FREE PRESS.

ISAAC H. JULIAN, - - - Editor

SAN MARCOS, TEXAS.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 1887.

[ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SAN MARCOS, TEXAS, AS SECOND CLASS MATTER.]

RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION.

One year, in advance.....$2 00
Six months, " 1 00
Three months, " 50

The above rates include the prepayment of postage by us. Sample copies sent free. Single copies 5 cents.

TO ADVERTISERS.

The Free Press Recognized by Geo. P. Rowell & Co., as Ahead as an Advertising Medium.

The well known advertising agency of Geo. P. Rowell & Co., of New York City, have issued an annual Newspaper Directory for thirty years or more, and these publications have been generally recognized as authority as to the mattter of newspaper circulation. In the regular issues of the Directory they have included all the newspapers published in the United States and Canada. Quite recently, however, they have issued a condensed list. It gives only *the best* newspapers as advertising mediums, and hence is practically better, because more convenient, than their larger Directory. Four-fifths of the newspapers of the United States are practically "counted out" by intelligent advertisers, who only want to know *the best*. Hence the value of the work under notice. The publishers in the preface well say:

"It sifts the wheat from the chaff. It directs the attention of an advertiser toward papers which he should and ought to use, and tends to intercept a portion of that patronage which goes to publications which cost greatly in excess of any power to benefit which they possess. It takes the general ground, that the best is the cheapest."

We need scarcely say that on this plan, the FREE PRESS is given by this book (see page 158) as *the* advertising medium of San Marcos and Hays county, it being *the only one on the list*. We respectfully invite the attention of advertisers, both at home and abroad, to this fact.

Special Request.

In view of the pending Prohibition campaign, we would be glad if our friends would send us the names of friends of the cause in all the adjacent counties, and in fact throughout Western Texas, to whom we may send sample copies of the FREE PRESS, which, from its antecedents and position, should be the organ of the movement in this part of the State, there being no other so pronounced an advocate of the cause in said region.

For the Campaign.

The FREE PRESS, true to its antecedents for years past, will do its utmost to secure the triumph of the Prohibition amendment at the election in August next. For this purpose, in order to extend its circulation and influence, we will furnish it for the campaign, over four months, for only Fifty Cents. We ask the friends of the cause in Western Texas to come to its aid by giving us large lists of new subscribers at this very low rate.

San Jacinto Day!

To-day is the anniversary of the battle of San Jacinto, which made Texas an independent Republic and afterwards a sovereign State of the American Union. It is fitting to note a further fact or two in this connection. General Sam Houston led in that battle and afterwards for many years the civil government. Under his wise administration Texas grew and prospered. But at last, because of his devotion to the principles of Jeffersonian and Jacksonian Democracy in which he had been reared, he was repudiated and humiliated by the land for which he had done and suffered so much, and left to die under a cloud. All history affords no more glaring or shameful instance of public ingratitude. We believe the great mass of the people are heartily ashamed of that act, but Texas owes it to the memory of Sam Houston to repudiate her condemnation as publicly as she once repudiated him. The time is coming when it will be done.

But few papers, we notice, have published the letter of Mr. Reagan in full. It will be found in our present issue.

The Texas veterans meet to-day at at Corsicana. The railroads are complained of as having acted very shabby by them in the way of free transportation.

A great deal is being said in the newspapers as to the practical workings of the Inter-State Commerce law as administered by the commission. Opinions differ widely on the subject. We think it is yet too soon to form a just judgment.

The San Marcos FREE PRESS is not one of the papers that cry boom, boom, boom, when there is no boom, and are therefore not to be believed when it comes, like the boy who cried wolf.—Galveston News.

Our readers will testify that we have come down emphatically on bogus booms, whether at San Marcos or Kyle. The only difference is that San Marcos is assured of the Lockhart, Bastrop and LaGrange railroad—not as a boom, but as a fact.

The Need of a New Public School Building.

