

## The Pelican

**SUBSCRIPTION**—\$4 per annum, payable in advance or during the first month, or \$5 at the end of the first month.

Insertions for candidatures to public offices will be charged \$10 for each language.

When our bills shall be handed to a collector for payment, the same shall be charged an extra of 10 per cent. for collecting.

No paper will be discontinued unless all arrearages are paid.

**ADVERTISEMENTS**—One square of ten lines, or the space of ten lines, \$1 for the first insertion, and 50 cents for each subsequent insertion.

All communications of a personal nature will be charged at the discretion of the Editor, and payment exacted in advance.

### TO THE PUBLIC.

Having lately become the owner of the *Pelican*, with a view to its future publication, it is proper that I should indicate the course I intend to pursue, so that my readers may know what to expect.

Patriotic men of all parties have determined to ignore the former political distinctions that so unfortunately divided the people and to unite in a common effort to establish a new government upon a more fraternal and permanent basis. That this is a consummation devoutly to be wished, no man of sense will pretend to gainsay.

The energies of the "*Pelican*" will be devoted to the labor of harmonizing the conflicting elements of parochial politics, so that *jeux* may sink down in the depths of oblivion's wave and leave a placid surface for the admiration of society. It must be clear to reason's eye that unless cliques and factions are silenced by the reprobation of the masses acting in concert, personal emolument and ambition will always be paramount with some to the general welfare.

We should learn lessons of wisdom from the past and endeavor to avoid the rocks on which so many public interests have been wrecked. Look for instance at the astonishing and lamentable debris of social merit and intellectual superiority that lies in vast accumulation about the rock of *availability*! At its base unnumbered thousands of the best patriots the country ever boasted have been sacrificed, whilst men of pliable consciences uncultivated intellects, and vaulting ambition have been wafted on the crest of the waves of political favor into position of vital importance to the prosperity of the public only to advance party purposes and to enrich themselves. This system of things was carried on with reference to every office, from the executive of the nation to the constable of a parish ward.

So long as I retain the management of the "*Pelican*," there will be an incessant war against any attempt to perpetuate these things, come from what quarter they may. The tone of my paper will always be attuned to the voice of honest merit, and that too, without regard to who are its supporters, or its opponents.

As there seems to be much feeling among the people with regard to *political conventions*, I will state briefly the purpose of the "*Pelican*," so that no one may entertain any erroneous impressions of its position on this subject. First, then, the columns of the paper shall be left entirely free to oppose or support nominees just as the spirit of independence may prompt. Second, the paper will not support independent candidates simply because they are independent; nor will it oppose others because they are nominees; in each case, the "*Pelican*"'s support or opposition will depend upon circumstances which no one can foresee in detail. One general rule, however, may be laid down and it will not be deviated from. No candidate need hope for its support, who, without other claims to public patronage, directly or indirectly seeks for or in any way solicits the nomination of a convention. If a candidate is not willing to trust to his personal merits, the "*Pelican*" will not lend its aid to his promotion—he must look to those who attach more importance to the dictum of a convention than to the superior consideration of personal worth and talents. It will be of no avail that these conventions nominate men of talent under such circumstances, for if they will devote or exercise their talents in encouraging what is wrong in politics, the public would be better off without their services in office than with them. Talent rightly directed should always be supported, but unless it is thus directed, it should be opposed. The nomination of a convention can add nothing legitimately to a man's merits and if these

will not bear him out successfully, nothing else should. Now, inasmuch as a gentleman may be nominated without having solicited it in any way, it should be wrong under any circumstances to oppose him simply because his friends saw proper to call a convention and nominate him. Under all circumstances, the efforts of the "*Pelican*" will be directed to the support of honest merit against the intrigues of talent on the one hand, and pompous pretensions on the other. I will use its columns to support no man, whatever may be his position, who does not present in my estimation, a clean sheet as to the mode, manner and circumstances of his candidacy. I believe that plain, straight-forward honesty in politics is what our country stands greatly in need of, and that upon a fair test, it will be found to be the best policy in politics as all experience proves it to be in the various concerns of private life.

What has been said of conventions applies particularly to parochial matters, and the rules laid down will be carried out as far as practicable with reference to all other political conventions.

Great pains will be taken to insert in the "*Pelican*" nothing obnoxious to the objection of indelicacy, and every effort will be made to render the paper an acceptable visitor in every family. The selections will be made from the world of reading matter accessible to me, with as much discrimination and taste as I am capable of exercising. As I propose to publish a journal devoted particularly to parish matters, of course nothing of this character will be omitted, when I am qualified by a knowledge of them to lay them before the public. I shall be glad at all times to receive communications and contributions from such as may desire to favor the public with the fruits of their reflections, but, in every instance, I will exercise my own discretion as to what shall appear in the columns of the "*Pelican*."

