

Opelousas Courier.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE PARISH OF ST. LANDRY.

Published on Saturday by

Leonce Sandoz,

OPELOUSAS, - - LOUISIANA

A New Yorker who has just returned from a trip through Holland says that he did not see a single beggar during his stay in that country of frugal and industrious people.

The young ladies who reside upon Foundry street, Detroit, have petitioned the city council for a change in its name, declaring that the young gentlemen who call upon them "wickedly, maliciously, and against the peace of the State of Michigan" refer to it as "Pig Iron Alley."

Says the Boston Herald: People who believe in the heredity of crime will find some interesting evidence on their side in the history of a Charles Ford who was hanged recently for murder in Illinois. His father was hanged for the same crime before him, and his brother likewise. His mother's brother is now doing time at Sing Sing (N. Y.) Prison for train wrecking, and his sister has run a thieves' paradise in New York for several years. She was chased out of Chicago, and her second husband is in the Indiana State Penitentiary. There are numerous other relatives in the same line of business, but perhaps this record will do.

There is one thing that has kept pace with the ascending buildings, asserts the New York Tribune. It takes you less time to reach the eleventh story of a new structure nowadays than it took to reach the third floor a few years ago. When you step into an elevator in a modern building, you feel as if you were flashed through space. You are no sooner in the car than you hear the monotonous "ninth," or "tenth," or "eleventh" of the elevator boy. You find yourself over a great city hardly realizing how you got there; so the inconvenience of having an office in mid-air is reduced to a point scarcely worth considering.

The statistics of floriculture furnished by the Census Bureau are of a very interesting character. There are, it appears, 5000 establishments throughout the country engaged in raising flowers and plants; \$40,000,000 is invested in the industry, and nearly 20,000 persons are employed in it. The products during the census year were valued at \$25,000,000, and among the products were 50,000,000 roses. "Both from the practical and the aesthetic side," comments the Philadelphia Record, "the extent of this industry is gratifying. The passion for flowers is one of the most delicate sentiments in human nature, and its subtle and refining influence is a factor in moral growth and elevation."

The New York Mail and Express is of the opinion that very few people have any idea of the manner in which the development of the commerce on our great lakes keeps pace with the extension of trunk line railroads. The Census Bureau has issued a second bulletin on lake transportation, which places the number of vessels engaged on the lakes at 2784, with a gross tonnage of 924,472, a net tonnage of 790,119, and estimated carrying capacity of 1,254,721 tons and a commercial valuation of \$48,809,750. This is a marvelous showing, not only for the lake traffic, but for the development of the region beyond the lakes which has stimulated the lake commerce.

The Louisville Courier-Journal says: The proper way in which to consider the size of a city is to include all the people in a given radius who are directly dependent upon it for support, whether they reside in a different country or State. The application of this test causes considerable shifting about of places among our cities, and results in some surprises. It gives to New York that great lead in population which her commercial and financial importance and metropolitan character warrants. While on the face of the census returns New York has 1,813,000 and Chicago 1,099,000, the difference does not seem great, yet when New York takes all her suburbs and outlying towns, places in which people can sleep but live in New York, she expands into a mighty volume, comparing well with that of London. By taking a section of country around New York Bay about fifty miles square, one obtains a population of 3,621,578, all of whom are virtually citizens of the metropolis. By assigning to them areas similar to those given to New York, the chief centres of population are in order as follows:

Table with 2 columns: City Name and Population. Includes New York (3,621,578), Philadelphia (1,429,000), Boston (1,234,000), Chicago (1,099,000), Pittsburgh (677,000), St. Louis (625,000), Cincinnati (590,000), Baltimore (520,000), Providence (520,000), Cleveland (426,000), Buffalo (385,000), Minneapolis (381,000), San Francisco (338,000), Detroit (330,000), Kansas City (229,000), Albany (205,000), New Orleans (199,000), Louisville (177,000).

AFTERGLOW.

