INSURANCE.

MERCHANTS' MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW ORLEANS.

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL STATEMENT.

In conformity with the requirements of their Charter, the Company publish the following

STATEMENT:

Premiums received during the year ending 31st May, 1868, including unearned premiums of the previous year:

On Fire Risks		$ 813,696
On Marine Risks		238,734
On River Risks		99,543 62
Total Premiums		$1,151,962 22
Less Premiums Unearned 31st May, 1868	$226,847 00	
Return Premiums	23,471 07	—$ 250,318 07
Net Earned Premiums 31st May, 1868		$ 901,644 15
Losses paid:		
On Fire Risks	$271,236 57	
On Marine Risks	173,940 85	
On River Risks	45,929 96	
	$491,096 91	
Taxes	28,050 61	
Reinsurance, Expenses, Profit and Loss, less interest	105,202 04	— 624,314 56
Net Profit		$ 277,329 59
The Company have the following assets:		
Real Estate		$ 158,617 57
Notes Secured by Mortgage		675,807 38
Note Secured by Pledge		99 147 23
Cash on hand		128,478 4
Premiums in course of Collection		80,753 65
City Bonds		33,000 00
Bank and Railroad Stocks		104,200 00
Bills Receivable		127,154 79
Scrips of Mutual Insurance Companies		40,805 00
Stock of Vallette Dry Dock Company		18,000 00
" Levee Steam Cotton Press		5,000 00
" Marine Dry Dock		3,700 00
" Merchants' Exchange		1,000 00
" Lightering and Wrecking Co		1,000 00
" Louisiana Equitable Life Ins. Co.		250 00
State Bonds		1,500 00
Total		$1,466,414 16
Less:		
Unclaimed interest and interest payable in July next on all outstanding Scrips of the Company	$101,346 18	
Thirty-five per cent. of Scrip issue of 1859, payable in July	70,675 78	
Unearned Premiums 31st May, 1868	226,847 00	—$398,868 96
		$1,067,545 26

The above Statement is a just, true and correct transcript from the books of the Company.

JOHN PEMBERTON, President.
PAUL FOURCHY, Secretary.

STATE OF LOUISIANA, Parish of Orleans, City of New Orleans.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 9th day of June, 1868.
PAUL W. COLLENS, Third Justice of the Peace.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors, held on the 9th day of June, 1868, it was resolved to declare a Scrip Dividend THIRTY PER CENT. on the Net Earned Participating Premiums for the year ending 30th May, 1868, for which certificates will be issued on and after the first day of August next. Also to pay on and after the second Monday in July next THIRTY-FIVE PER CENT. ON THE SCRIP ISSUE OF 1859, and six per cent. interest on all outstanding Scrips of the Company.

DIRECTORS:

John Pemberton,	P. Maspero,	David McCord,
M. Puig,	L. F. Generes,	Pierre Ponts,
Chas. Sagory,	John Morgan Hall	S. E. Relf,
P. S. Wills,	J. J. Fernandez.	

NINETEENTH ANNUAL STATEMENT —OF THE— CRESCENT MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

New Orleans, May 28, 1868.

The Trustees, in conformity to the charter, submit the following statement of the affairs of the company on the 30th day of April, 1868:

Fire Premiums for year	$ 726,123 82	
Marine Premiums for year	94,062 88	
River Premiums for year	177,584 83	
	$997,770 93	
Total net earned Premiums		$ 447,984 23
Fire losses paid and estimated	$ 59,506 63	
Marine	67,074 08	
River	85,572 47	
Paid Taxes	26,019 54	
Paid reinsurances and discount in lieu of scrip	60,108 39	
Paid interest, return premiums, general expenses less discount, etc.	67,649 03	
		295,919 15
Net profits		$ 51,935 10
The Company have the following Assets:		
Bills Receivable	$ 37,494 56	
Loans on bonds and Mortgage	69,343 33	
		$ 106,837 89
Cash on hand	$ 104,577 34	
Loans on pledge of stocks on call	63,400 00	
		167,977 34
Loans on pledge of stocks on time	11,290 00	
Real Estate	75,000 00	
Scrips of other Companies and scrip account	45,082 48	
		131,372 48
Consolidated City Bonds	30,000 00	
City Bonds	96,880 00	
Bank and other stocks	196,337 17	
		323,217 17
Coupons for City Bonds past due		5,420 00
Due for Premiums in course of collection		41,630 00
		$ 779,814 68
The Company have also:		
Suspended Notes, Stocks and Bonds		$ 436,365 21
Forfeited Scrip account		7,509 3
Interest uncalled for	$ 7,509 26	

The above statement is a true and correct transcript from the books of the Company.

