

# The Democrat.

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ALEXANDRIA, LA.

Wednesday, February 10, 1875.

## REMINDER!

THE DEMOCRAT has many country subscribers who are in arrears one, two, three and four years, and as the crops have turned out well, and Christmas times approaching, we would suggest to these delinquents, who have enjoyed our paper so well and long, to now come to our help and send us some little remittance in way of payment. Where the whole amount cannot be spared, we will be satisfied with half, and be thankful at that!

### The Bart Able.

Every desert, however dreary and dismal, has its oasis, and we are sure we found this out to be true, and are glad of the opportunity to be recalled to duty to promulgate it into print, and again pay our tribute and raise our humble words of praise in favor and in behalf of the noble and magnificent steamer, whose name graces the heading of this short article. To say that the Bart Able is all that we have painted her, and that her entire crew are models of steamboatmen, is not only merited praise, but the plain, unvarnished truth. And we are glad to note that the appreciative and discerning public are alive to the merits of the Bart Able, and each trip she increases in the basking smiles of solid and paying approbation, and her career bids fair to be one increasing ovation. We must endorse this good will of the public in favor of our Packet, and trust it may not fall off, but continue to swell and increase.

A PROPOSITION.—As we mention elsewhere, compromise in New Orleans, now the field of active political warfare, was all the go on last Saturday. As a matter of curiosity, and curiosity's gossip to our home folks, we will make brief mention of a rather queer one which was made, by a leading politician of our Parish, to our three Representatives, Jeffries, Stafford and Luckett. It came from those friends, De Lacey, Conaughton and Crawford, and was in these words: the latter, through their emissary, proposed to the former that if they would give them, De Lacey, Conaughton and Crawford, assurance, written assurance, to be protected and not harmed in Rapides, that they would quit the Hahn's crowd and depart for Alexandria that evening on the Bart Able. Our true Representatives considered they had no authority in such a new-fangled compromise and, of course, declined. The milk in the cocoanut may yet be unaccounted for, but still we know we can see through this whipped syllabus, and should the matter hereafter merit further consideration, we are convinced we can probe it to the bottom and make the fly fly handsomely. Just now we are in charity's best mood, and feel inclined to say nothing more about it, but do not promise not to call up the case again. We shall treasure it tenderly in our waste basket, subject to a re-hearing.

—Just as we go to press we find in the New Orleans Republican of the 5th inst., a statement of R. P. Hunter's testimony, as reported in that paper, which is rather steep, and which we did not notice before. Here are the words which we consider steep: "The Republican newspaper office was mobbed and the material destroyed; the persons who did it were employees of a Democratic paper." Now we hardly believe the Radical organ has reported the testimony of our conferees correctly, nor can we believe for a single instant he ever used the language quoted, and as the Democrat is the paper alluded to in this testimony as quoted, we have a right and feel it our bounden duty to ask for an explanation and get some light on this subject in our own behalf and specially in justice to the young men who were in our employ at the time the quoted testimony makes this serious charge against our office.

—To the mortuary list of U. S. Senators we have to add, this week, the name of Mat. Carpenter, the great Radical hammer from Wisconsin. His head has been chopped off by the old trusty cleaver of Democracy, and Cameron, who is sound on Democracy's goose, will watch over his remains as he lies in state in the charnel house of the untrifled.

Dr. H. St. John.—Two special notices of this Druggist of our town, will be found inserted in our columns this issue, to which we crave the special attention of his numerous customers and the public generally.

## COMPROMISE.

This word to us uncertain, treacherous and without meaning comes once more to the front and looms up with freshness and new born mischief in our affairs in Louisiana, and without fully understanding how far at the present writing it has gone or been fixed on us, we have no hesitancy in entering our solemn protest and opposition to it in any and all shapes. We really believe and truthfully know, that thus far we have fought our good fight well and that gradually we are advancing to victory and the recognition of our rights, and certainly should not falter or step aside to dance attendance to side issues, least of all compromise ones. We have nothing to compromise; either we are in the right or error should reign beside us, and further, persistent, plain, undeviating duty, sacred and hallowed by pledges of the past, should not be forgotten or go unrequited. Let us remember that the battle of self-government, "republican in form," now being waged in Louisiana, is watched with intense anxiety in every State of the Union where true liberty yet has a foothold, and that the lowering of our colors means we are in the wrong, have been so, and that deceit has been our argument.

