

The Gazette & Comet

IS PUBLISHED TRI-WEEKLY.
Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays.

J. C. CHARLOTTE, T. B. R. HATCH, G. A. PIKE.

T. B. R. HATCH, Editor.

BATON ROUGE:
THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1865.

THE SUFFRAGE QUESTION.—Just as we go to press says the N. O. Evening Times of the 11th, we receive and hasten to lay before our readers the address of the Universal Suffrage Committee, of which Thos. J. Durant is President, to Governor Wells, urging him to take such action as will permit the colored people of the State to exercise the elective franchise. We also print the reply of the Executive. The subject discussed in these documents has been, we think very unnecessarily, forced upon the consideration of the public, but from the importance which all Americans must attach to the safeguards placed by jealous laws about the ballot-box, we cannot escape its discussion, nor avoid the agitation which that discussion will produce. We are of opinion that the demand of Mr. Durant and his associates is neither just nor needed. It is needless, for all such measures as this should have their origin with the people, and not with self-delegated few, and the people of Louisiana are not yet prepared for the measure. It is unjust, as it wholly disregards the preference and the sacred rights of the citizens of the State.

The Executive enunciates his views well and clearly, and, we candidly believe, will meet with an approving response from the great mass of loyal Louisianians.

We reproduce elsewhere from the columns of the Times, the address and reply above referred to, and concur with our contemporary in the reasonable views to which he has given utterance in his comments.

MAMMOTH DRY DOCK COMPANY. We learn with much pleasure of the arrival in this port of a large dry dock, for the docking of ships and steamboats of the largest size, which has been constructed at great expense at Cannelton, Ind. This dock was towed to the city by two steamboats, at an expense of \$10,000. The constructor of this dock was Mr. John Kireg, of Indiana, the superintendent Capt. Henry Streck. It was built under the advice of Vice Admiral Farragut and other naval officers, by J. R. Irwin, John McLean, H. Blakesley, T. Foley, T. G. Mackey, Spencer Field and Henry Streck. The twelve-inch centrifugal pumps will be used on this dock. The largest vessel can be docked in this dock in thirty minutes. Such a dock as this has been one of the greatest needs of our city, and its arrival will give great satisfaction to all persons interested in our commerce. It is in the hands and under the management of old and well-known citizens, who, we are persuaded, will give satisfaction to all persons who may bestow their patronage on their dock.—*New Orleans Picayune.*

"No North, no South, no East, no West; but one common country."—*Henry Clay.*

It may at first seem strange that a people who but yesterday, as it were, engaged in a struggle to disrupt the Union, should so soon unite in peans to its praise. But the South, having fought a gallant fight in which she was overcome by influences beyond her control, instead of growing morose, and retiring from the contest like a coward to bewail his loss of courage, she, conscious of having acted well her part, bows with becoming submission, and assumes, in truth, that to which she is entitled by virtue of her relationship—full membership in the sisterhood of States. In this there is no loss of honor, nor any humiliation, since defeat in a manly contest leaves no stain upon the escutcheon of the vanquished. 'Tis true, victory has its rewards, and defeat hath its punishments, but these do not affect personal integrity.

The South failing in the establishment of a separate government, her people appreciate the importance of availing themselves of the benefits and blessings of that Government from which they sought to sever themselves.—*Atlantic (Ga.) Journal, 6th ult.*

They have a Japanese dog in London that has a black tongue, mouth, and throat, black skin, and for all that is known, is black inside and out. He may be called radically black, like some partisans here.

At a recent catechising held in Paris, the rector asked a little girl: "How many sacraments are there?" "There are none now." "What none?" "No none; for cousin Francois died Saturday and ma told me they gave him the last."

"Live and Let Live."

If ever there was a time when individuals and communities should cultivate the reciprocal virtues of good will, amity and forbearance, that time is emphatically the present. The golden rule—that mainspring and basis of natural justice and true religion—of "doing unto others as you would be done by"—appeals with more than ordinary force, in times like these, to the passions, the prejudices and the selfishness of men. The demoralizing effects of the late war have done much to close the avenues of the soul against that genial flow of sympathetic feeling for our fellow-creatures which the God of Nature intended should ever be manifested and cultivated as between man and man, in a social and civilized state of being.