After the sun's last ray Has left the mountain crest, Taking the golden day To lands of the waiting West; After the darkness falls Swift on the parting hour, After the night enthralled Vine-lands and towers; Like fumes of early dawn With rose-tints permeate, Up from the glory gone, Springs glory re-creates, Over the realms of cloud, Over the earth below, And night holds back her shroud, In the splendor of afterglow. After the light of love Fades in hopeless night, A glory from above Falls the heart with after-light, And when a life's bright ray Leaveth its loved in woe, The heart's loved find day In its beautiful afterglow. -Emily Selinger, in Boston Transcript.

A DRAWN BET

BY HENRY C. WOOD. The note ran thus: "My dear boy:—Yesterday I received a letter from my cousin and dearest friend of my youth, Helen Powers. 'It informed me that she would be in this part of the State, perhaps by tomorrow, and would do herself the honor to spend a few days with me, for the sake of 'suld lang syne,' and also to show me what a lovely daughter she has reared. 'Now, my dear boy, picture me here at Bachelor Hall with two beautiful women on my hands—Helen was one of the fairest among my kinswomen, and I presume the daughter has followed dutifully in her footsteps. 'My own old-bachelor self, in the face of this threatened intrusion, has been swallowed up and forgotten in the great problem of what to do with them, and how to entertain them so that their visit may be a pleasant one. 'The bright idea has struck me that if I can secure your valuable assistance in entertaining the lovely daughter, I can manage to render Helen's life endurable for a few days in talking over old times. 'I beseech you, therefore, to cast aside the quill and buckle on your most attractive manners—you perceive that I regard them as something quite apart and aloof from your usual self—and hasten to the rescue. 'Entre nous, is there any disinfectant that will conquer tobacco smoke? If so, purchase a liberal supply for me, and bring along with you. 'If you would, also, kindly lend me a picture or two, I might hang them up somewhere, and give the house a sort of civilized look. 'Yours in distress, 'GEORGE MERRIWETHER. 'P.S.—I expect you might as well select my hat, and bring it with you. A broad-brimmed one will best suit my peculiar style of beauty. G.M.'"

"The 'hat' was in reference to a wager we had made on New Year's Day, that the first one who should succumb to the tender influences of the fair sex must forfeit the best hat to be found in the town. I smiled a little at this postscript, and decided that no new hat should be worn at my expense. On reaching Bachelor Hall I found my friend, usually so placid, wearing a look of genuine perplexity on his genial countenance. 'Thrice welcome!' he cried, pleasantly, as I alighted. 'You are like the physician in case of illness—an agreeable object to look upon, even before prescribing for the malady. 'What an intrusive word is that small 'if,' mine host remarked, dolefully, as we began a tour of inspection through the parlors. 'Now here is the parlour, room quite nice enough in its way, if it were only furnished. 'Its appointments are simply perfect. 'I hastened to remark as I ran my eyes over the room. It was sans carpet, sans curtains, sans furniture, except a dozen massive chairs and a table, which had been purchased many months before at an auction, under the slender belief that they might prove serviceable some day. 'These were huddled together in one corner, as if they had quite gotten out of their native element and had grown hopeless of ever getting into it again. A pyramid of canned goods, some potatoes, flour, various articles of household festooning the bay-window, a new plover, and a few garden implements lent change to the scene. 'It would seem,' I added, noting my friend's desire to have me speak, 'that you have not devoted this room exclusively to society. As this erratic body has of late years been peculiarly striving after the strange and peculiar in interior decoration, however, your unique collection of bric-a-brac will doubtless give entire satisfaction. 'I suppose this is the room to give up to my cousin, as it is the only well-furnished one in the house,' he said as we reached his den across the hall. 'The furnishing is sufficiently good,' I answered, 'and with the expenditure of some extra energy, combined with a good broom, soap and water, and the removal of a few superfluous boot-jacks, cigar stubs, decaying pipes, together with a general and extensive airing, I do not think your fair visitors will have occasion for complaint. 'Should they murmur it will be an unparalleled case of ingratitude,' I added, encouragingly. 'Aunt Chloe, assisted by her grand-daughter, one of the farm-hands, and the general-utility boy, at once formed a powerful combination for the suppression of dirt and disorder, and so here an attack did they make that by night-fall a great and lustrous improvement manifested itself throughout the establishment. 'After an early breakfast, Merriwether drove off to the station to meet his expected visitors. I found that my friend's recollections of his cousin were in no wise overdrawn. She was a captivating little woman, vivacious and clever, and pretty even yet. A great and overwhelming pang of contrition beset me on my introduction to the daughter, when I recalled the impression I had conceived of a gushing, sentimental young creature, who was to fall to my especial care. 'Anabel Powers was petite and graceful, with laughing eyes and roguish dimples, and possessed a disposition at once amiable and lovable—charmingly blending the gentle dignity of womanhood with the exquisite freshness of youth. Both mother and daughter had traveled much, had read with discrimination and judgment, and, spending most winters in a Northern metropolis, had imbibed largely in the advantages of opera, lecture and art, so that we, who

