

THE OPELOUSAS COURIER.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA.

Scilian bandits and Greek mountaineers have much to learn from the superior Occidental method of the Omaha kidnapers in collecting a ransom.

The original Book of Mormon has been found again. It is pleasant to see the third member of the immortal trio turning up. The last member of the Light Brigade and the aged slave who held George Washington's horse have been overworked lately.

Maurus Jokai, who, when in his seventieth year married a young actress, said the other day: "I began a new life with my marriage. We have made for ourselves a small world which quite compensates for the absence of the great one outside." Not all aged bridegrooms find matrimony of this sort an elixir of life.

John Benjamin Parsons, head of the Philadelphia Union Traction company, has risen from a "\$5-a-week job" to a post that pays him \$30,000 a year. Surface car lines have furnished a peculiarly profitable field for executive ability, and the "traction millionaire" is one of the most interesting of his kind, as he is the newest.

The employment of a woman as librarian of the new \$50,000 library at Hagerstown, Md., calls momentary attention to the admirable efficiency of the sex in this profession. It is observable too that fewer slurs are now cast on the knowledge of the girls at the book counters in the department stores. Their acquaintance with literature may not be as extensive as a publisher's list, but at least it serves the purpose of selling a popular novel at 98 cents and saving the impecunious buyer the middleman's profit.

The appellate court of Indiana has decided that a man and his wife are not one. The decision was rendered in a suit brought by Alvira Dailey against her husband, Alpheus. He had made her a verbal promise that if she would join with him in a deed conveying his farm, valued at \$5000, he would give her his note for \$1000. The deed was signed, but Alpheus refused to make good the note, insisting that he and his wife were one, and that, therefore, the contract could not be valid. The appellate court held that, while this was the old English rule, it does not hold good in Indiana.

The Washington monument is slowly but surely disappearing. Vandals are carrying it away in their pockets. The interior is constantly being defaced. In many places the inscriptions on stones contributed by the various states of the Union, as well as those sent by organizations, have been greatly injured. From the appearance of some of the marble it has been attacked with iron instruments. Letters have been broken off tablets. While the great bulk of the damage is doubtless done by relic hunters, some of the highly polished stones have been injured simply for the sake of defacing them.

Revelations made recently regarding Bombay municipal elections show that Hindu election agents can excel the wildest achievements in Europe or America. It appears to be a common practice to dress up lads in impersonate female raterayers who are either dead or are reluctant to vote. In many other cases women are hired to represent such voters. Personation by men of male voters who are dead or traveling is too common to excite remark. The most amazing discovery is that there is now a class of men who call themselves "professional vote brokers," and openly undertake to secure votes at a fixed price a head.

Inferior magistrates in Great Britain are subjected to much criticism for the undue severity and also for the undue leniency of the sentences which they impose upon offenders against the criminal laws. Indeed, Mr. Labouchere in Truth publishes every week a "legal pillory," as he calls it, in which he contrasts in parallel columns such extraordinary magisterial judgments as fall under his notice. None of these is really more remarkable, however, than a sentence recently imposed by Mr. Justice Bigham, one of the judges of the high court of justice at the Pembroke-shire assizes. The offender was a sailor who had quarrelled with a fellow-passenger in a railway carriage. He first tried to stab the complainant in the breast with a clasp knife and, failing in this, the prisoner got his victim's head under his arm and cut open an eyeball, entirely destroying the sight of one eye and probably that of the other. Upon a verdict finding the defendant guilty of causing grievous bodily harm, the judge sentenced him to be imprisoned for a term of only nine months.

A PERILOUS JOURNEY.

A Government Geologist Runs the Canons of the Rio Grande.

In the Century, Robert T. Hill, the geologist, describes the successful navigation and mapping of three hundred and fifty miles of the Rio Grande—one of America's greatest rivers, hitherto deemed impassable.

At noon, October 5, 1896, we pushed out into the river at Presidio, and started on our long journey into the unknown. I do not claim to be the only man who has traveled the tortuous and dangerous channel of the frontier stream; for one man, and one only, James MacMahon has made at least three trips down the river. Mine, however, was the first exploring expedition to pass the entire length of the canons and, with the exception of MacMahon's, was the only attempt that succeeded. Others, like Gano and Neville, have passed the fearful twelve miles of the Grand Canon de Santa Helena. The only Government expedition, the International Boundary Survey, pronounced the canons impassable, and gave up the attempt to survey them, except the lower hundred miles of the course, which Lieutenant Michler passed through.

