

Opelousas Courier.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE FARMER OF ST. LANDRY.

Published on Saturday by Leonce Sandoz.

OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA

Australia is a country without orphans or an orphanage. Each waif is taken to a receiving home, where it is kept until a country home is found for it.

An English widower returns thanks to a choir for their sweet singing at his wife's funeral, "thereby enlivening and brightening up the dullness and monotony which not unfrequently characterizes a funeral service."

The Supreme Court of New York has rendered a decision which confirms the title of the dead to the graves in which they lie, and, it is hoped, will put a stop to the desecration of their resting places under the pretense of public improvement. It appears that a cemetery in Brooklyn had been sold by the trustees, and one of the lot owners sued out an injunction to have his rights in the matter settled. The Supreme Court held that the owner of a lot in a cemetery held it absolutely in fee, and that the trustees could not sell it nor deprive him of it. The trustees, it seems, got a special act of the legislature to enable them to sell the cemetery, but the judge said that the legislature cannot give them power to sell what they do not own, and can give no title to.

The New York Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin, which keeps a daily record of the fires in this country, and is deservedly high authority on all questions of insurance, reports the total losses by fire in the United States and Canada in the year 1898 at \$156,445,875, against \$132,704,700 in 1897. In but one month of 1898 did the total of fire losses sink below \$10,000,000, and that was in February, when the returns of the Journal of Commerce place the figures at \$9,919,900. The same paper reports 285 fires in December of a greater destructiveness than \$10,000 each. It says that the underwriters attribute much of the loss to careless installation of electric light and power plants. Under these circumstances it ought to be the occasion of more than insurance interest to learn that the electric risk is being investigated by experts who are gathering particulars of all the fires traceable to electricity. Electricity is a good servant who will bear a lot of watching.

Among the men who have died during the past year and whose names will figure in history are James G. Blaine, late Secretary of State; Alexander of Battenberg, once the Prince of Bulgaria; ex-President Hayes, General Benjamin F. Butler, Chief Justice Lamar and Blatchford, Hamilton Fish, Beauregard and Smith, Confederate generals; the Earl of Derby, Miribel, chief of the French general staff; MacMahon, ex-President of France; Jules Ferry, Senator Stanford, the founder of Leland Stanford University; Sir A. T. Galt, Sir John Abbot, ex-Premier of Canada; "Uncle Jerry" Rusk, Tirard, a former Premier of France, and Admiral Tryon, of the Victoria, first of English naval officers of the day. The church, in its various members, has lost Phillips Brooks, who is claimed by the church universal; Dr. A. P. Peabody, Dr. Philip Schaff, Frederick Evans, the Shaker; Bishops Kip and Bissell and Brother Azarias. The ranks of the men of letters show few breaches, but among these are places once filled by Thine, Francis Parkman, Guy de Maupassant, John Addington Symonds, Mrs. Maria Lamb, founder of the Magazine of History; De Mille, Lucy Larcom, Professor Jewett and Dr. William Smith, the lexicographer. Among the scientists who have been taken away the names of Tyndall, Charcot and Professor Horsford, of Harvard, are the most prominent names. Others of this class are Craven, the inventor of the submarine cable; Liechtenhaller, the conchologist and marine botanist; Decandolle, a French botanist; Captain Anderson, who commanded the Great Eastern when laying the first Atlantic cable; Joseph Francis, the inventor of the life-boat; Colton, the map publisher; Vinar, the meteorologist; Stephenson, builder of the first street car; Bae, the great Arctic explorer; Harvey, the inventor of the armor plate. Few men have died in 1898 whose loss has been more severely felt and whose name has been more widely honored than General Armstrong, founder of the Hampton Institute and friend of the freedman and the Indian. In this category, among those who did much for their fellow-men, may be mentioned also Anthony Drexel, George L. Sney and Colonel Anshamity. Last, but by no means least, in the ghostly procession we notice Edwin Booth, greatest of American actors and a very rare character; Fanny Kemble, J. E. Murdoch, Grand, the composer, and Tschakowsky, the Russian musician.

LOVE'S MEETING.