Assuredly, there are responsibilities and obligations devolving upon every true citizen earnestly to secure and perpetuate those harmonious and friendly relations so essential to personal happiness and the public good. To do less than this is to do little less than a crime, because it is a violation of duty, a stultifying of the plainest dictates of humanity. Acting on perverted principles is sure to lead to the most fatal errors in policy and to inflict the grossest wrongs upon society; and he who persists in such action, will sooner or later meet his just reward at the bar of an honest public opinion and in the self-retributory inflictions of an outraged conscience.

Conspicuous among the evils incident to this perversion of principle, is the disposition manifested by some of intense selfishness, prompting to acts of downright oppression. "To live" and to live for self alone, is the ruling motive, the cankering passion of these creatures bearing the semblance of men; but "to let live," is a doctrine to which they seem totally estranged. Regardless of the condition and circumstances which the overruling exigencies of the times have brought about in the fortunes of others, those harpies, following closely in the track of war and reveling in their joys of monied speculations, stand ready even amid the incipient smiles of peace, to annoy and oppress, and to despoil the honest citizen of the little left him amid the wrecks of a long protracted war.

Every advantage is seized upon to grind out, by "due process of law," if needs be, the remnants of the hand-earned fortunes of their fellow-men. Justice and a decent regard for the unavoidable reverses of others—everything is made to give way to the unhalloved spirit of a grasping speculation. This thing should be stopped. It is warring against persons now helpless, but who, if time were given them to gain their vantage ground, would be enabled to satisfy the demands of their rapacious persecutors without ruin to themselves and their families. In Heaven's name, do away with so much sweeping and indiscriminate selfishness. For decency's sake, at least, let the people have "a breathing spell," after the turmoils and horrors of the bloody war from which they have but just emerged. Let the lessons of "peace and good will to man"—the precepts and principles which teach us to "bear and forbear," to "live and let live"—shine forth again in their true light and glory, imparting joy and hope and courage to all in their endeavors to build up anew the prosperity of the community and of the country at large.

Nobody "is on the track as the Republican candidate for the succession," says the N. Y. Tribune; yet, most people believe, a sharp Chase for the next Presidency has already been commenced.

Secretary Seward's health does not seem to have been injured by the journey to Auburn. He appeared to be feeling remarkably well.

Mrs. Stephen A. Douglas has given a brilliant entertainment in Washington, the first public reception since the death of Mr. Douglas.

Important Correspondence Between Gov. Wells, Thos. J. Durant and Others.

To His Excellency, J. MADISON WELLS, Governor of Louisiana:

Governor—The undersigned, the Central Executive Committee of the friends of universal suffrage, respectfully invite your attention to their organization and objects.

They desire to see the elective franchise extended to all the inhabitants of the State who are loyal, without distinction of origin.

The rebellion has overthrown the Constitution and civil Government of Louisiana, and rendered necessary the creation of a new State Government by the direct act of the people.

The recent attempt here to re-establish government on a limited and imperfect suffrage is an admitted failure. You do not profess to hold power by the form of election which took place in February, 1864. You assert and exercise a power independent of the formal organic law. Your right to do so, it is not our purpose to draw in question. You enjoy it. That is enough for what we seek.

Under your discretionary powers you have defined the qualifications of those who may be admitted to the registration of voters in New Orleans; but you permit the observance of a different rule in the country. We urge you to enact uniformity.

We ask that before you shall order any general State election, or for members of Congress, you shall cause a complete registration to be made in every parish of the State of all loyal citizens, without distinction of race or origin, who have resided twelve months in Louisiana.

This will introduce to the ballot-box the loyal element of the black race hitherto disfranchised, but who have acquired by emancipation the title of citizens, and who have earned by their devotion to the country, and possess by natural justice, the right to participate in government.

Such an act, sir, will make you forever loved and respected in Louisiana and throughout our country. It will ensure the tranquility of the State; it will establish the logical consequences of emancipation; it will put an end to the power of that aristocracy which organized the rebellion and still ambitiously aims at the power of the Government; it will neutralize and overpower the rebel elements which cannot be successfully excluded from the polls; it will speed our State on a new and unknown career of wealth and honor.

We respectfully ask a reply in writing to this communication, and that you will be pleased to name an early day on which to give it.

We remain, most respectfully, your obedient servants.