MacMahon was interested neither in science, exploration, nor travel. He ventured the stream without knowledge of its dangers, and merely because, as a lifelong hunter and trapper, he knew that the beaver probably lived along its unmolested banks. These animals alone interested him, and a map made by him, if he could make such a thing, would note only beaver banks and dangerous spots, for these were all that he saw. Unguided and alone, he landed his boat with traps, placed it in the stream, and slowly drifted down to Del Rio, braving a thousand dangers, and making the first successful passage. This man, whose name has perhaps never before appeared in print, had spent his long life in such exploits, and is one of the few old-time trappers still to be found in the West.

The finding of MacMahon was the first of the dozen fortuitous circumstances which made my trip possible, and there was not a day that his knowledge of the stream did not save us from loss and destruction. Always kind and unobtrusive, he was as cautious as a cat, being at times apparently over-careful. He was ever on the lookout for a safe channel in the treacherous current, beaver slides on the banks, and border Mexicans in the bushes.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

A scold chills. Love leads to truth. Exertion earns excellence. Extraction is not liberality. Many good servants make bad masters. Evil imagination is the poison of the soul. Courage is the cure for encouragement. Look out for the man who looks out for himself. He who climbs need watch where the ladder ends. The man who is but a figurehead will not cut much figure. The fruits by which the heart is known drop from the lips. Love never worries about future rewards; it has its reward in loving. As faith without works is dead faith, so works without faith are dead works. A boiling indignation against sin is no good if it stops short of making steam to do good work. There is a good deal of difference between seeking to have the truth on your side and seeking to be on the side of truth.—Ram's Horn.

Queer Rodents of the Black Canyon. In exploring the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, in Colorado, a party of hardy adventurers recently found several strange and rarely known animals living in the perpetual gloom of that frightful gorge.

One of the most curious of the little animals discovered is the kangaroo mouse. This fellow is a highly respectable member of the rodent family. The kangaroo mouse can stand on his hind feet and make "passes" at the intruder much in the manner of the pugilist. He is a cunning little rogue and has a voracious appetite.

Another member of the rodent family is the pack rat, akin to the common house rat. He is a born thief. He carries away spoons, knives, forks and other articles from the camps of travelers. That is how he got his name. The jumping mouse was also found in the Black Canyon. This freak is said to be a long distance jumper and would put the jumping frog of Calaveras County—even without his dinner of shot—in the shade. The jumping mouse of the Black Canyon is so light that his fall is much like that of a feather, and he can leap from high crags without injury to his anatomy.—Los Angeles Herald.

The Colorado Melon. "There are two towns in Colorado almost as well-known as Denver," said Senator Teller. "They are Cripple Creek and Rocky Ford. Everybody knows that Cripple Creek is in the great mining district, and everybody also knows that Rocky Ford is the home of the finest, sweetest cantaloupe that is grown anywhere in the world.

"Rocky Ford," continued the Senator, "is a little town south of Denver, on the Arkansas River. It is the center of an agricultural region. It was long famous in the State for its cantaloupes, and now the melons are shipped to all cities in the United States. There is a certain peculiarity in the soil which makes the melons so delicious. It seems to be full of sweetener. Sugar beets grown in the same locality produce an average of twenty-one per cent. of saccharine matter, whereas fourteen per cent. is considered high elsewhere. It was thought at first that the cantaloupe was of a peculiar kind, but this is evidently not the case, because the seeds planted outside the sugary soil belt do not produce exceptional melons."—Washington Post.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

Nearly every class of clouds attains a loftier altitude between the hours of 4 and 8 p. m. than at any other part of the day, whereas between noon and 1 o'clock they fall a trifle below the average.

German surgeons have discovered that the delicate membrane which covers the contents of an egg will answer as well as bits of skin from a human being to start the healing of open wounds which would not otherwise heal. The discovery has already been successfully tested.

Drs. Sambon and Low have returned to England, after spending the summer in the mosquito-proof but in the Roman Campagna. They are in excellent health, though the past summer in Italy is said to have been exceptionally malarious. For example, fifteen or sixteen police agents were sent to Ostia, and though they remained only a night in the place, they all developed fever.

At the Zeiss Optical Works in Jena there has recently been produced an artificial spectrum, which may be used as a test in orthochromatic photography. It consists of four colored glass prisms, which together form a thick plate. There is an obtuse-angled yellow prism, which has on one side a right-angled purple prism, and on the other a blue rhomboidal prism. Next to this last prism is a purple prism of rectangular form. The colors selected for the prisms correspond with the ideal colors for trichromatic purposes, and, by suitable combination, any desired shade can be produced.