Nothing personal or offensive shall ever appear in its columns, when such is known beforehand to be its object, and its tendency. I do not think that a public journal should be the medium of venting private spleen, and therefore will not permit such use to be made of my columns. I reserve the right to speak of public men and public measures as I think they deserve and as a due surveillance of the general welfare may prompt. But in doing so, I will not "set down any t in malice" or indulge in expressions calculated to give offense. My object shall be to deal with truth and if men will so act as to make its exposure disagreeable, they must blame themselves and not me. A journalist should write to benefit society and not to screen men from public censure, when it becomes necessary to expose them.

Printing paper being now very scarce, my readers must put up with a half sheet until I can do better.

Having thus marked out the chart by which I propose to sail, I venture to hope that the public will bestow a liberal patronage in behalf of the enterprise and that mutual benefits will grow out of the new relations thus inaugurated between us.

A. LAFARGUE.

An affray took place in our village, on last Saturday evening, between Elphège Couvillion and Paul Michel, in front of the coffee house of the latter. They exchanged several shots with guns loaded with buckshot, the latter using also his revolver. Paul Michel was slightly wounded in the right hand.

The case was investigated on last Tuesday, by the Hon. E. N. Cullom, and E. Couvillion was admitted to bail in the sum of \$2,500.

**PERSONAL.**—Our young and gallant friend, Marcellin Bordelon, a member of the Atchafalaya Guards, quartered at Camp Pelican, in Virginia, has come home on a furlough, and we are indebted to him for a file of late Richmond papers. That noble boy left camp on the 1st inst. leaving his comrades at arms all well, with the exception of Tom Rogers and Johnson, that were expected to die. The "Guards" have always been anxious for a brush, but no prospect for it this winter. The brigade will go shortly into winter quarters.

Marcellin will leave for Virginia on the 26th and take along whatever things parents, relatives and friends would wish to send through him to the company. While passing through Knoxville, he witnessed the arrestation of that notorious traitor Brownlow, of East Tennessee.

We know a dandy who is so extremely fastidious, that he is always measured for his umbrella.—*Punch*.

### Grand Concert at Simmesport.

MR. EDITOR.—On Thursday the 5th instant, the ladies of the "Military Aid Society," in the vicinity of Simmesport, gave a concert at that place, which, according to my humble opinion, reflected the highest credit upon them. That your readers may form some idea of the entertainments of that occasion, I present the following programme:

#### PROGRAMME.

1. Jefferson Davis' March, and assemblage around the Goddess of Liberty.
2. Instrumental Music.—Miss Martin.
3. Vocal Duett.—Mrs. Boone and Miss Harmanson.
4. Instrumental Duett.—The Misses Tessier.
5. Vocal Duett.—("W. Smith")—Miss Lampton and Mrs. Harmanson.
6. Italian Song.—Miss Merrick.
7. Vocal Duett.—Miss Chalfant and Miss Harmanson.
8. Italian Song.—Mrs. Dr. Byrne.
9. Song.—Mr. Baggitt.
10. Reading.—(Nothing to wear.)—Mrs. Dr. Byrne.

#### PART SECOND.

1. Instrumental Music.—Miss Tessier.
2. Song.—Miss Brown.
3. Instrumental Duett.—The Misses Merrick.
4. Vocal Duett.—Miss Lampton and Miss Harmanson.
5. Song.—Miss Chalfant.
6. Speech.—Miss C. Merrick.
7. Song.—Mr. Baggitt.
8. Vocal Duett.—Mrs. and Miss Merrick.
9. Song.—("Wanted a Governess.")—Mr. Dr. Byrne.
10. Charade in 4 acts.—Matrimony.
11. March.

It is due to the ladies to call particular attention to some parts of it, as a correct understanding of their appropriateness cannot be derived from a simple examination of the programme. In doing this, I do not mean to discriminate in favor of some against others, for I wish it understood that if some of the parts of the "bill" were more entertaining than others it was because of the merits of the *pieces* themselves. The very first item in the programme was one of great beauty and thrilling interest to the audience. Let me explain as well as I can its design. Each of the Confederate States was represented in the scene by a young lady, and there being twelve States already confederated, of course there were as many young ladies. They wore uniform dresses of red, white and blue, and holding appropriate emblems of their respective States in their hands, they marched to time and kept the step to the music, "of Jefferson Davis' "Grand March." It looked like a scene in fairie land, as these graceful beings marched around the Goddess of Liberty, who waived above their lovely heads the glorious banner of the stars and bars. The silent audience stood entranced as they gazed upon this type of the future career of the Confederate States along the track of nations. Its effect was thrilling and prepared the minds of all for the "Feast of Reason and flow of soul" that followed.