Love, who met me on the way, Kissed life's winter into May, And through hills of icy snow Bright I saw the violets blow. Wait, through clouds of stormy frowns, Streamed the splendid sunlight down, And I heard not Love's sweet words For the singing of the birds!

Love, who met me on the way, At my feet in violets lay, Never snow upon a hill Dreamed as cold, as white, as still! And from heavens of bending grass, Streamed the sunlight on his face; And I heard not Love's sweet words For the singing of the birds!

—Frank L. Stanton, in Atlanta Constitution.

DISENCHANTED.

BY A. H. HOLDEN.

THE path looked cool and pleasant as it followed the course of the little stream, which in the ancient days of its might had cleft the towering hills asunder and thundered down the rock like a giant water-sprite. The yellow sunlight flickered down through the interlacing branches of the huge old trees, its intense heat tempered somewhat by that cool contact. Farther down, the ravine widened and finally lost itself in level, farming lands, through which the brook flowed gently, watering the flocks and herds of the honest farmer-folk of this thrifty Dunker settlement. The farm houses were mostly of the same style; plain, wooden, two-storied structures, with wide porches running across the fronts and shaded by locust trees.

A young girl passed down the steps of the house nearest to the mouth of the ravine, and sauntered up the path. As she entered its shady recesses she pushed back her stiff pasteboard tunnel of a sunbonnet from her sweet, pure face. There was a faint trace of tears in her innocent blue eyes. Her flaxen hair was manifestly in rebellion against her convictions as to what was right and decorous for one of her religious belief, and many a riotous little curl broke out of its confining bonds. Soon she began to sing, with sweet but somewhat nasal tones, in unconscious imitation of Brother Israel, who led the singing in the brick meeting-house at the cross-roads, the familiar hymn:

"And let this feeble body fail, And let it fall and die." Rebecca Kinsey's voice modulated to a faint thread of melody, as she caught a glimpse of a young man high up on the cliff on the opposite side of the creek, moving in and out among the bushes. Suddenly she was brought back to earth by a voice almost over her head, calling out excitedly, "Hallo, Thornydyke, I've found the finest specimen of—" and a young man, with a tin herbarium strapped to his waist, came tumbling down the rocks at Rebecca's feet. Evidently as he turned to accost his friend, the stone upon which his weight rested had given way. He lay across the path, pale and motionless.

Thornydyke climbed quickly down the rocks, cleared the brook with a bound, and was at his friend's side as he gave a faint gasp and slowly opened his eyes. Rebecca dipped her handkerchief in the water and bathed his pallid face. Thornydyke poured some brandy from his pocket flask, and lifting his friend's head, gave him to drink.

"Well, how are you now, Damond?" inquired he. "All right, I guess," answered Damond, faintly; then he attempted to rise. "I can't do it," he added. "Something's the matter with my left arm and right arm."

"How are we ever to get out of this I don't see," said Thornydyke. "You can't walk a step, and it's a mile down stream where this gorge ends." "I think," said Rebecca, "I can help you. Just a few steps further on is a path up the rocks most as easy as going up stairs. I'm strong, and I can go one side of him and you the other," she continued, addressing Thornydyke and indicating the injured man with her little brown hand.

"Is there any house near?" asked Thornydyke. "Yes," responded Rebecca, "Aunt Susy Rinehart lives right at the top of the cliff. She's real handy about sickness."

Damond was in too much pain to be seriously embarrassed by receiving assistance from this rustic beauty, as with much difficulty they toiled up the rough stairway.

Aunt Susy surveyed the singular looking party, as they emerged from the gorge, with wide-eyed astonishment.

"Why! bless your soul! bring him right in the house," was her hospitable greeting. "The doctor's just making a visit over on the next farm. We'll get him here right away."

An hour later the bustle had subsided and Damond was lying, quiet and comfortable, listening to the conversation going on between Aunt Susy and Rebecca. "Come over to tell you," said Rebecca, "that Sister Rachel Miller's wuss and has been an'ted for death, and they want you to come over. Mother's been there 'most all day and I jest got home as I started here."

