Opelousas Courier.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE PARISH OF ST. LANDRY.

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OPELOUSAS, - - LOUISIANA

The evangelical Christians of the United States are estimated to be possessed of thirteen billions of dollars.

The entire report published by the Baltimore American of the inaugural ceremonies of James Madison consisted of five and one-half lines. Many papers devoted as many pages to the inauguration of Cleveland.

In a report on the mining industries of South Africa Bennett H. Brough said that since 1867, when the diamond fields were first discovered, there have been exported from Cape Colony more than fifty million carats of diamonds weighing more than ten tons, and the value of which approaches nearly $357,000,000.

The young men of Gorin, Mo., formed a Society of Woodchoppers early last winter. The object of the society, which was constantly carried out in the long winter evenings, was the visitation of the woodpiles of the widows of the town and the conversion of cord wood into stove wood.

The German Emperor uses as a paper-weight on his writing desk the summit of one of the highest mountains of Africa. Doctor Buchner, an African traveler of some fame broke the piece of rock from the highest point of Mt. Kilimandjaro, which is on German-African ground, and presented it to the Emperor.

Says the San Francisco Chronicle: The proprietors of one of the largest dry goods houses in New York have bought a piece of property on Fifth avenue, paying for it $615,000. It is understood that the purchase is merely an investment, but it is probable that the property will be utilized at some future day for business purposes, as Fifth avenue is destined to be the great retail street of New York in the near future.

That settling up a country diminishes the intensity of the winter's cold is proven, maintains the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, by the case of Canada. From 1828 to 1837 Hudson's Bay was closed on the average 184 days in every year; during the last ten years it has been closed only 172 days in each year. Of course, there are some years when the closing is a little earlier and others when it is delayed a few days, but a period of ten years is long enough to give a fair average, and the mitigation of the temperature is thus shown to be quite perceptible.

The Boston Cultivator exclaims: "Co-operation is the farmers' sheet anchor. Together, a community of farmers present an influential and powerful body. Individually, one farmer cannot cope alone with contending forces. The banking, the merchant, the manufacturer and the railway king make their profits from the farmers' labor. How important then, that such labor should be performed under the best conditions and with fair remuneration. Farmers should seek counsel one with another. They should hold conference on common grievances and public questions of the hour. Sustain those institutions that have at heart the farmers' welfare and prosperity."

Among the hopeful features in New Mexico is the fact that the public school system is growing in favor. While not long since there were no public school buildings even in such cities as Albuquerque and Las Vegas, there are now four in Albuquerque, costing about $40,000, and a high school building is soon to be put up at a cost of $35,000. Las Vegas is not far behind. Each county has a superintendent of schools. One difficulty arises from the fact that the progress has been confined to the larger cities, the severe drought of nearly three years' duration having seriously affected many lines of business. Four-fifths of the population of 175,000 are Mexicans and Indians.

It is said that the strongest opposition to the general spread of the English language, which is rapidly forcing its way to recognition as the universal tongue of the world, is found on English soil. Not long ago, relates the Atlanta Constitution, the legislative Assembly of Jersey rejected by an overwhelming vote a proposition to permit the use of English in the Assembly, at the option of a member. This action, of course, affirms the principle that French is the official language. The country parishes are resolutely opposed to the introduction of English, although it has made great progress in the towns of late years, and it is said many of the deputies are now unable to express themselves correctly in French. Mr. Gladstone's government has been asked by several Welsh members of parliament, at the instance of a large body of Welshmen, to make the teaching of Welsh in the public schools of Wales obligatory. It has always been taught in the non-conformist Sunday-schools. The number of Irish people who do not speak English at all is still considerable, and in Scotland it is not small.

WHAT PROFITS IT.

What profits it that gold is won
And greed is fattened day by day?
What profits it in pleasure's sun
To waste the heart by mock and play?
What profits to rise and shine
Upon some brief hold of place and pow'r?
What profits it to feast with wine
And die of thirst at even's hour.

