

LAKE CHARLES COMMERCIAL,

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY JOHN McCOORMICK.

PRICE OF SUBSCRIPTION: Two Dollars a Year.

ADVERTISING RATES:

Table with columns for 'NOTES' and '1 inch', '2 inch', '3 inch', '4 inch', '5 inch', '6 inch', '7 inch', '8 inch', '9 inch', '10 inch', '11 inch', '12 inch'.

Transient advertisements \$1 per inch, first insertion. Each subsequent insertion, 50 cents per inch.

Newspaper Laws and Regulations.

- 1. Subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary are considered wishing to continue their subscriptions. 2. If subscribers order the discontinuance of their periodicals, the publisher may continue to send them until all arrears are paid.

Entered at the Post Office, Lake Charles La., as second class matter.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1881.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

-TO-

ALL!

A choice selection of goods, suitable for the holidays, just received at Fassold's the jeweller.

Acts Passed by the Legislature.

The following are the titles of Acts that have been passed by the extra session:

No. 6.—Creating a Printing Board and defining its duties; relative to the State printing, to the official journal of the State; to regulate and define the prices of public printing, and to prescribe the manner in which the same shall be done; directing the manner and price at which contracts shall be made by police juries and municipal corporations for public printing; providing for the binding and distribution of all public documents and furnishing stationery for all the departments of the government of the State; and repealing all laws or parts of laws in conflict therewith.

Last Wednesday evening Sheriff Edgar Mouton and deputy Wm. Campbell arrested two men charged with murder in St. Mary parish. It appears that on Tuesday morning, of this week, the body of a white man was found at a point between Franklin and Bayou Sale station on the Morgan road, not a great distance from the track, and bearing signs evident of foul play. An investigation was had and the discovery made that late on Monday evening the deceased was seen with two companions; and Sheriff Gordy of St. Mary learning that two suspicious characters were seen coming this way, came up Wednesday by the local train. With the assistance of Sheriff Mouton and others, the arrest of the two men was made near the railroad bridge over the Vermilion Bayou. Upon being questioned they declared that they were companions of the deceased on Monday and were with him the night following, but that his death resulted not from foul means but that he laid down to sleep near the track and that a blow on the head from a passing engine had caused his death. Their story, however, was not consistent, and in addition to other suspicious circumstances justified Sheriff Gordy in taking them with him on his return to Franklin Thursday morning.—[La Fayette Advertiser, Dec. 24.]

IN AND OUT.

The State Senate, acting in pursuance of a previous caucus of Democratic Senators, last Saturday, desituated the Hon. W. A. Robertson of St. Landry from the Presidency of the Senate and selected the Hon. Geo. W. Walton of Concordia to fill this important position. In view of the fact that the President of the Senate is the probable successor to the office of Governor, we believe that the Democrats of the Senate did well. Mr. Robertson was undoubtedly a good presiding officer, but his political antecedents and particularly his late course in the constitutional convention, had not won for him the entire confidence of the people of the State. His democracy was always of that doubtful character which is a full justification of Democratic Senators in not exposing the State to the risk of having him for Governor. The Hon. Geo. W. Walton, the new President of the Senate and Lieutenant-Governor, is well known as a gentleman of high moral and social standing; he has been a true democrat during the time that tried men's souls, always struggling against dishonesty, oppression and extortion in office, and in favor of the purse, the rights and the liberties of the citizens of the State. We cordially approve the course of the Senate and congratulate the State on the prospects ahead, as indicated by the new departure.

The President Shadowed by Detectives.