It is only too evident that the public school buildings are in no sense equal to requirements. Crowded together as are the three hundred pupils they are necessarily deprived of many advantages of the school room. In the experiment of the first year the old frame building was tolerated. In the further experiment of the second year the city authorities felt only justified in erecting an additional frame building. Both these buildings are now crowded beyond their capacity, and the question of the permanency of a public school has ceased to be an experiment. It is now plainly the part of wisdom to provide a suitable school house for the hundreds of children who will yearly knock at the doors of that institution for admittance. Mayor Hardy and the members of the city council are considering the question of having a $10,000 rock building erected for this purpose, and the matter will come before the city council at their next meeting. The proposition is to issue interest bearing bonds so arranged that each recurring year certain of the bonds will be taken up. Without going into figures, on the present showing of taxable property, and the taxable property will yearly increase, these bonds can be all cancelled in eleven years by money raised from a tax of 12½ cents on the hundred dollars. Let the bonds be issued and the town reap the benefits of such a school building.

We clip the above from the Cresset of last week, not for the purpose of criticising but of endorsing it. We do not hesitate to say that it is full of truth and well expressed. And

"Seize upon Truth, wherever found,
Among our friends, among our foes,"

is our motto. It is true the Cresset is rather a late convert to the Free School cause, but we who fought for it when to do so was to excite prejudice and make bitter enmities, will not quarrel with its later advocates on that score. In fact we find encouragement from the Cresset's admission, coming from such a source, that "the question of the permanency of a public school has ceased to be an experiment," from which what is further stated by the writer inevitably follows.

We will add that while we have not looked particulary into the subject, we are told by one better posted that if a high school is made a department of our public school, the State will pay the principal of the same. Also that with full accomodations and attention we shall be in a position to claim a part of the Peabody fund, and thus the proposed improvement would be commendable on the score of actual economy, as well as in all other respects. All the children of the town would then receive the most satisfactory instruction during the full scholastic year. Add to this the benefit it would prove in attracting a good class of people to our city and the consequent enhancement of property, and it seems to us there ought to be no question of the wisdom of erecting a public school building as proposed. The present school buildings and property could of course be sold and made to pay a considerable portion of the debt. We trust the city council will take prompt and favorable action in this matter.

Copious showers are reported from Colorado City, Sulphur Springs, Jefferson, Tyler, Dublin, Fort Worth, Lampasas, Mullen, DeLeon, Coleman, Kosse, McGregor, Melissa, Waco, Brownwood, Marlin. We are especially pleased to learn of heavy and protracted rains in Erath county where so much suffering has been reported from time to time by our correspondents.

We are informed that the annual meeting of the fire companies of the State will take place at Temple, May 11th. Delegates should make ready to attend.

FROM GALVESTON.

ED. FREE PRESS: My absence of nearly a year from Galveston has witnessed many changes. The great fire of November, 1885 perhaps benefitted the city more than anything else could possibly have done. Fine residences are to be seen on all sides on the sites of what were before, wooden shanties. These gems of architectural beauty may be counted by the hundred. Some vague idea of what they are may be had when I state the stone alone for one of these residences cost over $50,000, and the total cost of which when finished will be over $200,000. The street cars run on all the streets now, consisting of over twenty-five miles of track.

The artesian well has proved very successful, fresh water having been found in sufficient quantities at a depth of 765 feet. The well is choked up at the bottom and it is impossible to say until it is cleaned out what the actual flow will be. Doubtless this solves the fresh water problem in Galveston. It having been demonstrated that fresh water can be found here, a sufficient number of wells will be sunk to furnish the city with fresh water.

This vicinity is also suffering from the drouth. It has not rained here in many months, and all the cisterns are dry. The artesian well cannot be of much use at present, as it is situated some two miles from the city, and until it is connected with the city by a system of waterworks cannot avail us much.

The Galveston Air Line R. R. promises to be a good thing both for the town and for the whole State. The company has been organized with a capital of a half million dollars, one half of which has already been paid in. It will furnish direct connection with St. Louis.

Two new factories are to be started here soon, the capital for which has already been paid in. One is the Galveston Bagging and Twine Manufacturing Company. This company purpose manufacturing enough bagging and twine to bale the whole cotton crop of Texas. It will be a great thing for the State, as all the bagging etc., is now imported. The other enterprise is the Lone Star Cracker Co. They purpose manufacturing all the different kinds of crackers made in the North, and promise to sell at northern prices. They expect to start on May 1st, and when it is in operation the Texas merchants will have no excuse for sending north for these goods.