We are thus compelled from duty to our people, the true people of Rapides, to place the Democrat on the true track of good record, learning that just now we may be engulfed in the labyrinth of compromise, and all our fine logic and vows thrown to the dogs. This compromise affair has been the topic of discussion before our caucus of Legislators in New Orleans, and passed in some shape by a small majority. Though we were in New Orleans at the time we must acknowledge our inability to fathom or divine what the compromise exactly was and how far our hopes were dashed to atoms, because the wisdom of the "Owl Club" seemed to reign supreme and the people were kept in the dark about it, but not sufficiently so to keep down their indignation at the barter. In New Orleans on Saturday all was excitement, which was to culminate in a grand indignation meeting at Exposition Hall on that night. The caucus too was to resemble and the matter would be reconsidered, at least so we think. We forbear going into any details about it, for we would be striking in the dark, as the meeting was secret and the lips of the actors were ordered to be hushed and sealed. But come what will in the compromise line with the usurped infamy we have so long and persistently opposed and battled against, we care not to count the policy risk, but boldly and candidly unlimber our battery against it and right here proclaim our unreserved and eternal opposition to it.

SHARP PRACTICE.—We are no lawyer, but we understand the meaning of sharp practice as so called by the Knights of the green sack; and must not pass unnoticed a little incident we consider really a very "cute" trick. As the Editor of the Caucasian was giving in his testimony before the Congressional Committee last Thursday, Frye, with our Mat. Wells at his elbow, made a daring and rather unsuccessful attempt to invalidate the testimony of our conferees, which, considering the manner and sequel, was truly sharp practice. The fellow Frye, when R. P. Hunter was turned over to him, coolly asked him if he knew R. A. Hunter, if he was an honest man, and handing him a letter, written to Mat. Wells we believe, with the remark to look at it and see if he recognized it. Just then Col. Hunter, who was in the room, stated that the letter was a private one, and that he objected to its use in public, as proposed. The matter stopped there, the letter was not read, but handed back to Frye or Mat. Wells.

Now right here we have something in behalf of our people to say. This letter, the contents of which we suppose must have been in the shape of serious charges against us, had already been used and used against us, by Mat. Wells and his backers, had done its bad and evil effects in the way of poisoning the Committee, and of course should have been permitted to be seen and read by the defence. And to cut the matter short, we think that Col. Hunter owes it to himself and our people to permit them to see this letter, and let them know what good or harm there is in it in their favor or against them. We should have that justice and courtesy extended to us, as we desire to defend our people against all indictments against them, and render praise to their defenders. In their behalf and their name we make respectful demand for the letter, and trust so plain and just a request will be accorded us.

—OUR fellow-townsmen, Joseph Bouillotte, has gone in the saw mill business, having purchased the fine and complete Saw Mill of the late J. W. Hadnot, and is ready to furnish lumber of all kinds and qualities to the public. His card will be found in its proper place.

—THE License Ordinance for 1875 will be found published in our columns this issue of the Democrat.—Merchants read it.

## BLACKWOOD.

Blackwood's Magazine for January, 1875, republished by the Leonard Scott Publishing Co., is now ready. The following is the table of contents:

- I. "Giannetto."
- II. "Idas: an Extravaganza."
- III. "Alice Lorraine." Part X.
- IV. "The Abode of Snow."
- V. "The Story of Valentine and his Brother." Part XIII.
- VI. "The Life of the Prince Consort."
- VII. "The Great Problem: Can it be solved?"

The new story which begins the first volume of the new year is told in a very quiet style by an English man, who spent a winter at Nice with an invalid daughter, during which time he met with Giannetto, an Italian fisherman. The interest is aroused and kept active by the mystery attached to this man, who suddenly received the power of speech and song when over twenty years of age, although he was born dumb. The story is to be continued.

"Idas: an Extravaganza," is an attempt to exhibit the tendencies of materialistic theories in their extreme issues.

