THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

The question as to making an appropriation for leveeing the Mississippi river may be regarded as disposed of by the present session of congress. A bill has been reported recommending a survey of the river, which is a great gain toward reclaiming the overflowed lands. In speaking of the proposed survey, the St. Louis *Republican* says: 'The river from St. Louis to the gulf is regarded as a continuous stream, requireing treatment as a whole, not a stream cut into sections which may be treated separately, and without any special reference to each other. The commission is to make a careful survey of the whole river between the points named, prep re a plan with accompanying estimates, which is to be submitted to congress and when approved by that body will be taken as a guide in all work done hereafter. This will insure harmony of action which is indespensable to the paramount improvement of the great national highway. It will bring order out of confusion, and give a regular system where hitherto there has been only disconnected and spasmodic effort. It will prevent the throwing away of money in useless experiments, and put every dollar where it will do the most good. When the survey is extended to the upper Mississippi, as we presume it eventually will be, then the gigantic task of which it is the preliminary step may be considered fairly under way with every prospect of successful completion. The composition of the commission is not objectionable Three army engineers and two civilians—the latter selected for their familiarity with the river—will make a first-class board, providing, of course, the very best material is chosen. Political influence and the location of the candidates have nothing to do with the choice. Pre-eminent fitness must be the only and all-sufficient recommendation. If it is not, the commission is an assured failure in advance. Two years, the time which it is thought the survey will occupy, is none too long for the work to be done. Indeed, if that work is done in the proper manner and fully completed within the period specified, the commissioners will have no idle moments. It is altogether the largest river survey ever attempted, and its importance equals its size. While unnecessary delays ought to be avoided, nothing should be sacrificed for the sake of haste. Mississippi improvement can afford to wait, but it cannot afford to risk the consequence of a blunder. Better go slowly and surely than rapidly and doubtfully. About one thing, however, there need be no delay at all. The house should pass the bill as soon as possible, and the senate act with equal promptness. The amendments, if there are to be any, should be brought forward and adopted at once. The commission ought to commence operations before the summer is over, and will if Congress does its duty."—*Memphis Appeal.*

Farm work in East Baton Rouge is progressing very satisfactorily. Planters are nearly through planting and are preparing to work out their corn. The weather has been unusually favorable and with a continuance thereof we have every reason to believe good crops will be made and the prosperity of our parish measurably restored. The sad failure of last year cast a gloom over our section but our excellent prospect for the future has given new hopes, and the courage and energy with which our people have gone to work is certainly worthy of commendation and success. All things considered we feel that our section has much to be thankful for. Although times have been and are yet 'hard' there is less suffering here among the poor classes than in other sections of the country The outlook is very hopeful and we see much to render one cheerful.—*Advocate.*

☞ Mr. Thomas Barret, mate of a whaling brig recently lost in Hudson's Bay, has, it is reported, discovered proof of the existence of the records of the ill-fated Arctic expedition, which was commanded by Sir John Franklin. The natives have specified exactly where the books, etc., are to be found, so that Mr. Barret is about to organize an expedition to sail from New York in the spring to obtain them. Some years ago Parliament it is stated, offered a reward of $100,000 for the recovery of these relics, and on the present maintainance of this offer, the sailing of the new expedition will be contingent.

Call at Mumford's or Brooks' Drug Store and get a trial package of Dr. A. Q. Simmons' Vegetable Liver Medicine. It costs you nothing and may save your life.

THE NEW ELECTORAL SCHEME.

The electoral scheme agreed upon by the House sub committee, and which will be proposed as an amendment to the constitution, is rather too complicated a problem of high mathematics to commend itself at once to the average voter. To arrive at the vote of a state will involve a sum in long division and result, in most instances, in a lot of decimals and fractions that will shroud the whole affair in a Delphic mystery far more inpenetrable to the masses than was even the legerdermain of *aliunde* and the eight to seven fraud. This will be an insurmountable objection to the plan, for the result of an election for President should be self-evident and plain to every one, though he be a wayfaring man and a fool, nor do we see any necessity for complicating it with refinements, whether of mathematics or law.