THOS. A. ADAMS, President.
HENRY V. OGDEN, Secretary.

PARISH OF ORLEANS, City of New Orleans.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 23d day of May, 1868.
PARIS CHILDRESS, Second Justice of the Peace, Parish of Orleans.

The Company will pay interest at 6 per cent. in cash on all its Outstanding Certificates of Scrip to the legal holders thereof, on and after the second Monday in June next.

The Board of Trustees have also declared a Scrip Dividend THIRTY-THREE AND ONE-THIRD per cent. on the earned premiums entitled to participation for the year ending April 30, 1868; for which certificates will be issued on and after the first Monday in August next, free of Government tax.

THOMAS A. ADAMS, President.
SAMUEL H. KENNEDY, Vice President.
HENRY V. OGDEN Secretary.

—TRUSTEES—

Thomas A. Adams,	Samuel H. Kennedy,
C. T. Bouldecke,	Samuel B. Newman,
P. H. Foley,	Wm. Edwards,
A. G. Ober,	A. Thompson,
P. Simms,	John Phelps,
A. Eimer Bader,	E. H. Summers.

NEW ORLEANS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY,

Office, Corner of Camp and Canal Streets.

INTH YEAR.

Premiums received during the year ending December 31st, 1868 ..... $413,397 81

Losses, Taxes, Expenses, Reinsurance, etc., paid during same period $180,175 20

Assets on the 31st December, 1868 ..... $603,540 76

NEW ORLEANS, January 20, 1869.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors held on the 14th instant, it was resolved to declare a scrip dividend of FORTY PER CENT. on the net earned participating premiums for the year ending December 1868 for which certificates will be issued on and after [illegible] and have further resolved to pay Six Per Cent. [illegible] est on the outstanding certificates of Scrip, on and after the second Monday of March, 1869.

J. TUYES, President.
J. W. BINGES, Secretary.

DIRECTORS.

Geo. Urquhart,	T. B. Blanchard,	Chs. Lafitte,
A. Rocheguon,	Wm. Steven,	M. Payre.
G. W. Babcock,	J. A. White,	E. Mittenberger,
Aug. Reichard,	W. F. Williams,	J. Tuyes.

INSURANCE.

GERMANIA INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW ORLEANS.

Third Annual Statement.

In conformity with the requirements of their charter, the Company publishes the following

STATEMENT:

Total amount of Premiums for the year ending 31st March, 1869 ..... $253,238 34

Fire Premiums	$222,530 32	
Marine Premiums	50,831 70	
River Premiums	11,936 32	
		285,238 34
Less Return Premiums	7 555 89	
Less Unearned Premiums	58,276 04	
		65,831 93
Net Earned Premiums		$319,666 48
Losses Paid—		
Fire Losses	$ 52,765 00	
Marine Losses	38,005 84	
River Losses	8,071 42	
	98,842 26	
Reinsurances	12,731 51	
Taxes and Internal Revenue	15,384 16	
Expenses Less Interest	24,798 15	
Rebate 15 per cent.	33,861 97	
Reserved for Unadjusted Losses	9,000 00	
		189,618 01
Net Profits		$ 30,038 47

ASSETS:

Stock Notes	$180,000 00	
Bills Receivable	3,669 77	
Due by Individual Accounts	21,322 64	
Mortgage on Real Estate	62,135 84	
Loan on Pledge on Demand	33,920 00	
United States Securities	2,300 00	
Stock and Bonds	40,320 20	
Cash on hand	63,646 36	
		$357 314 50

The above statement is a just, true and correct transcript from the books of this Company.

D. MICHEL, President.
E. MAIER, Secretary.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, at New Orleans, this 10th of April, 1869.
(Signed) E. G. GOTTSCHALK, Notary Public.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors held on the 8th of April, it was resolved that a dividend of $10 per share be hereby declared, to be credited to the Unpaid Stock Notes.

D. MICHEL, President.
FRED DEL BONDIO, Vice President.
E. MAIER, Secretary.

DIRECTORS:

Fred. Del Bondio,	H. Zuberbier,
D. Michel,	J. F. Kranss,
A. Eimer Bader,	Louis Schwarz,
Thomas Schorr,	Geo. Merz,
August Koenig,	S. Friedlander,
H. Blaess,	W. Goldenbow,
A. Marks,	Chas. Rotthoff,
J. A. Blaffer,	F. M. Zeigler,
H. F. Klumpp,	P. W. Dielman,
J. J. Weckerling,	Ph. D Meyer,
Chas. Bendix,	Chas. Lodig,
O. H. Karsdendiek,	N. A. Baumgarden.