The gold we gain, unsanctified,
Will char the soul with ceaseless fire;
The pleasures by the world supplied
Are lotus plants that root in mire:
The throne and praise the mob bestows
Is set on sand—it flees as breath;
The wine that gladdens as it glows
Then maddens and expires in death.

The gold that profits is the grace
That makes the Christ my friend in need;
The pleasure that fills time and space
Is love that works in daily deed;
The power that makes a king in truth
In holiness that God hath given—
The crown of age, the hope of youth,
The upward, manly march to heaven!
—Sam W. Small, in Atlanta Constitution.

WANTED—A GOVERNESS!

GOVERNESS—(English) required at once by a Russian family at Odessa; French, drawing, music; three girls, eldest fourteen; salary $500; references exchanged. Apply personally between two and six to-day to Kanseroff, Langham Hotel.

He was an elderly Russian, slightly gray, the "Kanseroff" of the newspaper advertisement. He spoke English like the majority of his well educated companions.

When Cecil Pentreath, with outward composure and inward tribulation, was shown into his private sitting room at the Langham Hotel that afternoon he laid down the Times and regarded her pretty face with evident approbation.

At the end of five minutes he said he believed she would suit his friends, and that he would pay her passage out to Odessa, providing—and he did not doubt that it would be the case—each found the other's references satisfactory.

"I will give you till this time to-morrow to consider the matter and make such inquiries as you think proper," he said, in conclusion.

"Anyhow, I suppose I need not start for a week or two?" she asked. "I should like a little while in which to take leave of my friends."

"Naturally you would," he answered kindly. "There is no immediate hurry. A fortnight hence would suit the Petrowitches very well, I've no doubt."

The next afternoon, having perfectly satisfied herself in the interim anent the respectability of her future employers, she went to keep her appointment with Mr. Kanseroff.

He was not alone to-day. Another man was in the room, a younger man, who was seated at a writing table strewn with papers, and who merely glanced up and bowed as she entered, and then paid no more attention to her.

Kanseroff rose courteously, shook hands and asked her to sit down.

"Well, Miss Pentreath," he said, "and have you decided to go to Russia?"

"Yes," she answered, simply.

As she spoke she was conscious that the stranger—his interest suddenly awakened—had turned his head, and was looking at her earnestly; the keen scrutiny rendered her somewhat uncomfortable.

He said something rapidly to his friend in Russian. From the note of inquiry in his voice, and the mention of her own name and that of Petrowitch in the reply, she guessed correctly that he had asked who she was.

In the ensuing few minutes, while she discussed business matters and settled the date of her departure, she was sensible of the fact that every word she uttered was being absorbed and criticized by the man at the other end of the room, and that all the time he was watching her closely—so closely—that his eyes never left her face.

When at length she rose to go he called Kanseroff aside, and the latter left the girl with a brief apology and a request that she would remain a moment.

The two men talked eagerly, excitedly; but it was the stranger who was having most of the say. She could not understand them, of course. It appeared to her, however, that he was making some proposal of which Kanseroff did not approve. At last the elder gave in, but half convinced and shrugged his shoulders, remarking in English:

"Well, have your own way. But you must make your own arrangements; I shan't interfere."

The younger man turned abruptly to Cecil, who had been watching the little scene with natural curiosity.

"Miss Pentreath, would you like to earn $5000?"

A rush of color flushed Cecil's cheeks.

"Ah—yes," she said, with a little gasp in her voice. "But why do you ask me? How could I could I make so much?"

"Very simply. By leaving England in two days instead of two weeks, and taking a little packet of papers with you—a little packet that is of such great importance to my family that I do not care to transmit it in the ordinary way, through the post."

The girl's clear eyes met the man's bewildered questioning. Then a sudden light dawned upon her; his motive became clear.

"Oh," she cried, and her breath came and went rapidly; "in plain words, sir, you want me to smuggle papers into Russia which would get me into trouble were they discovered by the police?"

"Yes."

"Then I must decline; it would be wrong."

