

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL  
of the Town of St. Martinville and the Parish of St. Martin.

JUSTICE TO ALL.

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ST. MARTINVILLE, LA., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1900.

No. 43.

**Paints, Oil, Tinware,  
Wall paper, Glasses,**

**Hardware, Furniture,  
Crockery and Saddlery.**

**T. J. LABBE.**

**Worth Fighting For.**  
*Lafayette Gazette.*  
The Gazette is informed that the authorities of St. Martin parish claim the right to collect taxes on the property of Mr. P. L. DeClouet and other citizens living on the east side of Vermillion bayou. We understand that the action of St. Martin parish is based upon a recent act of the Legislature. Owing to Mr. DeClouet's disinclination to yield to the demand of St. Martin's tax-collector, the matter has been submitted to the court of that parish for adjustment.

A considerable area of land is involved in this controversy, which, if decided adversely to Lafayette, will also entail the loss of a number of worthy and desirable citizens.

We believe the territory which St. Martin would like to have, is, by every principle of law and equity, the property of Lafayette parish. We are reliably informed that in 1823, when this parish was carved out of St. Martin these lands were included within the borders of the new parish and they have been so considered from that time until very recently.

The Gazette calls upon the Police Jury to leave nothing undone to assert the rights of the parish in this matter and not give up an inch of ground unless forced to do so.

Through the laissez faire policy of a former administration this parish was hoodwinked out of a large tract of land and it can ill-afford to spare more territory to increase the revenues of other parishes.

As it is, Lafayette is one of the smallest parishes in the State and if this carving-out process continues, it will, in the course of time, be an insignificant strip.

We are not a lawyer, but it seems to us that the Legislature does not possess the power to take any portion of a parish and transfer it to another, without consulting the wishes of either.

Mr. James Simon, wife and children made a trip to New Orleans this week.

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