A remarkable revival of religion is going on in the St. John's Methodist church here, and many are being converted. Leading ministers of the State are assisting and great good is expected of it.

The Galvestion county Prohibitionists held their convention yesterday and organized. Saloon men now expect to have a bitter fight from these determined men.

The Interstate rowing regatta which is to take place here April 30th and May 1st, will be the finest of the kind ever witnessed in the State. All the world's champion's are entered in the races and are expected to be present.

Easter Sunday was observed here in all the churches. Special Easter services were held in all the principal churches which were beautifully decorated with flowers, etc.

The Beach hotel company are having a sea wall built in front of their property, which fronts on the coast, as a protection against overflows.

Notwithstanding the severe drouth the market is overflowed with a profusion of fresh vegetables, etc. Spring has put on her richest beauty, and the flowers present a lovely appearance. Our heavy night dews here are all that keeps vegetation from perishing. Rain is earnestly hoped for.

Since writing the above in reference to the artesian well, I learn that some ten additional wells are talked of and will doubtless be sunk for factories here.

The Opera Glass office was destroyed by fire Wednesday night.

More anon. J. J. DIRKS.

Galveston, Texas, April 16th, 1887.

Card From John A. Howell.

ED. FREE PRESS:—I regret that duty to myself impels me to solicit the use of your columns to make a statement of facts to the public, that I may refute a slanderous and malicious attack made upon me by the editor of the Cresset, in issue of his paper of March 9th, in which he alleges in effect that I had stolen away from San Marcos, leaving unpaid board bills, numerous and sundry debts behind.

While I have no desire to enter into a discussion or have any trouble with this self-styled champion of public and private rights, I take this opportunity to deny and denounce the whole affair as malicious and ungentlemanly, made with the evident intention of reflecting seriously upon the character of one who never harmed him either by word or action, and without regard for the facts or a cause to provoke it, and one, too, whose every step in life is open to investigation, and who can establish as good reputation for honesty, sobriety and integrity as the said editor dare. Where he obtained his information that I was in debt for board I am at a loss to know, but whether he culled it from the poisoned lips of some street gossiper, or incubated and hatched it in his own office it is a falsehood all the same. And after a repeated effort to induce him to retract he has added insult to injury, by refusing my communication as unfit for publication, and after agreeing upon my last, that he retract, by employing his own language, he has betrayed his trust, by reproducing the article referred to making his comments worse than the original publication.

After a personal interview with a number of the most respected citizens of San Marcos, I have failed to find a single individual, my creditors among others, who ever dreamed of my intention to defraud them or beat board bills. I now leave the matter before the public to be decided upon its merits. Meanwhile I am individually responsible to God and man for a failure to establish the truthfulness of the above.

For right, truth and justice.

JOHN A. HOWELL.

San Marcos, April 19, 1887.

Prohibition Mass Meeting.

At Kyle Tuesday night next, April 26th. Come all. There will be interesting speakers present.

D. A. PORTER,
County Committeeman.

Kyle, April 20, 1887.

Prohibition Meeting at Wimberly.

All who are friendly to the cause of Prohibition are hereby requested to meet at Wimberly on Saturday the 30th inst., for the purpose of organizing for the coming campaign. A full attendance is earnestly solicited.

J. R. BURLESON,
Chairman Committee.

Reagan on Prohibition---His Reply to the Gibbs Committee.

[Dallas News.]

PALESTINE, TEX., April, 8 1887.—Gentlemen: I am in receipt of your letter of the 4th inst., in which you advise me that a largely attended meeting of prominent democrats from all parts of the State was held at Austin on the 30th ultimo for the purpose of calling a State Convention, to meet at Dallas on the first Wednesday in May, and that such a convention has been called; that its object is twofold: 1. To set forth clearly and unreservedly the time-honored and enduring principles of the Democratic party from Jefferson, its founder, down to the present time. These you define to be "opposition to all forms of sumptuary legislation."

