

L E T T E R
OF
THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

COMMUNICATING,

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate, of December 14, 1868, reports in relation to recent disturbances in Louisiana.

JANUARY 11, 1869.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and the Militia and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *January 8, 1869.*

The Secretary of War, in obedience to the resolution of the Senate of the United States, has the honor to submit copies of all reports on the subject of recent disturbances in Louisiana in possession of the Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.

J. M. SCHOFIELD,
Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS BUREAU AND OFFICE OF A. A. I. G.,
New Orleans, Louisiana, October 8, 1868.

MAJOR: In obedience to Special Orders No. 105, from headquarters Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, district of Louisiana, dated September 30, 1868, I have the honor to submit the following report of an investigation in relation to the riot reported to have occurred in the parish of St. Landry, on the 28th ultimo, between the whites and the freed people of that parish.

I arrived at Opelousas on the evening of the 3d instant, and found that the excitement had subsided, and that the civil authorities in Opelousas were taking the voluntary depositions of various persons, whites and freed people, in relation to the riot.

I then heard the testimony of Geo. W. Hudgforth, district prosecuting attorney, John Simms, colored, and copies of their affidavits were furnished by the civil authorities for my information, as was also that of Adolphus Donald, colored. Reference will be made to these affidavits in a subsequent portion of this report.

The riot began on Monday, the 28th ultimo, between the hours of 9 and 10 o'clock a. m., but in order to arrive definitely at the cause, and set forth clearly its true history, it is necessary to invite attention to events which transpired two weeks previous, and those which followed until the commencement of hostilities.

On Sunday, the 13th of September, 1868, the republican party of St.

Landry held a mass meeting at the town of Washington, situate six miles north of Opelousas. The republican club of Opelousas began assembling at that time at an early hour on Sunday, preparatory to moving in procession to Washington.

At this time, as well as previously, the animosity between the political parties was bitter, and a collision was openly talked of. Threats had been made on both sides; republicans claiming that democrats had threatened the assassination of the leaders of the republican party, and that they (the democrats) were intent on interfering with republican meetings, and intimidating their speakers.

The democrats related that incendiary speeches were made by the republicans, threatening to apply the torch, &c. On that particular day, the 13th September, the republicans had received information from various sources that their procession would not be allowed across a bridge situated midway between Opelousas and Washington. The republicans regarded these reports as serious. A consultation was held, and they (the republicans) moved that the bridge should be crossed at all hazards. Accordingly guns and ammunition were sent for. At about 10 o'clock a. m. the procession started for Washington. For a detailed report of the proceedings of the meeting, as published in the St. Landry Progress, republican paper, see appended paper marked "A."

About the same time that the procession started for Opelousas, an armed body of white men, numbering 15, or thereabouts, belonging to one or more of the democratic clubs in Opelousas, mounted their horses and proceeded to Washington, "to prevent," as they allege, "any hostile demonstration or assault on the part of the radicals." To present the democrats' view of this matter, I give the following extract from a communication written by J. H. Overton, chairman of the democratic executive committee of the parish of St. Landry :

OPELOUSAS, September 30, 1868.

* * * * *

On Sunday, the sixth of this month, at a large and numerous meeting of negroes at their club-house in this place, (Opelousas,) those threats were fulminated to the excited audience, and that in the event of any difficulty they would wrap this village (Opelousas) in flames. They upon the same occasion gave notice to all present, with instructions to circulate it, that they would in mass go into the town of Washington on the following Sunday and regulate the place. On that day, the 13th, they rendezvoused here in great numbers and commenced their march, receiving from other portions of the parish large accessions to their ranks. On their arrival at the bridge across the Bayou Caron, which skirts the village of Washington on the west, they were met by some 15 or 20 citizens from this place, who had proceeded there in order to aid in the protection of the people of Washington against any aggression on the part of this excited mass. In defiance of all remonstrances they crossed and entered the town, and after a display of numbers and jubilant cheering throughout the principal streets of the place, held their meeting in an adjacent wood, which, no doubt, but for the presence of this little Spartan band of knights, might have resulted in deeds of lawlessness and disorder. During the enacting of these scenes at Washington, intelligence reached Opelousas that a conflict had already occurred there, when instantly the entire physical white force were under arms and preparing to leave for the place of conflict. However, tidings came that the affair had passed off quietly, when it soon became current among the freedwomen of the town, who were the only colored population remaining, that they intended, the moment the whites left for Washington, to fire the town, in order to effectually prevent any co-operation on our part.

In the evening of the same day, September 13, after all parties had returned from Washington, the armed party of white men referred to in the foregoing, under the command of a Mr. Lewis, called on Mr. Emerson Bently, editor of the republican paper at Opelousas, and after assuring Mr. Bently that they intended no violence to him, Mr. Bently consented to an interview, when Mr. Lewis warned him that he should publish *nothing but the truth* in relation to the Washington affair, and

that they would hold him responsible for any incorrect statements which he might publish or any false coloring he might give to the matter.

This was before any agreement had been made and entered into between the respective committees of the democratic and republican parties of the parish.

The 15 armed men sent to Washington to be present at the republican meeting were sent at the instance of the citizens of Opelousas. It was not a sheriff and his posse called out to preserve the peace, but the men composing it were members of the democratic clubs in Opelousas, and their proceeding was more of a partisan character than otherwise.

Calling in a body on Mr. Bently, editor of the "Progress," warning and threatening him as to any article he might publish in his paper, was very indiscreet, without law or authority, and more calculated to cause trouble than prevent it. Mr. Bently published his account of the meeting at Washington in the issue of his paper of the 19th of September last.

Subsequently to the meeting at Washington the parish executive committees of both parties conferred together in order to draught "articles of agreement" as to the best means of avoiding, respectively, in the future, any cause for irritation or disorder, and for the effectual maintenance of peace, if practicable, during the pending presidential campaign. The articles of agreement were ratified by both executive committees on September 19, ultimo, and were published in both papers at Opelousas. The copy marked "B," appended to this report, is taken from the Saint Landry Progress, (republican paper,) issued on the 19th September, ultimo, to which attention is invited in connection herewith.

This agreement between the leading men of both parties appears to have been perfected in good faith, and it was thought sufficiently comprehensive in all points to prevent any collision or trouble of magnitude between the two parties.

On the 26th of September following, a republican meeting was held at Opelousas, and judging from all reports, everything passed off quietly and to the satisfaction of all concerned.

On Monday morning, the 28th of September, 1868, nine days after the publication of the account of the Washington meeting by Mr. Emerson Bently in his paper, three young men, Mr. Williams, Abe Mayo, and James Dixon, proceeded to Mr. Bently's school in the Methodist Episcopal church, where he was teaching a colored school, and asked him to step outside, which he declined doing, and then entered the building, and one of the three men, James Dixon, as reported, addressed himself to Mr. Bently, stating in substance that he, Bently, had published lies in his paper about the Washington affair, (these three men are reported to have been in the party of 15 who were present armed at the Washington meeting;) and Dixon produced a paper, which he or others had prepared for Mr. Bently's signature, which, as Mr. Bently states in his affidavit before the justice of the peace, was a retraction of the article he had published, and an acknowledgement that he had lied in relation thereto. Mr. Bently declined signing such a paper, whereupon James Dixon administered a series of severe blows upon the head and shoulders of Mr. Bently with a rattan cane.

Mr. Bently states in his affidavit, that he had been sick the night previous, and was too weak to make any resistance to this outrage, and particularly as there were three strong men against him; that after he had received about 25 blows Dixon stopped, and he was again asked to sign the recantation of his publication; that he again asked time to consider the matter, when one of the men called out to Dixon, "give it to him—make him sign it—hit him again—wear out the d—d

carpet dog," or words to that effect. Whereupon several additional blows were inflicted on his head and shoulders. A chair was then placed for him to sit down; that he asked them if he signed the paper would that be an end of the matter? One replied "yes;" and that he thus was compelled to sign it. The three men who had committed this infamous and barbarous outrage then left the building.

At the commencement of this trouble the school was disorganized and many of the little colored school children ran to their homes in and through town, crying and saying, as they believed, that Mr. Bently had been killed. This report at once became general, and spread throughout the town and its immediate vicinity. Mr. Bently left the school building, with a number of his pupils around him, and toward the main and central part of the town. Quite a crowd of colored people soon collected around him. He was met by Gustavus Donald, Cornelius Donato, and Francis J. D'Avy, colored—first and last named are members of the republican executive committee for the parish; also by Mr. B. R. Gantt, member of the democratic executive committee, who told Mr. Bently to go at once before the civil magistrate, make affidavit against the parties who had assaulted him, and they would be arrested and tried for the offence. Mr. Bently said he would, and that he was going then to do so. The crowd of freed people had increased largely and the excitement was increasing. Francis J. D'Avy was much exasperated, and said to the colored people around him, "now the treaty is broken by them," (meaning the democrats,) "and this matter has got to be settled and it must be done to-day." Just at this juncture a colored man, named John Simms, rode up, and says: "D'Avy, take that back;" D'Avy replied, "yes, take back, that has always been the way; and if we take back we will have to keep taking back all the time," or words to that effect. D'Avy then turned to the crowd of colored people and said: "Boys, go out and tell our men to come in and assemble here; that there is trouble and it must be settled to-day," or words to that effect. Cornelius Donato, colored, who was near by and heard this or similar language from D'Avy, says: "D'Avy, keep still."

The language made use of by D'Avy while under the highest state of excitement precipitated the conflict, which might otherwise have been avoided.

But the animosity between the two parties had become so great and the excitement so high that even the slightest provocation from either side would engender hostilities. It appears from reliable information that freedmen followed D'Avy's directions.

Two white men captured a freed boy who was employed on Anderson's plantation, near Opelousas, while he was en route to Washington mounted, with instructions, as it is reported from Gustavus Donato, colored, to tell Sam Johnson, who is a leader of the republican club at Washington, to come to Opelousas with his men at once, as there was trouble. I was informed that this courier was brought to Opelousas and was interrogated by Mr. O. H. Violett, bureau agent, that he had been sent by Gustavus Donato with the message as stated, and that he started with a small sword on his person to show to Johnson that he was a courier and that he would thus be known as such from the fact of having a sword.

A colored boy, mounted, was seen riding at full speed facing Mr. Swayzer's plantation, two and a half miles south of Opelousas.

Immediately afterwards the freedmen were seen leaving the place armed and going towards town. While these events were transpiring Mr. Bently had gone before D. P. C. Hill, justice of the peace, and made affidavit against the parties who had assaulted him. A warrant was

issued for their arrest and placed in the hands of the deputy sheriff. *They were nominally arrested but were not incarcerated.* Up to the 5th instant they had not been brought to trial, though Squire Hill informed me that their trial had been set for that day, the 5th instant. About 12 o'clock, m., on Monday the 28th September ultimo, parties of armed freedmen were seen concentrating in the west, the east, and the south-east of Opelousas.

The court-house bell was rung, alarm given, and the citizens flew to arms. The wildest excitement prevailed. An armed body of white men about 15 in number, mounted, were sent out, under instructions of the civil authorities of the town to disarm all freedmen or colored men coming towards town with arms.

This party of men were commanded by Captain Lewis and Captain May. Before they had started, a colored man named John Simms and the town constable had dispersed a number of armed freedmen who were coming in from the plantations. Captain Lewis and Captain May, with their party, went to the west of the town, and finding no armed freedmen proceeded in a circuit to south; when returning from the south they were informed that a party of 50 armed freedmen had concentrated about one and a half miles southeast of town, they turned in that direction. Saw three or four freedmen running near an enclosure; a squad of five men with Captain May made a detour to intercept these freedmen, when they suddenly came upon 25 or 30 freedmen, most of them mounted. Captain May ordered them to throw down their arms and disperse, which they refused to do. A shot was fired by some party unknown, when both whites and freedmen fired simultaneously. Two volleys were fired from shot-guns and three shots from pistols. Freedmen fell back inside the enclosure; both parties continued the firing; the freedmen were surrounded, the firing ceased; and eight freedmen threw down their arms and surrendered; the remaining freedmen escaped through the woods. This occurred between 1 and 2 o'clock p. m. of that day.

The excitement soon became general throughout the country, and extended around Opelousas in almost every direction, a distance of 20 miles. Large numbers of armed white men congregated at Opelousas, and squads scoured the country throughout, disarming all armed freedmen, and taking the arms of those who had them on plantations. This was done under the auspices of the civil authorities, though I doubt not, from all information received, that many of these squads acted upon their own responsibility and without legal authority so to do. The excitement continued unabated on Tuesday, September 29, and did not subside until Wednesday. It is estimated that at least 2,000 armed white men concentrated at Opelousas.

On Tuesday the printing material, such as type, ink, &c., of the republican paper, The Saint Landry Progress, was destroyed. This was a wanton act, without justification or provocation whatever. A destruction of private property entitled to be respected at all times. The leading citizens of Opelousas disapprove of this act, though no steps had been taken towards apprehending the guilty parties.

Casualties among the whites in the collision at Opelousas were, W. G. May, dangerously wounded—shot through left lung; Anderson, wounded in the head with buckshot; Williams, shot through the hand with buckshot; and one man slightly wounded in the hand. Casualties among the freedmen were, Silva, killed; and one other freedmen killed, name not known, and one wounded through both legs.

Theizagon Derbanna, white, was reported to have been killed by three freedmen near Mallet's woods, 10 miles west of Opelousas, Monday night,

the 28th ultimo. He was armed and coming towards Opelousas, having heard of the troubles at that place. It is generally reported and believed that the three freedmen who fired upon Derbanna were captured and killed.

An old citizen by the name of J. B. Lafleur, white, residing about 18 miles northwest of Opelousas, near Flattown, was reported to have been shot and killed by two freedmen on the night of October 2, instant. Another report was that he had been mortally wounded by a white man, who took advantage of prevailing excitement to shoot Lafleur on account of some previous personal difficulty.

Total killed, (whites).....	2
Total wounded, (whites).....	4
Total killed, (freedmen).....	5
Total wounded, (freedmen).....	1
Aggregate.....	12

This is the actual number as far as was known at the time; but I was informed by reliable citizens of Opelousas, as well as by others in that vicinity, that wherever there was any resistance on the part of the freedmen in disarming them, some of them must have been killed.

Considering the fact that they were all disarmed by armed squads of white men for 20 miles around Opelousas, it is more than probable that cool judgment gave way to passion and a number of freedmen were killed who have not been reported. Undoubtedly excesses were committed by the armed squads of white men referred to, and, judging from all reports current at Opelousas, and the prevailing belief among the old and reliable citizens, the number killed of freedmen may be safely estimated at 25.

In connection with this report I submit, for the information of the assistant commissioners, copies of voluntary affidavits, and statements made by parties who were present at the commencement and during the continuance of the recent troubles at Opelousas.