The music was very appropriately selected and alternately aroused deep sentiment and provoked reviving laughter. At times the audience was thrown into such a fit of merriment that I am at a loss to understand how the fair performers maintained their gravity. Yet, they succeeded in a manner that would have been creditable to a genuine Thespian Corps.

Where all did so well, it would be wrong to discriminate, and I cannot therefore, point out such particular pieces as struck me with particular force. Inasmuch as every one took a part in the "chorus by the States," which you will see mentioned in the last of the second part of the programme, I will attempt to give some idea of its merits. All of the Confederate States were represented as I have before described and were arranged with their respective State emblems in their hands, semicircularly about the Goddess of Liberty. At one end of this semicircle, was an interesting little girl clad in black—her head was bowed down in an attitude of submission upon her back she supported a heavy cross that stood conspicuously above her, all hung around with the usual symbol of mourning. On her wrists she bore the chains indicative of slavery. The *tout ensemble* was the very impersonation of humility and political degradation. This was the representation of poor Maryland, whose neck is bowed down by the yoke of the oppressor and whose energies are all fettered and manacled by the chains of slavery. Behind this sad and lamentable representation of one of the noblest of our former sister States, there stood still another cheerful little cherub girl, leaning forward and holding in her tiny

hand a little fluttering flag, half concealed, of the stars and bars, as if anxiously awaiting the time when the emblems of submission should be thrown off by her sister Maryland, that she might float her banner in the breeze. Your readers can better imagine, than I can describe the effect of this representation. Kentucky was represented by a young lady dressed in red and black, and together with the representative of Missouri, took part in the chorus of the States, as those States are doing in the stirring drama of the revolution. Mrs. Byrne, a lady of fine intelligence and varied information, officiated at the piano forte, whilst the soul-stirring air of "Hail Columbia" the Goddess of Liberty stepped forward and sang a couplet expressive of her high and holy mission, then returning to her central position among the angelic group they one and all joined in the chorus.

Next came forward the representative of one of the States with an appropriate emblem in her hand, singing a couplet also indicative of the purpose of the State which she represented. This done, she resumed her position and all joined in the chorus again. Thus every State in the Confederacy was represented, and the whole scene concluded by the falling of the chains from the limbs of silent Maryland and the unfurling of the banner of Delaware to the breeze. This was more than the audience could bear in silence, and the walls of the beautiful church rang with the sound of stentorian voices. The States were represented as follows, if my notes are correct:

- South Carolina by Miss Ninnie Harmanson.
- Arkansas, by Miss Eleanor Barrows;
- Alabama by Miss Blanche Lampton;
- Florida by Miss Ellen Tessier;
- Georgia, by Miss Amelia Tessier;
- Texas by Miss Belle Chalfant;
- N. Carolina, by Miss Joyce Calliham;
- Virginia, by Miss Sue Brown;
- Louisiana, by Miss Emma Chalfant;
- Tennessee, by Miss Chandler;
- Kentucky, by Miss Clara Merrick;
- Missouri, by Miss Sallie Tillman;
- Maryland, by Miss Martin;
- Mississippi by Miss Bettie Brown;
- Delaware, by Miss Anna Chalfant;
- The Goddess of Liberty, by Miss Laura Merrick.

I have not been able to get the given names of some of the young Ladies in the above list, but trust that my desire to do them all equal justice may leave them no reason to complain. After the performance was over, Miss Laura Merrick a daughter of our distinguished Chief Justice came forward and made the following little speech, in substance:

Ladies and Gentlemen,—in behalf of the Ladies of the Military Aid Society of this place, I am charged to return you their unfeigned thanks for the liberality you have exhibited in behalf of the great cause which they are organized to promote. I am in duty bound to add also that, if our humble exertions have been crowned with any degree of success, or contributed to your amusement and edification on this occasion the merit is due to our kind friend Mrs. Dr. Byrne.

A very sumptuous dinner was then served *à la fourchette*, and although no set of appetites were ever better gratified, yet, there remained enough of the good things to induce those who had prepared them, to offer them for sale at public auction for the benefit of the soldiers. I was credibly informed that the proceeds of the day's entertainment amounted to about \$250. Now here is a question which occurred to my mind as I turned my face toward home. Would any but a madman ever think of subjecting a nation of brave men who are sustained and encouraged in their exertions by such noble Ladies as those of Simmesport. E. N. C.