The electrical industries of Germany are pleased to learn that recent explorations of the Uguru Mountains in German-East Africa have revealed the presence of deposits of mica. These beds are situated west of Dar-es-Salaam, and contain mica-sheets particularly well adapted for electrical purposes. The sheets are solid, split even and are able to endure the high electric tensions, making the substance useful for insulation. This mica is said to compare favorably with that imported from India, Canada and the United States, and there should be strong demand for the material. There are yet difficulties in the way of transportation, which, however, will be overcome when the Central Railroad approaches the Uguru Mountains.

In England there is apprehension that the coal supply of the country is giving out, and that before many years pass the increasing price of coal, owing to the greater depths at which it must be mined, will seriously affect many industries. In Scotland, there are many fine water powers, but generally in remote and comparatively inaccessible neighborhoods. The ability of electrical systems of power transmission to make the power of these cataracts available has been well demonstrated, and there is now a strong movement toward the organization of companies for their exploitation. So far the promoters of the various enterprises have found themselves somewhat hampered by the unsatisfactory condition of legislation regarding enterprises of this character in Great Britain, and also by a sentimental feeling for the natural beauties of the Highlands and lake regions which, it is popularly believed, will disappear when the water falls are all turning water wheels. When the pressure of competition from countries having cheaper fuel is felt, it is likely that these objections will largely disappear, and that Scotland will become the scene of a large manufacturing industry using electric power from its lochs and streams.

The Machete Not a Weapon. The machete, which played such an important part in the Cuban revolutionary army, is not a weapon of war, according to a decision handed down recently by the Board of Classification of the United States General Appraisers. The decision had to do with one hundred dozen of these implements imported recently from Liverpool to San Juan, Porto Rico. A duty of forty-five per cent. ad valorem was assessed upon them as manufactures of metal. The importers protested, claiming that the duty should be only thirty-five per cent., under Paragraph 154, which covers swords, sword blades and side-arms.

In overruling the protest the decision of the General Appraisers says: "While it is true that in some countries such things have been put to use as weapons of war, such use will not change their classification. They are not swords or side-arms. They are made for and are most commonly used as farm implements, and a perverted use will not alter their classification."—Philadelphia Record.

Ten Million Letters This Machine's Task. Clerks in the general postoffice recently gathered around one of the automatic cancelling machines and watched its performance, when the computer showed that 10,000,000 letters had been stamped, and the indicator went back to zero.

It was the first machine of the twelve in the postoffice to reach the extreme limit of the counting device. It was started on July 30 last, and its work, technically known as "back stamping," consists in printing upon the back of each letter the words "New York, N. Y.," and the date and hour that the letter was received. The machine is one of two that are used to stamp letters from out of town intended for delivery in this city. The other machine had handled that day 9,285,000 letters. One man operates the machine, and merely has to feed letters in at one end. The speed of the machine is from 35,000 to 40,000 an hour.—New York Herald.

A Good Work. A plunging brigade has been established on the Seine under the Prefect of Police. Only good swimmers are accepted, and it is their business to go up and down the river in steamers to rescue drowning persons. They have saved twelve lives.

Finland loses \$27,500 worth of cattle a year by wolves.

AN ITALIAN FABLE.

About the Poet, the Brain, the Pen and the Inkstand.

A poet obtained prodigious success; seated at his table, he indulged in the glorious idea of his triumph. This love of glory, common to all men, kindled in his heart a secret fire. The idea of the praises bestowed upon him made the blood circulate with violence through his veins; joy filled his entire being. His brain, stung with jealousy, thus addressed him: "You are indebted to me for your success. It was I who furnished the ideas which have gained you so much honor. Surely, without me you could not have written a single word."

The pen overheard this claim to exclusive praise, and, full of indignation, thus addressed the brain: "What vanity! Without me what could you have done with all your fine ideas and fine imaginations? It is to me he is indebted for them; to me who have committed them to paper."

The inkstand then put in its word: "Without me you could have written nothing. What could you have done had I not bathed you in my ink?" The poet, stunned by these clamors, which would tear from him all the glory that he had acquired, said to them: "I am equally obliged to you all; to you, my brain, for suggesting ideas; to you, my pen, who wrote them; and to you, my inkstand, who supplied the means to do so." Thus the dispute ended.

A few days later the poet published a new work; but its fate was the reverse of the former. Everybody turned their back upon him; some wrote satires, others made invectives against him. In a short time he became the laughing-stock of the world. The poet then complained of his brain for having suggested the nonsense. He flew into a passion against the pen and inkstand for having contributed to put it to paper; but they all denied that any blame attached to them. The brain said he did not know how to choose among the ideas which it had suggested. The pen and inkstand reproached him for being a bad poet, alleging that they had done nothing but obey his will, and written only what he pleased. The poor, unfortunate poet had no other resource but to hold his tongue and weep over his disgrace in solitude.