JOHN SIMMS, colored, testified as follows :

On Monday, the 28th day of September, 1868, while engaged in conducting the work on my building, corner of Market and Bellevue streets, I heard and saw the colored children from Mr. Bently's school running and screaming, saying that several parties were killing Mr. Bently. I immediately ran to the sheriff's office and asked Mr. C. H. Patier for Mr. Peoden, the deputy sheriff. He answered me that Mr. Peoden had just walked out. I then started to get to Mr. Peoden's house. When I got on the end of the bridge, near Mr. Peoden's residence, I saw Mr. Joseph Skinner in his shop. I asked him if Mr. Peoden was at home. He told me he had just went into town. When I got near Mr. John Eakin's office, some one had informed Mr. Curley, a deputy sheriff, of what was taking place at Mr. Bently's school. Mr. Curley immediately mounted behind Mr. Alcie Dupré, who was horseback, and they started to Bently's school. I and several other parties followed them. When at the school-house of Mr. Bently I asked him if he was harmed. He answered "No." He told me he had received several blows with a cane. Mr. B. R. Gantt, and others, advised him to make an affidavit against the parties, and he said he would. Then we all started to return to town quietly. We met with F. J. Davey, Gustave Donato, and Cornelius Donato. Mr. Davey said to Mr. Bently, "You were reported killed in town." Mr. Bently answered "No." When we got near Mr. Gantt's garden, we met several freedmen. One was armed with a musket. Mr. Davey said that

the treaty of agreement between the two parties was broken from this time, and said, "Boys, ride all around and tell the people to collect in here as quick as possible, and we will have this matter settled now." As I was not on speaking terms with Davey, I reflected a few seconds, and told him that he had better take that word back. He answered, "If we keep on taking things back it will always be so." I then started to my work. When I got near the jail I heard Davey's voice. He was speaking with Mr. B. R. Gantt. I did not hear what he said to Mr. Gantt, but was told by a reliable person that he repeated what he had said concerning the treaty of agreement between the two parties. About 30 minutes after, I heard the court-house bell ring. I expected an alarm. I immediately saddled my mare and rode out of my yard. I met on the corner of my building, to the best of my recollection, five freedmen, from U. L. Garland's plantation. I told them to go back home and work; that they had no business in town. They all five started out. I rode in town and inquired for Charles Thompson, the town constable. I was then at the corner of David Ross's store. Mr. Lewis Legemere told me to wait there; that he would hunt Thompson for me. While waiting for Thompson, Mr. P. L. Hibrand told me that couriers had gone to Anderson's and Hill's places to tell the colored people to prepare. Mr. Thompson came and met me. We then started (three of us) to go to these two above-mentioned places—C. Thompson, John Cook, and myself. Going out we met with one G. W. Hudspeth, who told us that he had seen several armed men near his house. We kept on to the place where he had seen the parties, but they had returned. We kept on to Anderson's plantation, and there we found some 12 or 16 mounted armed colored men. I told them to disperse and put away their arms, and go to work; that Mr. Bently was not killed or wounded. We then started back towards the town. Mr. Thompson stopped at Messrs. J. and A. Perodin's store. Mr. Cook and myself went towards the Catholic church and met several persons. A little while after that Mr. Lewis Prashomer arrived, coming from his house; he told us that one of his hands had left the field and gone home, horseback, and that he was sure he was going after his arms. I invited Mr. Prashomer to go with me and see that man; we went to his house; the man had armed himself and gone to town, true to the word. I then left the parties at the Catholic church and came back to town, and dispersed all colored people I met with, and told them to remain at home. I rode all around town, and everything seemed quiet; I then went home and ate my dinner. When I thought everything over, I was again informed that a courier had been stopped between Washington and Opelousas to tell James Johnson to come to town with his men; I mounted my mare again and rode to C. Mayo's drug store; I called him one side, and asked him to have an investigation about the matter. Mr. Mayo told me that Colonel Thompson, D. R. K. Lith, and others, had gone to the Progress office to see the leaders of the republican party. I then started towards the Progress. When I got there I heard several gentlemen speaking about the courier affair; I heard one person, who I took to be Dr. Robertson, say to Gustave and Cornelius Donato, "What is the use for you to send for Sam Johnson and his men?" The two Donatos denied the fact of having sent out the courier; at that time Captain Violet, the freedmen's bureau agent, walked in and said to the two Donatos, "What is the use denying the thing, men? I have convincing proof that you did send the courier out just at that time." Mr. August Perodin stepped in and said the fighting had commenced at Paillett's place. At that time everybody walked out, and started in the direction where the fight had

commenced. I followed the people as far as the south end of town, where I met several persons coming back; I then returned with them, and came to Mayo's drug store, remaining there some time, and went home and stayed there till Thursday morning. While sitting down at home, I saw several parties going out from the town with four colored men, whom I expected were going to be shot. A while after I saw Colonel Thompson riding as fast as his horse could carry him in the same direction; the same parties returned with four prisoners, and lodged them in jail. On Tuesday morning, after I saw that there was no disposition to harm any one that had not brought this difficulty about, I volunteered my services to Dr. R. H. Lith to protect the town and its citizens, if needed; Dr. Lith accepted my services, and assigned me with a squad of men, commanded by one Captain Reed, a gray-headed man, and sent us out to Garland's plantation to disarm the people there, and not to interfere with any who were peaceable at home or at their work; we found but one pistol on the place, although several of the company knew men that lived on that place that had arms; we did not force them to find them; we returned to town, and that was the last duty that I performed. I saw colored parties brought in, and they were set at liberty and sent home.

Question by Judge Overton. Does not the plantation of Mr. Anderson lie about one mile east, and Mr. Garland one mile west, of the court-house?

Answer by Mr. Simms. They do.

Q. The place where the fighting took place was about one and a half miles south from the court-house?

A. Yes.

That the deponent upon being asked what was said to him by the armed men near Mr. Anderson's place, when he advised them to return, says that they had been told Mr. Bently and one school child had been killed, and that is the reason we are armed.

Deponent thinks that on the places of Mr. Anderson and Mr. Garland there are between 60 and 70 able-bodied freedmen.

Deponent says that the principal leaders of the republican party are F. J. Dary, Emerson Bently, Gustave Donato, Beverly Wilson, and Wm. James, in the town of Opelousas, and in the town of Washington Samuel Johnson, president; John L. Davis, secretary, and Wash. Brown, an influential member, with the brothers Gardner. Deponent further states that Sam Johnson has a large influence over the parish, and is one of the leading speakers. Deponent further states that he himself is a republican, and has always advocated republican principles. Deponent further says that for six or seven months he has not attended any political meeting whatever, and for the following reasons, to wit: Sam Johnson, F. J. Dary, Wm. James, and others had been more in the habit of making incendiary speeches, and he did not approve thereof; that on Saturday, the 26th of September, he did attend the republican mass meeting and barbecue, owing to the fact that an agreement had been entered into between the democratic and radical parties, and that his object was to see that this agreement was properly respected by the republican party, then holding a meeting.

JOHN SIMMS.

George W. Hudspeth, esq., deposeth and saith: That he is the district attorney of the 8th judicial district of the State of Louisiana. Last Monday morning, the 28th of September, some person came to my office, in the town of Opelousas, and informed me that Mr. Bently had been killed. A few minutes after I heard that he had been whipped, and I

walked down to Judge Bailey's office. At the time of my arrival at the judge's office I saw a crowd coming up Market street, among whom I recognized Emerson Bently, F. J. David, Cornelius Donato, and a freedman armed with what deponent took to be a musketoon. Deponent heard F. J. David in an excited manner say that "By God, this state of things must be put an end to." The freedman who was armed appeared very much excited, and was striking his head with his fists and speaking very rapidly, but I could not understand what he said. He was brandishing his gun, holding it in his left hand. Understanding then that Bently was going to make an affidavit against the persons who had caned him, I called Mr. C. C. Dusson, a deputy sheriff, and requested him to ride to the magistrate's office and arrest the parties as soon as warrants should be issued. Mr. Dusson promised to do so, and deponent returned to his office. A short time after B. Martel, jr., came into my office and said a difficulty was at hand, as the negroes were coming into town. Within three or four minutes thereafter deponent and Mr. Daniel D. Hudspeth mounted their horses and rode to Messrs. Perodins's store. As we passed the court-house the bell began ringing, and as we reached Perodins's I dismounted and requested Mr. Perodin to give me a double-barrelled shot gun for D. D. Hudspeth; got one, when we mounted and rode for my residence at a rapid pace. Going we met two persons who informed us that the negroes were assembling near my home with arms. When we reached home I ran into the house and got my rifle and six-shooter and put them near the door in the event of trouble, and gave D. D. Hudspeth ammunition and told him to prepare for action, as I was convinced a difficulty was at hand. I live in the northeast portion of the town, about three-quarters of a mile from the court-house. I left my house and arms and rode alone towards the place where the negroes were assembling, or were said to have been assembling. On reaching the end of the street, 75 or 80 yards below the house where I live, I saw a body of men drawn up across a coulé, leaning on their arms, and others arriving on horseback, dismounting, and falling into position. I then advanced and crossed an intervening coulé, to within about 150 yards, and looked at them. I then rode over to Mr. J. Joubert's, and asked him what those persons were doing there. He replied they were coming there armed, but he did not know their object. I suggested to Mr. Joubert the propriety of getting his horse and going with me over to the street upon which I lived. I then advanced towards the body of men, and approached nearer than before, and looked at them. I estimated them to be about 40 armed negroes. Leaving my position, I returned to the street upon which I live, and going down the same to the coulé, looked upon the same to see whether there were other parties in the vicinity. While there I saw several persons on horseback going towards the armed negroes. There being some four men with arms near me, I requested them to remain and hold the negroes in check, if they advanced, while I rode off to procure help. When I reached Chreentea's corner I met Chas. Thompson, John Simms, and Beverly Wilson, when John Simms, as I believe, asked me to return with them, as he was going to countermand the orders and disperse them. We went in a lope to the point where I had seen them, and found the negroes had disappeared. Messrs. Thompson, Cook, Simms, and Wilson went on towards Anderson's plantation, where we were informed they had gone, and I returned to my office to close the settlement of a succession by compromise in connection with Mr. J. M. Moore. At about 2 o'clock p. m., while at dinner, a party rode up to my house and informed me that fighting had begun at Paillet's place. I

remained near my residence until 10 o'clock the next day—going to the court-house three times in the night—in company with some eight other persons, to see that no attempt at violence should be made at that portion of the town. I am of opinion that on the Anderson place there may be between 35 and 40 able-bodied negro men, judging from the area of land in cultivation.

G. W. HUDSPETH.

Cornelius Donato (colored freedman) says:

I was in the town of Opelousas on Monday last, the 28th instant. I was here in town and heard somebody say that Emerson Bently was killed between 9 and 10 o'clock in the morning. Then I saw everybody was running to the Methodist church, or school-house, and I started there too. When on the way I met a great many people, and some tell me he (Bently) was not killed; that he was whipped with a stick, or that way; and then I started to come back, and I saw a great many people come around him, (Bently,) and I heard François Dary say to somebody, "Go around and assemble the people." I called François Dary, and I tell him to stay still, and then I went back to my brother's store. I saw about seven or eight freedmen coming in town—some with guns, one a spade, and one a hoe—and me and my brother sent a man to tell them to go back; that there is nothing here; that the thing is in law's hands, as Bently was said to have made his affidavit. Then I went back to the Saint Landry Progress office here. I saw great excitement in town; everybody was under arms, and then I quit the town, and keep away from the town until yesterday, when I came into town. That is all I know in this thing. François Dary is a young man who staid in town here; is a colored man. He was president of the radical republican club in this town. He was considered as one of the leaders of the party in this parish. The building where the Progress paper was published belonged to my cousin.

CORNELIUS DONATO.

James Sheldon (colored) says:

I am working Mr. Swayzer's plantation for him—about three miles from here, south. I was on the plantation last Monday; remained there all day. Myself and old man John Butler (colored) and Loudon, an old colored man, were on the place on Monday last. There are five other freedmen working on the place. At 12 o'clock they came this way towards town, and towards Mr. Paillet's plantation. They were afoot when they started. I saw them leave the place; they were all armed—some with double-barrelled shot-guns, and one had a musket. I kept out of their way, as I was afraid they would drive me with them. When I saw them with the guns I knew there was something wrong. I came to the edge of the cotton-field, put my cotton down, what I had picked before dinner, and I saw these men leaving their cabins with their guns. They did not see me. I picked cotton all day, and don't know who may have passed along.

The five men left just at 12 o'clock, or about that time.

I have attended the meetings of both parties, and have never been interfered with.

JAMES ^{his} + SHELDON.
mark.

Lummen Watson (colored) says:

I am working on Caldwell Swayzer's plantation, about three miles from Opelousas, north of the town. I was on the plantation Monday

morning last, the 28th September, 1868. I came out of the field at 12 o'clock noon. Mr. Swayzer nor his wife were at home, and during the time, at noon, I heard an alarm down at the quarters of the colored people of the place. Shortly after that there came a boy (colored) Stephen, and he says to me, "Uncle Lummen, they are fighting in town." I says to him, "I reckon not." By the time these few words passed Mr. Swayzer passed, coming from town to his house. He got off his horse and went on home, and came back very quick, with his gun, to my house. I was not at my house, and he came to the stable where I was, and he came near me and says: "Uncle Lummen, step this way. There is a fuss kicked up in town about Bently, who was whipped. I am called to defend myself, and I want you to take care of things until I come back." Shortly after that I saw one of the colored boys of the place, whose name was Skillman, galloping to the plantation from towards town. I told my step-daughter to go down to the quarters and see what news Skillman fetched. She came back and said that Skillman said "they were going to fight, sure, and all that are not there they must look out afterwards." I kept my seat, saying, "I'll risk that." That is as much as to say, if I don't go I'll run the risk of being hurt.

In 15 or 20 minutes after that I heard the guns firing. There are 10 able-bodied freedmen working on the plantation. Before I heard the guns I saw two or three freedmen leaving the plantation, coming towards town. I could not see whether they had arms or not. After the firing I went down to the quarters to see who was there, and I found that all the men had gone. The men I saw leaving the place had plenty of time to get up to Paillet's before the fight. One of these men was brought back wounded.

LUMMEN ^{his} × WATSON.
mark.

Hilaire Paillet, freedman, (colored,) says:

I live about one and a quarter miles from the court-house in Opelousas. I was at home on Monday morning last, 28th ult. About 11½ a. m., I was lying down; my wife came and called me; told me to look at all of them men running backwards and forwards with guns, and I saw Mr. Swayzer moving his wife in town and his going back home horseback as hard as he could go; at the same time three freedmen rode to my gate with guns, and I went up to them to ask them what they were going to do with their arms, and they answered me: "We heard that they had killed Bently, our lead man, and we are going up to have satisfaction."

In the same time Adolph Donato was going back home just from town, and I asked him, "What's the matter in town?" He answered me, "I heard that they had whipped Bently, and we have nothing to meddle in that; there's a compromise between the two parties; that if any difficulty occurs it should be settled in court; and, if you are all like me, you will go back home and leave that." At the same time Adolph Donato started and went home. A few men rode out at that time to where the other colored people were. I says, "Boys, what are you all doing there; you had better do as Adolph Donato told you to do: go home, and let this matter be settled;" and one of them said, "Swayzer has gone back home, and we had better stop at once; that will be one out of the way." I don't know this man's name, but he is a hand on Mr. Swayzer's place. At the same time I told them to go away; some of them left and went a piece away from my yard. I then went and saddled my mare and came up to town. As I was coming up to town I met white men mounted on horses, all

armed. They halted me and asked me if it was true that there were any armed men on my place. I answered them that there were eight or ten of them with arms when I left; that I sent them off, and I do not know if they came back or not. They kept on. I rode up to Mr. Achilles Dupré's store, to inquire from him what is going on in town, as I had full confidence in the man, and he would tell me what was going on, and his clerk told me he was not there. I rode a piece in the street and came across him. When I was talking with him, some persons cried out that they were fighting at my house, and I wheeled right back on my way home, and I was stopped on the way and brought back to the jail, and then I was released. I was released on Tuesday. The trouble was over. I remained here in town. I went back home and came back to town. I know of no reason why the colored men should assemble armed at my house, any more than any other house.

There were no arms or ammunition at my house, except one gun. I saw no dead nor wounded.

H. PAILLET.

Adolph Donato, freeman, (colored,) says:

That on Monday, September 28, 1868, he was engaged in removing the lumber from the place of the barbecue which took place on the 26th instant, and as he was about returning to the town of Opelousas he met the cavalry of the whites, commanded by Mr. Ned Lewis, about half a mile west of the court-house, near the residence of Mr. Onizime Guidry. Deponent continued on to town and met with Mr. Lassiter, who informed him that Mr. Bently had had a personal difficulty and was reported to be killed, and that it was probable that a fuss would ensue. Mr. Lassiter advised deponent to dissuade his colored friends from engaging in the difficulty, and as deponent was going home, if he met colored persons, armed, coming in, to advise them to return to their houses. Witness lives about two miles southeast of the town of Opelousas, in the rear of Paillett's. On his road home, in the neighborhood of Mr. Paillett's, he met with two freedmen, named Jules and Sylvain Smith, both armed with double-barrelled guns. They accosted him and inquired where he was from and where his gun was. They informed deponent that there was a fight about taking place in town, and asked if deponent was not going to assist. Deponent said he would not, whereupon they charged him with cowardice. Deponent then advised them to go home, but they said "No; they were going on to town and see it out." Sylvain then replied to deponent that he had been to town once that morning, and knew more about it than deponent. While this conversation was proceeding some five or six other freedmen, all armed except two, came up and inquired of the deponent, "Where his gun was?" to which deponent replied that it was at his own house. One of the freedmen present said, "I have your gun; I have pressed it." The freedman who had deponent's gun was known by the name of Henry Bently, and worked on the plantation of Hilaire Paillet, where the fight subsequently took place. Deponent advised them all to go home, and then recovered his gun and went to his own house.