[N. O. Daily States, Dec. 23.] A Washington telegram of this morning announces that the President and his private secretary left that city yesterday for New York, and were accompanied, without the President's knowledge, by detectives sent from New York by officious friends to protect him from imaginary danger of attack by cranks. The States has hitherto expressed its opinion as to this most undemocratic and unrepugnant conduct, and, at the time of President Garfield's death, and it was proposed by certain papers to organize a Presidential body-guard, characterized the proceedings as at total variance with the freedom and liberty guaranteed every American citizen by the genius of our institutions and the boasted fearlessness of our people. We make haste, therefore, to denounce the revolutionary proceedings of these "officious friends," as calculated not only to invite attack from alleged "imaginary cranks," but to advance our Government one more step towards imperialism, despotism, or Caesarism—call it by what name you choose. Such precaution and safeguard may do for Russia, whose Czar is a despot and whose regimen is oppressive and hateful to a great number of his subjects, but in Republican America where every man is a sovereign, and our Chief Executive is chosen by the majority ballots of its citizens, although diametrically opposed to him on political questions, we see no necessity for a measure that gives the pointed lie to our so-called freedom and will create false impressions at home and abroad. We do not apprehend that President Arthur is in danger of assassination. The President himself does not apprehend such a thing. The conduct of these "officious friends" is an evidence of nincompoop toadyism that should be severely denounced and set down as dangerous in the extreme.

Crime in St. Mary.

[Morgan City Review, Dec. 24.] Last Tuesday morning, the body of Mr. Melvin Lewis, of Valparaiso, Indiana, was found in the Darnell field, a quarter of a mile west of Bayou Sale station, this parish. He had been murdered. Sheriff Gordy has arrested two white men for the crime, and they are now confined in the Franklin jail. The remains of the murdered gentleman have been forwarded to his friends in Indiana.

In a note, Sheriff Gordy informs us that the arrests were made Wednesday evening, near Vermilion Bayou; that the prisoners admit having been in company with the murdered man; and that they had blood upon them.

Mr. Hugh Allard, at his store, La Teche, shot and killed Thomas Stansbury, Tuesday of last week. We are told that Stansbury was under the influence of liquor at the time. The murderers of D. Larmand, Terrence Achille and Sterling Ben, both colored, will be hung at Franklin, on Friday, Jan. 6th. The execution will be private. It is believed that Chas. Butler's sentence will be commuted.

Reorganization of the Senate.

[N. O. Daily States.] In the closing hours of the extra session Saturday night the Senate reorganized by electing Hon. Geo. L. Walton, of Concordia, President pro tem., in place of Senator W. A. Robertson, who had held that post since early in the regular session. The other officers of the Senate were re-elected.

The grounds upon which the Senate proceeded in this matter are those which the States advanced in the form of the reorganization on the first and third days of the extra session. The reorganization was not intended as a reflection upon Senator Robertson who presided over the senate with consummate skill and we believe with impartiality.

But at the time of his election the vote was merely a complimentary one (and thus indicated that he had many personal friends who were willing to compliment him, are on political grounds opposed to his control of the committees of the senate). Now, however, it is a different matter, as the president pro tem. of the senate may at any time become Governor. Dr. Robertson retires with we believe the good will of nearly every senator who voted against him.

Col. Walton, who has been elected president pro tem., is a gentleman of fine ability, high personal integrity and honor, a life-time Democrat, and largely interested in the material welfare of the State. Col. Walton was the first choice of the States for this position, and we are sure he will make an able, impartial and efficient presiding officer. It is to be regretted, on their own account, however, that the friends of Senator Robertson bolted the caucus resolution and, with the exception of Senator Augustin, attempted to break a quorum of the senate by absenting themselves when the motion to reorganize came up. The election of a presiding officer of the Senate is a strictly political matter over which, by all Democratic usages, the caucus has control. Hence, the course of Senator Robertson's friends, with the exception of Mr. Augustin, co-operating with the Radical members, to defeat a Democratic measure determined upon by a Democratic caucus, must be regarded as a serious revolt against party discipline and party methods; and it is not improbable that it has more than a temporary significance.

Presidential Disability.

[Chicago Tribune.]

