The Opelousas Courier.

Official Journal of Town of Opelousas.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY

LEONCE & L. A. SANDOZ.

OPELOUSAS:

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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 arrearages are paid.

3. If subscribers neglect or refuse to take their periodicals from the office to which they are directed, they are held responsible until they have settled their bills and ordered them discontinued.

4. If subscribers move to another place without informing the publishers and the papers are sent to the former direction, they are held responsible.

5. The courts have decided that "refusing to take the periodicals from the office, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud."

6. Any person who receives a newspaper and makes use of it, whether he has ordered it or not, is held in law to be a subscriber.

7. If subscribers pay in advance, they are bound to give notice to the publisher at the end of their time, if they do not wish to continue taking it; otherwise the publisher is authorized to continue sending it on, and the subscribers will be responsible until an express notice, with payment of all arrears, is sent to the publisher.

Perils of Paper Bags as Bustles.

[From the Washington Capital.]

There is a woman in the West End who has learned a lesson that will last her a life time. She has been for years wearing these paper bags, such as the grocers use, for bustles. The paper is stiff, and sticks out splendid, and makes the dress look well. Last Sunday morning, while she was dressing, her young son got in her room and blew the paper bag full of wind and tied a string around the mouth of it, and left it in a chair. The good lady took it and tied it on and dressed herself for church. She bribed her husband to go to church with her, though he is a sort of a Bob Ingersoll Christian. As they went down the aisle the minister was reading a hymn about "Sounding the Loud Hosanna," and the lady went in the pew first and sat down while her husband was putting his hat on the floor. There was a report like distant thunder. You have heard how those confounded paper bags explode when boys blow them up and crush them between their hands.

Well, it was worse than that, and everybody looked at the innocent husband, who was standing there a perfect picture of amazement. He looked at his wife as much as to say, "Now, this is the last time you will catch me in a church if you are going to play any of your tricks on me. You think you can scare me into getting religion." The minister stopped reading the hymn, and looked over his spectacles at the newcomers as though it would not surprise him if that bad man should blow the church up. The poor lady blushed and looked around as much as to say, "I did not know it was loaded," and she looked the hymn book through for the hymn, and as the choir rose to sing she offered one side of the book to her husband, but he looked mad and pious, and stood at the other end of the pew and looked out of the stained-glass window.

After the service they started home together, and as they turned the first corner he said to his wife, "Well, you have played hell on your watch, didn't you?" She told him there was no such thing as hell in the bible now, but that she would make that boy think there had been no revision of the bible when she got home. We only got the story from the husband. He said he didn't know what it was that made the noise until they got home, and after a little skirmishing around his wife held up a bursted paper bag, and asked the boy if he blew that bag up. He said he did, but he did not know there was anything wrong about it. The boy and his mother and a press board paid a visit to the back kitchen, and there was a sound of revelry. Boys will be boys.

THE VALUE OF NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING.—Lord & Taylor, the wealthy dry goods merchants of New York, are firm believers in the value of newspaper advertising. This is what they say of the agency through which they built up their large and prosperous business: "Of all the methods open to the merchant for advertising his business, an experience of nearl yhalf a century enables us to unhesitatingly declare in favor of the newspaper. It is, without exception, the most economical, persistent, painstaking and successful canvasser any business firm can secure for the purpose of bringing their goods to the attention of the consumer."

The City Council has passed a very good ordinance compelling keepers of restaurants to furnish their customers with a printed list exhibiting the prices of their respective dishes, under a penalty of $25 for failing to do so. They are also required to conspicuously post, in their place of busiuess, a printed copy of this ordinance, under a like penalty in case of neglect.—*N. O. Country Visitor.*

A man has been jailed at Dallas, Texas, for threatening to kill all the lawyers and doctors. He is pronounced by the doctors to be crazy, but then they are interested witnesses. Perhaps the poor fellow may have good reasons for his views on professional subjects. —*N. O. Times.*

Miss Mollie Moore Davis, a gifted Southern lady, has been chosen poet for the Louisiana Press Convention, which will meet in Baton Rouge on September 5th.

German Carp in Louisiana.

[Lake Charles Echo.]

Hon. N. C. Blanchard, representative in congress from this district, is in receipt of the following letter from Hon. Spencer F. Baird, Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries at Washington, D. C.:

DEAR SIR—Present indications promise a large supply of young German carp for distribution throughout the United States during the coming fall and winter; and thinking there may be some persons in your district desirous of obtaining a stock of this valuable fish; for propagating purposes, who have not yet applied for them, I enclose some blanks, which may be filled out and returned to me, with your endorsement thereon. The plan of distribution that we have hitherto followed is to send the fish to one or more accessible points in each State, directing parties to go there and receive their allotments. Applicants will be notified a few days in advance where and when to obtain the fish.