About an hour or an hour and a half after deponent reached home, he heard the firing of guns at Mr. Paillet's place, distant about half a mile from deponent's place. The interview above detailed between Jules, Sylvain Smith, and others, occurred about 75 yards from Hilaire Paillet's place. As witness proceeded home he saw parties of freedmen on horseback, concentrating on the road from Mr. Swayzer's plantation as well as from the Bellevue road, moving in the direction of Paillet's

plantation. Deponent says that he was alarmed, and could not say how many persons he saw, or how many of them were armed.

ADOLPH ^{his} + DONATO.
mark.

I called on Captain W. G. May, who had been severely wounded, and he made the following oral statement:

Monday, the 28th September, 1868, at 10 o'clock a. m., I was sent out by written authority of the mayor of the town. I am president of the Hancock club at this place. I called together about 19 of my club, and by direction of the mayor of the town went out around the town, first northeast, where about 100 negroes were reported under arms. I had instructions to disarm all negroes coming into town. Finding no armed body at this place, we then went west towards Mr. Garland's plantation; found none there; then took a circuit around towards the Bellevue road; met several parties of negroes, but none under arms; cautioned them not to come to town with arms, and if they wished to come to do so quietly, without arms. When returning on the Bellevue road, south of Opelousas, a gentleman living in a house near a lane told us that a party of armed negroes, about 50 in number, had just passed, and that they were concentrated at Eli Paillet's, about one mile from town; saw a colored man come out of the house this side of the place where the negroes were reported to be; this man was riding towards town; headed him off and told him to give up his arms to prevent trouble; that I had authority to do so, and that he could not go into town armed. He gave up his arms, and under my direction fell in with us. Turning our horses in the direction of the house where the negroes were supposed to be under arms, I saw three or four negroes running through the enclosure; I took three or four of my men, made a detour to head them off, the balance of the men rode on at a walk; I rode fast to head off the men I had seen, and when near the front of the house (Paillet's) saw a body of armed negroes mounted and organized, about 20 in number. Without halting I dashed up to them, and told them that I was acting under orders from the mayor of the town to disarm all negroes coming towards town; that they must throw down their arms and go back home to prevent bloodshed; I addressed my remarks to the leader, or one who appeared to be. He replied: "Dismount, men, and stand your ground." A negro, who was loading his gun in the garden, said also at the same time: "No, by God, we brought our guns here, and intend to keep them and use them." I again addressed them, saying: "Now, look here, it is useless for you to make any resistance." I pointed to the other men of my party who were filing around the negroes; and I told the negroes: "You are entirely surrounded, and if you make any resistance it will cost the lives of every one of you." Just at that instant a shot fired; I don't know by whom.

The leader and two other negroes had their guns cocked and bearing directly on me. I was watching them. Simultaneous shots were fired on both sides. The firing was sharp and quick; the negroes fired both barrels of their shot guns. Not more than two rounds were fired, then some pistol shots fired afterwards. My horse was wounded at the first fire, and reared and pitched. After I had fired both barrels of my gun I dismounted, turned my horse loose, and drew my pistol and commenced firing. The negroes fell back, taking refuge behind houses and fences, still keeping up their fire; at this instant I was wounded. After I was wounded I looked around for my men; saw one horse killed and two others wounded, which had broken back to the rear. Two of the

men with me were wounded. Firing soon after ceased. Mr. Lewis, with the other men of my party, called out to cease firing, as promiscuous shots were being fired. I ordered "cease firing," when no more firing occurred. I was bleeding freely, was weak and exhausted, and called to a gentleman, asked him to dismount, and then rode to town, went to my room to bed, and have been in bed since. I know nothing more about the trouble. The colored man I disarmed before the fight is reported to me as being Frilot, a police juror of the parish.

H. L. Frilot, freedman, colored, says: I am parish police juror of this district, first ward. The first that I knew, several different reports were made to me on Monday morning that parties had whipped Mr. Bently, editor of Progress paper at Opelousas, and I took no care about it at all. Kept on working at my plantation, about a quarter of a mile south of Opelousas, about half a mile from Paillett's plantation, until about dinner time, and I see several horsemen moving about in the prairie. I started then to come to Opelousas on horseback, and Captain May he arrested me. He told me that he heard I had a company of 50 armed men at my house. A squad arrived, commanded by Mr. Lewis; then Mr. Lewis told me about the same Captain May told me; he, Captain Lewis, was satisfied that it was not so, as he saw no armed men around my house, and then he told me I must go with him, and we started in the direction of Eli Paillett's plantation; my house is this side of Paillett's, that is near to Opelousas. I had my pistol on me, and Captain Lewis told me I must give up my pistol, which I did; they told me the reason for stopping me and taking my pistol was to prevent trouble and bloodshed; that a rumor had sprung up, and they were sent armed around to disarm men and tell them to go back to their work, so that everything could be peaceable; and then when about two or three hundred yards from Paillett's plantation, Captain Lewis detached four or five men to go and tell some people that were on the other side of Paillett's plantation to lay down their arms, be still, and nothing is going to happen to them; and so then four or five men went around, and soon after we heard the report of one gun, and then I heard hallooing, I don't know by whom, and immediately after I heard the report of several guns, and they kept on firing until Captain Lewis, myself, and others got to the house and asked Captain Lewis to try and stop the shooting, as there were women and children in the town-house—Paillett's house. Captain Lewis stopped the shooting, and he told me to stop the others' shooting, and he stopped his men immediately. I went in the yard with two others to try and stop the colored men who were shooting. I called out to them as I ran into the garden, where some of the colored men were, and told them to put down their arms and stop that shooting. They stopped immediately; some of them surrendered themselves, others hid and were found freed afterwards. The firing ceased on both sides at the time I stopped the colored men who were shooting in the garden, and then Mr. Lewis came to me and said, "Frilot, I am well satisfied that I see your innocence about it," and returned me my pistol. Then, as several squads came up very much excited, Mr. Lewis was afraid that they would hurt me, and he put me under the protection of two gentlemen, John McCormick, Jules Debalion, until everything was over, and then I came out to the house. Paillett and I came to Mr. Lewis and asked him to send two men out to my house to search it and see if I had any ammunition or arms in it. These gentlemen were perfectly satisfied that there was nothing in it except two or three loads of powder; and then I came, under the protection of Mr. Debalion and Mr. Grigg, to the town of Opelousas to report myself to the authorities of the town for protec-

tion, because I only wanted peace; so they guaranteed to me protection, and I have not been troubled by any one. Every one of the citizens has given me entire protection. They sent two men with me to protect me as I went back to Paillett's for my wife and child. I have remained in town since and have not been disturbed, and I have seen every one, colored people who claimed protection, was protected.

I suppose from the first that there were at least 24 colored people with arms at Paillett's, and perhaps more. I was so much excited that I could not tell, as I was some distance away. I saw one colored man who was wounded; saw one colored man who was dead; did not see any white men that were hurt. I heard that several had been hit; did not see them, as I was with Captain Lewis's party in the yard.

My wife told me, about 10 o'clock Monday morning, 28th ultimo, that a colored man was galloping towards Bellevue. I went out on the gallery and saw the man after he had passed. I then went back into the house at my work.

From general information that I have there are at least 100 or thereabouts of freedmen on the Bellevue plantation. Bellevue is about two miles from Opelousas, southerly direction.

I am connected with, and am a member of, the radical republican party of this parish.

H. L. FRILOT.

Statement of B. A. Martel.

OPELOUSAS, October 4, 1868.

On Monday, September 28, about 10 a. m., I came into the town of Opelousas from my plantation west of the town. Entering the town, I met a number of colored people (women) running out of town, going in the direction of Garland's plantation, very much excited, and some of them crying. I inquired what was the matter, but they kept on, making answers which I could not understand.

The first person I met in town was Alcie Dupré. I asked him what was the matter, what the cause of the excitement? He replied that it was reported that some one had killed Mr. Bently. On arriving at my office, one square from where I had met Mr. Dupré, I found Mr. Hudspeth, district attorney, and some other parties reading the newspaper. I informed them Bently had been killed. Mr. Hudspeth exclaimed, "It is not possible," and immediately left the office. Fifteen or twenty minutes afterwards Bently entered the yard of my office; as I had been his counsel on several occasions, I walked to the door to receive him, but he entered the office of D. P. Littig, esq., adjoining my own, who had been elected justice of the peace, but has not yet received his commission, of which he was informed. Mr. Littig and myself spontaneously advised him to go at once and make an affidavit before Justice Hill. He went away immediately, and I have not seen him since. Everything appeared to be quiet until about 1 or 2 o'clock, when great alarm seemed to prevail. Men were running in every direction, getting guns and ammunition from the merchants. The negroes had concentrated in armed bodies around the town, and the negro women were making threats against the white women and children, or pitying their fate.

Further than this I cannot state what took place, owing to the confusion and excitement, and the rapid concentration of the whites, from the surrounding country, in the town.

The foregoing is my statement, on honor, of what I know concerning the excitement of Monday last.

B. A. MARTEL.

Statement of C. Mayo.

OPELOUSAS, October 4, 1868.

On Monday morning, the 28th September, 1868, the community was thrown into a considerable state of excitement in consequence of a lot of colored children rushing through the streets, exclaiming that Bently had been killed by some men at the school-house; but in a few minutes he was seen coming from his school-house, followed by a number of his colored scholars, and I was told that he had been caned by some gentlemen whom he had insulted; but about that time I saw F. J. Davy, Gustave Donato, Cornelius Donato, and a number of free men of color, arriving back of the court-house, and was told that Davy had declared that he would stand this thing no longer, and that it must be settled immediately, and had ordered couriers to go to the adjoining plantations and tell the negroes to arm themselves and come to town. He was expostulated with by John Simms, a free man of color, who told him that this was a personal affair between white men, and urged to countermand his order; but he (Davy) refused to do so, saying to Simms that he (Simms) was always for taking back, but now the thing had to come, and ordered a freedman off immediately as a courier to the Anderson and Hill plantations; and in a very short time I heard that there were 40 or 50 armed negroes on the east side of the town, from the above plantations in that direction; and the news rapidly flew, and the excitement grew high, and I heard that the negroes were assembling on the west side of the town from the plantations in that direction. I then saw John Simms riding around very busily, and was told that he was dispersing the negroes, and doing everything in his power to make them return to the plantations and to their work, saying that the difficulty was an individual affair between white men, and was none of their business; but as he would disperse them from one place they would be arriving from another direction, and all came armed. The courier had circulated Davy's order so rapidly that in three or four hours the negroes for eight or ten miles around the town seemed to be notified and armed, and the community are now satisfied that Bently, Davis, and their leaders have had the negroes organized, and ready to make an attack on this town whenever an excuse or opportunity would offer, for they have been in the habit of making slanderous and incendiary speeches to the freedmen at all of their club and public meetings.

Since the organization of the republican party in this town there is not an instance of its ever having been interfered with or molested, notwithstanding they generally met on Sundays and were noisy and boisterous, and if they could get whiskey they were very insulting when drunk. The town councils of this town, in order to preserve the peace and order in the town, passed an ordinance closing all the establishments where liquor was sold, and every precaution has been taken to avoid a collision or conflict with them; but the freedmen were made to believe that the white men of the parish were their enemies, for they never come to their public meetings without their arms; but it was all owing to the counsel they had received from their leaders, who were always preaching to them the "40 acres of land and mule doctrine," and that if the democratic party succeeded they would be re-enslaved, and would be in a worse condition than before the late war. But the white men of the parish have done everything in their power to correct the idea among them, but could never get them to attend to any public meetings or barbecues; on several occasions parties of them would try to go, but the radical leaders

always had their spies out, who would meet them and turn them back; and these are facts which their leaders will not deny now, and which the freedmen freely admit, for they now see that they have been misled, and that the white man does not wish to harm them, and that their leaders, as soon as they brought about the difficulty, got out of the way. I have been in the town ever since the excitement commenced, and I think the rumors of the casualties are greatly exaggerated; the most of the casualties occurred in the fight on Monday, and in disarming the negroes engaged in the fight.

I make this statement at the request of Lieutenant Lee.

Respectfully submitted.

C. MAYO.

The leading white citizens of Opelousas allege that the freedmen have all been disarmed, as a precautionary measure, to prevent bloodshed, and that the leaders of the republican party in St. Landry parish had a prearranged plan for the assembling and concentration of armed freedmen for the inauguration of a conflict.

The history of the recent troubles in St. Landry parish clearly prove, however, that even if the republicans had any such plan known and understood among themselves, the white men were both better armed, and concentrated in force with such rapidity that it would seem apparent that they, too, were similarly prepared, in expectation of a collision between the two parties.

The freedmen throughout the parish are disarming. The whites are all armed. The colored population are at the mercy of the whites, but those who remained at their homes during the late troubles were not molested further than the taking of their arms. They are, however, in great fear of being injured and cruelly dealt with. Numbers of them came into Opelousas asking for assurance of protection, and many of them tie a red ribbon on their arms as a badge entitling them to protection.

Armed white men guard the towns and patrol the woods throughout the country during the night. Such was the state of affairs at Opelousas on the 5th instant, and I have no doubt it was general throughout the parish.

If a company of cavalry were permanently stationed at Opelousas, to prevent *armed* political meetings, and the presence of *armed parties* at such meetings, the present undesirable position of affairs would cease, peace and quiet could be restored, and a recurrence of the late conflict effectually prevented. I was unable to learn the whereabouts of Messrs. F. J. Bavy, Emerson Bently, and Gustave Donato, hence their statements could not be obtained in connection herewith.

I am, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. LEE,

First Lieut. 39th U. S. Infantry, A. A. I. G.

Brevet Major B. T. HUTCHINS,

A. A. A. G., Bureau R., F., & A. L., New Orleans, La.

Official copy:

B. T. HUTCHINS,

Brevet Major U. S. A., Captain 6th Cavalry, A. A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS BUREAU OF REFUGEES, FREEDMEN, AND
 ABANDONED LANDS, OFFICE ACT'G ASS'T INSP'R GENERAL,
New Orleans, Louisiana, October 16, 1868.

MAJOR: Recent developments having revealed the fact that 15 or more freedmen, who had surrendered themselves to the civil authorities at Opelousas, Monday the 28th of September, 1868, were, on or about the night of the 29th of September following, taken secretly and deliberately from jail, out of town, and brutally murdered in cold blood, by white men; and ——— Durant, French editor of the "Progress," republican paper, was also taken out of town and similarly murdered, I desire to submit this as a supplement, in connection with my report of the 8th instant, and request that it be appended to and made a part of the same.

Before arriving at Opelousas, I heard a faint rumor that such outrages had been committed at that place. But on making inquiries of the leading citizens and of the civil functionaries, I was assured by one and all that nothing of the kind had occurred; that the freedmen committed to the jail had been released, and that no excess of this character had been committed by the whites.

There can now be no question, that all the freedmen, 14 or 15 in number, captured at the fight at Paillett's on Monday 28th September last, were taken out of the jail under the pretence of being released, and were there murdered.

This was not done under the impulse of the moment, nor in the heat of passion, but designedly, deliberately, and secretly.

The perpetrators of these horrible crimes will not be brought to justice by the civil authorities at Opelousas, and many of the outrages which were committed will remain clouded in mystery, beyond the reach of individual investigation, until a United States military force is stationed there to give protection to freed people, whose testimony is now withheld through fear of vengeance from the whites.

I am, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. LEE,

First Lieut. 39th U. S. Infantry, A. A. I. G.

Official:

Brevet Major B. T. HUTCHINS,

Assistant Adjutant General, B. R. F. & A. L., New Orleans, La.

W. W. WOOD,

Second Lieut. 1st U. S. Infantry, A. A. A. G.

Official:

E. WHITTLESEY,

Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS BUREAU OF REFUGEES, FREEDMEN, AND
 ABANDONED LANDS, DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA,
New Orleans, Louisiana, November 27, 1868.

MAJOR: In obedience to verbal instructions received from the assistant commissioner on the 20th instant, I have the honor to submit the following report of an investigation of the trouble which occurred in the parish of St. Bernard, State of Louisiana, on the 25th, 26th, and 27th of October, 1868.

A partial report of these troubles had been made by the parish bureau

agent, but the information which he had elicited was so meagre that their cause, progress, and full result remained undiscovered.

The principal casualties have been given, but there are many of a minor character that have not been reported.

In this report I shall endeavor to give the full history, from facts which I succeeded in obtaining after several days of patient inquiry from whites and freed people.

At first I found the freed people hesitating and diffident in giving me information, and it was only under promise that they would not be brought into trouble by telling me facts of which they were personally cognizant.