LOUISIANA MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

Fifteenth Annual Statement.

In conformity with the requirements of their Charter, the Company publish the follow statement:

Total Premiums for the year ending 28th February, 1869 ..... $496,938 2

Via: Fire Premiums	$ 224,835 96	
Marine Premiums	141,602 88	
River Premiums	130,309 40	
		$496,938 24
Less Return Premiums	$ 1 502 49	
Less Unearned Premiums	36,760 00	
		38,262 49
Net earned premiums		$458,575 72
Losses, etc., paid:		
Fire Losses	$125,055 15	
Marine Losses	119,350 73	
River Losses	39,380 50	
	$283,786 38	
Discount in lieu of Scrip	50,240 41	
Taxes and Internal Revenue	13,007 81	
Expenses, Reinsurance, etc., less discount account	19,694 98	
Six per cent interest on outstanding Scrip to 1st March, 1869	31,329 00	
		398,058
Net profit		$ 60,517 14

ASSETS:

Invested in Real Estate	$ 33,705 03	
" " Mortgage on Real Estate	76,371 50	
" " City and other Bonds	82,220 00	
" " Bank and other Stocks	126,785 00	
" " Scrip of Insurance Companies	73,478 25	
Loans on Pledges	5,313 19	
Bills Receivable	53,119 47	
Premiums in course of Collection	97,440 30	
Cash on hand	115,494 60	
		$ 667,327 34

The above statement is a just, true and correct transcript from the books of the Company.

CHAS. BRIGGS, President.
J. P. ROUX, Secretary.

STATE OF LOUISIANA, Parish of Orleans, City of New Orleans.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17th day of March, 1869.
P. C. CUVELIER, Notary Public.

The Board of Trustees have resolved to declare a Scrip Dividend of FORTY PER CENT. on the net earned participating premiums for the year expiring 28th of February, 1869, for which certificates will be issued on and after the 1st day of June next.

Thirty per cent. of the Scrip Certificates issued for the year 1861, will be redeemed; also, six per cent. interest on all outstanding certificates of scrip will be paid, on and after the second Monday of May, 1869, to the holders thereof or their legal representative.

CHAS. BRIGGS, President.
ANT. CARRIERE, Vice President.

TRUSTEES:

Charles Briggs,	A. Lecourt,
Ant. Carriere,	Frank Williams,
Geo. A. Fosdick,	Thomas Byrne,
R. Brigler,	John Thornhill,
Chas. Lafitte,	John S. Wallis,
P. Anderson,	George Foster,
Alfred Kearny,	Andrew Stewart,
A. Frerichs,	L. B Pothier,
Geo. W. Dunbar,	R. Piaggio,
E. F. Stockmeyer,	Rudolph Siegl,
Geo. W. Hynson,	H. F. Given,
Archibald Montgomery,	W. C. Black,
Henry J. Vose,	Geo. G. Garnes,
E. Marquese,	Thos. H. Hunt,
Chas. Wiesbaar,	Chs Honold,
A. R. Montgomery,	O. Carriere,
R. S. Howard.	

WILLIAM C. COOKE'S INSURANCE AGENCY,

80 ..... Camp Street 80

REPRESENTING OVER $4,500,000 CASH CAPITAL.

FIRE, RIVER and MARINE RISKS written at Current Rates. All Losses Liberally Adjusted and Promptly Paid at this Office.

LUMBER, COAL, WOOD.

PETER ROSS, BUILDER,

Returns thanks to the citizens of New Orleans for their patronage for the last twenty years. He has now made extensive additions to his Workshops, and introduced several woodworking machines, which will enable him to attend promptly to any business in his line. Shop and office corner of Prytania and Washington streets, Mechanics' Exchange, box No. 1.

KATHMAN, J. C.,
TROPICAL ROOFING MANUFACTORY,
—And—
DEALER IN COAL, CHARCOAL, COKE, WHITE SAND AND FIREWOOD;
No. 226 Bienville Street, Corner of Marais.

Orders left at the above place, or Box 53, Mechanics' Exchange, will receive prompt attention.

INSURANCE.

COMMERCIAL INSURANCE COMPANY

THIRD ANNUAL STATEMENT.