"On the contrary," he said quickly, "it would be right. You might even be the means of saving a life."

His tone and manner were earnest. Whether he was speaking the truth or whether this earnestness was merely assumed to convince her it was difficult to say, but the girl was satisfied.

"May I ask why you have chosen me for this work?"

"First, because you are going to the country anyhow; secondly, and chiefly, because you are a foreigner and a mere girl. You will pass unheeded, unsuspected, where others would not—that is to say, if you can keep your self-possession when it is needed, and I think you can, for, though you are so young, you have nerve, character—you are to be trusted."

She did not speak for a moment, but thought deeply and rapidly, with her gaze upon the floor.

Woman-like, she shrank at the idea of danger, and was about to refuse; then she thrust all thought of self aside, and only remember her mother, her sister, the man she loved, and what such a sum of money could do for them, and held her tongue.

"Give me $10,000 and I will do it."

"You know how to ask, Miss Pentreath."

"I won't jeopardize my safety for less," she said firmly. "If I were alone in the world I should refuse altogether; but I want the money for the sake of those who are very dear to me."

"Very well," he answered, after a pause, "you shall have your $10,000 directly I receive advice that you have fulfilled your part of the contract. I will give you the papers the morning you sail. When you arrive you must wear a white rose—an imitation one will do very well. Your responsibility will cease and your reward will be won when you have delivered the packet safely into the hands of a man with a similar flower pinned in his coat, who will contrive to ask you—how, when or where I cannot tell you—for the present from his friend in London."

Two days later Cecil found herself on the deck of an outward-bound steamer, the parting over, the voyage begun.

On the ship the time seemed endless to her, and she could settle to nothing. Every day seemed a week. She was in a fever of impatience to reach her destination, and get the critical period over. Yet, such is human nature, when she was told by a fellow-passenger that they would arrive the next morning, she would have given as much to retard their progress as previously she would have given to accelerate it.

She was awakened about 8 o'clock in the morning by the sudden cessation of accustomed motion as the Korniloff came to a standstill beside the quay at Odessa.

Already the deck was strewn with luggage, crowded with passengers, and in a wild state of commotion. Officials in uniform were affixing large seals to all trunks and packages, large and small, prior to dispatching them to the custom house to be opened and searched.

Other officials were scanning every hole and corner of the steamer itself, and one stood in the gangway, apparently to prevent any one from going ashore.

"Do they always search the ships like this?" asked Cecil of one of the officers, with whom she had grown friendly during the voyage.

"No, it isn't usual. You see they're on the alert just now to stop certain papers getting into this country. The passengers—some of them at least—will very likely be searched, too. Nobody has been allowed to land yet."

She felt herself turn red and then white, and she nervously fingered the imitation rose which she had that morning pinned for the first time at her throat.

"Mrs. Petrowitch will be waiting for me. Surely they'll let me land now."

"I dare say they will. I'll find out for you," said the sailor, kindly.

He went up to one of the custom house men and spoke to him in Russian.

"This young English lady wishes to go ashore at once. There is nothing to detain her; I suppose?"

The official called another, and the two eyed Cecil and consulted together. Of course, she could not understand a word of what was passing, and in consequence had to endure awful suspense with assumed indifference.

It was evident to her at last, however, that they had not the least suspicion of her, for one shrugged his shoulders and walked away and the other asked in French, as a mere matter of form:

"Have you anything about you, any papers?"

It was for only an imperceptible instant she hesitated, and then she told the first deliberate lie she had ever told with a calm face and the blood tingling to her very finger tips.

"No."

"Very good, mademoiselle. You need not remain."

Mrs. Petrowitch and one of her girls met her and took her home. She was an amiable woman, and no doubt the governess would have been very comfortable beneath her roof; but all the same, if she could secure her $10,000, Cecil did not intend to remain long in Russia.

The following morning at about 9 o'clock the front door was thrown open in common with every other door in Odessa, and a stream of people began to pass in and out.