This is manifestly the result of intimidation by the whites in the parish, and there are but few of the freed people who do not live in continual dread and fear of being abused and killed on the slightest pretext.

I requested a number of whites to give me information relating to the Saint Bernard riot, but they were generally very reticent and pretended to know but little about it. They desired no investigation, and I doubt not for the very reason that many of them would thus be known as perpetrators of the most horrible outrages upon innocent and inoffensive freed people.

The facts developed clearly prove such to be unquestionably the case.

POLITICAL FEELING IN THE PARISH.

As political differences among the people in the parish of Saint Bernard appear to have been the principal cause of the recent troubles, I will invite the attention of the assistant commissioner to some facts under this head.

The white population is principally composed of Spaniards, Sicilians, and French. These constitute the democratic organizations of the parish. The freedmen and a few whites constitute the republican organizations. During the recent political campaign both parties held their meetings.

The democrats were not molested in any manner, but exercised their rights without threats of intimidation from the republicans.

The frequency of their meetings attests this fact. On the other hand the republicans were in almost constant dread of being interfered with whenever they sought to exercise their rights. Threats of violence were frequently and openly made against leading members of the republicans. Their meetings were generally looked upon by the opposite party as a toleration, not a right. Certain white men residing in the parish who were leaders of the republicans were threatened with assassination.

The last political meeting held in the interests of this party was on the 27th of September.

As the procession was passing Millandon's plantation, one mile from the court-house, a party of armed white men had collected in the sugar-house and sent out certain freedmen and freedwomen under their control to the roadside to tantalize and insult the procession as it was passing, hoping thus to provoke a difficulty, which would lead to a general affray, and which would result in the killing of a number in the procession and break up the organization in the parish.

The attempt was made, but the procession forbore noticing the insults offered, marched quietly by, and thus prevented bloodshed.

It was the intention of the republican leaders to hold another meeting prior to the presidential election, but the danger of trouble became so imminent that it was wisely concluded to hold no more meetings.

The democrats, however, continued to hold their meetings without molestation.

It was the manifest intention of the democrats, as a class, to so interfere with and intimidate the republicans of the parish, as to prevent many of them from voting at the polls, as well as to force others to vote the democratic ticket.

They had by a quiet sort of hostility—threats of intimidation, &c.—prevented the republicans holding meetings, and it only remained to make one decisive step and their success was certain.

A policeman of the metropolitan police force, named Mike Curtis, who was assiduous in the performance of his duty in the parish, was very obnoxious to them, and two white men, residents of the parish, Thomas Ong and General A. L. Lee, prominent members of the republican party, were the special objects of their hatred, and to assassinate these men or drive them from the parish would insure to the democrats almost entire control of the freedmen in the parish.

A plot to assassinate or get rid of the policeman, Mike Curtis, was overheard by Susan Clark, (colored) on Saturday, the 24th of October, aboard a small coasting propeller, Thomas P. May. I doubt not that when this freedwoman could be insured protection in giving her testimony before a civil court, the names of the conspirators could be given.

The fact that the house of the policeman on Saturday night was surrounded by 10 or 15 armed Sicilians, Spaniards, &c., indicates clearly that their intentions were hostile, and that Curtis's life was in great danger.

The statement made to me by Doctor Thornton, parish judge of Saint Bernard, confirms the above.

Prior to the 25th of October, a freedman named Philogien Augustine overheard a conversation between A. Barrose, his son and other Seymour Infantus, on board the boat Thomas P. May, that "there are two d—d white men in the parish who must be got rid of," or words to that effect, meaning General A. L. Lee and Thomas Ong.

To any one familiar with the character of the Sicilians, Spaniards, and French, sometimes termed "Dagos," in Saint Bernard parish, such proceedings are characteristic of them. They are not open and frank in their actions. Practicing a cunning deception, they frequently take vengeance on their unsuspecting victim by a secret assassination.

EVENTS OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1868.

According to a previous notice, the democratic clubs of St. Bernard, "The Constitutionals" and "Bumble Bees," began assembling at Milland's plantation, one mile from the court-house, and at an early hour in the morning, a democratic club, or part of one, from New Orleans, called the "Seymour Infantus," (body-guard to the "Seymour Innocents,") arrived at the court-house, and proceeded to the place of meeting. A flag was presented, and the clubs moved in procession down the road toward the Catholic church of Saint Bernard, about two miles distant, for the purpose of having the flag consecrated or blessed by the officiating priest.

The procession then returned toward the court-house. While returning they met a freedman by the name of Eugene Lock. The procession was headed by Vallvey Veillon, Mr. Barrose, Francis Estopenel, Mr. Banrioe, and others.

Several men of the procession called out to the freedman: "Pull off your hat and hurrah for Seymour and Blair;" this the freedman refused to do. One report is that he was seized hold of by a man of the procession and told to cheer for Seymour and Blair.

It is not shown that the freedman even cheered for Grant and Colfax, but clearly evident from several witnesses that the men of the procession tried to force the freedman to cheer for their candidates; failing to do so aroused their indignation. One man ran at the freedman with a knife, and another fired at him, whereupon the freedman drew his revolver, turned upon his pursuers, fired, and wounded one man in the shoulder. At this a number of promiscuous shots were fired from the procession at the freedman.

He tried to escape by clearing a picket fence, but Vallvey Veillon rushed close on to him, and fired the fatal shot, killing Eugene Lock instantly. Another man of the "Seymour Infants," from New Orleans, struck at the freedman three times with a knife or stiletto.

Vallvey Veillon came to Millandon's plantation, washed the blood of his murdered victim off his hands, loaded his shot-gun, remarking that he was "now ready to kill 20 more damned niggers."

Another freedman named Henry Sterling was severely wounded at the same time Lock was killed. Soon after this Vallvey Veillon tried to cut the throat of an old freedman named Spencer Jones, inflicting a wound on his throat, but the freedman succeeded in escaping.

These events took place between 3 and 4 o'clock in the afternoon of that day.

The democratic clubs seemed greatly excited; the greatest consternation and fear spread among the freed people, especially the women, gathering their bundles and fleeing from their cabins to escape, as they supposed, a wholesale massacre. It was generally believed by the freedmen that the threats, made by the whites a few days previously, would be at once carried into execution, *i. e.*, "to murder Thomas Ong, General A. L. Lee, and all radical niggers who would not vote the democratic ticket."

The intelligence soon reached Mr. Thomas Ong's plantation, four miles from the court-house, that the freedmen had been killed "up the road." The report was soon confirmed, and Mr. Ong was convinced of the fact that the greatest danger was imminent, and fearing that a general butchery would soon ensue, he at once sent a metropolitan policeman, named Mike Curtis, who was at his plantation at the time, with a note to the sheriff, Antonio Chalaire, requesting his presence with that of a posse to preserve peace and order.

The policeman started toward the court-house a short time before sundown, riding a bay horse belonging to Mr. Ong, remarking as he left that he did not know how he could pass the procession.

Meanwhile the democratic clubs had continued marching toward the court-house at Terre Bœuf; was quite near the court-house when the policeman came up. He had to pass them to get to the sheriff's residence. As soon as he appeared—riding quickly by them, a number of men cried out, "Death to the police! Down with the police!" Curtis seeing his life was in danger cried out in reply, "I'm no police."

When he had just passed the advance of the procession, he touched his left breast with his right hand saying, "I am a policeman."

Several mounted men of the procession immediately drew their revolvers and started after Curtis—shooting at him—Curtis crying out, "Hold on! Hold on!" He sprang from his horse and tried to escape through Doctor Thornton's yard. Vallvey Veillon was close on to him, and while in the act of getting over the fence a man by the name of Syca John Bniel (or Francis Bong, same name,) shot him, and he dropped inside the yard a dead man; several others of the procession rushed in around where he was lying, and fired several more shots at him. The

miserable subterfuge that the policeman shot himself is too absurd to merit contradiction. The policeman had his pistol clenched in one hand, and the fatal shot entered his head on the opposite side of the body. The men who committed this murder are known, and there are living witnesses whose evidence would convict them anywhere that law is enforced and crime punished; but not in Saint Bernard parish.

A freedman by the name of Pierre Golet remarked in the hearing of some of the whites that he knew all about how Mike Curtis was killed. He was too important a witness to let live—the following morning he was brutally murdered.

This is the way that such witnesses are disposed of in many other parishes of Louisiana as well as Saint Bernard.

The report of the parish agent, that Curtis, just before he passed the procession, stopped a cart-load of freedmen and told them to go to Ong's, as they were fighting there, must be an exaggeration, for there was no fighting at Ong's plantation when Curtis left with the despatch for the sheriff; and further, that he (Curtis) passed the procession and called out "fight, fight below," then drew his pistol; he was told to stop but did not, &c., also lack confirmation. When he was pursued by members of the procession and fired at by them, he drew his pistol, but it is not shown that Curtis fired a single shot at his assailants; he was murdered without cause or provocation, and for no other reason than that he was a white republican, and a member of the metropolitan police force, who fearlessly tried to discharge his duties.

The news of this foul murder spread rapidly throughout the parish and soon reached Mr. Ong, who waited a few minutes, hoping the report might prove only a rumor, and that at any rate his despatch had reached the sheriff. The sad intelligence of Curtis' death was soon confirmed by eye-witnesses, and then Mr. Ong sent an old freedman named John King by a circuitous route on foot, telling him to go to Dr. Thornton, the parish judge, get a horse and go to Jackson barracks with all speed for troops to come down at once. Mr. Ong warned this freedman to be careful and avoid the democratic clubs who were supposed to be on the road.

Meanwhile the "Seymour Infantus" had before sunset started for New Orleans.

The freedman obeyed Mr. Ong's instructions and left the plantation about six o'clock that night, Sunday. He reached the road near Dr. Thornton's, coming upon a body of about 20 men. The first intimation the freedman had of their presence was the simultaneous click of the cocking of a number of guns. As soon as they saw him some one of the party remarked, "Oh, it's nobody but an old fool nigger, need not kill him," or words to that effect.

The freedman passed on, got the bay horse which had been ridden by the murdered policeman, then rode rapidly towards the barracks.

At this time the Sicilians, Spaniards, &c., had killed one freedman, one white man, severely wounded another freedman, attempted to cut another old freedman's throat, wounding him, and knocked down and beaten an old freedwoman, on Millandon's plantation.

These are the murders and outrages as far as known up to that time.

The natural excitement and trepidation among the freed people, resulting from the perpetration of such crimes by the whites, can be imagined but not described.

A body of white men had already collected and seemed ready to commenced a wholesale butchery of the obnoxious whites and blacks, as had been previously threatened. The enervated arm of civil authority was palsied to powerlessness.

The parish judge had fastened himself up in his domicile, momentarily expecting an attack. The sheriff did nothing because he could do nothing to restore peace and order.

Freedmen began coming from the plantations into the main road, running by Mr. Ong's house; some of them had arms and others were unarmed.

By nine o'clock on that night, Sunday, the 25th of October, 1868, a large number of freedmen, about 150, had collected in the road in front of Mr. Ong's house, but did not come inside the enclosure. They seemed much excited, talking "Creole French and broken English." Mr. Ong went out of his house to where they were in the road, and seeing them so much excited began remonstrating with them, endeavoring to ascertain what was their object in gathering together there. Three or four freedmen came up to him, caught him by the arm rather forcibly but otherwise, led him out of the crowd and said to him, "Mr. Ong you must go back to the house, we don't want you out here with us. We want no white man here at all; we won't let any white man pass here. They are coming down here to kill you, we know it, and we are going to protect you and your family."

Mr. Ong told these freedmen, that if they were there to protect him and his family against the attack of the white men, that they, the freedmen, would thus draw the fire on his house, and instead of protecting him from being attacked, they would by remaining there cause the attack. Mr. Ong returned to his house and soon after the freedmen started up the road. This was about 10 o'clock p. m. They had not been gone long when shots were heard from up the road, in direction of Pablo Felio's, the baker, and very soon flames of a house burning were seen in that direction.

KILLING OF PABLO FELIO AND THE BURNING OF HIS HOUSE BY THE FREEDMEN.

I will here state a general report among the freedmen of the parish, and which had been communicated to Mr. Ong, that Pablo Felio had frequently threatened the life of Mr. Ong, and that of the white policeman, Mike Curtis; also that early on Sunday, the 25th of October, 1868, Curtis was returning from the court-house to Mr. Ong's, and that he stated to several persons as soon as he returned to Mr. Ong's that he, Curtis, had been fired at while passing Pablo Felio's house, and that on the same morning (Sunday) Pablo Felio told Charles Robinson, (colored,) "to tell the negroes on Mr. Ong's plantation that they must keep out of the way, that the Spanish, &c., are coming down to clean out Mr. Ong, and that they, the negroes, might get hurt."

The freedman Robinson was very intimate with Pablo Felio, else this information would not have been given him by Pablo Felio.

I will now submit two versions of the manner in which Pablo Felio was killed and his house burned.

The first is the general report and belief among many of the whites of the parish, but is not supported by any good evidence as yet.

The second I deem most reliable, though there may be some points which may not prove fully correct.

1st. The freedmen concentrated at Mr. Ong's plantation armed and organized, and there planned an attack upon Pablo Felio, and that the freedmen, numbering about 100, acted upon the advice of Mr. Ong, moved up the road, attacked Pablo Felio's house, killed him, and then set fire to the building, which was soon totally consumed by the flames; and that the freedmen were headed by Andy Mayo, Thompson, Morgan, Felio, Ortega—all colored.

In the preceding part of my report I have stated fully the course pursued by Mr. Ong, and the accusation that he had advised the freedmen who had assembled in the road in front of his house to go up the road to kill Pablo Felio and burn his house is false throughout, and has not even a suspicion for a foundation.

Mr. Ong's life was in peril; he had been threatened with assassination. He heard that freedmen had been killed and wounded on the public road within a short distance of his plantation; he sends a policeman calling on civil authority for protection; quite soon the news reaches him that the policeman had been murdered. He then sends an old, unsuspecting freedman to the barracks near New Orleans for United States troops.

The work of butchery had begun; he is at home with his wife and children, not knowing at what moment the blood-thirsty demons would come upon him to shed his blood. Could a man be placed in greater danger? Ordinarily, men would have been seized with desperation and acted accordingly, using any and all means. But Mr. Ong acted calmly, coolly, cautiously, and patiently awaited the result, whether of weal or woe.

The sequel proves that just in the "nick of time" he is saved; an hour later, I doubt not that he would have been a dead man.

I will now proceed to the "second version" of the Pablo Felio tragedy:

The freedmen had assembled at Mr. Ong's plantation, in the road, for the purpose of protecting and defending him against a threatened attack from the Spanish, or Dagos. Believing that the armed whites were coming down the road, and that they were at or near Pablo Felio's house, the freedmen, numbering about 100, proceeded up the road to meet the expected enemy. Before the freedmen started up the road, about 10 o'clock Sunday night, Mr. Ong overheard a conversation among a number of them in front of his house and learned their intention to be to proceed to the plantation of Antoine Marero, adjoining his (Mr. Ong's) plantation, the quarters being about one mile distant, and there await the coming of the whites. This Marero's plantation is not worked, but the buildings are rented to freedmen. They had already passed four houses, and upon reaching Pablo Felio's house, which was within a few feet of the road, a number of them turned out to get some whiskey, (Pablo was in the habit of selling whiskey to freedmen.) The door was fastened. Several of them knocked at the door; no sooner had they knocked than Pablo Felio appeared at the window and discharged the contents of both barrels of his shot-gun, loaded with buckshot, into the body of freedmen in front of his house. Some one loaded for him, and he must have had several guns, as he fired rapidly, wounding a number of the freedmen. The freedmen fell back, and after Pablo had fired about 20 shots he apparently stopped firing. The freedmen then made a rush on to his house, burst in the door, firing into the house and through the windows from which Pablo Felio had fired. They killed Pablo Felio and some one at the same time set fire to the house. The house was burned, also the body of Pablo Felio and that of another person supposed to be Thompson Morgan, (colored,) who is believed to have been killed by Pablo Felio when the freedmen rushed into the house.

The freedmen were passing Pablo Felio's house and were marching on up the road when he *first fired upon them*.

The freedmen remained near the burning building until it was enveloped in flames, and then retraced their steps down the road, some of them returning to their homes.

I give it as my opinion, after the most careful and patient inquiry in relation to this matter, that the attack on Pablo Felio was not premeditated on the part of the freedmen, or any one else; that they did not attack his house until after he had fired into them; that he fired the first shots, wounding several freedmen, shedding the first blood, and that had he acted with any degree of judgment or presence of mind, neither himself nor his house would have been injured by the freedmen.