In conformity with the requirements of their charter the Company publish the following

STATEMENT:

Amount of Premiums for the year ending 31st March, 1869:

Fire Premiums		$ 45,714 54
Marine Premiums		51,265 36
River Premiums		134,679 86
		$211,659 26
Losses paid, viz:		
Fire	$ 5 290 13	
Marine	14,812 61	
River	74,424 83	
		94,527 55
		$117,152 71
Less Rebate	$29 315 43	
Taxes	6,496 01	
Re-Insurance	7,097 63	
Return Premium	121 43	
Expense: Salaries, rent and contingent, less interest	14,257 09	
		$ 57 287 54
Net profits		$ 59,865 17

ASSETS:

Stock Notes	$534,295 00
Bills Receivable	8,331 90
Furniture	3,790 73
Premiums in course of collection	41,608 27
Cash on hand	61,753 65
	$649,759 55

The above statement is a just, true and correct transcript from the Books of the Company.

JOS. H. OGLESBY, President.
WALTER HUFFINGTON, Secretary.

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, April 13, 1869.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this thirteenth day of April, 1869. EDWARD IVY, N. P.

PIEDMONT LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF VIRGINIA.

Principal Office—Corner Main and Ninth STREETS, RICHMOND, VA.

Authorized Capital	$1,000,000
Capital Invested and Well Secured	100,000
Premiums Earned First Sixteen Months, over	$400,000
Number of Policies issued, over	2,200.

87½ Per Centum of Profits paid to Policy HOLDERS.

W. C. CARRINGTON ..... President.
R. H. MAURY ..... Vice President.
J. J. HOPKINS ..... Secretary.
G. HENRY PERROW, M. D. ..... Medical Adviser.

DIRECTORS:

R. H. Maury of R. H. Maury & Co., Bankers; A. F. Harvey, President of National Bank of Virginia, and of Harvey & Williams, Commission Merchants; O. F. Weisiger, of Weisiger & Co.; A. S. Lee, Commission Merchant; Richard Irby, of Snyder & Irby; A. Tideman, Tobacconist; W. A. Armistead, of Armistead & Peck; W. P. Shepherd, J. R. Peebles.

STATE REFERENCES:

Messrs. Sam'l Henderson, J. C. Denis, T. S. Barton, Thos. Murray, Gen. T. M. Scott, Gen. Dabney H. Maury, Gen. G. T. Beauregard, Judge Alex. Walker, Col. G. G. Garner, New Orleans; Gen. Mason Graham, Alexandria.

Agents and Solicitors wanted everywhere. Address GEN. D. H. MAURY, 24 Union street, General Agent.

GUARDIAN MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, OF NEW YORK.

(Organized in 1859.)

ALL POLICIES NON-FORFEITABLE. HALF LOAN TAKEN; NO NOTES REQUIRED.

Last Cash Dividend Fifty (50) Per Cent.

EQUAL TO FROM ONE HUNDRED TO ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY PER CENT. REVERSIONARY DIVIDEND.

—STATEMENT—

Policies in force	$25,000,000
Assets	1,500,000
Annual Income	800,000
Losses Paid	800,000

—OFFICERS—

W. H. PECKHAM ..... President.
H. V. GAHAGAN ..... Secretary.
L. McADAM ..... Actuary.
G. A. FUDICKAR ..... Superintendent of Agencies.

—DIRECTORS—

Hon. John A. Dix, New York.
Hon. James Harper, House Harper & Bros., New York.
John J. Crane, President Bank Republic.
William T. Hooker, Wall street.
William M. Vermilye, Banker, (Vermilye & Co.
Charles G. Rockwood, Cashier Newark Banking Co.
Hon. George Opdyke, ex-Mayor of New York.
Minot C. Morgan, Banker.
Thomas Rigney, House Thomas Rigney & Co.
Benjamin B. Sherman, N. Y. Steam Sugar Refining Co.
Aaron Arnold, House Arnold, Constable & Co.
Richard H. Browne, Westmore & Browne, Attorneys.
E. V. Hanghwout, House E. V. Hanghwout & Co.
William Wilkens, House W. Wilkens & Co.
James H. Pratt, Merchant.
William W. Wright, Merchant.
Charles J. Starr, Merchant.
William Allen, Merchant.
George W. Cuyler, Banker, Palmyra, New York.
George T. Hope, President Continental Fire Insurance Co.
John H. Sherwood, Park Place.
Walton H. Peckham, corner Fifth Avenue and 23d street.
Edward H. Wright, Newark, New Jersey.
George W. Farlee, Attorney.
W. L. Cogswell, Merchant.

JOSEPH MAGNER,
General Agent for Louisiana,
48 Union Street, New Orleans.

LOUISIANA EQUITABLE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Capital $500,000

OFFICE, 143 CANAL STREET, NEW ORLEANS.