RARE AND COSTLY WOODS.

WHERE THE TIMBER FOR FINE FURNITURE IS OBTAINED.

All Parts of the World Laid Under Tribute—How Various Kinds of Woods are Treated.

Very few people ever stop to think how much of our national prosperity has a wooden foundation. Nor is that all. We lay all wooded regions under tribute. The far and fragrant East sends its sandalwood and ebony, so precious that they are sold by weight. Norway, England, Spain, Southern Italy, South and Central America, Mexico, Cuba and the West Indies in general add to our supply. So, too, does Canada in very large measure. She sends us every year pine from many million stumps. She supplies also much more than half the yellow birch, which, by help of aniline stain, is a very Proteus of timber. It is strictly a temperate growth—haunting hills where snow lies long and summers are short and hot. Next to Canada as a source of supply come Maine, Vermont, northern New York and the mountains of north Pennsylvania. Its main use is in veneers, that in time become chair-backs and car-seats and all sorts of panels. Logs work much better if they come to the mill green. First they are stripped of bark, then cut into lengths and steamed in a vat for twenty-four hours. Then a big machine catches the bits of log and holds them lengthwise of the fiber against a lance-edged, half-round cutter. In the twinkling of an eye the log is a big wooden ribbon, whose length depends upon its girth. Sixteen thicknesses of it come out of every inch, and it takes twenty-four after they are cut to make an inch of solid wood. It is not often that so many go together. For car-seats, chair-backs and so on these thicknesses are used—the grain of the middle one running against that of the other two. They are glued together with the strong, set-sticking of the glue pot and molded by hydraulic pressure into whatever form is needed. They stay in the mold until the glue is set hard. After that nothing but steam or moisture will move them from their proper curves or rectangles. After hardening they are kindred, then sand-papered and stained cherry or mahogany, or else simply varnished to show their natural yellow. The process is much the same for all native hardwoods. For some purposes veneers are saved instead of cut. The waste is much greater, but the grain is better preserved. Birch is wonderfully cheap—only \$12 the thousand—in the rough. Manipulation adds to its value several hundred per cent. Even with costly woods, such as walnut, it more than doubles it.