There was a dab of mud on the end of your nose and your coat was split down the back. And now let me tell you—I'll be hanged if I don't think you're shamming a good deal for an excuse to stay here and play your old tricks! Why can't you let that girl alone? Do you think I didn't see you the other day, when you had her put some withered, worthless specimens in a press, got your head so close to hers that your Hyperion curls actually touched her cheek? and you kept putting your big hand close to hers to help, as you called it.

"Well, what's a fellow to do? I'm all banged up," complained Damond, "and I've got to amuse myself some way. What lovely red lips she has," continued he, brightening, "and how can they speak such atrocious English?"

"I've got to leave here," said Thornydyke, gloomily, as he folded up a letter. "If I had as much money as you have I'd stay here and watch you, and see after that poor little moth. You'd better get away from here just as quick as you can; if you stay much longer I'll write to your mother, if she is on the other side of the pond. Anyhow, I'll give Julia Deven a hint, and she'll come flying here and stop all your nonsense."

The days lengthened into weeks. Damond had no longer a good excuse for lingering; his ankle was well and he often forgot to carry his arm in the sling he contentiously retained, but he declared it was an excellent rest, good for botanizing, and so he strolled up and down the gorge two or three times a day with his herbarium, which he seldom opened, spending most of his time at the Kinsey farm-house, watching Rebecca as she busied herself with her homely duties. In the evenings he sat with Rebecca on the porch or under the locust trees, in the moonlight, while he talked of the gay world she had never seen, and sang love songs, somewhat out of tune, but so sure, that he had sung to many another maiden. On Sundays he punctually made his appearance at the meeting-house and gazed at the rows of sweet, mild-faced women in their immaculate lawn caps and neckerchiefs.

Many remonstrating letters came from Thornydyke, and anxious ones from his mother, proposing to sail for home if he were not soon able to return to the city, and Miss Deven, his fiancée, assailed him with tender, sympathetic missives, and even suggested coming to him with a chaperon and the family physician.

The great magician, Love, had cast his spell over Rebecca. She breathed enchanted air. When she roused herself to consider the situation practically she saw only one ending, and that was marriage with his city lover, and so a poor little letter written by brother Israel's son, offering his "hand and heart," remained unanswered and almost forgotten.

Damond took no thought of the morning. He knew that all this must soon come to an end. How could he precipitate the crisis? It came sooner than he thought. One day a letter came from Miss Deven, proposing that he should join her, with a party of friends, at the Springs, a favorite watering-place not far away, or if he were not able to do so, Julia and her mother would spend a few weeks at the nearest hotel in order to be with him as much as possible.

Some hours later Aunt Susy proceeded to relieve her mind. "You're triffin' with that girl! She's as good as you are, to say the least, and her father owns two of the finest farms about here, and Becky's the only child."

"Triffin'!" exclaimed Damond, reddening. "I don't know what you mean."

"I'm going out to milk," snapped Aunt Susy, "and you can jest study over it while I'm gone."

Damond resisted an almost overpowering impulse to pay his usual evening visit to Rebecca; he resolutely set about packing up his belongings, and for fear his courage would fail he sent a telegram to Miss Deven stating that he would meet her at the Springs.

Poor Rebecca sat on the porch alone, watching and waiting for her recreant lover. Sometimes as the shadows shifted she thought she saw him emerge from the ravine, and her heart would give a glad bound. Never was the wistfulness of the moonlight so strong, never was the music of the evening breeze so sweet. Rebecca sat until the moon went down and the clouds gathered over the stars. The sound of the night wind changed to a wail that found echo in her heart, and by and by the storm burst in all its fury. With sinking heart she gave him up and went sadly to her room.

Damond promised himself one more stroll through the ravine with Rebecca. Certainly he must bid her good-bye; even Aunt Susy could not object to that.

"I am going away this afternoon," said Damond, as he and Rebecca were taking their last walk together. Rebecca gave a little start at this unexpected announcement and dropped the bonnet that she was swinging by the strings. As Damond stooped to pick it up the picture of Miss Deven, which he had repeatedly returned to its accustomed place in his pocket, fell to the full view.

"Now or never," thought he, and then, bracing himself, he said, in answer to Rebecca's inquiring glance, "this is the lady I have promised to marry."