DIRECTORS:

G. Cavaroc,	W. S. Pike,	Edward Kinsey,
S. A. Tyler,	J. W. Stone,	W. B. Schmidt,
C. H. Slocomb,	A. Thompson,	Alexander Marks,
F. Delbondio,	D. B. Penn,	C. E. Girardey,
George A. Fosdick,	Edward Burnett,	Marshall J. Smith.

JOSEPH ELLISON, President, W. S. PIKE, Vice-President.
St. CLAIR DUNKING, Gen. Agent, W. P. HARPER, Secretary.

MEDICAL EXAMINERS.

Dr. B. H. Moss, Dr. Sam'l Choppin, Dr. Y. S. LeMonier, Dr. Henry Smith, Dr. J. H. Lewis, Dr. W. C. Nicholls.

G. A. Breaux, Attorney.

ALL KINDS OF LIFE RISKS TAKEN—Ordinary Life and Annual Endowment; Ten Annual Endowment and Five Annual Endowment; Single Payment; Participating and Non-Participating, issued by this Company as low as any other Company.

ALL PAYMENTS NON-FORFEITABLE.

LOUISIANA STATE MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW ORLEANS.

OFFICE: COR. CARONDELET AND COMMON STS.

FIRE.....MARINE.....RIVER.

RISKS TAKEN AT THE LOWEST TARIFF RATES.

E. GANUCHEAU, President.
A. BALDWIN, Vice President.
L. W. BAQUIE, Secretary.

Directors.

A. E. Bader,	Chas. J. Leeds,	A. Baldwin,
O. Bercier,	D. Bouligny,	E. Bordelois,
E. H. Harris,	Wm. Heyl,	M. J. Hauck,
J. Lapeus,	Alex. Marks,	S. Cambon,
L. H. Gardner,	O. Hopkins,	J. Zoity,
Thomas Bloin,	F. Laborde,	A. Tertrou,
A. McGregor,	W. B. Conger,	J. Dugas.
J. A. Bonnalon,	C. H. Mouton,	S. Hermann,
A. Palazio,	A. D. Grieff,	G. F. Slancand
L. B. Pothier,	E. P. Mioton,	A. Waldkirch,
D. L. Kernion,	D. P. Logan,	E. Ganucheau.

FIREMENS' INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW ORLEANS.

Capital Stock $500,000

With privilege to increase to $3,000,000.

Office No. 26 Camp street, Story Building, corner of Camp and Common streets.

S. L. MILLAUDON, President; J. H. LAFUENTE, Vice-President.
E. N. GANUCHEAU, Secretary.

This Company offers to the insured the option of a rebate of 15 per cent., or a participation in the net profits, payable at the end of each year in cash.

The New Orleans Crescent.

SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 18, 1869.

To Emma.

BY GEORGE D. PRENTICE.

Young wanderer from a Southern clime,
Forgive, I pray, this humble rhyme,
That welcomes thee, with heartfelt tone,
To colder skies than thou hast known.
May love and hope and joy enfold
Thy young form like a mist of gold;
And may no Northern blast have power
To chill the tender Southern flower.

Ah, Emma, Time has set his sign
O'gray on these thin locks of mine;
Yet thy dear memory will remain
A "thing of beauty" in my brain.
'Twill be as if a lake unstirred,
Should catch the shadow of a bird,
And the sweet image still should stay
When the bright bird had passed away.

Oh Emma, thou art wondrous fair,
A new moon waxing in the air;
Thy love-star, with a tender beam,
Hovering above it like a dream.
I love to muse in reverie,
On what thou art, what thou wilt be;
And hang with Fancy's magic art,
The angel picture in my heart.

The gentle swan that oars his way
Upon the waters of the bay;
The cloud that seems to move in sleep
Upon the blue and upper deep;
The slender willow, lithe and frail,
That sways before the singing gale,
Are emblems of the grace that dwells
In all thou art, young queen of belles.

Time passes on, but may'st thou live
To share each good that life can give;
May every year upon thee fling
Rich blessings from its dewy wing;
May gentle lovers round thee throng,
With smile and sigh and vow and song,
And all thy life, with tears unwet,
Be a sweet song to music set.

But ah! it may be thou wilt not
Escape dear woman's common lot;
Each lovely rose that now adorns
Thy path, may tear thee with its thorns;
Each fount that woos thee now to lave
Thy red lip in its cooling wave,
May shrink away from thy embrace,
And leave but dust within its place.