The best walnut in the log fetches twelve to fourteen cents the foot. Inferior qualities—known as "second growth"—comes sometimes as low as \$80 a thousand. It is enormously in fashion, though, and as the supply yearly grows smaller the price is likely to grow larger. It comes mainly from the middle south—Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina. Richmond is quite an entrepot for it. Few things are more picturesque than getting out walnut. The trees grow sparsely here and there in the forest. Rich, deep alluvium is its favorite soil. If it is rocky and fed with drainings of limestone hills, it much the better. In the narrow, rich bottoms along mountain streams or the chines of the hill country, it grows to a girth and stature elsewhere unknown. Up, up to the far blue heaven it sends its black-brown column, straight and true. At fifty years old it will be four feet through, at a hundred may be five. A curious fact in tree growth is that the larger the trunk the smaller the yearly increase. Walnuts less than two feet through will not pay for cutting. Even that measure the local buyer looks at askance, though he sells it for the same money to the manufacturer. A three-foot log is "good stuff"; a four-foot one "fine," provided it has no burrs or hollows or is not "doated" at the heart. In the old lavish days the felling was done with axes and the logs "butted" as they lay. Now the logger saves muscle, time and timber by sawing down the trees. No matter how straight they grow, there is always to a woodman's eye a slight "hang" to one side or the other. By looking up the trunk he finds it out and governs himself accordingly. He saws first upon that side nearly half way through the trunk, using a crosscut about six feet long. A man stands at either end of it, and at the end of half an hour is more than willing to rest a bit. Then two small logs are laid crosswise for the tree to fall upon and the saw is set in upon the other side. Swiftly, surely, the sharp teeth bite their way to the heart. When the saw is well buried a wedge is driven to the cleft behind it to keep the tree from binding—that is, resting so heavily upon the blade as to stop its work. It takes nice calculation and steady hands to make both savings meet true in the center. For ordinary timber an inch or so of difference does not matter. Walnut, though, is so prone to split that a little inequality may spoil several hundred dollars' worth of wood. To lessen the risk of it, felling is not done in windy weather. It takes contrivance, as well as muscle to get the logs to market. Log wagons are of various patterns: some low and broad enough to take off three or six, piled pyramidwise; others with wheels higher than your head and tremendous axles, to which one end of the log is chained, while the rest "drags its slow length along" at the impulse of eight stout yoke of oxen. Often, though, the finest logs grow where wheels cannot go. In such cases "snaking" comes in. A log chain, a big cable and a steady team are needed for it. Usually the log lies in a deep, narrow ravine, up whose steep sides wheels are out of the question. One end of the cable is made fast up the hill, the other is carried under and around the log. It is then tied fast to the log chain, at whose other end is the team. At the word they tug and strain upward, and as the rope grows taut the big log rolls uphill. When the cable length is out the log is scotched, the whole process repeated, and continued sometimes till the load floats its safe biber river or railway. There it lies till a buyer comes or high water floats it to lowland markets. In that case the purchaser better look out. In one case on record a sharp mountaineer yanked walnut bark all over a five-foot trackway, rafted it down the Cumberland, sold it for some hundred dollars

The Breathing of a Locomotive.

The "breathing" of a locomotive—that is to say, the number of puffs given by a railway engine during its journey—depends upon the circumference of its driving wheels and their speed. No matter what the rate of speed may be, for every one round of the driving wheels a locomotive will give four puffs—two out of each cylinder, the cylinders being double. The sizes of driving wheels vary, some being eighteen, nineteen, twenty and even twenty-two feet in circumference, although they are generally made of about twenty feet. The express speed varies from fifty-four to fifty-eight miles an hour. Taking the average circumference of the driving wheel to be twenty feet, and the speed per hour fifty miles, a locomotive will give, going at express speed, 880 puffs per minute, or 52,800 puffs per hour, the wheel revolving 13,200 times in sixty minutes, giving 1056 puffs per mile. Therefore, an express going from London to Liverpool, a distance of 201 1/2 miles, will throw out 213,048 puffs before arriving at its destination. During the tourist season of 1888 the journey from London to Edinburgh was accomplished in less than eight hours, the distance being 401 miles, giving a speed throughout of fifty miles an hour. A locomotive of an express train from London to Edinburgh, subject to the above conditions, will give 423,456 puffs.—Iron.

The Best Battles of the War.

John C. Ropes in an article on "The War as We See It Now," printed in Scribner's, is responsible for the following: The national instinct on this subject is perfectly correct. It was at Gettysburg and Chickamauga that our American armies were at their best and did their best. Never were they—either before or after those memorable engagements—so strong, so well officered, so fierce, so determined to win, so resolved not to yield. They were, we repeat, at their best—containing none but seasoned troops, under veteran officers, inured to war, both armies confident of victory, and pretty nearly, taking all things together, equally matched. And no one can read the story of those great battles without being proud of his country and his race, for never was there more resolute and obstinate and gallant fighting done, nor ever were severer losses more unshrinkingly borne. Nor can it be truly said of either of these battles that the beaten army did not fight as hard and as long as its more successful antagonist. There is glory enough for all. Hence it is fitting that both fields—Gettysburg and Chickamauga—should be dedicated to the perpetual remembrance of the great battles so worthily fought there. The South's Prosperity. Financially, the Southern States are glowing with health and promise and rejoicing in the consciousness of their essential greatness. No furor has been created by sensational advertising, but the world has been astonished by the latest statistics of wonderful growth as shown in the national census of 1890. The sum of all is in the fact that the assessed value of property in nine States is estimated by the census officials to have grown from \$3,000,000,000 in 1880 to \$6,000,000,000 in 1890. The reports of the census everywhere tell of enlarged and enlarging areas of cultivation, of new mines of coal and iron, excellent in quality and inexhaustible in quantity, of new manufacturing in every department of human industry. All the bases of wealth and of sound and satisfactory finances are here; and in my opinion Southern enterprises are animated, sustained, and fortified by as sincere and high a regard for commercial credit and personal honor, and by as profound a conviction of the necessity of fair dealing, as are to be found anywhere.—The Forum.