I will do him the justice to admit, in the absence of any evidence to that effect, however, that the freedmen, when they reached his house, were very boisterous and demonstrative; that their numerical strength made them more noisy, confident and impudent; that those who came to his door knocking and calling for whiskey, were rude, insolent, and

insulting, and that he believed that he was in imminent danger of losing his life. Otherwise I am at a loss to understand why *one* man would fire into a hundred freedmen, the greater number of whom were armed.

His rashness caused his death and the burning of his house. Had he acted with the least caution—not become the attacking party by opening fire upon an excited mass of freedmen—no harm would have befallen him. Pablo Felio's wife and children were not killed and burned, as has been reported and published to the world. They are now living in the city of New Orleans, having escaped the terrors of that night without bodily harm.

Mr. Ong at daylight Monday morning following went out of his house and saw four freedmen walking past as sentinels around his yard. He asked them what it meant; they replied that they had guarded his house all night.

The murders and outrages perpetrated upon the freedmen on Sunday were only the beginning. Killing of Pablo Felio, and burning his house, furnished a pretext for the renewal of hostilities against the freed people on Monday. The pretext was seized upon with avidity by the whites.

As the scenes which were enacted on Monday, the 26th of October, 1868, transpired at several points in the parish, it will be necessary to give the history of each separately, in order to get a correct conception of all.

At an early hour Monday morning news was spread among the freedmen on the plantations of Mr. Ong, Mr. Olivia, General Lee, Joseph Proctor, Madam Woodruff, and other plantations, that armed Spanish Dagos from Burchique, the river, Terre Bœuf, and throughout the country, were collecting together, and were moving in large numbers to make descent upon Mr. Ong's and General Lee's plantations, to kill and destroy. By 9 o'clock a. m. a number of freedmen had come to General Lee's plantation from Proctor's and Madam Woodruff's, and wished to go on up towards Mr. Ong's, about five miles distant; that there were some armed Dagos coming up from Burchique, and would come right on to General Lee's plantation through a gate at the main road near a Mr. Forey's, about two miles distant. This gate is on the route from General Lee's plantation to Mr. Ong's, and to the court-house at Terre Bœuf.

But Dr. M. L. Lee, General Lee's father, told the freedmen no; to stop there (at the General's plantation) and not to go on up the road to Forey's; that he would go up there and try and prevent any bloodshed.

Dr. Lee reached the gate at or near Forey's; saw a large number of frightened fugitives (freed people) who had collected together—men, women, and little children some of the men had arms.

They said, "The Spanish are coming right down there," pointing down the road. Dr. Lee expostulated with these freed people, telling them not to fire on anybody, to be quiet, &c.

While he was talking thus, 40 or 50 Spanish (Dagos) filed along the road in front of the gate, all mounted and armed. The freedmen cried out in a suppressed tone, "there they come." Dr. Lee said to the freed people, "I'll go to them; they won't kill me." The freed people in an entreating manner replied, "No, Doctor, don't go; they will kill you."

Dr. Lee started out to them, riding his horse, waving a white handkerchief; got near to them. They brought their shot-guns to a ready. The doctor continued waving his handkerchief as a token of peace. All at once they rushed through the opening, captured Dr. Lee as a prisoner, swept on by him in line, and began firing into the fugitive freed people, who broke through into the cornfield to escape. The Spanish (Dago's)

fired several rounds from their shot-guns, but without effect. Dr. Lee tried to explain to his captors the true state of affairs, and the action he had taken, but they would listen to no explanation or statement from him. They seemed intent on killing him at once, but a few of the more cautious said, "No! it would not do to kill him openly."

A freedman captured with Dr. Lee at the time doubtless saved the doctor's life, as he knew almost all the Spanish, and could understand their mixed Spanish and French. This occurred about 11 o'clock a. m. Dr. Lee was taken to Forey's store, near by. He was placed in a room and told to lie down. The room was repeatedly filled with men excited as demons. New parties would arrive, and they in turn would appear desperate, and ready to commit any crime.

After dark one of these parties took out three or four freedmen. Dr. Lee soon after heard several shots. The white men soon returned without the freedmen.

Three freedmen were murdered—found lying in the road next morning—and one freed boy, aged about 20 years, was wounded; fell as though he was dead, and crawled off; was followed, and again shot by a white man, but not killed. He crawled into a cornfield, where he lay for three days, besmeared with his own blood and exhausted. He lived, and I have taken his affidavit.

About 10 o'clock p. m. the sheriff of Saint Bernard parish, Mr. Clailaire, a Mr. Walker, and others, arrived from the direction of Terre Bœuf, and Dr. Lee was furnished safe conduct to Mr. Ong's, where the United States troops had arrived about 7 o'clock that morning. The timely arrival of the sheriff brought about no doubt by the presence of United States troops in the parish, had the effect, in my opinion, of saving the life of a good loyal and peaceable citizen, Dr. M. L. Lee.

About 9 o'clock on Monday morning a party of 15 or 20 white men, headed by Vallvey Veillon, Alma Marsha, and others, came to the freed people's quarters on the Davis or Millandon plantation, one mile from the court-house, began firing from their shot-guns at the freedmen, freedwomen, and children, indiscriminately; fired into the cabins and shot a freedwoman in the leg. The freed people fled for their lives. The white men then plundered their cabins, taking guns, pistols, meat knives, penknives, canes, \$6 50 in money, marriage papers, registration papers, and clothing.

About 4 o'clock Monday evening a party of white men, headed by Julien Serpas, Philip Goodyear, Victor Stofenal, Victor Berant, Oscar Serpas, and another son of Julien Serpas, came to the freed people's quarters at Dar Queen's plantation, one-quarter of a mile from the court-house, towards the river, and murdered one freedman and severely wounded three others. On following Tuesday one of the same party shot a freedwoman, at the same place, through the breast.

Soon after sunrise on Monday a large party of white men, headed by a deputy sheriff, or one pretending to be such, named Le Blanc, A. M. Walker, Edmond Villery, and others, armed with shot-guns, assembled in front of Mr. Ong's house. Evidently their intention was not peaceable. They made efforts to have Mr. Ong come out from his house. He declined doing so. Had he gone out, I have no doubt that he would have been killed by "some party unknown."

The arrival of Major Bates with a company of United States troops prevented further hostile demonstrations at Mr. Ong's plantation.

During the entire days of Monday and Tuesday, the 26th and 27th of October, parties of armed white men, some pretending to act as sheriff's posse, roamed over many plantations of the parish, shooting and knock-

ing down, and otherwise maltreating freed people, driving them pell-mell from their cabins, seizing guns, pistols, knives; destroying registration papers, and stealing bed-clothes, wearing apparel, pen-knives, soap, candles, &c.; in short, taking everything they could appropriate to their own use.

An old freedman, named Nelson, was found dead on Tuesday on Marco's plantation, having been killed by some of these parties.

On the 1st of November, a man by the name of McComb, a constable, or pretending to be such, went with a party of men to arrest a freedman (Eugene Joseph) at Burchique. The freedman offered no resistance, but was shot in the right breast, through the right lung, thrown into a cart, and thus taken to the court-house. McComb produced no warrant for the freedman's arrest. The freedman was not tried, but was set at liberty. This is a fair sample of the way freedmen are frequently arrested; *shot first, and arrested afterward.*

On the 3d of November, a freedman named Arnold, employed on J. C. Cofield's plantation, started with his wife to dig potatoes, about half a mile from his house, when he was overtaken by six white men, three armed with guns and three with knives.

On seeing the men approach, his wife said, "Hide in the cane;" but he said they "would not trouble him as he had done nothing." His wife hid in the cane, and she heard the men, as they came up, ask her husband if he had voted, and what ticket he voted. He said that he had voted the democratic ticket, and then they told him to go along with them and they would see if it was so; and after going a few steps his wife heard him say: "Oh, pray, master! Oh, God!" She, thinking they had taken him to the court-house, left for home. His body was found November 5, stabbed in six places. The coroner returned a verdict: "Came to his death by being stabbed by some unknown parties."

This is usually the final disposition made of cases where a freedman is killed by white men.

A number of freedmen in the parish were compelled to vote the democratic ticket to save their lives; of this fact abundant proof can be produced.

In relation to the plundering of the freedmen's quarters by the whites, I will give some of the cases brought to my attention. On Mondy, October 26, by Vallvey Veillon, at the Davis or Millandon plantation:

William Boss, (colored,) of a walking-cane; Hannah Brien, (colored,) of a wallet, containing \$4; Spencer Ceasar, (colored,) one pair pants, one shirt, a pen-knife, and \$4; Jacob Johnson, (colored,) of his gun and meat knife; Sarah Fines, (colored,) of a wallet containing \$2 50; Lewis Cornix, (colored,) of a gun-pouch, powder-flask, and shot-flask; Sam. Machice, of a gun-pouch; William Davis, (colored,) of a gun-pouch; Paul Hareus, of a gun; Sam. Williams, of a gun, (on Tuesday.)

On Monday, October 26, a freedman belonging to Mr. Ong's plantation, returning from New Orleans with a basket containing \$15 worth of purchases, was attacked on the railroad track by a party of white men, robbed of his basket and contents, fired at, seized by one, but broke loose and escaped, fleeing to the swamp.

A freedman named Frejus lost all of his clothes, some furniture, and a barrel of pork. He saved his life by voting the democratic ticket. His brother Overde lost his saddle and had his household goods despoiled.

Fefogan Ophistan (colored,) had his household goods and furniture destroyed.

On the 26th of October Basil Olivia (elected justice of the peace last

spring) fled to the cane fields for safety, and on 3d of November had to vote the democratic ticket to save his life.

The above are but some of the many cases which can be given at length when required.

In this connection I will state that at the burning of Pablo Felio's house some freedmen are reported to have taken various articles from the building while it was being consumed, and appropriated them to their own use.

On or about the night of the 16th November, Lieutenant J. L. Spalding, commanding the troops stationed in the parish, was going from the court-house to General A. L. Lee's plantation, where a detachment of troops were stationed. The night was dark, and the lieutenant was alone in a buggy which had conveyed General Lee to the city that day. When about seven miles from the court-house he was halted by parties unknown; three white men came up to the buggy and one of them turned the light of a dark lantern full upon him, and seeing that he was an officer, one of them uttered an exclamation of surprise; and one of them said, "O! we are mistaken; we are expecting a friend out to-night and we thought we would scare him a little," or words to that effect.

I doubt not that these men were there on the road to assassinate General A. L. Lee, as he was known to have gone to the city in that buggy.

From the 26th of October to the 6th of November, armed bodies of white men, headed by men styling themselves deputy sheriffs, and acting under the pretended authority of Judge Philip Peca, scoured the country arresting freedmen and freedwomen promiscuously. Sixty freedmen and six freedwomen were thus arrested charged with aiding in the burning of Pablo Felio's house.

The history of these transactions, and the disposition made of the freedpeople, I will give in detail in the concluding part of this report.

I took the affidavits of a number of the freed people, and as the facts contained in them are so entirely corroborative of the information gleaned from a variety of sources, I give them in full, believing that they merit a careful perusal.

Cyrus, (freedboy) works on Ong's plantation, being duly sworn, says that—

On Sunday, the 25th of October, 1868, I was below here, (about one mile from court-house,) saw procession of democrats, the Bumble Bees, headed by Mr. Barrose, Chickond Eslopeas, Vallvey Veillon; a colored man named Aaron was in the procession. They came into Mr. Turner's yard where I was living at the time; came up to Eugene, who lived there. Eugene was running from the men, getting on the picket fence. Vallvey Veillon shot him with a pistol, killing him dead. The other man had a dirk and ran after the colored man; Eugene struck at him three times at the fence. This man was one of the men from New Orleans.

The procession passed up the road. All I heard the colored man say was, "Gentlemen, I did not meddle with you at all."

This occurred when the sun was an hour high or so. Vallvey Veillon lives at Mr. Antonio Marero's place. I saw him to-day.

CYRUS ^{his} + _____
mark.

Witness:

J. M. LEE, *First Lieutenant 39th Infantry.*

Jane Ackers, (colored,) lives on Millandon plantation, being duly sworn, says:

That on Tuesday morning the 27th of October, 1868, Vallvey Veillon came into my house, said nothing, drew a pistol, and put to my heart three times. I said to him, "For God's sake don't; I have not done you anything at all."

Antonio Gonzalles, on Sunday evening before the fire, came to me after they had killed

Eugene Lock in the road, hit me, knocked me down, and then kicked me. I begged him not to knock me. Matis Lyco came up and says, "kill her." Mr. Leon Augustine had a gun and came up and says, "If she moves or opens her mouth again, knock her."

her
JANE + ACKERS.
mark.

Witness:

J. M. LEE, *Lieutenant and A. A. I. Gen.*

Charles Williams, (colored,) employed on Mr. Ong's plantation, stated, under oath, as follows:

I was up to the city of New Orleans and was coming back on Sunday. Saw a colored policeman between here and New Orleans. He asked me to take a note to Mike Curtis, the policeman at Mr. Ong's. I took the note, came on to the court-house, saw Mike Curtis come riding up fast, followed by Vallvey Veillon, who was on a gray horse, Mr. Mike hallooing, "Hold on! hold on!" A man standing on the railroad, named Lyca, shot Mike with a pistol. Mike jumped inside Mr. Thornton's yard. Saw three men more run into the yard shooting this Mike; don't know these men. Saw Mike right after he was killed, lying on his back.

his
CHARLES + WILLIAMS.
mark.

Witness.

J. M. LEE, *First Lieutenant and A. A. I. Gen.*

Spencer Jones, (colored,) living near court-house, being duly sworn, states as follows:

I lived at Slaten Veillon's place, below the court-house. I was at my place on Sunday when the procession of democrats passed—coming up from Davis—Millandon's place to the court-house, and I saw Vallvey Veillon at the head of the procession with Mr. Barrose, old man at Davis plantation. They came rushing past where I was standing. I was at the side of the road with Ros. May's wife and his mother. Veillon rushed past me on the horse after a policeman, who was running for life. Veillon followed him. In a few minutes Veillon came rushing back on his horse to where I was standing, stopped his horse just as he passed me, whirled back, had something in his hand. As he turned on me he said to me, "God damn you, I'll kill you: what are you standing here looking at?" I said, "I am doing nothing but standing here." He ran on to me with his horse, and struck at me with a knife. I warded off his blow, and he just cut me in the neck with his knife. His horse knocked me down. I jumped up as quick as I could and ran. Veillon after me and chased me; I ran between two houses and escaped.

his
SPENCER + JONES.
mark.

Witness:

J. M. LEE, *First Lieutenant and A. A. I. Gen.*

Louis Wilson, (freedman,) wounded six times, states, under oath, as follows:

On Sunday, October 25, 1863, the word came out from town that the white people were going to come out and kill all the colored people what were radicals, who believed in the Union; and the procession up the road, coming down the road from Terre Bœuf, towards Mr. Powell's, had killed two freedmen on the road, and one white man—a policeman. I ran away to keep them from killing me. I know the white man, his name was Mike; the colored man named Joe. I was with some of the colored men, who were going up to meet the white men who were coming down to kill some of us: all of the radicals. We all started up the road, some from General Lee's, Mr. Proctor's, Mr. Olivia, and Mr. Ong's place, Felio Ortega (colored) called me; they talked with Mr. Ong before we started. I don't know what was said.

We started up about dark. When we got up as far as Mr. Powell's, (Table Felios,) the baker, some of the colored men says, "Let's go and take a drink." We went to the door, which was shut, knocked at the door. The colored people used to get drinks there. Mr. Powell did not open the door, but jumped up, came to the window and shot into the crowd. He hit Isaiah Johnson in the leg, and "little Jacob" of General Lee's plantation in the head; John Proctor in the ankle, and Billy Smith in the leg. He shot them with buckshot, I believe. I think Powell (meaning Tablo Felio) and his son fired about fifty shots. He fired first. The colored men just let him shoot; the colored men fell back, and after he got done shooting, they went back to the house, put fire to it—I don't know who—and began firing into the house at Powell. He fired from the window below. I don't know anything about any colored men pushing his wife into the fire.