THOS. J. DURANT, President.
ANT. FERNANDEZ, Vice President.
N. JERVIS, Secretary.
JOS. L. MONTIET, Ass't Secretary.
W. R. CRANE, Treasurer.
REFUS WAPLES, H. C. WARMOUTH,
S. G. BROWER, CHAS. OULVIE,
ANSEL EDWARDS, J. L. IMLAY,
O. J. DUNK, R. ABBOTSON,
H. TRAIN, H. STILES,
BENJ. F. FLANDERS, F. C. CHRISTOPHE,
A. COMMAIGRE, THOMAS LYNNE,
D. C. WOODRUFF, SEBASTIAN SEILER,
R. W. STANLEY.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
New Orleans, July 10, 1865.

MEETINGS, THOS. J. DURANT, WM. R. CRANE, BENJ. F. FLANDERS, REFUS WAPLES, and others:

Gentlemen—An address signed by you and some twenty others, representing what you call the "Central Executive Committee of the Friends of Universal Suffrage," was handed me a week ago. Until the present time my official duties did not allow me the leisure to reply to it as requested.

1st. You ask that the elective franchise be extended to all the inhabitants of the State who are loyal, without distinction of origin.

2d. You inform me that the rebellion has overthrown the Constitution and civil Government of Louisiana, and rendered necessary the creation of a new State Government by the direct act of the people.

3d. You allege "that the recent attempt to establish the government on a limited and imperfect suffrage is an admitted failure," and that I do not profess to hold power by the form of the election, which took place in February, 1864. You assert, furthermore, that "I exercise a power independent of the organic law."

4th. You do not hesitate to declare that "under my discretionary powers I have defined the qualifications of those who may be admitted to the registration as voters in New Orleans; but that I permit the observance of a different rule in the country;" and you urge me "to enact uniformity."

In answer to your address, so dictatorial and presumptive, I would say that the elective franchise is

defined by law, and its exercise must be in accordance therewith.

I do not believe that the Constitution and civil Government of Louisiana, have been overthrown by the rebellion, and the creation of a new Government is not within my province, if I admitted the necessity.

I do profess, and do hold, however, contrary to your confidently expressed opinion, by the form of election which took place in February, 1864, and in no respect act, "independent of the formal organic law," as you affect to believe.

It is true the exceptional condition of our political affairs compels recourse to military authority to supplement, momentarily, the deficiencies of the law, when my powers, as defined by statute, are unequal to the emergency. This resource however, I have sparingly invoked, and only against persons in office, whose shameless abuse of their places, or venal conduct, compelled it.

Neither have I, as you erroneously assert, transcended the requirements of law in defining "the qualifications of those who may be admitted to the registration as voters in New Orleans." All persons legally entitled to vote, and none others, can register. So, too, do you misstate the fact when you say that "I permit a different rule in the country." In both instances my conduct is controlled by the law.—No registry that I am aware of has ever existed in any State of the Union in rural districts. None certainly ever has in Louisiana. I see no reason now for my departure from the usual course; and if I did, I do not claim any competence to direct it to be done.

When you ask, therefore, that I shall "before any general State election, order a complete registration in every parish of the State of all loyal citizens, without distinction of race or origin," for the reasons already advanced, I decline to comply.

In coming to this conclusion, I have no other difficulty than is presented by your confident predictions of the evils that must follow a non-compliance with your demands. Political prophesying, however, has long since ceased to alarm mankind. I recollect political prophecies made by the chief signers of this address, within the past twenty years, which have been so falsified by events that the apprehensions their present ones might otherwise inspire, are blunted or dissipated completely. Both in the Native American and Know-Nothing eras their vaticinations were as boldly made that the naturalization and immigration of foreigners would as certainly destroy the nation, as they now are, unless the negro, ignorant, inexperienced and incapable as he is admitted to be, is endowed with the elective franchise.

Are these gentlemen less fallible to day than at the time referred to? Even within the last four years some of the more conspicuous members of the "Central Executive Committee of the Friends of Universal Suffrage" lent their powerful assistance to transfer the political power of the State from the parishes containing a large white population to the few white owners of large slave property in others. This was called the total population basis of representation.