In regard to the presidential disability question now being discussed in the Senate the Tribune has already suggested one way in which Congress may dispose of this matter. There may be other and better ways, but certainly so important a subject should not be left as the sport of whim or circumstance. It may be provided by law that a majority of the president's cabinet may raise the question of their chief's "inability" to discharge the duties of his office. It is safe to assume that a majority of those selected by the president himself as his advisers and the heads of the executive departments will never conspire to oust him from office on a charge of inability; but when the question should thus be raised, it should also be made the duty of the Supreme Court to institute a judicial inquiry into the case, and to decide whether or not such inability exists as to entitle the proper officer to succeed to the office of president. The Supreme Court should be further authorized and required, upon proper information, to ascertain when the disability has been removed, and proper provision should be made to enable the president, at the termination of disability thus ascertained, to recover his office. All this is simple enough, and certainly much less hazardous than to risk dispute and contention in a period of excitement and necessity.

A New Variety of Glass.

[Scientific American.]

A Vienna chemist has recently discovered a new variety of glass. It does not contain any silica, boric acid, potash, soda, lime, or lead, and is likely to attract the attention of all professional persons on account of its peculiar composition. Externally it is exactly similar to glass, but its luster is higher and it has a greater refraction, of equal hardness, perfectly white, clear, transparent, can be ground and polished, completely insoluble in water, neutral, and it is only attacked by hydrochloric or nitric acid, and is not affected by hydrofluoric acid. It is easily fusible in the flame of a candle, and can be made of any color. Its most important property is that it can be readily fused on to zinc brass, and iron. It can also be used for the glazing of articles of glass and porcelain. As hydrofluoric acid has no effect on the new glass it is likely to find employment for many technical purposes.

New Orleans as a Naval Station.

[Times-Democrat.]

The Pensacola Advance objects to our article urging Congress to make New Orleans a naval station. It also shows considerable feeling at the action of the Secretary of the Navy in ordering the Kearsage here to recruit sailors. We are sorry to see this jealousy on the part of our sister city. We have never urged a word against Pensacola, which, lying as it does, in the centre of a country rich in ship supplies, must always remain an important naval point. We simply sought to show the many advantages that New Orleans possesses, which are enjoyed by few other ports in this country, and dwell upon the necessity of the United States having some strong naval station on the Gulf coast, open to the largest vessels. We insist that New Orleans is that point. The harbor selected must be one where vessels drawing 26 or 28 feet of water can come with ease, for this is the draught that our best men-of-war require. And New Orleans is the only port having this requisite depth. It must also be thoroughly protected from foreign fleets, for, in the event of a war, it is almost certain that the foreign power would be navally our superior. An exposed point like Galveston or Barrancas, which could be readily swept by the long-range guns of modern men-of-war, would never do. We must have a naval station where, far from the guns of the enemy's fleet, our vessels could be improved, recuperated, repaired and made ready for service on the sea. When this was done, they could sail quietly down the Mississippi, drive off the blockading fleet, and be prepared to re-establish our prestige on the sea. Such are a few of the advantages this city offers. We will say nothing about the cheapness with which all the necessary provisions can be obtained here, the fact that there are always thousands of sailors in the city, and that the government never finds the least difficulty in obtaining as many able-bodied seamen as it wants; nor, finally, the fact that when the Northeastern road reaches this city, New Orleans will be nearly as great and as cheap a coal centre as Pittsburg itself. We will say nothing of all these points, although they are important reasons why a naval station should be established here, as a bill now before Congress proposes to do.

We again insist that the Federal Government should possess at least one strong and important naval station on the Gulf, of sufficient depth of water, and safe from capture; that it should, in fine, prepare itself in peace for a possible war, particularly as the cost of this would be almost infinitesimal.

NEVADA.—Nevada is the fourth largest State in the Union, territorially. It has had the biggest mines and hopes to have still bigger. It boasts the finest looking men, the greatest chances for making—and losing—money; less religion and more generosity than any other of the United States. Its people live high—on the Comstock, at least—and mainly in the future. "Farewell the tranquil mind; farewell content!" is the motto of every representative Nevadaite. We can drink harder and work less; live more extravagantly; run in debt faster; pay more assessments; receive less dividends; shoot quicker, stab harder and escape without punishment more frequently than any other known people. We here cling desperately to the rocky sides of Mount Davidson like a lot of enfeebled flies, too weak to move and too discouraged to try, waiting for the reviving effects of old-time bonanza sunshine. When the storm breaks and fair weather appears we will bask in prosperity for a brief season, again "go bust" and renew our present lamentations of hard times.—Exchange.