Well, if it must be so—if Fate
Shall make thee sad and desolate—
If all the stars that o'er thee burn
Shall into lurid darkness turn—
If every cloud, now white, shall hold
The lightnings in its darkening fold,
Then then, oh! loveliest one, be strong
To battle with the cruel wrong,
Or oer earth's atmosphere to fly,
And wander in the open sky,
And see in doubt and darkness hurled
The wild confusions of the world.

[N. Y. Ledger.

Donn Piatt.

"L. R." an occasional Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial, discourses as follows of the accomplished Donn Piatt, who is the regular Washington correspondent of the same paper:

"It is not strange in this world of great rewards and small merit, and large merits and small reward, that a gentleman of singular judgment and learning should come to the surface of Washington as a newspaper correspondent, instead of taking his proper place in the body of the Senate. They can't have any sense up in his district or they would send him to Congress at least."

It was some such comments as these that were madeny the member from New England as Col. Piatt came under our observation.

"I do not know," I replied, "but what one position is as honorable as the other; the representative makes laws, and the correspondent reputation."

But as conversations about men are only less stupid than colloquial science and philosophy, I will proceed at once to the summary of the gentleman in question.

Colonel Piatt, who in his youth was red-faced and impulsive, is now calm-eyed and sturdy-looking, accepting for colorless, corpse-like hands, which he has a habit of passing frequently across his forehead.

In person he is, as sturdy-looking implies, rather below the medium height, but he has a good figure and remarkably fine carriage, walking with a firm, even tread. His head is beautifully shaped, the intellectual organs strongly predominant, the forehead well developed and shaded by thick brown hair, worn as carelessly as the short cut will admit of. Indeed, the hair, eyebrows and eyes are all of the brown tint denominated hazel, the eyes large and clear, with an intensity of gaze peculiar to artists. Your correspondent, if not an artist, is an amateur in his way, being well skilled in law, metaphysics, medicine, war, politics and poetry, all of which accomplishments brought to bear upon his winter's work, have made him the most successful correspondent of the age. He is more quoted, praised more, and more censured than any other one man; and, it is worthy of remark, is in daily receipt of letters from all parts of the country and all classes of people—the good thanking him as a great "moral instrumentality," the wicked indorsing his course, the young asking for advice, and the old saying, "Bless you, my son."

Infaith he is a Methodist, and is a member in good standing of the little Wesleyan chapel near Mace-cheek, his country home.

A late number of the Repository contained an exquisite poem from his pen.

A jovial companion and welcome guest, Colonel Piatt is exceedingly reserved on occasions. With a simplicity of manner bordering on indifference, he is rather an odd mixture of liberal sentiment and conventionality, holding himself aloof from the vulgar herd. Perhaps it is this real lack of sympathy with the masses which has prevented his success as a politician.

Endowed with a keen sense of the ridiculous, his enemies say that Donn Piatt would lose a friend rather than a joke at his expense; but they are forced to admit that he is quick to forgive an injury and return good for evil; that he is, withal, kind-hearted, and will work like a Trojan for a friend, while he has too much modest pride to seek prefement, persistently, on his own account.

In his day an indefatigable pleasure-seeker, he is a man of irreproachable morals, and as great a stickler for propriety as can be imagined.

Tender and true in his domestic relations, he is particularly indifferent to ladies in general.

Unlike most writers, he has very remarkable conversational powers, and is a very eloquent speaker. His voice is sweet and full, and is rounded with a melancholy cadence, or "dying fall," which makes it very effective, and which may be said to belong to the Piatt family. Their voices are so identical in every respect that, not seeing them, one could not determine whether it was brothers or nephews speaking.

Born of parents than whom there never were nobler and purer, one can perceive in Donn Piatt the constant development of talent and goodness. Thus the face, which has lost none of its youth and freshness, is infinitely handsomer for the expression of repose added, reminding me of his mother, who had the sweetest eyes and smile I ever beheld.

How eyes that are closed in death, oh, for many a year, look out to us from the eyes of the living, until we are turned back of a sudden to the days of our youth. Colonel Donn Piatt is an old acquaintance, but the earlier friend was his niece, who was my schoolmate; and recognizing him that day in the gallery of the Senate, it was her eyes I saw, her hand I clasped—not his.

As for us, we parted last at the old homestead, which he told me was now gone to decay, and the friends who looked out on life with us then long scattered or dead. What a dreamy, impossible future it was then, compared with the present, when my neighbor of the Commercial D. P. leads L. R. in your columns, excuses himself in order to finish his letter, and I make an item of him.