SPENCER F. BAIRD,
Commissioner.

Mr. Blanchard has received the blanks mentioned by Commissioner Baird, and will take pleasure in receiving applications from his constituents for fish, and forwarding same to commissioner at Washington. This is an important matter, and deserves the serious consideration of all who would like to see our numerous rivers, lakes and bayous stocked with fine fish. It is well known that the German carp thrives in Southern waters, and as an edible fish, is classed very highly by connoisseurs. It breeds rapidly, grows to a large size, and lives to a great age. It is classed as among the very best of fishes for ponds. There are many mill ponds throughout the district, and hundreds of places where, at very little expense, convenient fish ponds could be constructed. In these the carp would thrive greatly, and annually produce a large quantity of the finest food in the world.—*Shreveport Times.*

We are glad to see that the German carp is to be introduced into the waters of North Louisiana. It is a shame that after all that has been said of the value of this fish, its wonderful fecundity and rapid growth, its introduction into nearly every State, its special adaptability to the lakes and bayous of Louisiana, and the fact that it is given away by the Fish Commissioner, none of our public officials have taken the slightest interest in its introduction in our State, and now the first proposal to introduce it here comes from the Fish Commissioner himself. Here is a chance for Dr. Darrall, our new congressman, to render a really valuable service to his constituents, by having the carp distributed throughout the third district.

An inspection of the latest charts and soundings made by the United States coast survey reveals the fact that the river, which maintains along other portions of the city's front an average depth of one hundred feet, begins to deepen rapidly after reaching Canal street, and from there down the bottom recedes from the surface at so great a rate, that by the time Esplanade street, a distance of only sixteen city blocks, has been passed, the river obtains the profound depth of two hundred and eight feet, or double what it is at Canal street.

If the bed of the river could be emptied of its water the observer at the foot of Esplanade street would discover that the city in that neighborhood is standing upon the brink of an abyss more than two hundred feet deep, the profound threatenings of which are increased by a tremendous current that is biting and tearing the bank on which the city stands. There is no wonder then that the wharf builders in this bend have driven down piles, and planted the foundations of their structures only to see them disappear forever in the turbid and angry waves of the mighty flood.

The river between the foot of Esplanade street and the point of Algiers is not more than 900 yards wide, and at one-fourth this distance from the Esplanade street shore the extreme depth of two hundred and eight feet is found. The river is here so deep just for the reason that it is so narrow, or, reversing the conditions, it is narrow because it is deep. The stream is seeking to relieve itself by carrying away its banks and bottom, and every square yard of material removed from either, at this point, adds to the dangers that threaten the city.—*N. O. Times.*

The last news from the comet is that it has broken up in business and separated into two parts. This is the report made by Professor Stowe, of Cincinnati. The comet is traveling so rapidly away from our sight that it ceases to be a matter of special interest, but in the light of the reputation comets have for being prophets of evil and workers of disaster to the people of the earth, it is possible that this fiery visitor being chagrined at its failure to compass the death of the president has gone into liquidation, dissolved partnership, closed out its tail at a sacrifice and is generally done for. This is not the first comet that ever went into bankruptcy, however. Numbers of them, so say the astronomers, break up and go out of business.—*N. O. Times.*

An agent sent by the government to inspect affairs in Utah and the Mormon country reports that the "Saints," as they call themselves, are making every preparation for an uprising against the government whose laws they violate daily, and that the bitterest hostility is shown to the United States authority on every hand. The Mormons have also intrigued with all the Indian tribes in their reach and a Mormon war against the government would be also a general Indian war. In 1854 the Mormons openly rebelled against the government, when they were reduced to submission by an army of 2500 men under the command of Gen. Albert Sidney Johnson. The correspondent alluded to above thinks an army of one hundred thousand troops would be required now to put down a Mormon rebellion.—*N. O. Times.*

Justice Clifford, whose appointment was the last made to the U. S. Supreme bench by a Democratic President, is reported to be in such a feeble state of health that his death is hourly expected. With the death of Clifford the only justice with Democratic proclivities left upon the bench will be Field, of California.—*N. O. States.*

Learn a Trade.