"It is the devaluation of social and political morals consequent upon the materialistic theory, thus developed far beyond the contemplation of its modern sponsors—the wildest excesses springing generically from the confounding of things essentially distinct, which that theory is grounded upon—that we have to deal with in the ensuing pages."

"The Abode of Snow" begins with an account of the "Jhula," or bridges made of ropes of twisted birch twigs, which are neither safe nor pleasant to cross, but the greater part of the article is devoted to a description of the customs of the Tibetans, and especially the workings of polyandry.

A very entertaining article is the review of the first volume of Mr. Martin's "Life of the Prince Consort"—a book which "cannot fail to increase the admiration and reverence of the nation for the great and dutiful soul who lived a life obscured by its very greatness, in the midst of us, and who only now can be fully known."

G. R. Gleig—Chaplain-General—gives his views on the subject of religious belief in the paper entitled, "The Great Problem: Can it be Solved?" which the author says is written "exclusively for those in whom, unfortunately for themselves, the principle of faith has been shaken."

It is a clear and comprehensive article, that cannot fail to interest any thoughtful reader.

—THE President seems to have a very singular idea of constitutional obligation, if, indeed, he has any idea about it all. Several days before the Louisiana Returning Board made its frauds public, he promised to protect them with the army. Why was this promise made in advance? Had there been an honest count and no intention to defraud, the Board would not have needed armed soldiers to protect them. It was the determination to cheat the people that called for military support. The President understood this, and Kellogg was told that he could have the support of the troops. Sheridan was ordered to go to New Orleans, and there can be no doubt that he was told to support Kellogg and his usurpation.

The campaign in Rapides commenced in June, 1874. There was more division among the negroes than hitherto; this was caused by the refusal of their prominent preachers to follow the general rule of meddling in politics. Eight or ten of the colored leaders joined the Conservative party. When the news of the 14th of September reached Alexandria, resolutions were passed and the McEnery officials were installed in the most peaceful manner, the positions being resigned by the opposite party without any ill feeling.

The election was quietly conducted; U. S. troops were quartered in the Court House yard. They presented a request to the Sheriff, which was signed by Gen. Emory, but had come through Gov. Kellogg, that the troops should be allowed to quarter in the Court House, but the building being newly finished the request was refused; Lieut. Belger commanding the detachment camped his troops within the enclosure, on three sides of the house, 30 or 40 feet from the poll, Senator Kelso was U. S. Supervisor, and Porter, Republican commissioner.

Capt. Snow was informed that troops of nine or ten cavalrymen was in the town, their horses being in the livery stable, and the men around about the polls.

## THE EVIDENCE.

We devote much of our space, this issue of the Democrat, to the testimony of the witnesses examined in our behalf from our Parish, and are confident our readers and our people will be glad to see and read for themselves what is said in their behalf by those in whom they trust, and whom they delight to honor. Just at this time nothing can be of more vital interest to them in more sense than one; hence without further comment we give it below as reported in the Picayune and Bulletin:

Robt. P. Hunter—Lives in Rapides and is sole editor, and proprietor of the Caucasian, and also an attorney at law. In 1868 there was the usual excitement attending a Presidential election. It was a matter of general notoriety that the negroes were massed at Alexandria in an armed body. The police disarmed these blacks, which prevented the occurrence of trouble.

In 1870 the same thing took place, the negroes marched to Alexandria and left their arms in the vicinity. They voted in a mass, having in one case, exclusive possession of a poll. The Republican candidates quietly took their offices. The Liberal Republican movement in 1872 embodied nearly all of the whites, but witness was opposed to affiliation with Warmoth's party.

At this election the negroes complained that they were not allowed to register; they were armed and came in bodies, but there was no disturbance. In 1868, '70, '72, the colored people had secret meetings at their political clubs, not from any danger of assemblage in the day, but because it suited the designs of their leaders. In all of the campaigns, invitations had been extended to the blacks to join the Conservative movement, but very few availed themselves of this request.

The argument used to prevent their acquiescence was that the Democrats, the white people, would return them to slavery. The Caucasian was the first paper to suggest the color-line division in politics, the first editorial on that subject being published in the edition of March 23, 1874. Witness read a portion of this article, where the expression White Man's party was used for the first time.