You do me the honor to invite me to be present and address that convention, and call my attention to the radical change to be engrafted on the organic laws of the State by the adoption of the prohibition amendment. And you suggest that the magnitude of the issue forbids silence on the part of every citizen.

I fully appreciate the honor implied in the invitation you extend me; but between giving some attention to my private affairs, which have been much neglected of late, the keeping up of a correspondence which has become burdensome, and the necessity of investigating some public questions of importance before the meeting of the Fiftieth Congress, it will not be practicable for me to participate in the public discussions of this summer.

If I had leisure to engage in this discussion, with all due respect for the opinions you represent, I could not concur with the views expressed in your letter. While I have heretofore felt constrained to oppose prohibition because its friends sought to make it a political issue, and antagonize and overthrow the Democratic party, that reason does not now exist, and I am not inclined by speech or vote to countenance the evils flowing from the selling of intoxicating liquors, as now practiced, or to give to them the moral support of public opinion or the protection of the State government.

In every community we find men, once honored and respected, reduced to poverty, wretchedness and dishonor by spending their time and money in drinking saloons; wives weighed down with grief and sorrow and want, and heart-broken and helpless children growing up in ignorance, beggary and vice, because husbands and fathers have been drunkards and vagabonds by patronizing the drinking saloons. Millions of dollars are invested in this business of making men drunkards and in producing the desolation and ruin of women and children, which, if employed in agriculture, manufacturing or commercial pursuits, and directed by the time and talents wasted in these drinking-houses, would add untold millions to the aggregated wealth of the State, and make as many thousands of happy families as are now made miserable because this money and time are given to the drinking and selling of intoxicating liquors.

The framers of our State constitution, having reference to these evils, provided that "the Legislature shall at its first session enact a law whereby the qualified voters of any county, justice's precinct, town or city, by a majority vote, from time to time, may determine whether the sale of intoxicating liquors shall be prohibited within the prescribed limits." It would be no great innovation upon this principle for the people of the State to adopt a constitutional provision declaring that "the manufacture, sale and exchange of intoxicating liquors, except for medical, mechanical and scientific purposes, is hereby prohibited in the State of Texas." The State Democratic convention, which met at Galveston last summer, inserted in the platform of principles a declaration, in substance, that a citizen might be a local optionist or a Prohibitionist and at the same time be a Democrat.

The present Legislature wisely determined, in submitting the question of the adoption of the prohibition amendment by a vote of the people, that the election should be held at a time when no other election is to be held, in order that the people might pass upon the question unembarrassed by any other political questions or elections, so that the election should be non-partisan. In view of these facts, whith all respect to the meeting at Austin and its committeee, I must express my regret that any effort was made to make a party question of it; and especially do I regret that Democrats should seek to identify that great and grand historic party with the fortunes and fate of whisky shops, drunkards and criminals.

There is a broad difference between laws which interfere with legitimate trade and with such that would interfere with the purchase and sale of necessary food, drink and raiment, called sumptuary laws, and laws which have for their object the prevention and punishment of crime and the preservation of public morals and decency. And I think it hardly just to the memory of Mr. Jefferson to assume that he would not have recognized this distinction.

I have during all the years of my manhood been a Democrat of the straightest sect, and an earnest and enthusiastic disciple of Thomas Jefferson, whom I regard as the greatest political philosopher and statesman this country has every produced. And I would be as far from desiring to see laws passed that would interfere with the freedom of legitimate commerce, or which would undertake to control the purchase, sale and use of necessary food, drink or apparel as any one could be. But I believe it to be the duty of the people, in a lawful manner, to protect themselves and society against the evils of the improper sale and use of intoxicating liquors. If I have not always so felt it has been in a great degree because I was unwilling to allow any outside issue to subvert or cause the overthrow of the Democratic party, whose principles I believe necessary to the perservation of our free constitutional system of government. We now have the opportunity to promote sobriety, thrift and happiness without endangering the success and perpetuation of the principles of the Democratic party, and I am in favor of doing so; and I shall at the coming election so vote, not because I believe Prohibition the most effective remedy which could be adopted for these evils, but because in my judgment it favors a policy which will do much for the improvement of the condition of our people pecuniarily, socially and morally, and toward placing them on a higher and better plane of civilization. I hope you will not consider it a breach of propriety for me to make this answer through an open letter, as I may have no opportunity to state the reason for the vote I shall give on this question. And I beg to assure you, gentlemen, of my great respect for you individually and collectively and of how much I regret that I have to differ with you in opinion on this question. With great respect, very truly yours,

JOHN H. REAGAN.

