

OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT

THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.

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THE DAILY CRESCENT

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The Environs of New Orleans.

NUMBER EIGHTY-NINE.

IN FORMER NUMBERS we have already given

the description of sundry private buildings,

which the ancient owners or proprietors have long

since disappeared from the scene of action, but

which a variety of interesting local reminiscences

and we shall follow this mode of

arranging our notices, which we do not meet

with our reader's approbation. At the corner of

Chartré and St. Louis streets, which we shall designate,

as the lower river corner, will be seen a

massive old building, some three stories high,

having above its roof a very conspicuous arched

balcony, surmounted by a weather vane, indicating

the shifting of the wind between the four cardinal

points of the compass. This building, erected

perhaps in the year 1808 or 1810, was the

property of Nicolas Girod, mayor of our city in the

years of the English invasion in 1814 and 1815.

The family of the Girod consisted at that time of

three brothers, all unmarried or bachelors, as far

as our knowledge goes, two of whom were afterwards

established as planters in the country, one upon

the Bayou Lafourche, in other somewhere in the

Ouachita district, We ourselves have known

only one Mr. Nicolas Girod, a time when he had

long since retired from active business pursuits,

that is to say, in 1830 or 1835. The Girod were

originally from Savoy, now constituting a part

of the French Empire by its recent annexation

or incorporation. The inhabitants of that

mountainous country are known all over the

globe for their industrious habits and great

commercial activity. We could not name the exact

period at which the brothers Girod arrived in

this country, but it must have been either under

the administration of Governor Miro, or the governor

who assumed command of the colony in the year

1786, some years after the peace concluded between

the different belligerent powers who had taken

part in the war of independence of the United

States against Great Britain, or it may be that

they arrived somewhat later, under the administration

of Governor Baron de Carondelet, in 1793. At all

events they were long before in Louisiana, when

the country was transferred to the administration

of the United States. It is well known to our

readers that from the time of Miro's administration,

who is recorded in history as a popular and

conciliatory statesman, New Orleans and the lower

districts of Louisiana had considerably improved and

increased in population; for, besides a further

number of Canadians and Acadians, who had left

the British possessions after the war, many Frenchmen

from the Antilles or West India islands had

found their way to our city, and had settled in

Louisiana, when they found that the Spanish

colonial regime had turned out to be so mild and

tolerant, altogether contrary to their general

expectation. Then from the adjoining settlements

in the neighboring States, a number of English

adventurers had tried to form farming

establishments, of which the writer of these lines

has still the substance remains in the environs of

the town of Pascou, in 1830, we say from these

adventurers, numbers had flocked to New Orleans

after the war in 1783 and brought their

industry and activity. Among these we may

mention the Girods, for we have often seen

that they formed one of the most ancient and

most wealthy of the old French colonialists under

the colonial regime. Now we have found in the

archives of Louisiana's history, that although in

the beginning of the Spanish rule New Orleans

commerce was confined to but six or seven

articles, such as sugar, coffee, indigo, rice, cotton,

Mississippi, Alabama, Cartagena, Sevilla and

Cadix, yet that in after time, under the rule of

Governor Miro, those restrictions were removed,

and that was permitted with every French port

at which a Spanish vessel had a residence. Under

these liberal auspices commerce took an upward

start and trade being at the same time encouraged

with the newly formed States of the American

Union, a number of American houses, mostly

of the mercantile or commercial character, were

established in the city, and the commercial center

of the North-eastern States, and the great

of New Orleans or kept their regular establishments

in Louisiana, and the same stock of our

merchants at the Northern, Stephen Girard, or John

Jacob Astor, were successful in their enterprises,

but with all, very eccentric or singular in

character. As such, we have known old Nicolas

Girod, and all old residents will certainly remember

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Correspondence of the New Orleans Crescent.

WASHINGTON, June 24th, 1886.

THE TRIESTE AT HOME.

The siege at the White House still continues

with unabated vigor. While the members of

Congress are revelling in all the luxuries which

the public money can procure, the President's

maneuvre is left in the most disgraceful condition.

The complaints of visitors to the White House

have produced some effect, and a bill has been

introduced in the Senate proposing the construction

of a new residence for the chief magistrate of

the country. The appropriation for temporary

repairs to the present building may give it a more

respectable exterior appearance, but its total

unfitness for the purposes to which it is applied

is evident to every one who has occasion to

frequent its disagreeable apartments. The proposed

location of the new building in the vicinity of the

capitol, gives the scheme a sinister look, and

is not acceptable to the residents of

Washington. It has any influence on the

occupancy of the White House, it is not

willing to see it in immediate proximity

with that notorious edifice. The only recourse

for gaining the confined and torturing corridors

of the White House is to sue and converse with

the numerous callers on the President's

attention have induced him to relinquish the

personal superintendence of several important

matters. Except in irregular cases, the pardoning

department is entirely in the hands of the

secretary. Twenty thousand dollars, which

the application coming under the most

favorable exception are called, can be procured

without difficulty. Notwithstanding the demands

of Mr. Johnson's time, he is pleased to converse

freely with his friends on the state of the country

and the events of the day. Dr. Crocker's book on

the prison life of Mr. Davis has recently attracted

his attention. He dwelt with peculiar emphasis

on the prisoner's opinion of Grant, and said that

when the latter was in the hands of the

credit will be awarded with fairness. It is

known that the President has a very high opinion

of General Thomas, and thinks that he accom-

plished "more with his hands" than any officer

in the Federal army.

ROBERT FRANKLIN TRAIN.

Everybody knows the great street car

railway, public speaker, and Anglophobe.

These names decorate the title of this

paragon of a book. It is a volume of

George is gifted with two great faculties, which

we Americans appreciate very highly—the power

of logic and of good sense. George is

not only a good speaker, but a good

writer. He writes with a boldness and

freedom of speech that is rare in our

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