I do not call in question, gentlemen, the sincerity of any of you.—I take it for granted you are perfectly sincere in your love of our emancipated people, and conscientiously believe the latter are entitled to the elective franchise; but you cannot be surprised if I cannot come to your conclusions so speedily as you have done, recollecting, as I do, the eloquent letter of your President, Mr. T. J. Durant, who so late as 1862, in a memorable letter to President Lincoln, protested against the taking of slaves from their owners and the iniquities of the blockade of the ports of the States in rebellion.

Where gentlemen, who claim to represent an organization so notorious in name as the "Central Executive Committee of the Friends of Universal Suffrage," have exhibited so much versatility of opinion in so short a time, and have prophesied so often in defiance of the logic of history and experience, they cannot be astonished if I should cling to the laws and the Constitution as my guides rather than to their predictions, however confidently and egotistically pronounced the latter may be.

I cannot either accept, however anxious to do so I might be, your conclusion that the endowment of the negro with the franchise would strengthen the Union cause or the National Government.

I dissent in toto from that conclusion. On the contrary, I am fully

persuaded, from my knowledge of the negro character, that nine out of ten of the late entire slave population would support their former masters, personally or politically, or any way, in preference to all strangers—and I regard all as strangers in this connection who did not stand in this domestic relation towards them. Nay, more: I believe in my heart that within twelve months from the time the negro would obtain the suffrage, neither the unflinching Southern Union man, nor the Union man whose loyalty dates from his obtaining of Federal office, could live otherwise than on suffrage in the States where the privilege was given, if the individuals lately in rebellion were disposed to countenance such proceedings.

In kindly and good feeling for the African, I yield to none, even among the oldest or newest of his friends; and while no man, North or South, is more willing to accept the situation as produced by the war, both as respects him and all other issues determined by the conflict, I neither deem it wise or expedient to clothe him with the suffrage, nor can I see ought but danger and difficulties in the agitation and discussion of such topics. The emancipated slave has much to learn. He has obtained rights, and they are universally frankly recognized; he has duties to discharge which it is incumbent upon us all to instruct him to appreciate and perform. Should it please Providence to fit him intellectually for an equal place in the body politic with the white citizens of the Republic, at a period much sooner than is now anticipated, I have no doubt all will rejoice; meanwhile it is obligatory upon all to obey the laws and submit without repining to the popular arbitrament on this and all other subjects.

I have full faith in the National Administration. The distinguished patriot now discharging the onerous duties of President of the Republic, has enunciated his policy of reconstruction; that policy has my cordial approval and support, and no means at my disposal, by which I can rightfully strengthen and sustain his Administration, will be left unemployed, to that end. On the other hand, my duty, as Governor of the State, is faithfully to execute the laws, and this, with the help of God and the generous cooperation of my fellow-citizens, I hope to do satisfactorily, impartially and justly. I do not intend, under any circumstances, to substitute my own will for the written law, nor to arrogate to myself powers unusual or improper to be exercised by an elective officer in a republican Government.

I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant.

J. MADISON WELLS,
Governor of Louisiana.

A somewhat juvenile dandy said to a fair partner at a ball, "Don't you think, miss, my mustachios becoming?" To which she replied, "Well, sir, they may be coming, but they have not yet arrived."

LOST,

ON Levee street, in this city, on Friday morning, the 7th instant, a NOTE, drawn by Jacob Simon, in favor of Emile Gassie and endorsed by G. E. Little, payable on the 20th day of July, 1865, for the sum of

THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS.

All persons are warned against trading for said NOTE, as payment for the same has been stopped, except to the undersigned.

July 11-31-pd

EMILE GASSIE.

BRICKS FOR SALE.

100,000 BRICKS for sale, in West Baton Rouge, on the most reasonable terms.

For particulars, apply to

J. C. STAFFORD,
Law office, Third street.

AT BEAL'S:

50 Barrels Single Extra FLOUR.
10 MESS PORK.
1 Hoghead Extra SUGAR.
1/2 Gross P. & M. YEAST POWDERS.

Just arrived and for sale at moderate prices.

AT \$3 50 PER SACK.

AT BEAL'S—Course Liverpool SALT—only \$3 50 per bag.

N. O. ADVERTISEMENT.

J. J. WARREN, T. W. CRAWFORD.

WARREN & CRAWFORD,

(Successors to Warren, Gilmore & Co.)