GRANT'S WASHINGTON HOUSE.—It is related by the Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati Enquirer that General Grant first sold his house in Washington to Sayles S. Bowen, and a memorandum of the agreement was made, in which it was stipulated that $1000 was to be paid down on signing the agreement, $9000 cash upon the delivery of deed and possession of premises, and $30,000 in ten years, with interest at six per cent. This memorandum had attached to it a receipt for $1000, signed by Kilbour & Latta, General Grant's agents, and also a note written and signed by Grant himself, in relation to the furnaces, gas fixtures, etc. It is understood that the general had the deed prepared, and everything arranged for making the transfer, when Mrs. Grant refused to give her consent to the transfer. Meantime, the Sherman contributors made overtures for the purchase of the property for Sherman, and President Grant ignoring the agreement with Bowen, sold the house for nearly double the original contract. Bowen was furious, and a suit for ten or twenty thousand dollars damages is now talked of. It is said that Grant has been making overtures for a settlement outside of the courts.

Life Among Cannibals.

ADVENTURES OF A NEW YORK SEAMAN AMONG THE MARQUESAS ISLANDERS—CANNIBALISM—THE CUSTOM OF TABOOING AND OTHER PECULIAR MANNERS AND USAGES.

[From the New York Times.]

A remarkable man recently arrived in the city of New York, loaded with irons and charged with the crime of mutiny. His name is Wm. H. Starr. He was born in Rochester, New York, about fifty years ago. He was sent to school in his early years, but not liking books, he ran away when nine years of age, and making his way across the State to Mystic, on the Sound, managed to board a vessel, then just about to sail for Havre, France, and so was carried away across the Atlantic. On reaching Havre, he again ran away, because he feared the captain would restore him to his friends on returning to the United States. He got a berth on board a steamer plying on the Seine between Rouen and Havre. Here he was ill-treated and finally left and went ashore. He then shipped on a Swedish ship and made a cruise in the Baltic Sea. Thence he went on board a Russian brig; thence on a fruit vessel to the Mediterranean. He returned on a vessel to America, and finally arrived at New York, whence he shipped to Honolulu. He then went on a whaling voyage to the Sea of Okhotsk; thence to Kodiak and New Zealand, and finally to the Marquesas Islands.

This was thirty years ago. On arriving at the Marquesas, he found living there, among the natives, a sailor with whom he had been formerly acquainted, and who persuaded him also to come and live a free life among the savages. He agreed to do so, and took up his abode among them. He has continued to live with them until within the last two years, and has acquired a most intimate knowledge of the languages of this remarkable variety of mankind, their manners and customs, and all the strange passions and superstitions that form the moving springs of their wide life.

The natives quickly discovered the value of his knowledge, and gave him a prominent position in their community. Oitahu, where he dwelt, is a small island of the Marquesas group, containing about two thousand inhabitants. These are divided into three kingdoms or clans, occupying different districts, but always preserving strictly amicable relations with one another, and considering themselves as one family. The kings or chiefs of these clans are independent of each other, but unite their forces in any war against the natives of the surrounding islands. Starr was adopted by one of the kings as his son, and was always accorded princely honors. He always ate with the principal chiefs, and had fourteen youths appointed to act as his servants. The Marquesans valued him on account of the services he was able to render them in negotiating sales of fruit, figs, poultry, etc., to the various ships which came to the islands. He procured for them many axes, chisels, knives and other implements. Iron, in fact, has now become indispensable to the natives, since they have lost the faculty of shaping and even using the stone hatchets and knives, which were formerly their only tools.

CANNIBALISM.