I never heard the colored men threaten anything about going to Powell's to attack the house or him. The colored men all went back home, or started to go. I went home. Monday morning I put on my clothes, and started to the court-house as a witness in an old case. When I was coming back home from the court-house, they took me up at Forey's place; some white men did. Mr. Warren Check is the head man. Menassis, white man, made me get down off my horse. He struck me with the gun he had on my jaw. They then took me down to Forey's about sunset, and then some men came from Terre Bœuf, or that way, and from the river, and John Simmas took me from Forey's store into the road, me and two colored men, named Voltaire and Emanuel, and Simmas shot me in the leg with buckshot. The other two men fell at the same time, killed them dead. I don't know the names of any others who fired. I know the names of some who were there with guns in their hands, but I could not swear that they fired. Their names were Juan Chigne, Augustine Poto, Leono Poto, Augustin Poto's son, Pip. Louis, Turto, Davy Vasceila, Rocket, Barrose, and Aziel. I don't know whether these men fired on me, but I think they fired on the rest of them. When they fired on me, they broke off and ran. I got into some weeds, and laid down; that is the time some one came up and shot me in the shoulder, (supposed to be Leone Poto.)

When they went away I crawled a little farther. Staid out all that night; the next day, I staid three days in the woods. I got strength a little, and I came home. That's all I know. I am wounded in six places—on the shoulder, in my legs, and in one foot. This is such a cold, bad place, I am afraid I will die here. I want to be taken to a hospital.

They took Dr. Lee the same night they took me. I saw him at Florey's. He asked me my name. I told him Louis Wilson. He was sitting on the gallery. Some of the Spanish wanted to kill him, but some said 'no.' I understood enough Spanish, or the language they spoke, to learn this.

his
LOUIS X WILSON.
mark.

Witness:

J. M. LEE, *First Lieutenant and A. A. I. Gen.*

Dr. Tross, (freedman,) lives at Dar Quan's plantation, near court-house, being duly sworn, testified as follows:

On Monday, the 26th of October, 1868, between 3 and 4 o'clock in the afternoon, I was burying the policeman Mike, who had been killed the day before. I was pushing the dirt on him when I heard the guns a cracking in my quarters over that way. Says I, "Men, let us run, because they are killing everything in the quarters." Men says, "I reckon not;" but I said, "They are," for I heard Mr. Julian say on Monday morning, when the soldiers came down, he says, "When the soldiers are gone down to Mr. Ong's, let's go up and kill everything in the quarters." I told the men that, and they stood still in the graveyard, and, as I heard the guns still a cracking, I broke for the swamp; from that to the city of New Orleans, where I staid until the next Monday following. I then came back home. When I came back, I found they had been there. Pierre Golet was killed; William Troloch was wounded in his leg; Day Jones was wounded in his arm; Sophie Marshall was wounded in her breast. I saw all of the wounded. They still live there. I have no property missing. I have remained home since, and been at work. We are afraid to report these things to the law, because we believe that we would be waylaid and killed, and I pray that the government will do something to protect us. If I was able I would get away from the parish, but I am too poor.

his
DOCTOR X JONES.
mark.

Witness:

J. M. LEE, *First Lieutenant and A. A. I. Gen.*

Alfred Coleman, colored, lives at Dar Quin's plantation, near court-house, being duly sworn, gave the following testimony:

On Monday morning, the 26th of October, 1868, I took Madam Dar Quan to the city of New Orleans. I came back at 7 o'clock Monday night, same day, and saw Pierre Golet, colored, lying dead by the side of my paling, inside my yard. The blood is still there on the paling. William Froloc, (colored,) was shot through the thigh, up at the quarters; David Jones, colored, shot through the arm; Sophia Marshall's brother was shot through the privates and in the hip; Sophia Marshall was shot through the breast on Tuesday. When I saw the dead man by my fence paling, I asked who did this, and my wife and Sarah Frohap and David Jones says to me that Julian Serpas (white) shot Pierre Golet, and stabbed him; Philip Goodyear (white) shot him too. Goodyear shot William Froloc and Davy Jones. Sophia Marshall told me that Julian Serpas shot her on Tuesday night, 27th October.

I learned from my wife and others who were there that the following white men committed these outrages: Philip Goodyear, Julian Serpas, Victor Estopenal, Victor Besant, Oscar Serpas, and another son of Julian Serpas.

his
ALFRED X COLEMAN.
mark.

Witness :

J. M. LEE, *First Lieutenant and A. A. I. Gen.*

Felis Thomas, freedwoman, on Millandon plantation, being duly sworn, states the following :

On Monday, the 26th of October, 1868, about 9 o'clock in the morning, they came in here to this place, the Spanish, about 20 of them.

Three or four came in with shot-guns, hallooing. I ran from them when I saw them coming, because I was afraid they were going to shoot me. Ran about a hundred yards: they were shooting at me, and hit me with a shot near my house. I was trying to get to my house. They shot me in the left leg below the knee. I fell down, they came up to me. I got up and walked into the house. They came in behind me. Mr. Alma Marshal, he shot me with a shot-gun—was on his horse when he shot me. Vallvey Veillon was the head man with the 20 white men.

Alma Marshal and another white man came into my house, took my husband's gun and pistol, powderhorn and flask, shot and caps. They then went for my brother William Boss. They searched his house, took his gun, powder, and shot, and a walking cane of his, and his pistol. My brother tried to run away from them, but they shot at him and shot a hole through his clothes, back of his coat. He had to run away to save his life. I know most of the men who were with the party of Vallvey Veillon's.

her
FELIS X THOMAS.
mark.

Witness :

J. M. LEE, *First Lieutenant and A. A. I. Gen.*

Samuel Burrell, (colored,) on Joseph Proctor's plantation, being duly sworn, testifies as follows :

On Monday, the 26th of October, 1868, between 9 and 10 o'clock, I heard that they (the Spanish) had Mr. Ong shut up in the house. The news came from up at Dr. Lee's for us to come up to turn Mr. Ong loose, and that the Spanish had him. We started to go up there. We got as far as Dr. Lee's, but he told us not to go any further, that he would go up to the gate and see what was the matter, and we stopped at Dr. Lee's plantation, the one above here, and we did not go any further. We heard such a shooting between 10 and 11 o'clock, a. m., that we thought it best not to go up. After that, about 4 o'clock in the evening, we came back home again.

I don't know who brought the word down here. We merely heard that they had Mr. Ong. Our intention in starting up was to find out whether Mr. Ong was safe; that if the Spanish had him they would hurt him, and that we would turn him loose, as he was one of our party. We had no intention of interfering with the law officers. If the law had him we would have nothing to do with him. I know Mr. Ong; worked for him three years. Mr. Ong had never advised us to interfere with anybody, but to always be obedient to our employers, and mannerly to the neighbors and all other white people, be honest and work for our living; which I did and always have done. I did not go up to the fuss, and know nothing more about it. Dr. Lee has always advised us to work, and be careful and saving of our money, and always do right, interfere with nobody, neither white nor black. No one was hurt on this plantation during the late troubles.

his
SAMUEL X BURRELL.
mark.

Witness :

J. M. LEE, *First Lieutenant and A. A. I. Gen.*

Adolph Jones, (colored,) on General Lee's plantation, being duly sworn, gave the following testimony :

On Monday morning, the 26th of October, 1868, Doctor Lee and myself went up to the gate, "Rayzo's gate," on the road; the men all from below here, they were here; they understood from some one, I don't know who, that the white people, the Spanish (Dagoes) were murdering all of the colored people up the road toward the court-house, "Terre Bœuf," and these boys undertook to go up there, and Doctor Lee says to them "to not go, to stand until he go and see if there was anything of this kind;" and I went up with the doctor from here to Rayzo's gate, and there we found a gang of colored people—men, women, and children—there up the road; and the doctor, as soon as we got there, asked them "what is the mat-

ter?" They said to him the Spanish are below there, that is from Burchique; they were coming up there to injure these people then in the road; and when at the time the doctor was talking to these people, up came the Spanish from Burchique, and when the colored people saw the Spanish they said to the doctor, "here comes them;" and the doctor said to the colored people "to raise no row, that he would go to the Spanish and speak to them." The colored people told the doctor that the Spanish "would shoot him and not to go;" but the doctor said that "he would go, that he was not afraid that they would shoot him." The doctor started up to the Spanish and I followed him. The Spanish were about fifty yards from us when we started; I thought at the time there was over sixty Spanish; all that I saw—and I saw all of them—had shot guns.

The doctor went up waving his white handkerchief, and they, the Spanish, had their guns pointed toward us as though they intended shooting us. We went on up to them. They were coming on towards us in line. They arrested the doctor and myself. David Jones, Leone Porter, Antonio Camp, these were the ones that arrested us in particular. They stopped us, took us in charge, all of them wanted to shoot us there. They spoke so, because I understood them, as I speak Spanish and understand French and know the most of them. I know what they meant by their language. All of them said, "kill the doctor, that it was him and the general, General Lee, that were causing the troubles in the country."

They not only spoke it among themselves, but said so to the doctor.

They asked the doctor "if he had seen what was done to his son?"—General Lee. The doctor said, "No, he had not," and they said that in the city the general was taken and given fifty lashes.

They said—that is, Fremier and others; I know all of them—that they would kill the doctor; they would not shoot him down, but would take him to the house and make him pull off his shoes and pull the trigger of a shot-gun with his toe and shoot himself that way. They did not speak this in English, but said so in French, and I understood what they said.

There were some who wanted to kill him so bad, and they did not know how to go at it. They did not want to kill him openly, but thought there was some other way to kill him so it would not be brought on them. The doctor and myself were taken to the house, the coffee-house, (Manuel Flores'), and they all wanted to know of me what the doctor came up there for, that is, to the gate. I told them he came there for peace, to prevent bloodshed, but they did not believe it so; but I repeatedly told them and kept talking to them that way, that the doctor had not come for any other purpose than peace, hoping that they would believe me far enough to keep them from killing the doctor. They then took us from the coffee-house to the next house, Porter's house; this was between 4 and 5 o'clock p. m.

There were several of the colored boys whom they had arrested and taken to the house; I saw them; they were there with me, Louis ———, colored, Francois ———, colored, Voltaire ———, colored, Dennis Foch, colored, and Vallery ———, colored; and these boys were taken out that night on the road, between 6 and 7 o'clock; soon after the Spanish took them out I heard about 12 shots: the boys were not brought back, except one, Vallery; when he came back I asked him where was the balance of the boys? He said: "Well, they shot them out there on the road." They were reported to have been shot by Frennie; he was the head man. Leone Porter, David Jones, and Seymour Porter took these colored men out of the house. There were many more who took them out; I know these men I have named, and saw them go out with the colored men I have mentioned.

Vallery, colored, told me when he came back how the colored men had been shot. The Spanish took them out and told them they were going to take them to jail; they drew Vallery back from the other freedmen; when they shoved him back they said "Fire," and their guns went right off at one time, and he saw the colored men drop, and thought they had been all killed. He said the Spanish were right close on to the colored men when they fired, and that this occurred right under the pecan tree, about thirty rods from the store.

The Spanish—I know all or mostly all of them—came back after I heard the shots, and they said to me and the other colored men, Vallery and Stock—they did not take Stock out to shoot him—they told us that they had shot the other men, but we must not say anything about it, that we must not know anything about it if anybody asked.

Vallentine, Louis, and Seymour, Porter's sons, and Vallery Veillon said this to us, and others said the same thing—they said: "We know nothing ourselves, and if they ask you, you must know nothing."

I stayed there with Dr. Lee; Frennie and Vallery Veillon (whites) were not there during the troubles of the day, but came down that night, with a gang of other Spaniards, just about dark. They were mounted, and armed with revolvers and shot-guns. Walker, and the sheriff, and Mr. Rearo, and Dick Proctor came down later in the night, between 9 and 10 o'clock, and Dick Proctor says to the Spanish that I've named: "Who's them colored men I see killed in the road at the gate?" and the Spanish say: "We don't know anything about it."

While they had the doctor and myself in arrest, at about 5 o'clock in the evening, at the shop, they separated us. The doctor was taken to Porter's house, in a room, and I was taken into a back room, in the lot, near where the doctor was. I inquired where was the doctor, and they said to me that Mr. Marrere took him up the road for safe-keeping. This was late in the night; between 10 and 11 o'clock, I think.

They kept me all night. They told me to stay; that it was better to stay; that I might be killed if I went away, as there were several strangers there I did not know. They released me next morning between 9 and 10 o'clock.

Juan Nunia released me. They say he is captain of a democratic club. I saw one of the bodies of the freedmen, at the place where he was killed. This was Clarence Beattre. I saw other bodies—Francois and Voltaire, at the Olivia place, about one mile from where they were killed.

These bodies I saw with my own eyes, the same day that I was released. When I was released, they all said to me I must tell nobody what I see or know. This they said to me in Porter's lots.

Vallvey Veillon and Tremie said to us: "We must know nothing; that Proctor came there last night, saw the bodies, asked us about it, and we (Veillon and Tremie) we don't know who was killed and who was not," and that "if any one asked us (Veillon and Tremie) we would know nothing about it," and they told us that we (colored men) "must know nothing about it;" that "if we told anything when asked we would be killed." I came back to this place—Dr. Lee's, and have been there since. I am Dr. Lee's watchman on this place.

ADOLPH ^{his} X JONES.
mark.

Witness:

J. M. LEE, 1st Lieutenant and A. A. I. Gen.

Eugene Joseph, (colored,) being duly sworn, says:

That on the 1st day of November, 1863, I was at Beauchique, LaCrosse Place, about two o'clock in the morning, (Sunday;) I was sitting down in the garden. The night of the fray here in this parish, on Sunday, October 25, I came from town (New Orleans) on that night, and I knew nothing about these troubles; had nothing to do with it. I was sitting down in the garden, and they (Leon Porto, Marres and Saripio Yena, Bazil Reyse, and Mr. McComb)—they came to where I was sitting; they first sent a boy, Yeno, (white,) after me; he inquired for me; then I called him and asked, "What you want with me?" and he answered, "Nothing;" that he did "not want nothing at all with me;" then he jumped on me, and struck me in the face with his fists, holding my collar, and he pulled out his knife and wanted to stab me, and I ran from him, and struck at me with a knife; I dodged, and the knife just stuck in my shirt, right here where you see my shirt open, and they ran behind me on horseback, and then they shot me in the right breast; the ball lodged in my left side and is still in there. I don't know the full name of the boy who struck at me with the knife, but Serapio Yena shot me with a revolver. I fell down; could not move; turned my head to look around, and he came right on me a-foot, the rest on horseback; and he said, "You son-of-a-bitch, if you move I kill you;" he had his revolver pointed at me, and I was afraid he was going to shoot me again. Then they had a colored man who was with them, named Charles Solace—lives on the Rock Vannice plantation—to pick me up; and this man Serapio Yena made his brags there that "this is the way to put a ball through a damned nigger." Just after I was shot they brought me in a horse-cart, driven by a colored man from Olivia plantation named Oscar—they took me to the court-house, and they did not want me seen by nobody who was there; the soldiers were here; I heard them say, "Send him back." I was not brought in before the court; they did not want to bring me into the court-house, and they sent me back to Mr. Turner's, and they put me there at Mr. Turner's—right here in this place, near the court-house, and I have just got well enough to go around and do something for myself. I am now working, trying to make enough to live on. Old Dr. Thornton came to see me twice, and has got me along this far.

Q. Before you was shot, as you have stated, did any of the men you have named say anything about arresting you; that they were officers of the civil law, and had come to take you before the civil court?

A. Mr. McComb said, before I was shot, I must be arrested; I heard him say this to other persons near by. This was before I was shot, and before the boy hollowed for me; and I answered "What do you want with me?" and he said, "Nothing." After he told me this he jumped on me, struck me with his fists, and tried to stick a knife into me. I did not make any resistance; had no knife nor revolver, and did not try to get away until he had his knife to stab me.

Then I run, and they run before me on their horses and shot me. They did not any of them tell me that they were going to arrest me, or that they had come to arrest me. I thought that they were going to kill me, the reason I ran from them.

I heard them call my name in the house. I asked, "What you want?" "You;" the boy says: "nothing;" came to me; jumps on me; beats me and says: "you d—d son-of-a-bitch walk in the road." I says: "What I done?" He draws his knife; tries to stab me. I thought they were going to kill me, and I ran.