Rebecca smothered a gasp. A late wild rose, the last one, hung a little way up the bank and she turned away, reaching upward to pluck it. It gave her a moment in which to recover herself. Her womanly pride came to the rescue, and she rose to the occasion. As she turned again she said, calmly, "And I am to marry brother Israel's son."

This was a new phase of the matter. If any one else wanted this sweet wild flower, Damond wanted it more than ever, and he felt an overwhelming resentment toward "brother Israel's son." He took the rose from her cold and trembling hand with a hand as cold and unsteady, and folding it in an envelope put it in his pocket next his heart. He stood silent a few moments. How unlike those beautiful eyes were to Julia's small, piercing, black orbs, that wealth of rippling yellow hair to Julia's scanty frizzled locks. In a moment of delirium he thought to

ALASKA A FAMINE LAND.

THE FOOD SOURCES OF THE ESKIMOS DESTROYED.

An Effort to Save the Starving by Domesticating the Asian Reindeer—Small Herds for Each Family.

FOR some years the Eskimos and the Eskimos in the northern half of this continent have lived in a most precarious manner. Their usual food resources have repeatedly failed them. They have been reduced to extreme destitution, and many have perished of starvation. One year or another famine has afflicted the entire inhabited region from Labrador to Alaska.

Little as we know of the history of the Eskimos on the American mainland, it is certain that thousands formerly lived where hundreds are now found. Captain French, an experienced pilot along the Labrador coast, says there is now only one Eskimo where twenty used to live. Years ago the Indians killed many of them, and they have been gradually diminishing ever since on account of the growing scarcity of seal, fish, birds and other game, and also because of their contact with civilization, their close winter houses inducing consumption and other diseases.

The condition of these few thousands of people on the islands and along the coasts of Alaska appeals all the more to our sympathy because their sources of food have been destroyed by the industries of white men.

Right across the narrow sea from Alaska, on the shores of Asia, and extending some ways into the interior, live hardy, active and well-fed tribes, allied to the Eskimos of our continent, who own tens of thousands of domestic reindeer. The flesh and skins of these animals supply them with food, shelter and clothing. As far as their own people are concerned, they do not know what starvation means. During the past two years the matter has been well looked into, and it has been found that there is no reason why the domesticated reindeer should not thrive in Alaska and further east. Indeed, there seems to be no reason why these animals should not be a source of wealth and security to the natives clear across the northern part of this continent. On the shores of Alaska, and further inland, the mosses and grasses thrive on which these animals live in Asia.

The Rev. Sheldon Jackson, our general agent of education in Alaska, had the honor of suggesting the importation of domesticated reindeer. A considerable sum of money contributed by the public in 1891 and a grant of \$15,000 from the Government in 1892 enabled Mr. Sheldon, with the assistance of Captain Healy and the revenue cutter Bear, to try the experiment. It is now so far advanced that its success, as far as the practicability of raising reindeer in Alaska is concerned, is assured. Mr. Sheldon's report on the work has been printed by the Government, and the facts given here are taken from it.

It was objected to the work at the outset that though the natives of Siberia would kill their deer and sell the meat, they would not sell live animals. In Kennan's book he says that in the two and a half years he spent in Siberia not one of his parties was ever able to buy from the Koraks and Tchutchets a single living reindeer. It was also said that the animals would not bear transportation across the sea. The work of 1891 was planned on a small scale, to test the correctness of these assumptions.

It was found that the natives would sell reindeer, though it took days of palaver to overcome their reluctance to part with live animals. Sixteen were finally purchased. They were kept on shipboard for over three weeks, passed through a severe gale, and were finally landed in good condition at Unalakleet, after a sea voyage of over 1000 miles. It was thus proven that they could be transported on shipboard as easily and safely as other domestic cattle. The reindeer thrived during the winter at Unalakleet, and by spring two additions had been made to the herd.

In the summer of 1892 operations were much enlarged in view of the success of the preliminary experiments and with the aid of the Government grant. A herd of 175 selected animals was purchased in Siberia and landed at Port Clarence, on the Alaskan coast. This point was selected for the reindeer station because it is the nearest good harbor to Siberia, and because it is a central point from which the animals may easily be distributed.