The argument used by the whites were that the colored people represented the laboring element, and the whites the capital and the intelligence, so that a union of the two would add to the mutual prosperity of the races.

The formation of the White Man's party was not as a means of oppressing the blacks, but to unite the whites.

The people believed in 1874 that there was no utility in attempting to carry the election, as the fruits of victory would be taken away by the Republicans, assisted by the Federal Administration.

If a struggle had not been made in the campaign of 1874, the result would have been that the negroes would have carried out their plan of Africanizing the State; that is, filling the offices with people of their race, and inviting negro immigration from the neighboring States.

This was the only consideration that united the whites, and urged them to take part to the election.

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Some of the negroes voted the Democratic ticket, no force of any kind being used to influence them. In the neighborhood of the different polls throughout the Parish squads of troops were stationed. During the campaign no hindrance would have been offered to any Republican who desired to canvass the Parish. The latter party are accustomed to do their canvassing in secret.

The labor question was agitated to some extent; a paper was taken

around to get the signatures of merchants and others, but was soon afterward destroyed and nothing more said on the subject. Negroes can always get employment, and there is a demand for labor. Some of them own land and work hands of their own color.

There has never been a secret organization among the whites in Rapides—no White League; none in the Red River Valley; the relations between the races are peaceful and have always been so.

In 1873, while the District Court was in session at Colfax, Capt. Ward with his band of armed negroes, took from the Court House some men who were under trial and brought them to New Orleans. Witness also detailed several outrages committed by the negroes in the country; the murder of Yong, and the horrible outrage of Miss Lacour.

Before the Colfax fight, threats were made by the blacks that they intended to kill all the men and reserve all the women. Witness presented a list compiled from the official records of all the homicides committed in Rapides from January 1st, 1868, up to the present time. The summary is 57. Total whites 17, blacks 40; whites killed by blacks, 3; blacks killed by whites, 10; whites killed by whites, 9; blacks killed by black, 23; whites killed by unknown persons, 3; blacks killed by unknown persons, 2; suicides, 2; executed none.

Three out of this list were convicted; one escaped from jail, and another was sentenced to the Penitentiary for twenty years, and has been lately pardoned by Kellogg. There are 500 or more cases for petty offenses which have never been tried.

None of the homicides on the list were political homicides.

The juries are black and the offices are held by colored men, and the white people are in no wise responsible for the crimes.

Both whites and blacks are willing enough to convict criminals, but the inefficiency of the criminal law, more than anything else, influenced the colored people to vote for white people.

There are very few white Republicans in Rapides, Gov. Wells is the most prominent one, and his family is not in the least ostracized. His sons and daughters mix with the best society, and are always well received.

Many Republicans have been associated with schemes of fraud and plunder, and they are avoided in the same manner as a thief or burglar would be.

The witness read a statement, under the signature of the Parish Treasurer, of the indebtedness of the Parish, which amounts to \$34,594.

The Police Jury have managed the finances as well as they could be managed, and have been engaged in no schemes of plunder.

Thirty-four hundred voters were registered at the election.

The rate of State tax before the war was 1-6 of one per cent. on a valuation of over three millions; in 1873 it was 20 mills, and in 1874 14 mills. The State tax proper, is 4 mills; the balance is tax for paying the interest on bonds, the levee tax, and the school tax.

The causes which urged many negroes to vote the Conservative ticket at the election were, that they were dissatisfied with the Freedman's bank, the non-execution of the criminal law, the assurances of protection from the whites, and the chief cause was the collection of the poll tax in 1874 which had been neglected previously.

After the result of the election was known, the colored people had a large meeting, and passed resolutions to the following effect: That they denounced the action of the Returning Board in falsifying the returns; that the only intimidation practiced was that against the white people by the troops. At another Conservative meeting at least two hundred colored men attended, some of whom made speeches, and declared that the election had been perfectly free and fair. The hopelessness, the want of confidence, and the universal distrust and depression, are due to the interference of the Federal Government with State affairs. There is no antagonism against the National Government.