One of the many false notions which the rapid increase of civilization in our country has given rise to is the mistaken idea so prevalent among our boys and young men, that to learn a trade is beneath the dignity of a gentleman. I heard a young man the other day expressing his views on the subject to an elder. He was the son of a dry goods clerk in moderate circumstances, and he had no means of accumulating wealth other than by his own efforts. The elder was one of Pittsburg's wealthiest iron merchants; a man who had risen to his present position from the anvil of a blacksmith, in the mill which he now controls.

"Mr. Blank," said the young man, "I wish to present an application for a position as clerk in your office."

"Well, Mr. Smith," replied the merchant, "I have no vacancies in my office at present, but I can offer you a situation as apprentice in our machine shop if you wish to accept it."

The young man's nose was elevated a trifle as he replied in a supercilious tone—

"I would not feel that I was doing myself justice in learning a trade, as I hope to make my way up the ladder by mental abilities, rather than by physical exertions."

The merchant dismissed him without further ado, and turning to me, said:

"When will the average boy learn that a trade is worth more to him than all the clerkships in christendom?"

Returning home in the evening I pondered over his words. I was but a clerk myself. Was his remark really true? I looked around me; I had a comfortable house, but the house which I occupied was a rented one, and cost a large per centage of my salary as rental. Thinking over some few of my old friends, I made the following memorandum: One of my schoolmates had, on leaving school fifteen years before, learned shoemaking. He now owns his own home, besides being proprietor of a shoe store in which another schoolmate (who was too proud to learn a trade) clerks at a salary of $500 a year.

My own employer and myself had gone over our arithmetic and algebra together, and I was considered the smarter of the two; but he learned a trade, and I am now his clerk, at a salary which is a small percentage of his own earnings.

Boys, give up false pride in this matter. You are standing in your own light. None of your acquaintances will think less of you if you come home with sooty hands and face from honest toil. No one will think less of you for earning your wages at a blacksmith's fire or the carpenter's bench than they would were you a clerk in a bank, and spent all your money on your clothes. But, if you are determined to be a clerk, learn the trade first, and learn it well, for the time may come when you will need it badly.

The new art of type-writing is coming into general use, and promises some great benefits. A large number of legal papers, including briefs, declarations, testimony, opinions, and abstracts, are preserved in this form. Many articles reach the press which have been copied on the type-writer and much time is saved in deciphering illegible manuscripts. Quite a number of young women make a good livelihood as copyists, to whom the business is peculiarly suited. The introduction of this machine, indeed, transfers much business to the opposite sex, which used to be done by young men who are thought to write a better business hand but who are surpassed in accuracy and rapidity by young ladies whose hands have been accustomed to the piano. It is noticeable, however, that many attempt to learn the business who soon abandon it. It requires great care and perseverence. One must learn to copy a whole page without a single mistake which many have not the application and habit of unerring accuracy to accomplish. Erasures and interlineations are unsightly, and not generally tolerated on this kind of manuscript. But one who becomes an expert may count on a good livelihood, as such can write nearly three times as fast as an ordinary penman. There are at present but few who are at work for themselves in Chicago, all of whom do a large business, although there are many others employed in the offices of lawyers, merchants and others. The work done at first was rather unsatisfactory, but since it has gotten mainly in the hands of young women it has come more into favor, on account of its greater neatness and accuracy. We welcome any new business which offers additional avenues of employment for our plucky, industrious, and persevering girls.—*Chicago News.*

All admit that reading is too much neglected in our common schools. We get our information from reading, and the more understandingly we read, the better will our information be. A course of study ought to require the students to read a certain portion of good English literature sufficiently carefully to pass an examination in what they read. Memorizing the best thoughts of the good and great will also have much to do with the student's future opinion, as well as to cultivate his memory and powers of expression. Reading, conversation, and the expressing of thoughts in writing ought to receive two fold more time than they do, for "reading maketh a full man; writing an exact man; and conversation a ready man." These are sterling qualities that every one ought to be proud to possess, and which can only be attained to any degree of perfection by much study and practice.—*Webster Tribune.*

OFFICEHOLDING.—Twenty years of officeholding have not yet satisfied the Republican party. It is still officehunting, and will continue officehunting to the end of its existence. It has fostered the spoils system, which is now charged with the attempted murder of a president. As soon as the present excitemnet dies away, the officehunting will commence with renewed vigor. A party of the spoils will not reform the spoils-system.

Col. E. B. Wheelock and Major Greene went out on the New Orleans Pacific road yesterday on a tour of inspection. The road, we learn, is completed and is running order twenty-three miles south of this city and will be completed to Mansfield by the first of August.—*Shreveport Times, 13th.*

After August 1st, the rate of cablegrams from New York to England and France will be twenty-five cents a word.