The Marquesans are tall, finely-formed men, of a dark copper color, agile, and very courageous. The women are slender, and much shorter than the men. They are inveterate cannibals, and this not from necessity, but because they prefer human flesh to any other kind of food. The bread-fruit grows in immense quantities in all the islands, without any trouble of cultivation, and the natives can gather what they please. There are also great quantities of bananas, pine apples, boova, taro, and other tropical vegetables, growing wild. The islands are frequented by wild pigeons in prodigious numbers, and there are plenty of wild goats and wild pigs. The seas abound with fish, which the natives catch by stupefying them with a narcotic drug and then hoisting them rapidly into their canoes. This drug is called *awsa*, and is prepared by the natives from a small plant glowing in different parts of the islands. Nature, indeed has been lavish in her gifts to these beautiful regions. And, therefore, it is not want, but actual relish for man's flesh, that tempts them to these dismal feasts. It appears that they have a human banquet about once a week. The victims are the prisoners taken in the numerous forays which the islands make upon one another. These unfortunates are slain, their bodies stuffed with sweet-scented herbs, and then roasted upon hot stones. They are covered over with more of these leaves and hot stones, apparently, from the description, much after the plan of cooking clams at a clam bake, and finally, when cooked, are eaten at the public feast. Starr says that he did all he could to persuade the people to forego these horrid practices; but, though they were willing enough to obey him in other things, they declined to follow his advice in this. On one occasion, he says, they had prepared for a feast of man's flesh, and as he had a great horror of the whole affair, he went off to the mountains to hunt. While he was on the mountains a schooner arrived in the bay. It was the Sea Witch, commanded by Captain Chapman, who had formerly been American vice-consul at Raiotea. The captain came ashore to see Starr and trade with him for fruits, etc. He ascended from the rocky shore, and walking through the little town, came straight to the public square when the cannibal feast was at its height. A native, knowing the purpose for which he had landed, came forward and taking him by the arm, pointed out Starr's hut, and tried to make him understand that he should wait there while they sent a boy after the absent white chief. The captain, however, seeing the nature of the direful festivities then in progress, began to be much alarmed. He doubted what these singular gesticulations could mean; being a fat, healthy man, a horrid suspicion began to tingle beneath the roots of his hair; he released himself from the grasp of the natives at a bound, and rushing off at the top of his speed, never stopped until he reached his boat, which he caused the man to force with pretty rapid strokes through the water until they came alongside the schooner. Starr afterward met the captain in Raiotae, and he told him that he had never been so much frightened in the course of his life.

TABOO.

We are apt to talk of the tiresome etiquette and tedious conventionalities of civilized life, and are also apt to imagine that there is a delicious freedom and absence of restraint among uncivilized tribes. Nothing can be more inaccurate than such ideas. These Marquesans are literally iron-bound in a set of conventional and superstitious rules which extend to the most minute circumstances of life. The great moral apparatus for the direction of society here, is called "taboo," which signifies anything that is sacred or forbidden or reserved. "Taboo" embodies all these significations, and something more, since it implies also fearful retribution upon all who violate it. Thus, all the men eat together, and all the articles of food that are prepared for them are "taboo;" and must never be touched by a woman. Even the house where the public meals are eaten, and its inclosure are "taboo," and women are prohibited from entering them. If a piece of hair shaven from a man's head has fallen upon any road or pathway, a woman must not dare to pass over it, and a mark is set up to show that the place is "taboo." There are some articles of food which men and women may eat together, as there are a few kinds of drink which they may also share; all other kinds of food are "taboo." If anything is thrown accidentally upon the head it is "taboo," and must never be used; it is hung up in the sacred inclosure until it rots away. Any article inadvertently lifted over a child's head is "taboo." If a woman climbs into a tree, it is "taboo" for a man to pass underneath it; so the tree has always to be cut down. A Marquesan believes that if he violates "taboo" he will swell up till he bursts, and that if he should go in a canoe on salt water, he would be seized and eaten by a shark. And the most singular fact is that the force of imagination is so great among these people that they do invariably take some disease and die if they unintentionally violate "taboo." If they are known to violate it intentionally they are immediately killed. It is customary for men when they are expecting death to will away their articles to different persons of their family; thus a pig may be "taboo" to a child; and the animal must never be injured until the child arrives at a certain age, when the pig is killed at a feast. The regulations in regard to "taboo" extend even to particular kinds of festivals. Thus, if a chief is not tattooed in a certain way, he is not admissible to some of these feasts. The missionaries established on some of the islands have endeavored to root these superstitions out of the minds of the people; but some who have even adopted Christiany for several years are still found adhering to these singular notions.

The system of society among these people is the most perfect communism. The food is distributed among the whole tribe, and all the meals are public. The food both of women and men is cooked by men. At the meals the men sit round upon mats spread upon the ground. The food is placed before them in shells. All the young men of the tribe wait upon their elders, and serve what is required. There are also in all the tribes a number of young men who are employed in making *cawa*, an intoxicating or narcotic drink, of which the Polynesians are very fond. It is made of the root of a small shrub. This root is chewed by the young men and thrown into a bowl, water is poured in upon the mass and then the solid part is strained away, leaving the intoxicating beverage behind. Men and women both consume this strange concoction, and the drunkenness which results is not considered disgraceful. It is "taboo" for men and women to drink *cawa* together.

RELIGION.

As to religion, the Marquesans appear to be spiritualists of the most advanced kind. They do not, it is true, believe in a Supreme Spirit; nor have they any notions of religious worship; but for them all nature is the domain of spirits. They say, "Spirits are all around us, only we cannot see them." Could the Dodworth Hall spiritualists be more explicit? They have remarkably clever mediums, too—"Taboomen," as they are called, who, as is sometimes the case in New York, arrive at great wealth and dignity in the exercise of their profession. If a ch