To cure the existing evils it would be necessary to put in the Governor's chair a man in whom both white and black have confidence—a man who has had no connection with politics in the past. At the time of the Cuban complication the Southern people would have taken up arms more readily than the people of the North to avenge the national honor. The people are opposed to any interference of the General Government, and one step towards curing their troubles would be to put them back into the position they held before the order of Judge Durell. Rather than submit to the control of Gov. Kellogg and his corrupt officials they would prefer a provisional government. On the 14th of September the movement was partly to secure a military Governor.

A provisional government is to be preferred to a new election under the

auspices of military power. In 1872 there was fraud on both sides, and the real result is not to be determined, but witness believes that McEnery was honestly elected on a fair count.

Mr. Hoar asked what Grant could do under the circumstances in 1872. Witness replied that he blamed Congress for taking no action.

Mr. Hoar said nobody in Louisiana had suggested what Congress should do. Witness thought that the status before the order of Judge Durell should be restored.

Chairman—And to settle the question by a party war?

There would have been no war; the Kellogg government would have fallen to the ground for lack of support.

Mr. Frye told witness to answer yes or no when he could. The questions of Mr. Frye were directed toward the election in 1872. He asked if such frauds as were committed in Rapides and Natchitoches had been found in other Parishes, would not Kellogg have been elected?

This witness acknowledged would have been the fact.

Mr. Frye argued that, from the census there must be many more Republicans than Democrats in the State. Several extracts from the Caucasian were read by Mr. Frye, and also an affidavit made by witness' father.

Mr. Hunter, in explaining the articles in his paper, said that the people intended to seat those representatives who had been rightfully elected, in spite of any force that Kellogg could bring into the field, outside of any conflict with the United States troops.

Mr. Hunter said that his paper in dorse the Colfax affair for the following reasons: That it was determined to make a test of strength at Colfax; that they had assembled there from all parts of the country to make a fight; that the women and children fled in all directions on account of the reign of terror that prevailed, and that had the whites failed in paralyzing the movement it would have spread, and many negroes have been killed.

Mr. Frye said he did not think that witnesses should have the right to make long explanations, as it took up so much time.

Mr. Marshall stated that he considered it just for the witness to be allowed the opportunity to explain his statement.

The chairman ruled that the witness should be permitted to explain his remarks before the subject upon which he was being questioned had been dismissed.

Louis Texada—Resides in the Parish of Rapides. The condition of affairs has been peaceable, and at the election the only intimidation used was that moral intimidation which the Radical leaders felt on seeing the earnest union of the people. Mr. Texada acquiesced in most of the statements made by Mr. Hunter, but differed in his opinion of the statistics of the 1872 election.

The election in 1874 was the fairest since reconstruction. He concurs with Mr. Hunter's statements as to the features of the election. In regard to the Colfax fight Mr. Texada said it was a battle in the interests of civilization. Witness stated that he had been engaged in public life up to the war.

The assessed value of the property in the Parish before the war, including slaves, was thirteen millions; now it is less than two millions.

The remedy for existing political evils would be to recognize the Government of '72. The Southern people are anxious to establish kindly relations with the Federal Government; they hate war, and have not had peace since the war. They are longing for peace. The State has been looking to Congress for a solution of political difficulties.

Mr. Wheeler—Everybody is looking to Congress, and blaming Congress. What is it to do?

A. The only power Congress would have in the matter would be to advise the President to withdraw his military. The Conservatives would then have the House of Representatives. Kellogg has been so manipulated by his party that he has not been a free agent. The people would have no confidence in Gov. Kellogg or any other man with his surroundings. The people do not trust his Legislature.

Mr. Wheeler—The people believe that although Kellogg might have the desire to administer the Government properly, the material about him would not admit of his doing so?

A. Exactly.

To Mr. Hoar—I do not accept the registration statistics presented by the chairman to Mr. Hunter. The Hon. gentleman read from the election returns of the Hawkins-Longstreet Board, who had neither the official returns or the official report of the register of voters. The official Report shows the white registration was in excess in the Parish of Rapides for the year 1872.