Every man who entered, whether he were gentleman or peasant, took two eggs from the pile on the table, broke one and ate a piece of it, and presented the other to the hostess or any other female member of the household with the formula, "Christ is risen." To which the lady replied, "He is truly risen."

Cecil was watching the scene from a corner with considerable interest, when a dark man, dressed like a peasant, advanced and extended an egg to her. He wore a white rose, and he placed himself before her so that his figure shielded her from the room.

"You bring me a present from my friend in London," he said softly and rapidly, in excellent English.

For answer she slipped the packet into his hand.

He gave a sort of sigh of intense relief and concealed it at once without the least sign of confusion on his face.

When she raised her head to look after him he was gone.

About 5 o'clock in the afternoon a month later a curious little scene was enacted outside the entrance of a certain large block of offices in London. A young lady drove up in a four-wheeler, and sent a boy into the building with a message.

A moment later a man came out, whose perplexed face suddenly crimsoned with astonishment and delight as he saw her who wished to speak to him. He shouted to the cabman to drive on—anywhere, sprang into the vehicle and clasped the girl in his arms.

"Cecil, my darling."

"Frank!"

"Why didn't you write to tell me you were coming home?" he panted. "Way are you back again so soon? What does it mean?"

"I wanted to surprise you. Oh, Frank, I've good news for you—such good news! What should you say if I told you that what we've always longed for is ours at last—a little capital that will enable you to start in business for yourself?"

Then, incoherent with happiness and excitement, she told him all. He heard her story, and when she had finished, touched her cheek with a gentle hand.

"But, my dear, I cannot accept so much from you."

"Then you value money more highly than you value me!"

"Cecil, what an idea! How dare you say such a wicked thing? You don't believe it?"

"I shall believe it if you still refuse. It must be so since you are not willing to take the $10,000, and"—she hid her blushing, happy face on his shoulder—"and you are willing to take me!"—Boston Globe.

A Remarkable Confederacy of Savages.

The Iroquois, as they were named by the French, or the Five Nations, as they called themselves, hung like a cloud over the whole great continent. Their confederation was a natural one, for they were of the same stock and spoke the same language, and all attempts to separate them had been in vain. Mohawks, Cayugas, Onondagas, Oneidas, and Senecas were proud of their own totems and their own chiefs, but in war they were Iroquis, and the enemy of one was the enemy of all. Their numbers were small, for they were never able to put two thousand warriors in the field, and their country was limited, for their villages were scattered over the track which lies between Lake Champlain and Lake Ontario. But they were united, they were cunning, they were desperately brave, and they were fiercely aggressive and energetic. Holding a central position, they struck out upon each side in turn, never content with simply defeating an adversary, but absolutely annihilating and destroying him, while holding all the others in check by their diplomacy. War was their business, and cruelty their amusement. One by one they had turned their arms against the various Nations, until for a space of over a thousand square miles none existed save by sufferance. They had swept away Hurons and Huron missions in one fearful massacre. They had destroyed the tribes of the northwest, until even the distant Sacs and Foxes trembled at their name. They had scoured the whole country to westward, until their scalping parties had come into touch with their kinsmen the Sioux, who were lords of the great plains, even as they were of the great forests. The New England Indians in the east, and the Shawnees and Delawares further south, paid tribute to them, and the terror of their arms had extended over the borders of Maryland and Virginia. Never perhaps in the world's history has so small a body of men dominated so large a district and for so long a time.

For half a century these tribes had nursed a grudge towards the French, since Champlain and some of his followers had taken part with their enemies against them. During all these years they had brooded in their forest villages, flashing out now and again in some border outrage, but waiting for the most part until their chance should come. And now it seemed to them that it had come. They had destroyed all the tribes who might have allied themseves with the white men. They had isolated them. They had supplied themselves with good guns and plenty of ammunition from the Dutch and English of New York. The long thin line of French settlements lay naked before them. They were gathered in the woods like hounds in leash, waiting for the orders of their chiefs which should precipitate them with torch and with tomahawk upon the belt of villages.—Harper's Magazine.