The present sytem is simple enough, but it is by no means satisfactory or just, and the proof of it is that several presidents have been elected who had not received a plurality of the popular vote—notably Mr. Lincoln. Under the present system all the electoral votes a State is entitled to are given to the presidential candidate who has received a majority or plurality of the popular vote. The injustice of this plan was illustrated in the last election, for, granting that Hayes carried both Louisiana and Florida, yet Tilden received an immense popular majority. It enables a large State like New York, Pennsylvania or Ohio in a close election to cast it-large electoral vote for one candidate and elect him, even though his opponent may have received a large popular majority. The new plan is based on the theory that the majority is entitled to representation, and the aim is to aggregate and apportion the whole vote cast for both candidates. It provides that the number of popular votes cast for a candidate in a State shall be multiplied by the whole number of electors the State is entitled to, the product to be divided by the total popular vote of the State. For example at the last election the popular vote of Louisiana was as follows:

Tilden	83 859
Hayes	77,174
Total	161,033

If we multiply the Tilden vote, 83,859, by 8, the number of electors Louisiana is entitled to, the product is 690.872, which sum, divided by 161 033, the total vote of the State, produces a quotient of 4. 2, which is the proportion of the Louisiana vote Tilden would have received. By a similar process we get 3 8 as the number to be counted for Hayes, the whole making 8, the total electoral vote of the State. A simpler method of obtaining the same result would be to divide the entire vote by the number of electors, thus ascertaining the number of votes each elector represents, and then divide the number of votes received by each candidate by this quotient. For example, the total vote of Louisiana was 161,033, and there being eight electors, each represented 20,129 1|8 votes, by which number the votes of Tilden and Hayes are to be respectively divided.

This plan will certainly obtain a more equitable count as it will secure an apportionment of the vote of each based on the popular vote, and thus prevent the defeat of a majority by a minority candidate before the people. But it is too complicated an affair to readily reach the apprehension of the people, and as it necessitates a constitutional amendment there is not much likelihood of its securing the two-thirds vote necessary to secure its passage.

The question is one of great and even vital importance, for so long as the question of deciding between disputed electoral votes is left open, the safety and peace of the country will be jeopardized by each recurring presidential election. To be satisfactory there must be some plan devised of obtaining absolute certainty, and this we think can be obtained, together with a measurable correction of the present iniquities, under the existing electoral system.—*N. O. Democrat.*

☞ The Columbus, Ga., Enquirer prints this diamond story: "Prof. J. E Bassett, of French Broad, N. C., who is now in Wetumpka, Ala., has a diamond not only of enormous size, but of remarkable purity. It was found by his wife, Mrs. A. H. Bassett, on the banks of the Coosa river, just below the falls within the corporate limits of Wetumpka. As soon as the professor exhibited the stone he was offered $10,000 for it. He had the stone examined by W. J. Preston, a watchmaker and jeweler, who pronounced it intrinsically worth $75,000. He will send it to Tiffany & Co., of New York, to have it dressed."

☞ Official returns state that the Russian losses in killed and wounded during the late war amounted to 80,304 officers and men. Among these were ten Generals killed and eleven wounded. One Prince of the Imperial family and 34 members of the higher nobility of Russia fell on the field of battle. Of the wounded. 36,824 are perfectly recovered and 10 000 more will be able to leave the hospitals during the next few weeks. The proportion of killed and wounded to the total number engaged was very large, one out of every six men who went into action being either injured or left dead on the battle field. In the great actions of the Franco-German war the proportion killed and wounded to men engaged was very nearly the same, being one-sixth in the battles Worth and Spicheren, and one-eighth in the battle of Mars-La-Tour. The returns also show that one out of every eleven wounded men received into the Russian hospitals died from the effects of the injuries received. During the whole campaign only two men were punished with death, one for the crime of desertion, the other for robbery accompanied with violence. On the other hand 20,000 rewards were given in the form of decorations, promotions, or awards of money, the Eighth Corps which so long held and defended the Shipka Pass, receiving the greatest proportion.