Judge T. C. Manning—Resides in Rapides Parish; there has always been

a kindly feeling between the whites and blacks of Rapides Parish; they were alienated, however to some extent, by the interpolation of the carpet bagger; in 1872, there was manifested some disposition on their part to get with the white people, and this disposition has extended each year since. To Mr. Marshall—The election was quite fair, and the colored vote was influenced in favor of the Conservatives only by fair and legitimate means; there is no white league in the Parish; the only organization is solely political; there was a Mass Meeting called to elect delegates to the Baton Rouge convention; the call extended to all persons who were opposed to the Kellogg administration.

At the meeting thus convened, the name of White Man's Party was adopted; and the delegates to the Convention were representatives of the White Man's Party of Rapides Parish.

If there should be an attempt to disavow the Union, believes the Southern people would be the very first to oppose it. In the event of a foreign war the Southern people would support the Government earnestly.

The man who would defraud his colored laborer would assuredly be regarded with contempt by a white community.

There is no disposition in Rapides parish to ostracise Republicans socially on account of their political sentiments.

There is no kindly feeling entertained for those men who have come here, and concert with those who are disposed to defraud the people of their rights and liberties. Republicanism in the South is not what it is in the North. There are two great political parties there, opposed honestly to each other as to the best means of conducting the government. Here it is not so. To Mr. Frye—Does not believe that the Democratic party adopted Governor Warmoth in 1872, that he might bring the engineering which he had controlled in behalf of himself in previous elections.

The reason for calling the party the White Man's party, was because the people were defrauded of their victory of 1872, and, therefore, in 1872, a feeling of lethargy was prevalent, and to arouse them thoroughly it was decided to appeal in this manner to the pride of the race.

This adoption of the name of White Man's party was not a drawing of the color line. Never represented to Kellogg that it was unnecessary to send troops to Colfax. Went to see Kellogg solely about the Parish of Rapides, and inform him that the representations of one Lloyd Shorter, a negro, were false, and that the presence of troops there was unnecessary. Shorter was endeavoring to have troops sent there; never approved of the extreme proceedings at Colfax. Does not think the presence of United States troops was necessary in the parish at the time of the election.

To Mr. Hoar—Is not satisfied that there was any great fraud in the election of 1872. A great many of the men appointed by Warmoth in connection with that election have given ample evidence that they are dishonest.

To Mr. Marshall—Gov. Warmoth was elected to office by the Republican party, and it was by that party, that the law putting into his hands the election machinery so much complained of, was passed. Gov. Wells stated that witness had limited the Supervisor of Registration and compelled him to make affidavit to the effect that the election had been fair. The witness said this was an error. He was at the Court House at the time the returns were made up, and being asked to write the certificate did so.

It has been stated that the negroes were murdered at Colfax after they had surrendered, and it has also been said that such was not the case. Assuming that it is a fact, the people deplore it.

People have no confidence that the courts will bring the guilty party to justice. If we had our courts organized so as to command the confidence of the people, there would be no difficulty in bringing persons to justice. It is true that not only in Louisiana, but throughout the South, the disposition to redress wrongs without resort to law is too prevalent.

Lieut. Edward A. Belger—Is 1st Lieutenant in the 3d Infantry, was stationed in Alexandria. Arrived there on the tenth day of October. The troops under witness's command were stationed in the Court House yard, and are still stationed in the town of Alexandria. Was present on the day of election and noted that in Alexandria the election was in every way a quiet one. Has observed no evidence of hostility in the community to the General Government. The election was held in the Court House, and the troops were stationed in the Court House yard. The troops were first stationed in Pineville, opposite Alexandria, but a few days before the election were moved to Alexandria.

—THE Bart Able, on her last trip down, had what we would call a champagne trip, take it all in all. It consisted of 946 bales of cotton, 554 sacks of cotton seed, 8 barrels of rice, 16 hogsheads of sugar, 2 barrels of molasses, 65 hogs, 30 head of beef, over 125 cabin passengers, and sundries too numerous to mention.

—THANKS to the Bradish Johnson for full files of papers from everywhere; to Charlie Drown, of the La Belle, for New Orleans ones, and to the Packet Bart. Able for her usual package.