Poi, the National Dish of Hawaii.

Poi, the great food of the natives of Hawaii, is made from the taro plant, a vegetable similar in size and shape to a rutabaga turnip, which is grown in beds kept constantly submerged in water, a number of the beds being termed a taro "patch." Owing to the genial character of the climate the plant can be cultivated throughout the year. It is considered to be one of the most nutritious foods known, and is specially adapted for dyspeptics and persons troubled with stomach disorders.

The process of making poi from the plant is to first boil it and remove the skin, after which it is placed on large wooden trays and thoroughly pounded with pestles of stone, small quantities of water being added from time to time during the process of maceration. An hour or more of continual pounding is required, when a substance like dough results, known as paiai. In preparing it for the table, the paiai is placed in a wooden bowl, or calabash, and is allowed to stand for a couple of days, until fermentation sets in, when it becomes poi, and tastes, to the unaccustomed palate, like sour flour paste; but the taro when boiled simply as a vegetable is very palatable.

The natives eat poi sitting around a large calabash and dipping into it with their fingers. The dish is known as either one, two or three finger poi, according to its consistency. One finger poi is the thickest form in which it is served, and sufficient of it adheres to one finger when dipped into it to admit of its being conveyed to the mouth. A thinner form of poi requires the use of two fingers for the purpose—hence two finger poi; and yet another, still further diluted, cannot be secured from the dish without the use of three fingers, hence its name. Dyspepsia is almost unknown among the Kanakas, owing principally, it is said, to the general use of this salutary food.—Demorest.

Why Dynamite is a High Explosive.

Dynamite is a high explosive because each molecule of the nitro-glycerine in it contains in itself the elements which produce explosion, and they are so nicely balanced that it takes very little to transform them into gas, the sudden expansion of which is apt to produce disastrous consequences. Gunpowder, on the other hand, is merely a mechanical mixture of ingredients which must combine in order to explode, and the grains catch fire from each other progressively.

A Novel Set of Chinaware.

A Boston lady has had a breakfast service of cups, saucers and plates prepared for her large family, on which are given from photographs the likenesses of the members; so that the waiter can properly place the china to be used. Some one suggests that at any memorable dinner party the same compliment ary process might be arranged for each expected guest, in lieu of dinner cards.—Scientific American.

SELECT SIFTINGS.

Men with gray and blue eyes are usually better marksmen than those with dark eyes.

In olden times deformed people were frequently thrown in prison to be kept out of sight.

A Louisville (Ky.) barber cuts hair with a razor more artistically than his rivals with shears.

Mervin Page, a colored man of Howard County, Missouri, wears a shoe fourteen inches long and five inches across the sole.

A fourteen-year-old boy who has been attending school at Alliance, Ohio, for the last seven years cannot even learn his letters.

Rousseau tells of a friend who was a warm advocate of suicide, and at the age of eighty drowned himself in the Lake of Geneva.

A stranger on the cars near Los Angeles, Cal., ordered cigars for his fellow-passengers and, just as the weed had been lighted, blew out his brains.

A wonderfully good imitation of maple sugar may be made by flavoring ordinary brown sugar with an extract of hickory bark. It is said to be almost indistinguishable from the genuine.

In a recent case in Chicago an expert testified that the value of a corpse in good condition was $125. He said that if a man had no use for a corpse, he might not give more than $5 or $10.

The Minnesota Historical Society says that the source of the Mississippi River is in a partially enclosed basin containing many ponds, lying directly south of Lake Itasca, and distant from its head three miles.

The Simplon Tunnel, which is to run from Bieg in Switzerland to Isella in Italy, will take from eight to nine years for its completion. It will be the longest tunnel in the world, and will measure about twelve and a half miles from entrance to outlet.

There are 1013 reserves covering 5,600,000 acres, under the charge of the Department of Forestry in New South Wales. Last year there were 2,250,000 trees growing on these reserves, the expense in connection with which did not exceed one cent per tree.