Printers Register: Mr. James Birtwhistle was recently made the victim of a practical joke. Some one advertised that goats were wanted for a buck beer procession, apply to J. Birtwhistle, North Sixth street. One morning Mr. Birtwhistle was surprised to find all the approaches to his place of business filled with goats of all sizes, ages, colors and conditions and the owners as varied as the animals themselves. By the aid of the police the streets were cleared after a few hours hard work, and business was resumed. He purchased two of the finest animals to take home to the children, but carelessly hitched them near a newly printed edition of the "Sunday School Masher," three bundles of which were entirely consumed before it was discovered. He is now training one of the goats for a pointer, the other one having peacefully ended a somewhat checkered career with a ten o'clock lunch on Birt's new rubber boots.

Many live miserably and meanly just to die magnificently and richly.

Democratic Postmasters in Peril.

[Washington Special.]

Washington, Dec. 22.—One important result of the incoming Stalwart administration will, it is understood, be the wholesale displacement of Democratic country postmasters and the substitution of Republicans. There has been much complaint among Republican politicians for five or six years, but more particularly during the Hayes administration, about the appointment of Democratic postmasters. Both Mr. Howe, the new Postmaster-General, and Mr. Hutton, the First Assistant Postmaster-General, are Stalwarts of the most pronounced type, and bitterly opposed to putting or keeping political opponents in office. Their friends say that they will turn their attention as soon as possible to the country postmasters. In the South where the Democratic postmasters predominate, it has been more from the necessity of the case than otherwise that such appointments have made, and the department will find it very difficult in many localities of that section to find competent men who are not Democrats. One of the ideas of the Stalwarts is that the Republican party in the South can be built up and strengthened through the influence of the country postmasters, if the right men for the positions can only be obtained.

Nihilist Plot Against the Life of the Czar.

London, Dec. 26.—The Daily Telegraph's correspondent at St. Petersburg says a plot has been discovered for the assassination of the Czar in Karmynin street, which it was expected he would traverse while proceeding from the palace to the Michael's riding school, on the occasion of the recent fete of St. George. It has not yet been possible to obtain full details of the plan of the conspirators, who were all arrested a few days ago at a meeting of the revolutionists in the outskirts of town. From information which the police possess it is authentically stated that nothing could have saved the life of the Czar, had he passed along the street where he was expected to pass.

A London Firm Buys Mississippi Land.

New Orleans, Dec. 26.—Philips, Marshall & Co., of 79 Mark Lane, London, have just concluded a purchase of 1,300,000 acres of land from the State of Mississippi, 700,000 acres of which is known as levee lands, and located mostly in the Yazoo delta, comprising some of the richest cotton and timber land in the South. Their intention is to improve, colouize and cultivate these lands.

Fatal Panic in a Church.

London, Dec. 26.—A dispatch to Reuter's Telegram Company from Warsaw reports that forty deaths have so far resulted from the panic in the Church of the Holy Cross on Christmas morning. Sixty other persons were injured. A dispatch from Cracow to the Vienne Presse states that the persons killed were mostly women.

Goodness.

[East St. Louis Herald.]

Nothing makes a man so in love with purity as purity. Many a man has been lifted out of debasing sins which he has vainly struggled to surmount by coming to know and love a pure sweet woman. It is the sight of embodied goodness that makes us want to be good. Many a mother by the quiet usefulness of her life fills her children with a desire to be like her that makes them in their turn, unselfish. There are obscure men and women who hardly in their lives utter a word of conscious teaching who by their example do more to make people around them gentle and truthful and Christian-like than any preacher can do. It is not those who talk about goodness, but those who are good, that are the light of the world.