COTTON FACTORS

AND

COMMISSION MERCHANTS,

No. 29 CARONDELLET STREET,

July 11-6m* NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Lumber! Lumber!!

THE undersigned respectfully announce to the public that they have on hand and for sale a large supply of assorted

LUMBER,

They have a Saw Mill in operation, which enables them to supply the public with any variety of quantity of lumber, and will be happy at all times to receive orders from customers.

LEFEVRE & JADOT,
Cor. Lafayette and Main Sts.

July 1m

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Notice!

BATON ROUGE, La., June 28th, 1865.

GEORGE A. PIKE, is fully authorized and empowered to act for me and in my stead, in all business matters in which I have an interest in Baton Rouge.

July 1-6m W. M. S. PIKE.

Advances! Advances!!

I WILL MAKE LIBERAL CASH ADVANCES ON

COTTON CONSIGNED TO MY FRIENDS,

BOWER, GARDNER & HARRISON.

July 1-1m WILLIAM BOGEL.

J. C. STAFFORD,

ATTORNEY AT LAW,

OFFICE ON LAUREL STREET,

BATON ROUGE, LA.

WILL practice in the Parishes of East

Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge and East Feliciana.

July 4-6m

NOTICE.

THE Tax-payers of the Parish of East Baton Rouge, are hereby notified that I have deposited the assessment roll for the year 1865, in the Parish Recorder's Office, at the Court House, in order that any person aggrieved by such assessment, may appeal and have the same corrected, if found incorrect.

July 4m JAMES H. KENNEDY,
Assessor.

Baton Rouge, June 30th, 1865.

NOTICE!

THE Tax-payers of the Parish of East Baton Rouge, are hereby notified, that unless the State Taxes due by them for the years 1861-2, are paid within the next thirty days, I shall proceed to collect the same according to law.

ED. COUMENARD,
July 4-4m Sheriff and State Tax Collector.

GROCERY

AND

PROVISION HOUSE,

PLANTATION SUPPLIES.

E. R. BECKWITH,

THIRD ST., CORNER OF LAUREL,

BATON ROUGE, LA.

CONSTANTLY ON HAND EVERY VARIETY OF

PLANTATION SUPPLIES.

Planters and others would do well to call

before purchasing elsewhere.

Cotton bought at highest market rates.

July 6-mos.

A. BLUM,

DEALER IN

DRY GOODS, GROCERIES,

PROVISIONS,

And Plantation Supplies Generally.

ALSO,

CROCKERY, TIN, WOOD & WILLOW WARE

Store, Cor. Africa and St. Napoleon Sts.,

BATON ROUGE, LA.

DETERMINED to keep a full and well

selected stock of articles such as to make up a first-rate variety store, A. BLUM hopes to merit and receive an increased amount of patronage. He respectfully invites his old customers and the public at large, to continue their calls as usual, assuring them of his determination to please and satisfy them in every particular.

July 6-1f

VICTOR'S

RESTAURANT

THE PUBLIC ARE

hereby respectfully in-

formed that they can be accommodated with

Board, at the above Restaurant, situated on Lafayette street, at the rate of \$8 per week. This

will include two meals a day. Every attention

and care will be given to the comfort of guests.

Payment must be made weekly.

July 8-1f VICTOR CALVAYRAC.

BUTTER,

At only 40 cents.

JUST received 250 pounds New May

BUTTER, which is offered at only 40 cents @

retail.

July 6 JOSHUA BEAL.

Oats, Sugar Cured Joles,

RUMP PORK AND BUTTER.

A SMALL supply of the above-named

articles just stored and for sale at moderate

prices by

JOSHUA BEAL.

JAMES McVAY,

HARDWARE MERCHANT

AND DEALER IN

Agricultural Implements,

WINDOW SHADES,

WALL PAPER, ETC.

CALLS respectfully the attention of the

public to his large and excellent stock of goods pertaining to his line of merchandise. He speaks a liberal share of public patronage.

Store on Third street, opposite the building of the Louisiana State Bank.

July 1

I. O. O. F.

THE Regular Weekly Meeting of

THE ROTU LODGE, No. 7, I. O.

O. F., is held at their Hall, on Main

street, nearly opposite the Sumner House, every

THURSDAY EVENING, at half past 7 o'clock.