We have received the chorus of the Confederate States composed by Mrs. Dr. Byrne, described in the communication which we publish to day, but have not room to insert it this week, we regret it very much, for we think it a very pretty thing, a beautiful conception of the mind of its fair authoress and will take pleasure in giving it a place in our next issue. Paper is very scarce, and we find it difficult to get enough, even for a half sheet.

### DIED

In Mansura, on the 13th December, MARIE LOUISE JOFFRON, wife of A. SAUCIER, aged 19 years and 25 days. LOUISE is gone for ever and is now lingering in the silent chambers of Eternity. What a consolation it is to know that she passed along to go to her eternal grave, without dread, without sins and with a hope overwhelmed with joy to knock at the silent waiting-hall of eternal happiness. JOR.

### OBITUARY.

Died, in Moreauville, on Saturday morning December 14th ROSA, second child of ANATOLE and CLARISSE COCO, aged 2 years and three months.

No bitter tears for thee be shed.  
Blossom of being! seen and gone!  
With flowers alone we strew thy bed.  
O best departed one!  
Whose all of life, a rosy ray,  
Blushed into dawn, and passed away.

Yes thou art fled, ere guilt had power  
To stain thy cherub soul and form,  
Closed is the soft ephemeral flower,  
That never felt a storm!  
The sunbeam's smile, the zephyr's breath  
All that it knew from birth to death

Thou wert so like a form of light,  
That heaven benignly called thee hence,  
Ere yet the world could breathe one blight  
O'er thy sweet innocence;  
And thou, that brighter home to bless,  
Art passed, with all thy loveliness!

Oh! hadst thou still on earth remained,  
Vision of beauty! fair as brief!  
How soon thy brightness had been grief!  
With passion or with strain!  
Now not a sullyng breath can rise,  
To dim thy glory in the skies.

Thy grave shall be a blessed shrine,  
Adorned with nature's brightest wreath,  
Each glowing season shall combine  
Its incense there to breathe;  
And oft, upon the midnight air,  
Shall wiewless harps be murmuring there.

And oh! sometimes in visions blest,  
Sweet spirit! visit our repose,  
And bear from thine own world of rest,  
Some balm for human woes!  
What form more lovely could be given  
Than thine, to messenger of heaven?

S. L. C.

### CANDIDATE.

A. M. GRAY is a Candidate to represent the parishes of Avoyelles, Point Coupee and West Feliciana, in the Senate.

Election to take place on the 24th of December, 1861.

### ELECTION NOTICE.

Sheriff's Office—Parish of Avoyelles  
BY VIRTUE of a proclamation dated the 6th December 1861, from his Excellency THOMAS O. MOORE, Governor of the State of Louisiana, an election will be held at all the Election Precincts of the parish of Avoyelles, on the

TUESDAY, the 24 December 1861,

for the election of one Senator for the Parishes of Avoyelles, Point Coupee and West Feliciana, to fill the seat declared vacant of the Hon. Fenelon Cannon.

The polls in this Parish will be opened from 9 o'clock A. M. to 4 o'clock P. M. for the purpose of receiving the votes of the qualified voters of the parish of Avoyelles, at the usual places and under the Superintendence of the Commissioners duly appointed in the different precincts of this parish.

Returns duly certified of the said Election will be made by the Commissioners holding same with in the legal delays to me, the undersigned Sheriff under the penalty of law.

Signed and dated, Sheriff's office, Marksville, December 14th 1861.

P. P. NORMAND,  
Sheriff.

Estate of PRUDENT D'ARTLLS, deceased.  
NOTICE.

All persons holding claims against the above estate are notified to present the same to the undersigned properly sworn to, and all those indebted to said estate are informed that prompt settlement must be made or else legal measures will be resorted to to enforce payment.  
H. & S. L. TAYLOR,  
Attys. of Est. d'Artlys.

### Militia.

Notice is hereby given to the public that will proceed strictly according to law in the collection of fines imposed on persons failing to attend drills.

Sheriff's Office, Marksville Nov. 29th. 1861.  
P. P. NORMAND,  
Sheriff.

### LIBERAL REWARD

WILL be given for any information leading to the recovery of a Bay Horse, about 9 or 10 years old, with a white star in the face, sway back heavy mane, and tail, strayed from J. H. Cason's plantation. The horse has belonged, at one time, to Mr. Perkins of Bayou Rouge. Information to be sent to Roberson, Jenkins & Co., Simmesport.  
19 Oct—1 m  
Z. CASEY.

We will transfer our office next week to the High School Buildings. In the spring, it will occupy the corner of Marks and Monroe streets.