According to tradition the test of the ancient Japanese sword was even more rigid than that of Saladin's blade. It was enough for the latter to cut in twain at a single blow a down pillow thrown in the air, but the Japanese blade, suspended horizontally beneath a tree, must sever any leaf that, falling, should accidentally light upon the edge of the blade.

How Rapidly We Think.

Helmholz showed that a wave of thought would require about a minute to travel a mile of nerve, and Hersch found that a touch on the face was recognized by the brain and responded to by a manual signal in the seventh of a second.

He also found that the speed of sense differed for different organs, the sense of hearing being responded to in the sixth of a second, while that of sight required one-fifth of a second to be felt and signaled. In all these cases the distance traversed was about the same, so the inference is that images travel more slowly than sound or touch. It still remained, however, to show the portion of this interval taken up by the action of the brain.

Professor Donders, by very delicate apparatus, has demonstrated this to be about seventy-five thousandths of a second. Of the whole interval forty-thousandths are occupied in the simple act of recognition and thirty-five thousandths for the act of willing response.—Detroit Free Press.

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PENSIONS!

ACT OF JUNE 27, 1890.—Pensions soldiers and sailors of the war of the rebellion who served 90 days and were honorably discharged from the service, and who are incapacitated for performance of manual labor, and for the widows, children, dependent parents, fathers and mothers. All pensions under this Act will commence from the date of filing the formal application (after the passage of the Act) in the pension Bureau. No application for pension under this act will be good unless filed in the Pension Bureau on or after June 27, 1890, (date of the Act) or if not in the form, substancially, prescribed by the Secretary. The rates: For dependent father or mother, $12; the widow, $8 and $2 additional for each child of soldier under sixteen years; and if the widow dies, the child or children can draw such pension. The soldier is entitled to any rate from $6 to $12 per month, according to inability to earn a support. A pensioner under existing laws may apply under this one, or a pensioner under this one may apply under other laws, but can draw only one pension at the same time. This law requires in a soldier's or sailor's case:

(1) An honorable discharge.
(2) That he served at least ninety days.
(3) A permanent physical or mental inability to earn a support, but not due vicious habits. (It need not have originated in the service.)

CASE OF A WIDOW:—

(1) That the sailor or soldier served at least ninety days.
(2) That he was honorably discharged.
(3) Proof of death, but it need not have been the results of his Army or Naval service.
(4) That the widow is "without other means of support than her daily labor."
(5) That she married soldier prior to June 27, 1890, the date of the Act.

DEPENDENT PARENT'S CASE.

(1) That the soldier or sailor died of a wound, injury or disease, which, under prior law, would have given him a pension.
(2) That he left no wife or minor child.
(3) That the mother or father is at present dependent on her or his own manual labor; being "without other present means of support than their own manual labor, or the contributions of others not legally bound for their support." The benefits of the first section of the Act of June 27, 1890, are not confined to the parents of those who served in the war of the rebellion, but are extended to all parents where pensionable dependence has arisen on account of the death of a son who served, since said war, in behalf of the United States, as well as for disabilities contracted before or since discharged.

(4) That in case a minor child is insane, idiotic or otherwise permanently helpless, the pension shall continue during the period of such disability, and this proviso shall apply to all pensions herefore granted, or hereafter to be granted, under this or any former statute, and such pensions shall commence from the date of application therefor after passage of this Act.

The rules and regulations of the Department will govern all applicants and attorneys.

Under Act of June 27, 1890, pensions are granted to Soldiers and Sailors disabled from old age, infirmity, etc.

NOTICE!—Dr. W. R. Lastrapes having recently been appointed U. S. Examining Surgeon for Pensions at Opelousas, La., it is now of special interest to claimants of Pensions to come to me and make out their applications, so they can now be examined without having to sustain the expenses of going to New Orleans for medical examination, at which place they have heretofore been obliged to go.

HART H. SANDOZ,

U. S. Pension Claim Agent.

Office with Hon. John N. Odges, Opelousas, Louisiana.