After I was shot, Mr. McComb said they had come to arrest me. He did not say so before I was shot. They shot me first and then told me what they had come for. If they had said they wanted to arrest me before I was shot I would not try to get away, because I knew I

was not guilty. I would have stood there and let them take me. They read to me no warrant nor nothing at all. I was shot, put into a cart, brought here, and that's all I know about that. I have had no trial nor hearing of any kind; I don't know for what I was shot, because I have done nothing at all. The man who shot me (Serapio Yona) is here now at this place; he has not been arrested, though he shot me without any cause. When I was coming back from New Orleans the day of the fray here, October 25, 1868, (Sunday,) and about five miles from here, I met about fifty men of one of the democratic clubs from New Orleans, ("Innocents,") and they hallooed to me as I passed and told me to hurrah for Seymour and Blair. I looked around, and as I was by myself, and as I had heard that they had killed some men down here the same day, I thought they might kill me on the road, so I took off my hat, whirled it around a little; I mumbled over something which they thought meant for Seymour and Blair, and they said: "Bully for you." I passed on and they did not trouble me. This is all I know.

his
EUGENE X JOSEPH.
mark.

Witness:

J. M. LEE,

First Lieutenant and Acting Assistant Inspector General.

Recapitulation of casualties.

Name and designation.	Nature of casualty.	Date of casualty.	Remarks.
Felio Pablo*	Killed	Oct. 25, 1868	By Andy Mayo, Thompson Morgan, and other freedmen.†
One white man, (Dem. club.)	Wounded	do.	By Eugene Loch.†
Mike Curtis*	Killed	do.	By Syco John Beuf.
Eugene Loch†	do.	do.	By Vallvey Veillon.*
Thompson Morgan†	do.	do.	Supposed by Pablo Felio, and body consumed in burning house.
Josiah Johnson†	Wounded	do.	By Pablo Felio.*
Little Jacob†	do.	do.	Do.
John Proctor†	do.	do.	Do.
Billy Smith†	do.	do.	Do.
Henry Sterling†	do.	do.	By Democratic procession.
Spencer Jones, (aged 50 years,)†	do.	do.	By Vallvey Veillon.*
Pierre Golet†	Killed	Oct. 26, 1868	By Julian Serpas.*
Res Voltaire†	do.	do.	By Femio, Leone, Porter, & party.
Baptiste Clemer†	do.	do.	Do. do.
Emile Azenor†	do.	do.	Do. do.
Francis ———†	do.	do.	Do. do.
Henry ———†	do.	do.	Do. do.
Joseph Cole†	do.	do.	By Vallvey Veillon.*
Felis Thomas, (freed woman.)	Wounded	do.	By Alma Marshal.*
William Frolock†	do.	do.	By Philip Goodyear.*
David Jones†	do.	do.	Do.
——— Marshal†	do.	do.	By Julian Serpas.*
Alfred Lee†	do.	do.	By parties unknown.
Two freedmen, Decroix place	do.	do.	Do.
Nelson ———, (aged 90 years,)†	Killed	Oct. 27, 1868	Do.
Sophia Marshal, (freed woman,)	Wounded	do.	By Julian Serpas.*
Eugene Joseph†	do.	Nov. 1, 1868	By Sarapio Yona.*
——— Arnold†	Killed	Nov. 3, 1868	By parties unknown.

* White.

† Colored.

Designation.	Killed.	Wounded.	Total.
Whites.....	2	1	3
Freedmen.....	9	14	23
Freedwomen.....		2	2
Aggregate.....	11	17	28

NOTE.—One of whites killed by democratic procession; Mike Curtis, the policeman.

The above embraces all casualties as far as ascertained, but I am of the opinion that there are others not yet made known.

Action of civil authorities, immediately following the troubles in the

parish, a man by the name of Phillippi Toca, styling himself a parish judge, or committing magistrate, caused the arrest of some 60 or more freedmen, and six freedwomen; had them brought before him, and proceeded to hear the evidence and determined upon the cases.

I will here state that there is but one parish judge, or civil magistrate, in the parish duly empowered to act as such, and that person is "Judge Thornton."

Phillippi Toca had not taken the "eligibility oath" prescribed by law, yet he arrogated to himself the power to act, as though he was a civil officer duly qualified. Sixty-four freedmen, or thereabouts, were committed by him for trial. The informality of Toca's proceedings appear to have the matter made a farce within itself.

These prisoners were charged with the killing of Pablo Felio and aiding in the burning of his house. They were sent to the parish prison in the city of New Orleans and lodged in jail about the 11th instant. On or about the 20th instant a writ of *habeas corpus* was sent out in behalf of these freedmen, and they were brought before Judge Abel, of New Orleans, their case heard and the freedmen restored to liberty about the 20th instant.

In this connection I will state that some of these freedmen received most barbarous treatment while in the parish prison in New Orleans, being knocked down and beaten by a colored man named Sam Bucks, who is a prisoner in the jail, but who has some charge or authority over other prisoners, delegated to him by those properly having charge of the prison.

When the freedmen were released they returned in a body to the parish of Saint Bernard, and went back peaceable to the plantation to work. Phillippi Toca again took it upon himself to interfere and rearrested one of their number—Andy Mayo—and again lodged him in jail at Terre Bouf. Toca was never commissioned by the governor of the State as a civil magistrate, and he stated that he, "as a simple citizen would have arrested Andy Mayo."

Finding that his authority as a civil magistrate was very doubtful and questionable, he took no further action in the case, excepting to advise the rearrest of all the freedmen who had been released in New Orleans, and who had returned to the parish. To this end a letter was procured from the attorney general of the State, addressed to Judge Thornton, stating, in substance, that he (Thornton) has proper jurisdiction in the premises, as he was a duly qualified civil magistrate or parish judge.

Not one effort had been made to arrest and bring to trial white men in the parish who had perpetrated the most horrible murders upon freedmen. There was no intention of instituting any proceedings against them whatever; but the freedmen were to be the sole sufferers.

On the 23d instant I was informed that only five or six of the leading freedmen were to be arrested, but I had seen an affidavit which had been made before Judge Thornton for the arrest of 23, and warrants had been issued for their arrest. I was informed by Judge Thornton of the farcial operations of civil law in Saint Bernard parish, that the freedmen could not have an impartial trial, as they were so intimidated that they would be compelled to withhold their own testimony through fear, that their arrest and trial in Saint Bernard parish, during the present disorganized state of affairs, would render their commitment and conviction a foregone conclusion, and that the result would be that not one white man who had been guilty of killing freedmen would be at all interfered with. Knowing that such was the case from my own personal

observation and investigation, I addressed to Judge Thornton the following letter :

COURT-HOUSE, PARISH ST. BERNARD, LOUISIANA,

November 27, 1868.

SIR: I am informed that steps are being taken by the so-called civil authorities of this parish to arrest, the second time, certain freedmen recently released upon a hearing before proper civil authority in the city of New Orleans, viz., sixty-four (64) freed people, more or less, who were arraigned before one Judge Toca, charged with participating in the troubles which occurred in this parish on or about the 25th day of October, 1868, and who were sent to the city to be confined at the instance or by the pretended authority of the said Judge Toca, and which freed people were released by competent civil authority in the said city of New Orleans.

Now, as you have taken measures for the rearrest of these parties, or some of them, without knowledge of the full facts attending this release, and as it is well known that civil authority is disorganized and inoperative in this parish, and that the rearrest and trial of these freedmen in the manner indicated will be neither just nor impartial, you are hereby informed, by direction of Brevet Major General Hatch, assistant commissioner, that no such rearrest will be allowed upon these freedmen, who have gone peaceably to work on the plantations where they were employed, and any steps taken by you in that direction will be stopped.

You are also notified that, if necessary to prevent such premature proceedings, the freedmen referred to will be at once taken under charge of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands of this State, and will be held for trial and produced, when required, before any civil court having proper jurisdiction, which can proceed in their cases without intimidation.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. LEE,

First Lieut. 39th U. S. Inf., A. A. Ins. Gen. Bureau R., F., and A. L.

Judge THORNTON,

Parish Judge, St. Bernard Parish.

The requirements of the foregoing letter were respected by Judge Thornton, and the sheriff was notified not to re-arrest the freedmen, who are now busily engaged working on the plantations.

Practically, there is no civil law in St. Bernard parish. A company of United States troops are now doing duty there, and their continued presence is necessary to protect from outrage men loyal to the government, to prevent the murder of freed people, and to preserve general peace and tranquillity throughout the parish; and it is my opinion that the men now living in that parish who have recently committed murder with impunity will not be arraigned nor brought to justice, except through the direct agency of military power.

I am, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. LEE,

First Lieut. 39th U. S. Infantry, A. A. I. G.

Brevet Major B. T. HUTCHINS, A. A. A. G.,

Bureau R., F., and A. L., New Orleans, La.

Official copy

E. WHITTLESEY,

A. A. Insp. Gen. Bureau R., F., and A. L., Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS BUREAU REFUGEES, FREEDMEN
AND ABANDONED LANDS, DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA,
OFFICE ACTING ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL,
New Orleans, Louisiana, December 3, 1868.

MAJOR: In obedience to the requirements of paragraph 1, circular 18, current series, from headquarters Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, district of Louisiana, agents of the bureau have forwarded to this office special reports of outrages at the time of their occurrence

in their respective parishes, and I have the honor to submit a synopsis of these outrages for the information of the assistant commissioner.

In this report I will embody only those outrages which are reported from the 1st to the 30th of November, and will give them according to the order of their receipt:

1. In the city of New Orleans, on the 27th of October, about 11 o'clock p. m., ten or more white men armed with pistols came into the yard at the residence of Jack Handy, (colored;) some of them entered the house; Handy fled; they then broke open the kitchen door with a hatchet, and searched for arms, intimidating and threatening to shoot Handy's wife. David Lossire (white) was one of this party, the others are unknown. David Lossire thrust his pistol in the face of Michael Jackson, (colored,) threatening to shoot him, but Jackson's wife begged them not to shoot him, that he had no arms and that he had done nothing.

2. On the 25th, 26th, and 27th of October, 1868, in the parish of St. Bernard, one white man and nine freedmen were killed, 14 freedmen and two freedwomen wounded by the whites and one white man killed and one wounded by freedmen. The names of the killed and wounded as well as the character of the outrages have been given in my report of the 27th ultimo.

3. On the 23d of October, 1868, a party of seven men came into the house of Eliza Morse (colored) about one o'clock a. m. and asked for her husband's arms; being told he had none they then searched her house and carried off a coat, one pair of pants, three shirts, two dress-patterns, and \$10 in money; also robbed another colored woman in the same house of \$3; parties are unknown.

4. About 10 o'clock a. m., October 23, 1868, a party of about 25 white men entered the premises of Emily Fenters, (colored,) Gretna, Louisiana, searched her house and carried off a pistol, dirk knife, and the sum of \$10 in United States currency. A man named Rhodes and his son, who live in Freetown, Jefferson parish, were of this party.

5. On the evening of Sunday, October 25, 1868, about dark, a party of white men came to the house of Margaret Brown (colored) and ordered her to open the door, and on her refusal to do so they forced into the house. The soldiers soon came up and drove them away; parties unknown.

6. On the evening of October 23, 1868, between the hours of three and four, a party of four white men entered the house of Julia Brown, (colored,) at Gretna, Louisiana; one of the men held a pistol at her mother's head and told her to give up the key of her trunk or he would blow her brains out. Her mother gave up the key and she (Julia) unlocked the trunk; the man took a pocket-book containing five dollars in money, saying, "that's what I want;" put it in his pocket. He then took another pocket-book containing some old receipts, which he returned. They then searched for husband's registration papers, but they were concealed in an old daguerreotype. The men are unknown; but Julia Brown thinks they are from New Orleans.

7. About 12 o'clock, noon, Friday, October 23, 1868, a party of four white men entered a house of Minnie Sparks, (colored,) at Gretna, Louisiana; pointed a pistol at her head and told her to give up her keys; she handed them the keys of her bureau drawers, and while they were searching them she took her money, one hundred dollars in gold and silver, and attempted to conceal it on her person; one of the men ordered her to give it up, and upon her not complying with his demand he knocked her down; she then handed him the money, which the party carried off. They attacked her husband at the gate and took his money

out of his pocket, amounting to \$7 50. Her husband afterwards came into the house and remonstrated with them. One of them shot him with powder. None of the parties are known.

8. About 11 o'clock a. m., on Friday, October 23, 1868, a party of four white men came to the house of Ruffin Wilkins, (colored,) at Gretna, Louisiana, and searched for arms; one of the party named Henry Carroll carried off Wilkins's musket, and another named Fritz Straley took his shot gun; the party then left the house, and Henry Carroll shot a colored man named Reuben Lindsay in the neck, who was carrying a child, wounding Lindsay in the neck and slightly the child. No arrests have been made by the civil authorities.

9. On the night of October 31, 1868, a party of 10 white men entered the cabin of a freedman named Henry Shelton, in the parish of Clairborne; forcibly abducted him from the same; took him to the road and began tying his hands; the freedman resisted, broke loose from his captors and ran in the direction of his employer's house; four of the party followed him, firing at him as he ran; one shot took effect below his shoulder, passed through the body and lodged under the skin of the left breast. The party thinking they had killed the freedman left the premises. The freedman still lives, though his wound is pronounced fatal by the physicians. This occurred near Haynesville, about 12 miles from Homer, Louisiana.

This same party of 10 men, armed and disguised, then started in the direction of Minden, Louisiana, and for seven miles along the route entered every freedman's cabin and beat unmercifully every man and woman they could find. The names of three of the women beaten are Julia, Sophia, and Caroline. A freedman named Ben Johnson was beaten and maltreated until his life is despaired of. The body of a freedman was found in the road with 10 shots through it. One colored woman was ravished in a brutal manner and almost beaten to death. They also fired several shots into Mr. Summerhill's house. He was a Union white man. They drove Mr. Adams, formerly justice of the peace, from his house and gave his family 10 days to leave the parish. Henry Shelton knows the men who shot him, but it is dangerous for him to mention names, and the white men near him admonish him against revealing or making known the parties who tried to kill him.

These people say openly that they intend to have matters their own way between this and the 4th of March.

10. About 12 o'clock at night, November 2, 1868, in Natchitoches a party of eight men came to the house of Faulkner and demanded that he should come out of the house. Faulkner secreted himself under the floor. The party burst the door open, came in, found him, and after robbing the house of all the money, books, papers, &c., took him about one-half mile into the woods and then whipped and beat him until they were satisfied. They spared his life by his promising to vote the "democratic ticket" next day.

Faulkner was blindfolded and cannot swear to any of them, but when he gets his family away and is safe he will give such information as will cause the arrest of several of the party.

Faulkner was a member of the police jury, and was engaged in teaching a school established by the bureau. He was a peaceable, inoffensive sort of a man, and his only offence was that of having in his possession, by request, a bundle of republican tickets for such as wished to vote that ticket.

11. On the night of November 2, 1868, in the parish of Natchitoches, a freedman by the name of Alfred Hanson was murdered in his

house in the presence of his family by a party of about 10 white men. The proceedings in this case are so illustrative of the general course pursued all over this State, with a few remarkable exceptions, that I will give the report of the parish agent in full.

Mr. E. H. Homer, under date of November 18, 1868, states as follows:

The fact of the man Hanson having been murdered was reported to me on the 4th instant, and I, immediately, in company with Brevet Brigadier General McLaughlin, 4th United States cavalry, commanding district, proceeded to the place where the outrage was perpetrated, for the purpose of making an investigation. The whole facts elicited by our inquiries were immediately placed before the parish judge, W. H. Heisland, and the district attorney, Mr. N. A. Robinson, for such action as they thought proper. These two gentlemen took time to consider and take counsel, and I believe they are still considering and counselling, while the murderers are at large, making inquiries and leaving the State.

One Jim Louis was recognized by a female who was in the house at the time, and the next day she made an affidavit before Judge C. Berry, justice of the peace, 5th ward, parish of Natchitoches, and this man was arrested and brought before him, tried and cleared. The whole proceedings before this court (if it can be dignified by that name) were illegal, censurable, and irregular; the alleged criminal was released upon his own declaration and that of another man who is not free from suspicion.

What murderer will not declare himself innocent if by so doing he can get clear? The only witness in this case swore positively that Jim Louis slept in a certain house all night, and that his horse was in the field (some distance from the house) all night, also. No cross-questioning appears in the proceedings as to how the witness knows these facts, and the witness makes his mark and the mark is not attested. The person who made the affidavit, and who recognized Jim Louis as being one of the party who murdered Hanson, was not brought into court *at all*. Many such irregularities and evidences of unpardonable conduct, on the part of the justice of the peace, appear in the proceedings of this trial; in fact, the whole thing was an immense *farce*.

