiracy was to rob them of their money. If this makes any difference, it is greatly against you, for liberty is more precious than gold. In the judgment of virtuous and wise men who won the independence and built up the institutions of this country, the privilege of choosing our own rulers was infinitely the richest part of the great inheritance they left us. With a full price in blood and treasure they bought this freedom for their children, and I do not know one tolerable decent American who would sell even his single right on any terms whatever. At the critical period in the history of Louisiana which occurred last year it was especially valuable to her people, for it furnished them the only legal, peaceable, and safe measure of relief from the exactions of a most corrupt and oppressive government. The successful scheme to cheat those people out of their votes for State officers and Presidential Electors is, therefore, a crime of the greatest magnitude, and one which requires a cheek of solid brass to defend it without blushing. It is far worse than a conspiracy to steal any amount of Public money. Running crooked whiskey for a lifetime would be an act of white-robbed innocence in comparison.

The ultimate object of this crime gives it a general aspect revolting in the last degree; but its features, when seen in detail are hideous beyond expression. Some returns were entirely suppressed, and others were altered; votes actually cast were thrown out, and others put in and counted which were known not to have been polled. The whole proceeding was full of false pretences. Forgery of the most important documents was a part of it; perjury and subornation of perjury attended it at every step. Shall these things be forgotten or condoned? Do you expect the cheated people of the nation to say, like the eight commissioners that this is as good a way as any to elect a President?

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION.

One of your allegations is that I intended "to convey the false impression that the formation of the commission was the result of a Republican conspiracy to fraudulently elect a President and Vice President;" and Judge Bradley, taking your word for it, has made himself interesting by a public complaint of the injury to himself. I did not say this or anything like it. On the contrary, I referred to the commission as being proposed in difficult circumstances to avoid the dangers which might spring from a continued and final disagreement between the two houses, and as being accepted by the Democrats in the belief that justice would be done, and an honest decision rendered against the fraud. In all this there is nothing about a conspiracy in "the formation of the commission." I do not know that you misrepresented this point wilfully. It is one of your characteristic inaccuracies, like that which charges Dante with the indecencies of the Decameron.

No; the conspiracy was not in the formation of the commission, but in the frauds which fabricated and returned those bogus votes. The commission refused to verify the votes and ascertain whether the electors that sent them up were duly appointed or not, and in this it bitterly disappointed the friends of truth, and grossly violated the whole spirit as well as the letter of the law which gave it being. Whether this was mere error, or something worse, is not for me or you to determine, but the general judgment will no doubt adopt the charitable view which I have given, and say that the faculties of the majority were too much benumbed by party passion to see the facts or understand the law.

You claim that the certificate of the Returning Board gave you "a political advantage." In this you are certainly right. A party sued for an honest debt has a great advantage over his creditor if he can produce a fraudulent or forged receipt upon the trial. The advantage becomes decisive if the tribunal trying the cause is willing to accept the false paper, give it the effect of a true one, and permit the plaintiff to be cheated out of his debt. But would it be rights legally or morally, for the debtor to take such an advantage?

THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO ELECT.

Your technical argument in favor of the fraud deserves notice, because it is almost your only attempt at reasoning, and because your conclusion would be fair if your premises were sound.

You declare, in broad and unqualified terms, that the American people have "no right to elect their own Chief Magistrate"—that no such right is imbedded in the constitution or elsewhere—that, on the contrary, "the framers of the constitution were careful to exclude from the people the right to elect their own Chief Magistrate." I admit that this, if true, ends the controversy in your favor; for it cannot have been legally wrong to defeat the attempt which the people made to exercise a right from which they were carefully excluded by the constitution. But this opinion of yours is a total misconception, and will not be adopted by any human being who has the faintest idea of our institutions.

You put your proposition with even more directness and speak with unwonted precision when you say, as you do on the same page, that the people of Louisiana and Florida have not the power to appoint electors of President and Vice President. This goes to the root of the matter. It proves logically enough that the election at which the Tilden candidates were fixed upon, chosen, appointed, and named as electors, was a mere abortion—a vain effort to perform a function *ultra vires* and merely void. The Returning Board and the Electoral Commission were justified in treating it with contempt. Of such an election it was no harm to falsify the records; for in their best estate they had no value or validity. To forge them was no crime, for it prejudiced no right.

But is it true that the people of Louisiana and Florida have no power to appoint electors? You deny the power of the people to appoint because that power "is by the supreme law of the land (meaning the Federal constitution,) vested in the states, to be exercised in such manner as the Legislatures thereof may direct." Now the Legislatures of the two States have directed that the power shall be exercised by the people, and this makes their right as clear as if the legislative enactment had been textually inserted in the constitution of the United States. No argument is necessary to make this intelligible to a man of ordinary sense. There is the constitution and there are the laws of the States: "he that runs may read" though, under the circumstances, I suppose I must not allow myself to say that "a fool cannot err therein."

(CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE.)