WHAT TO TEACH GIRLS.

[Translated from the German.]

Give your daughters a thorough education. Teach them to prepare a nourishing diet. Teach them to wash, to iron, to darn stockings, to sew on buttons, to make their own dresses. Teach them to bake bread, and that a good kitchen lessens the apothecary's account. Teach them that one dollar is a hundred cents, that one only lays up money whose expenses are less than his income, and all grow poor who have to spend more than they receive. Teach them that a calico dress paid for fits better than a silken one unpaid for. Teach them that a full, healthy face displays greater lustre than fifty consumptive beauties. Teach them to wear strong shoes. Teach them to purchase, and to see that the account corresponds with the purchase. Teach them that they ruin God's image by wearing strong bodices. Teach them good common sense, self-trust, self-help and industry. Teach them that an honest mechanic in his working dress is a better object of our esteem than a dozen haughty, finely dressed idlers. Teach them gardening and the pleasures of nature. Teach them, if you can afford it, music, painting and all other arts, but consider them secondary objects only. Teach them that a walk is more salutary than a ride in a carriage and that wild flowers are a worthy object of administration. Teach them to reject with disdain all appearances and to use only "yes" or "no" in good earnest. Teach them that happiness of matrimony depends neither on external appearances nor on wealth, but on the man's character. Have you instructed your daughters in these particulars and have they comprehended these principles? Fearlessly allow them to marry; they will make their way through the world.

[Correspondence Pointe Coupee *Pelican.*]

RECOVERY OF THE BODY OF HENRY LOPER.

The body of Henry Loper, the mate of the ill-fated steamer 'Lotus,' was discovered by a colored man, last Tuesday, 16th inst, while fishing by the bank, near the Nina plantation. When deceased was last seen on the burning boat, it was observed that he had a carpet-bag in his hands, which was apparently very heavy; the supposition therefore is that having taken a death grip upon the bag as he went under, it kept him down after he drowned, and it was not until the hand rotted away that the body was able to rise to the surface. The corpse, after it came to the top floated down some few hundred yards and then became caught in some briars near the bank, where it was found as above stated. Before touching the body Mr. Pourcian, justice of the peace, was sent for, a coroner's jury empannelled, and the body was then brought to the bank by means of a trout line. It lay face down, with a coating of about three inches of sand enveloping it. Upon turning the body over the face and ears we found to have been eaten away, but all parts of the corpse, where the clothes had covered the same, were in an apparently natural condition. Searching the clothes of deceased, they found in the back pockets of his pants a tooth-brush, comb and punch for tickets, also a bundle of deck-passage tickets marked "Lotus No. 3." In one of his side pockets were two brass keys, and in the other pocket were a pair of spectacles and a $5 bill and some other bills too much mutilated or rotten to take away. The collar button and one sleeve button were on his shirt, and in the vest a massive gold watch and chain, with locket attached, in the locket was a portrait of a young lady; a heavy string around the neck further secured the watch and chain.

Deceased, who was well dressed, was buried at the Nina Plantation, about a mile below Waterloo, after having been in the water over four months. Mr. Irvine, of Bayou Sara, who was mentioned on the printed reward notices as being the proper party to apply to in case of recovery of the body, was promptly notified the same evening, and he immediately telegraphed to the relatives of the deceased.

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" Hermitage	10 " "
" Port Hickey	11 " "
" Canaan	12 M.
" Allen Depot	2 P. M.
" Baton Rouge	3 " "
" Plaquemine	5 " "
" Bayon Goula	6½ " "
" Donaldsonville	8 " "

THURSDAY'S TRIP.

Leaves Bayau Sara	5 P. M.
" Waterloo	6 " "
" Hermitage	6½ " "
" Port Hickey	8 " "
" Canaan	9 " "
" Allen Depot	10 " "

FRIDAY MORNINGS.

" Baton Rouge	7 A. M.
" Plaquemine	9 " "
" Bayou Goula	10 " "
" Donaldsonville	11½ " "

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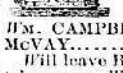

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