Romance of an Anesthetist.

Sitting on one of the plush sofas at the Fifth Avenue the other day was Mr. E. H. Patterson, of Pineville, Ky. On the little finger of his left hand he displayed a curiously set amethyst ring. It was not an expensive bit of jewelry, but odd enough to attract the attention of a close observer. "That ring has an historic value," said Mr. Patterson. "It was a present to a member of my family from Louis XIV. My wife is a grand-daughter of Owens, of Mount Sterling, Ky., with whom the exiled monarch stopped while in this country incognito in the time of the first Napoleon. While at her grandfather's house the King one evening just before parting took a glass of wine and dropped half a dozen jewels in it; then, after drinking the wine from off the precious stones, distributed them among the various members of the family as a mark of his personal esteem. This particular stone finally fell to my wife's sister, who died in Asheville, N. C., recently, and by her it was presented to me. It has been all through the war, and has been considered a lucky stone. At any rate, nothing would induce me to part with it."—New York Herald.

New Shaving Saloon.

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SELECT SIFTINGS.

Teeth are pulled by electricity. A Belgian coal mine is 3700 feet deep. Ontario, Canada, has an agricultural text-book in her common schools. Teachers' salaries in the United States annually amount to more than \$60,000,000. According to the last census there were twenty-six fifteen-year-old married women in Paris. The average cost of constructing a mile of railroad in the United States at the present time is about \$80,000. A Baltimore man had earache continually for eleven years. Finally he recovered and delight drove him insane. A cut of tea made from the roots of freshly dug dandelions will work wonders for the nerves. Take three times a day. A grain of fine sand will cover one of the minute scales of the human skin, yet each one of these scales covers from 500 to 500 pores. A bill sticking machine, which sticks without ladder or paste pot, has made its appearance in the streets of Paris, and does its work well. The roots of timothy grass have been traced to a depth of 24 feet, and clover 31-16 feet, in a hard clay soil suitable for making bricks. In the text of the "Encyclopaedia Britannica," there are 10,000 words which have never been formally entered and deemed in any dictionary. The people of Starlight, Grundy County, Mo., complain that the man who carries the mail to that town puts young pigs, etc., in the pouch along with the love letters, etc. A magistrate in Georgia recently received four silver dimes as a marriage fee. The groom, a boy of eighteen, said it was all he could afford. The bride was a widow of forty. A tramp stole a razor and opened up a shop in a box car near the fire-brick works at Mexico, Mo. He shaved twenty-five men in half a day, pocketed \$2.50 and again took to the road. Reindeer flesh, which is said to be tender, delicious, and nutritious, is regularly exported from the arctic zones to Hamburg, where it meets eager demand at about thirteen cents a pound. Two years ago the remains of William Innes were buried at Corunna, Ind. When exhumed the other day, they were found petrified, and had increased in weight from 175 to over 500 pounds. A benevolent Atchison (Kan.) woman keeps a bar of soap on a board near a creek that runs through the town, for the use of tramps, and a number of them may be seen at that place every day washing themselves. It pays to feed crops bountifully. The extra yield from the extra supply of plant food is largely clear profit. A considerable part of this extra supply of plant food can be obtained by frequent and thorough cultivation. Baron Hirsch, in an interview, said not Uruguay, but the Argentine Republic would be the site of the proposed Hebrew colony. The baron intends to buy 5,000,000 acres for this purpose. Baron Hirsch may afterward buy land in Canada, but he says that the initial experiment must be made in a milder climate.

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