The freed people are afraid to give any information, or to call any names, and the whites pretend to know nothing about it; but from what information I obtained, and judging from the representation and character of the man Hanson, before he was killed, I am satisfied that he was murdered for *political purposes and that only*.

Suspicion rests strongly upon several high-toned gentlemen, living in this section of the country and at Pleasant Hill; among them are Jack Rain, Jim Rain, Jim Louis and Dr. Wilson. These parties, and many others, should be arrested and made to prove satisfactorily their whereabouts; an innocent man cannot object to such a proceeding; the whites will give no information and the negroes are afraid to.

I cannot think that so large a party of men can come into a neighborhood like Allen, take one man out of his house, carry him a mile, whip and beat him till nearly dead, (as in the case of Faulkner, reported several days ago,) and go to another house and *kill* another man by shooting several times, and yet no one can give any information; impossible.

There are plenty who know all about it, who the gang are, where they live, &c., other than those engaged; yet I can learn nothing more than I have reported, and the courts should do the rest.

Hanson was a quiet, industrious, and good man; he was a leader among the colored people in his vicinity and a minister. He and his family made 30 bales of cotton this year, and they were about to buy a good home for themselves.

12. A few days before the election, some parties in Natchitoches town, parish of Natchitoches, requested Richard Faulkner (freedman) to carry a bundle of "radical" tickets to Allen, (the place where Faulkner lived,) and to leave part of the tickets at that place for the use of those persons who wished to vote the next day, and then to send the rest beyond Allen to Pleasant Hill, and to other voting precincts in that vicinity. Faulkner complied with the request and gave the bundle, after taking out what was needed at Allen, to another freedman by the name of Andrew West, to carry on to Pleasant Hill. Before West reached Pleasant Hill, he was met by several men, and they asked him what he had in that bundle. He (West) made some remark and the men took the bundle from him and examined it. When they saw what the tickets were they asked West where he got them, and who sent him. West refused to tell them at first. The men took West from his horse, nearly killed him by beating and whipping, and finally hung him by the neck until they thought him nearly dead, when they let him down and told him they would not kill him if he would tell all he knew about it. West, to save his life,

told all he knew, and more. He stated that Hanson, at Allen, (who was killed the night before the election, as reported from this office on the 19th instant,) and Faulkner, (who was whipped, as also reported November 12,) sent him with the tickets. This occurred October 31. Hanson was killed, and Faulkner whipped, November 2. There is no doubt but that these outrages were all perpetrated for political purposes and to gratify political prejudices. Faulkner was made to promise to vote the democratic ticket the next day to save his life. His registration certificate was stolen, and he could not vote at all. Andrew West voted a democratic ticket the election day against his wishes; in fact, the whole balloting, except in Natchitoches, where troops are stationed, was conducted under a complete reign of terror in this section.

The men who met West in the road are named, as near as I can learn, Bob Rembert, Abner McCran, Silas Tamm, and Thomas Gedditt. It occurred near Gedditt's house, and I believe, from all the circumstances, that these four men helped to murder Hanson and to whip Faulkner. It has come to light that still other parties had a hand in these transactions; for instance, Mount Gardner (freedman) stated as follows: Berry Chambers told his freed people, Monday, November 2, that he and a lot of others were going up to Allen, to kill Faulkner, Hanson, and some others. Dr. L. Armstrong loaned Chambers a gun Monday evening. Jack Ram's son George came to Dr. Armstrong that evening and stated that they were going up to give them d——d radical niggers in Allen a call.

Joe Armstrong, Dr. Armstrong's nephew, was with the party. Chambers went to William Hamilton, to get Jim Hamilton to go with them. William Hamilton told him that he did not approve of such actions, and if his son Jim went he would take everything away from him, and he should not come back. Chambers told the colored people next day that they had taken Faulkner and Hanson out of bed and given them a sound thrashing, and that was what they would all get if they did not vote the democratic ticket that day.

I believe that if the civil authorities would do their duty and attend to such matters, the perpetrators of such outrages might be tried, convicted, and punished. The agents of the bureau can do but little.

13. On the night of the 18th of November, 1868, near the town of Minden, Claiborne parish, a white man by the name of August Dutch, who voted for Grant at the recent election, was taken out of his house by a party of armed men, who inflicted 300 lashes upon him, and gave him until Saturday, the 21st, to leave the parish. All this because he voted for Grant and Colfax.

14. On the 5th of November, 1868, near Morrison's plantation, six miles south of Monroe, Ouachita parish, Louisiana, two freedmen were killed and one wounded; suspected parties arrested, lodged in jail, and after an examination released under bonds to appear at the next term of court for trial, January 1, 1869. I have called on the agent for the names of all parties in the above case.

15. In the parish of Lafayette, on the evening of November 22, 1868, affidavit was made by a white man by the name of Stuts against James Follis, F. Plaisance, Lee Smith, and Durean Smith—all whites—charging them with shooting Pierre Jean Louis, freedman, with intent to kill, wounding him severely, if not fatally, and afterwards robbing him. A warrant was at once issued and the four men above-named were arrested and brought to this town for examination. As the freedman Pierre was supposed to be dying, he was visited on the 24th by A. J. Moss, parish judge, and his deposition taken; in which he stated that

he was shot by Ralph Forman and one of the prisoners, named Plaisance, all of them aiding the same. Ralph Forman was at once arrested, and Monday, November 30th, is fixed for their examination. The shooting above reported was done on the night of the 21st; and on the same night a negro on the plantation of Madam Ralph Forman was killed, and a woman named Louisa, wife of Sam Pickens, (colored,) was shot in the shoulder; and it is supposed these crimes were all committed by the same parties, and Judge Moss is now endeavoring to get the necessary evidence to fasten all these crimes where they rightly belong.

The prisoners are, all of them, noted as being among the worst and most desperate men in the parish, and but little sympathy is felt for them in this community.

The above is the only case where the civil authorities seem to have taken proper cognizance of the murder and shooting down of freed people.

The foregoing outrages are only those which have been specially reported to me by the parish agents. I am of the opinion that the number thus reported is not one-half of those which have actually occurred but not brought to the attention or known of by the parish bureau agents. Of this I am certain in some localities of the State.

It will be observed that the outrages herein reported embrace those occurring from October 23 to November 21, 1868.

Statistical report of murders, robberies, and other outrages perpetrated from October 23 to November 21, 1868.

Designation.	Classification of outrages.						Remarks.
	Killed.	Wounded.	Robbed.	Whipped, beaten, or hanged.	Otherwise outraged.	Aggregate.	
Whites*.....	2	1	1	2	6	Perpetrated by whites. Do. Do.
Freed men.....	14	18	2	3	.....	37
Freed women.....	.....	3	6	5	3	17
Freed children.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1
Total.....	16	23	8	9	5	61	

* One white man killed and one wounded by freedmen; other cause of whites killed, whipped, or otherwise outraged, perpetrated by white men upon them for holding "republican party principles," and for no other cause. There are a hundred cases where freed people have been robbed not reported in this report.

I submit the foregoing report as showing only a part of the outrages perpetrated upon freed people during the time for which the report is made.

In conclusion I desire to represent that upon entering on duty in this bureau as acting assistant inspector general, on the 18th of September last, I thought it impossible that crimes so bloody and rioting could or would be perpetrated with so much impunity and wantonness by any people in a civilized country as those which have been brought to my attention, and which I have in many cases investigated. At first I thought the general reports and published accounts of the carnival of crime in this State were vastly exaggerated, but the plain, clear, and indisputable facts which have been developed, and the cumulative evidence which has been and can be brought forward at any time, carries the conviction to any honest and candid man that lawlessness, anarchy,

and crime predominate in the State of Louisiana, subjecting the loyal and peaceable citizens of this State to a reign of terror which they cannot avert, and from which they cannot escape through any efforts of their own.

I am, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. LEE,

First Lieutenant 39th Infantry, A. A. I. General.

Brevet Major B. T. HUTCHINS,

A. A. A. G. Bureau R., F., and A. L., New Orleans, La.

Official copy :

E. WHITTLESEY,

Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

OFFICE SUB-ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
BUREAU R., F., AND A. L., SEVENTH SUB-DISTRICT,
Shreveport, Louisiana, December 5, 1868.

SIR: The enclosed slips cut from a copy of the Caddo Gazette, a newspaper published in Shreveport, of the above date, are forwarded for the information of the assistant commissioner. The lawlessness and crime as reported by the grand jury of this parish is no exception to the catalogue of crimes and outrages occurring daily in all the other parishes comprised within this sub-district, of which no mention is ever made in the public press, owing, no doubt, to either fear or connivance on the part of the civil authorities.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRANK D. GARRETTY,

First Lieutenant 43d Infantry, Sub-Assistant Commissioner.

Brevet Major B. T. HUTCHINS, U. S. A.,

*A. A. A. General Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and
Abandoned Lands, New Orleans, Louisiana.*

Report of the grand jury of Caddo parish.

The grand jury of Caddo parish, after a lengthy and laborious session of more than three weeks, have closed their labors, having disposed of the business presented to them, as far as practicable, and beg leave to make the following report :

We have been careful in our examinations of the mass of imperfect documents presented to us as "Magistrates' Returns," and we feel bound to report that no such culpable negligence on the part of committing magistrates and conservators of the peace has ever come to our knowledge, and the least our magistrates could do to atone for such negligence, incapacity, or absolute ignorance would be to tender their resignations at once, so that reliable and capable persons may be appointed to fill their places.

Parish treasurer.—We have examined the books of the parish treasurer, and find that he has received from all sources, since the 6th July, 1866, to the present date, \$5,302 98; has in the same time disbursed \$3,145 13, leaving a balance of \$2,157 85 school funds in his hands, and find that his vouchers sustain his statements.

We most respectfully represent that the school directors for this parish, under whose orders the above disbursements have been made, have not, in our opinion, disposed of said funds as the law provides.

The public roads.—In regard to the public highways, we find scarcely any attention paid to their repairs, and in many instances the roads are almost impassable, and some in their present condition are extremely dangerous, and we have felt bound (though under the present defective road system, it may seem a hardship) to return a member of the road overseers of the public roads in our parish. And we further particularly call the attention of the police jury of Caddo to the importance of building a bridge over Boggy and Cypress bayous on the road leading to Kingston, as the crossings on said bayous are at this time impassable.

The parish prison.—We have visited the jail and questioned the prisoners. We find them as comfortable, well fed and well cared for as is usual in such cases, and have no complaint to make of their treatment. We think the jail too small for the superabundance and increase of criminals, though, under the embarrassed condition of our finances we cannot recommend the building of a new and more substantial one. From the insufficiency of the jail and of the number of desperadoes therein confined, we are pleased to see the promptness with which the post commander at this place, at the request of our vigilant sheriff, has furnished a guard sufficient for the same.

Lawlessness and the increase of crimes.—We regret to find that the catalogue of crime is so abundant. From every portion of our parish comes the cry of the oppressed. Violence and crime prevail to an alarming extent throughout our parish, and there is not a doubt that many good citizens are deterred from aiding the officers of the law in bringing offenders before the court from fear of violence to persons and property. Many important witnesses cannot be found, and others, by evasion, fail to develop crimes.

Altogether, a fearful and deplorable condition of affairs exists, and we call upon all good citizens, as they value peace, good order, and prosperity, to unite in putting an end to this unhappy state of affairs.

To your honor the judge presiding, and to our able and obliging district attorney, we tender our thanks and beg to be discharged for the term.

A. CONWAY, *Foreman Grand Jury.*

In the case of the State *vs.* Henley and Pitman, white men, charged with the murder of a negro man, the jury, composed of 11 white men and one negro, brought in a verdict of guilty, without capital punishment.

This decision made a profound impression upon the public mind, as the most material evidence was given by negroes. The jury was composed of the best men in the city and parish, thus showing conclusively that they were governed by the law and testimony, and acted upon their convictions of duty.

This is a fearful punishment for the rash and bloody deed. We deeply regret the necessity which impelled the jury to bring in a verdict of guilty, and hope that only a few years may elapse before these unfortunate men are pardoned by the governor.

The moral effect of this verdict will have a tendency to keep in check that spirit of lawlessness so graphically depicted in the report of the grand jury. The law has been vindicated; the life of the most obscure citizen, a negro, is deemed sacred. The tone of public sentiment should be kept up to the elevated standard erected by the juries impanelled during the present session of our court. Life will then be secure in hamlet and in hall, and our country will be prosperous.

We invite attention to the admirable report of the grand jury, which appears in this issue. In plain, forcible, and direct language it points out the misdeeds of officials. The lawlessness of our people is sternly rebuked, and all good citizens are called upon to vindicate the majesty of the law. Such a report, backed by petit juries, who will respect their oaths, and will convict the guilty, cannot fail to produce a reform in society.

HEADQUARTERS BUREAU R., F., AND A. L.,
District of Louisiana, New Orleans, December 11, 1868.

GENERAL: I have the honor to submit herewith a supplemental list of murders and outrages pertaining to the State of Louisiana for the month of November, 1868.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWARD HATCH,

Brevet Maj. Gen. U. S. A., Assistant Com'r for Louisiana.

Major General O. O. HOWARD,

Commissioner Bureau R., F., and A. L., Washington, D. C.

BUREAU R., F., AND A. L.,

Washington, December 19, 1868.

Official copy respectfully furnished for the information of the Hon. Secretary of War.

E. WHITTLESEY,

A. A. A. General, in absence of the Commissioner.

Supplemental list of murders and outrages committed in the State of Louisiana during the month of November, 1868, as reported to headquarters of Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, Louisiana.

Date.	On whom committed.	Nature of outrage.	Action of civil authorities and remarks.
<i>St. Martin.</i>			
Dec. 1	Joe. (colored).....	Shot and killed.....	About two weeks since M. Arthur Barras; no coroner's inquest nor action taken. Agent made affidavit, warrant issued, and case to be examined December 3, 1868.
<i>Natchitoches, Saline and Winn.</i>			
Nov. 20	Anderson West, (col'd).	Hanging up and beating..	For political reason; no action taken.
	Benj. Watson, (col'd) ..	Life threatened.....	Do. do.
	Joe Smith, (colored) ...	do do.....	Do. do.
	T. Alexander, (col'd)...	do do.....	Do. do.
	Two freedmen.....	Defrauding share of crops, &c.	Case under investigation by agents.
	*Benj. Harrison, (col'd).	Killed.....	In August last by Eugene Jordan, (white.)
<i>Lafayette.</i>			
Nov. 30	Laura Cerissa Perkins, (colored.)	Shot in arm.....	By a gang of white men on the night of the 21st instant; no clue to perpetrators. Night of 21st instant; no clue to murderers. Night of 21st instant by Ralph Forman and accomplices; Forman escaped; four accomplices recognized, arrested, and tried; <i>alibi</i> proven and discharged.
	Samuel Perkins, (col'd)	Life threatened.....	
	Macel, (colored).....	Killed.....	
	Pierre Jean Louis, (col.)	Shot and badly wounded; supposed mortally.	
<i>Pointe Coupée and West Feliciana.</i>			
Dec. 5	One Freedman.....	Killed.....	December 1, warrant issued for arrest of a suspected white man.
<i>Union and Morehouse.</i>			
Nov. 30	Green Fenton, (col'd) ..	Shot and badly wounded.	By William Buckner, (white,) on the 22d inst.; Buckner arrested and placed under \$2,500 bonds to await the result of his wounds.
	One freedman.....	Killed.....	On 20th instant, a freedman, name unknown, was killed in upper part of parish. A few days previous he had a difficulty with Hubbard, in which Hubbard was stabbed; no evidence could be found that he (Hubbard) committed the murder.
	L. Hubbard, (white) ...	Severely stabbed.....	
<i>Caddo and Bossier.</i>			
Nov. 30	.....	.....	Agent states: "The district court is now in session; that two white men were found guilty of murder for killing of two freedmen near Shreveport immediately after election; sentence not yet passed."

* This case is supposed to be the same as one previously reported under the name of Benjamin L. Var-dison, colored.

RECAPITULATION.

Outrage resulting in death	5
Other outrages	11
Total.....	16

I certify that the foregoing is a correct statement of the murders and outrages, as compiled from the records for the month of November, 1868.

EDWARD HATCH,

Brevet Major General U. S. A., Assistant Commissioner for Louisiana.

HEADQUARTERS BUREAU R., F., AND A. L., New Orleans, La., Dec. 11, 1868.

Official:

E. WHITTLESEY,

Acting Assistant Adjutant General, Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.