To Messrs. Barnett Gibbs, R. H. Harrison, W. B. Page, Walter Gresham and John H. Copeland, Dallas, Texas, Committee.

Driftwood.

This week we hear the same old cry of dry weather.

Mr. G Williams will not attempt to start his herd of cattle until rain falls, so we are informed by Mr. Miles Williams.

Mr. C. B. Westbrook left Monday for New Haven, Conn., via Galveston, Tex. All regret parting with "Charlie" During his stay here he has made many friends, and all wish him a safe journey across the "waters."

Misses Ella and Eulah Rogers accompanied by their brother Arthur, returned to San Marcos Monday, after spending a few days among their friends and relatives in the Hills. BOB.

If you need office blanks or stationery and want something neat at hard times prices, call at this office. Job Printing of all description promptly attended to.

J. V. HUTCHINS,

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My Stock is Complete in all departments, and I respectfully ask inspection by the closest buyers. Will guarantee satisfaction. Farmers in need of Planters should not fail to secure the CHAMPION for which I am agent. The Champion will pay for itself in one season, in the way of Chopping Cotton alone.

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PETER SCHUTTLER AND TENNESSEE WAGONS.

WOODS' MOWERS AND RAKES.

Gratified for the liberal patronage I have received from the people of Hays and adjoining counties, I shall endeavor to give satisfaction by fair dealing with all. All goods marked in plain figures.

Respectfully,

J. V. HUTCHINS.

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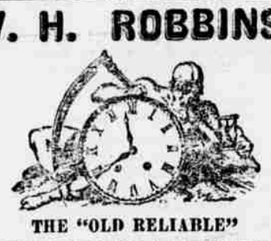
W. H. ROBBINS,



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Send for 76-Page

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE

MENTION THIS PAPER.

ESTRAY NOTICE.

Estrayed by William Thomas before C. S. Cock, Justice of the peace Precinct No One (1) Hays county, Texas, the following stock, to-wit: One light colored bay horse about three years old, about 14 hands high, brand S D on left shoulder, appraised at $10.00.

Witness my hand April 9, 1886.

JAS. G. BURLESON,
Clerk C. C. Hays Co.

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THE BUTTERFLIES

Will be badly deceived, but they are not to be blamed, for Artifical Flowers are true to nature. We have them in Silk and Velvet all of the latest style, both

FRENCH AND AMERICAN.

Our Hats and Bonnets are of the latest design. Mrs. Bell spent two days in one of our Cities among the Millinery shops taking dots before placing our orders in the East for Hats. Our stock of

FINE PATTERNS HATS AND BONNETS

Is very large. We can suit any taste and price. Bear in mind that we do not charge Milliner's prices but regular DAILEY & BRO., Bargain prices. We can sell you a new Shape Hats of good straw for 25 cents, we know it is sold at 75 cents.

A NICE BONNET FRAME

Of latest design, of nice braid for 50 cents. That beats paying $1 50 for it, don't it? Our stock of Ribbons is SIMPLY IMMENSE. Our Hats will be opened Friday morning at 10 o'clock.

ONE WORD MORE

And we are through. We can put you up a Hat, Dress, Fan, Gloves, Parasol, Hose and Handkerchief all to match, don't it stand to reason that we would sell it cheaper than if you had to go to a half dozen stores to be fitted up in what you wanted? Yes, you say! Well come and see us then.

Yours to please,

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O. T. BROWN.

ATTORNEY AT LAW,

SAN MARCOS, HAYS CO. TEXAS.

Office over Green's Bank.

Jan 3-tf

DR. J. H. COMBS,

DENTIST

DENTIST

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