

PLAQUEMINES CORRESPONDENCE.

[Correspondence of the Feliciana.]
[Plaquemines, Monday, Dec. 10.]
We are in season, but winter still lingers on the verge of spring. The late heavy rains which fell over this section of country have again interfered with outdoor works. But as soon as we have a succession of nice days we will be active in our fields. In addition to rice, corn and cotton, we are also raising sugar cane. We understand that the greater number of our farmers will grow Irish potatoes this season. Our planters will mostly turn their attention to sugar cane.

The river is rapidly swelling. In some quarters fears are entertained for the levees above the city. May God spare us from the calamities brought on by inundations!

On Thursday last, the 2d inst., the draft commenced in our community. Thus far but fifty names have been drafted. One hundred and twenty-four is the number of men we have to furnish to Uncle Sam. Here, "there is," as Chaucer says, "but many a man that crieth," were, that woful litel what were amount-eth."

The March term of one district court will, I understand, commence on Monday, the 23th inst.

Were it not for the small-pox, which still lingers in this section, the public health would be excellent.

To the biographical sketch of the late Gov. Isaac Johnson, which was lately published in one of your city contemporaries, the following may be added, being from the pen of one who was intimately acquainted with him:

Gov. Johnson died on the 15th of March, 1853, at the Verandah Hotel, in the city of New Orleans. He was too kindly and amiable a man for politics. The gentleness of his nature shrunk from the rough encounters and stern sacrifices incident to public life. But his commanding character, his impressive and elegant manners, and his spirit of concession to the wishes of his friends, forced him reluctantly into political life. From the judgeship of the Feliciana District, he was elected over a popular opponent, Governor of the State in 1845. He filled the office with patriotism and honesty. On the election of Gov. Walker, he was appointed Attorney General, and served in that office until the 20th of January, 1853. At the time of his death, he was candidate for Judge of the Supreme Court for the Third District.

Gov. Johnson was born two miles from St. Francisville, West Feliciana, in a house on the Woodville Road, which still stands an object of historical interest.

In that house his father was also born, of English parents, who came over during the English occupation of West Florida, previous to 1774. That house was the rendezvous of the patriots, who, in 1810, snatched West Feliciana from the Spaniards, by riding into the Fort of Baton Rouge, and tearing down the gaudy banner of Spain to make way for the "Lone Star," which was raised on that occasion for the first time in history.

Prominent among these patriots was Judge Johnson, the father of the late Gov. Johnson. He was one of the authors of their declaration of independence, and filled the office of Chief Justice, under the Provisional Government. No man ever lived who was more respected by his neighbors and friends, than the father of our deceased friend. Indeed this popularity extended to every member of the family. Joseph Johnson, a younger brother of Isaac, who died about twelve or fifteen years ago, (about 1840,) was the most promising and rising young man in the State. At the time of his death he was President of the Senate of the State, and was universally esteemed for his gallant bearing, fine intelligence and warm heart.

Governor Johnson leaves a widow and three children, by his first wife. His remains have been sent to his native Feliciana.

In the February number of the "Historical Magazine, and Notes and Queries," the following notes on the Governors of Louisiana, under the French dominion, are published:

1699. Le Moine d'Iberville made the first settlement in Louisiana, at the Bay of Biloxi. Sauvolle was put in command of the fort built there, and acted as Governor until his death, which occurred on the 23d of July, 1701. Sauvolle was a native of Canada and brother to Iberville.

1701. Upon the death of Sauvolle, Bienville became Governor and served in that capacity until the 17th of May, 1713. Le Moine de Bienville was also Iberville's brother, and born in Canada.

1713. Lamothe Cadillac governed the province until the 9th of March, 1717. Lamothe was born on the banks of the Garonne, in the province of Gascony, in France.

1717. To Lamothe Cadillac succeeded L'Espinay, who exercised the powers of his office until the 9th of March, 1718.

1718. Bienville, for the second time, was entrusted with the government of the colony. He was recalled in the beginning

of the year 1724. It was during his second administration that New Orleans was founded. Boisbriant, Bienville's cousin, was appointed Governor *ad interim*.

1727. During the fall of this year, Perier, a lieutenant of the King's ships, arrived at New Orleans, and assumed the government.

1733. Bienville returned to Louisiana, after an absence of eight years. He returned to France in 1743, and died in Paris in the year 1767, aged eighty-nine years.

1743. Pierre Rigaut, Marquis of Vaudreuil, succeeded to Bienville on the 10th of May.

1753. Kerlerec was the successor of the Marquis of Vaudreuil. He was installed as Governor on the 9th of February.

1763. On the 29th of June d'Abbadie, the new Governor, landed at New Orleans. He died there on the 4th of February, 1765.

1765. Aubey became d'Abbadie's successor, and remained in office until the 10th of August, 1769.

A few words more about the early history of Louisiana, and I have done.

One hundred and sixty-six years ago, that is, on the 1st of March, 1699, Iberville entered the Mississippi, accompanied by Bienville and Father Anastase. Father Anastase had been the former companion of LaSalle in his expedition down the river in 1682.

Iberville had sailed from Rochelle on the 24th of September, 1698, for Cape Francis in the island of St. Domingo, where he arrived after a passage of seventy-two days. He had, says Judge Martin, two frigates of thirty guns each, and two smaller vessels. At Cape Francis a fifty gun ship was added to the expedition.

Leaving the cape on New Year's day, the ships cast anchor on the 25th of January before the Island of St. Rosa, on the Florida coast. The country was in possession of a small party of Spaniards. Don Andres, who commanded there, would not permit Iberville to bring in his ships. Iberville proceeded northerly to another island, not very distant, to which, from a heap of human bones near the beach, the name of Massacre Island was given. It is now known as Dauphine Island.

Sailing afterwards farther on, he entered a pass between two islands, which received the names of Horn and Ship Island; but being stopped by the shallowness of the water, he came out, and shaping his course southwesterly, reached two other islands, now known as those of the Chandeleur, either from the circumstance of their having been first approached on the 2d of February, Candlemas Day, or from their being covered with the myrtle shrub, from the wax of the berries of which the first colonists made their candles. The anchor was cast here, and the pass between Ship Island, and another called Cat Island, from a number of raccoons found on it, was sounded, and the smaller vessels entered through it. The fifty gun ship now returned to St. Domingo, and the two frigates remained before one of the Chandeleur Islands.

Iberville went with most of his people to Ship Island, where they began to erect huts.

On the 27th of February, Iberville and Bienville, each in a barge well manned, went in quest of the Mississippi. They were attended by Father Anastase, a recollect monk. The third day, they entered a wide stream, which, from the turbidness of its waters, the friar justly concluded was the mighty "Father of Waters."

GLEANER.