The postmaster and two physicians of Forrest, Ill., are willing to swear that a boy named John Mauer, living near that place, fell off the bumper of a caucuse on which he was stealing a ride last Saturday, knocked out a piece of his skull two inches square, drove several fragments of the bone, not to speak of sand and cinders, in upon the brain, picked himself up, tied his handkerchief about his head, walked a mile and a half to have his injuries attended to, submitted to the insertion of a silver plate in place of the lost skull, and cheerfully asked for something to eat. His friends hope that he will recover and become a distinguished road-agent.

Cheerfulness and temperance are better medicines than ever came from the drug store.

Dean Swift's Newspaper Hoax.

One of the cleverest hoaxes ever perpetrated was one invented by Swift and intended for the public good. He caused to be printed and circulated some "last words" of a robber named Elliston, which were supposed to be written shortly before his execution. In which the condemned thief was made to say: "Now, as I am a dying man, I have done something which may be of good use to the public. I have left with an honest man—the only honest man I ever was acquainted with—the names of all my wicked brethren, the place of their abode, with a short account of the chief crimes they have committed, in many of which I have been their accomplice, and heard the rest from their own mouths. I have likewise set down the names of those we call our settlers, of the wicked houses we frequent, and all of those who receive and buy our stolen goods. I have solemnly charged this honest man, and have received his promise upon oath, that, whenever he hears of any rogue to be tried for robbery or house breaking, he will look into his list, and, if he finds the name there of the thief concerned, to send the whole papers to the government. Of this I give my companions fair and public warning, and hope they may take it." We are told that the Dean's ruse succeeded so well that street robberies were, for many years after, few and far between.

A Woman True.

[East St. Louis Herald.]

Place her among flowers, for she is as a tender plant, and she is a thing of fancy, waywardness and folly—annoyed by a dew-drop, fretted by the touch of a butterfly's wing, and ready to flit at the sound of a beetle; and she is empowered by the perfume of a rose-bud. But let a real calamity crown her affections, and she is the fires of her heart, and mark as they; how her heart strengthens itself; how strong she is!

Place her in the heat of battle—give her a child, a bird, or anything to protect—and see her in a relative instance, lifting her wings as a shield, as her own blood crimson her upturned forehead, praying for life to protect the helpless. Transplant her in the desolate places of earth, call forth her energies into action, and her heart becomes a healing, her presence a blessing. She disputes not the stride of stalking pelicans, while man, the strong and brave, pale and affrighted, starts away. Misfortune befalls her, and she wears away a life of silent endurance, and goes forward with less timidity than to her bride, prosperity than to a bad, full odors, waiting but for the wind of adversity to scatter them about pure gold, valuable but untried in the furnace.

In short, woman is a miracle—mystery—the centre from which radiates the great charm of existence.

A Desolate Village on the Hill.

[Aspen (Col.) Times.]

Soon we reached the mushroom camp of Highland. It well serves the name applied to it—a deserted village. But one house is inhabited. The structures, being hundreds, are falling down and look distressed. Buildings which once covered immense stacks of merchandise are empty and the doors and windows are big yawning holes without glass boards. The rude signs of "Hotel Assay Office," etc., swing in an crazy manner from the top doorways and in front of toppled buildings, and old foundations overgrown with weeds and partially buried in sand tell where mountain business houses have hopefully reared its form. The village has a history. Its existence was due to the "Old Time" who camped there in the spring of 1880, and told of wealth buried in the hills behind his cabin. As season opened hundreds flocked to the new camp, but when it began to produce fine mineral people of Highland became disgusted and silently departed.

Some of Mr. Brewster's Peculiarities.

Benjamin Harris Brewster, new Attorney-General, is, Charles Jared Loggersoll and late David Paul Brown, rather peculiar in his dress. His coat is almost invariably light colored, vests are of velvet, and being low expose a shirt front of the best cambric ruffles. His trousers are models of the latest art, and his gaiter-tops are invariably the whitest of the white, while for heavier huts are of silke wator and summer, as well as his shoes and clothing made in London. In his shirt wears a blue cloth cutaway, but often a fanciful ornamented jacket, out of the short sleeves which protrude his ruffled

The best 5 and 10 cent cigars are at Haskell's.