Four Siberians who are well acquainted with the management of reindeer were taken to Port Clarence and placed in charge of the herd. Under their direction a few Alaskan Eskimos are learning the care and management of reindeer. The intention is from year to year to increase the number of Eskimo apprentices to the herders. The Eskimos who are learning the business are all young men. As soon as each of them has demonstrated his capacity and learned the business a small herd will be given to him as a start in life. From year to year the number of these native herders will be increased, and some of them will be set up in business as this more and more distributed throughout the country, until at last they overpread the entire northern region as the northeastern corner of Siberia and Lapland are now covered. There is no doubt that practically the whole of Alaska is good grazing ground for reindeer.

The importation of reindeer is no longer an experiment. The practicality and advantages of the enterprise have been demonstrated, and it will be a great thing for Alaska when the herding of reindeer is firmly established there on a large scale. The natives will have a permanent, regular and abundant supply of food, and with more generous nourishment, the population is likely to increase in numbers. Then a change from the condition of hunters to that of herders will be a distinct advance for the Eskimos in the scale of civilization. Reindeer easily travel 100 miles a day, and their introduction will help to solve the question of Alaskan transportation.

The rate of mortality of London is shown by a recent report to have steadily decreased since the introduction and perfection of adequate means of disposing of the sewage of the city. At the end of the eighteenth century the annual average mortality was estimated at fifty per 1000, and in 1892 it had dropped to 10.1 per 1000.

In South America among the mountains the evergreen begins to appear at about 5500 feet, and is found up to the limit of the continuous forest, which is about 10,000 feet. The valuable cinchona tree, from which Peruvian bark is obtained, has a range of elevation on the mountain slopes running from 4900 to 9500 feet.

In the process of extracting gold from its ore molten lead is used instead of mercury. The lead is melted on a shallow hearth and the powdered ore is fed at one end and carried forward as a film over the surface of the lead by means of an agitator moving over it. It is thus brought to the other end, where it escapes through a hopper. In order to prevent oxidation of the lead the chamber is kept filled with carbonic oxide from a gas producer.

Why Rats Gnan Continually. Have you any idea why it is that rats, mice and squirrels are continually gnawing at something? They do not do this for pure wantonness, as people generally imagine, but because they are forced to. Animals of that class, especially the rats, have teeth which continue to grow as long as their owner lives. In the human species the teeth are developed from pulps which are absorbed and disappear as soon as the second set are full grown, but in the case of the much-maligned rat the pulp supply is perpetual, and is continually secreting materials by which the incisors gain in length. This being the case, the poor creature is obliged to keep up his regular gnawing operations in order to keep his teeth ground off to a proper length.—St. Louis Republic.

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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 received unless filed in the Pension Bureau on or after June 27, 1890. (Date of the Act) or if not in the form, substantially prescribed by the Secretary. The rates for dependent father or mother, \$12; the widow, \$8 and \$3 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 \$5 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 to vicious habits. (If 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."

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 extended to all parents whose 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 of disabilities contracted before or since discharge.

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 heretofore 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 active service, etc.

NOTICE.—Dr. W. B. Lastrape having recently been appointed U. S. Examining Surgeon for Pensions at Opelousas, La., it is now of special importance to the Pensioners to come to me and make out their applications, so that they may be examined without having to sustain the expenses of going to New Orleans for medical examination, at which places they have heretofore been required to go.

HART H. SANDOZ,

U. S. PENSION CLAIM AGENT. OFFICE with Hon. John N. Opden, Opelousas, Louisiana.

H. D. LARCADE,

Tinsmith. Bellevue Street, near the Bridge, OPELOUSAS, LA. All kinds of Tin, Copper and Sheet Iron work done on short notice and at reasonable prices. Guttering and repairing a specialty. Makes and repairs evaporator sump pans.

E. NORTH CULLOM,

Attorney at Law, Office in Opelousas, La. Will practice in all the Courts, State and Federal, held in Opelousas and Crowley.

JOHN H. CLARKE,

PHOTOGRAPHER, 161 Canal Street, next door to Holmes, NEW ORLEANS. Old Photograph