Moral. Such is the common fate of man. When an undertaking succeeds, all are anxious to claim a share in the event. But does it fail, everybody abandons him; nobody admits that he had any share in the business, and all maintain that the fault was entirely his own.

A Dissertation Upon Winking. No satisfactory determination has been made of the reason we wink. Some suppose that the descent and return of the lid over the eye serves to sweep or wash it off; others that covering of the eye gives it rest from the labor of vision, if only for an inappreciable instant. This view borrows some force from the fact that the record of winking is considerably used by experimental physiologists to help measure the fatigue which the eye suffers. In another line of investigation Herr S. Garten has attempted to measure the length of time occupied by the different phases of a wink. He used a specially arranged photographic apparatus, and affixed a piece of white paper to the edge of the eyelid for a mark. He found that the lid descends quickly and rests a little at the bottom of its movement, after which it rises, but more slowly than it fell. The mean duration of the downward movement was from seventy-five to ninety-one thousandths of a second; the rest with the eye shut lasted variously, the shortest durations being 15 hundredths of a second with one subject and seventy-three hundredths with another; and the third phase of the wink, the rising of the lid, took seventeen hundredths of a second more, making the entire duration of the wink about forty hundredths, or four-tenths of a second. The interruption is not long enough to interfere with distinct vision. M. V. Henri says, in L'Annee Psychologique, that different persons wink differently—some often, others rarely; some in groups of 10 or so at a time, when they rest a while; and others regularly, once only at a time. The movement is modified by the degree of attention. Periods of close interest, when we wink hardly at all, may be followed by a speedy making up for lost time by rapid winking when the tension is relieved.—Appleton's Popular Science Monthly.

The Fate of the Bears. The owners of certain game preserve up in Pike county have had their own troubles over the importation of wild boars from Germany. There were five of them, and they arrived on June 5. The customs officials declined to enter them as swine, classing them with other live animals, on which there is a duty of 20 per cent. ad valorem. Finally after a bout with the board of appraisers, they were admitted under the head of swine. The animals were shipped to Pike county, where it was intended to breed them for game purposes, and real German boar hunt were looked forward to by the owners of the preserve. These plans have been knocked in the head by a flash of lightning. O. G. Hempstead, the custom house broker, who had been retained by the owners of the boars, said that the five animals were lying huddled together under a tree when it was struck by lightning and all were killed.—Philadelphia Record.

Caterpillar Habit of the Cuckoos. The cuckoos were about the only birds that were generally known to feed extensively upon hairy and spiny caterpillars, until an investigation in Massachusetts gave evidence that many other birds were killing these insects. The caterpillar habit of the cuckoo became so well known in the work on the gypsy moth that a gathering of cuckoos anywhere was looked upon as a sign of a caterpillar outbreak. It is a well known fact that cuckoos eat so many caterpillars that their stomachs sometimes become lined or felted with these hairs from the bodies of the insects. The tent caterpillar, forest caterpillar, gypsy moth, brown tail moth, black spined caterpillar, fall web worm and the canker worms are all greedily eaten.—New England Farmer.

FRED L. SANDOZ, BRIDGEVILLE.

DRY GOODS AND GROCERIES.

Boots, Shoes & Hats. Notions, Hardware, Tinware, Crockery, etc.

Country Produce. A specialty. Chickens, eggs, etc., all ways on hand. Orders by mail promptly filled. Prices to suit the times. First corner west of bridge, on Landry Street, Opelousas.

ACADEMY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, OPELOUSAS, LA.

Under the Direction of the Sisters Mariantize of Holy Cross. Offers to young ladies every facility for acquiring a thorough christian education. Constant attention is paid to home and social culture. Lessons are given in music, painting and other useful arts. The sisters also have charge of the boys' school. The course of instruction is two-fold—Preparatory and Commercial. French is taught in the two courses. For particulars, address SISTER SUPERIOR.

25 Cents, Postpaid.

A TREATISE ON—The Horse AND HIS DISEASES.

Containing an index to diseases which gives the symptoms, cause and the best treatment of each. A table giving all the principal drugs used for the horse, with the ordinary dose, effects, and antidote with a poison. A table with an engraving of the horse's teeth at different ages, with rules for telling the age. A valuable collection of receipts and much other valuable information. Both in English and German. 100-page book sent postpaid to any address, for 25 cents. Address

The Courier, OPELOUSAS, LA.

MONEY TO LOAN. Office of St. Landry Homestead and Loan Association, Opelousas, Sept. 19, '99.

The undersigned is authorized by the Board of Directors of the St. Landry Homestead and Loan Association to offer to its members loans at eight per centum. For particulars apply to E. D. ESTIERRE, Pres. St. Landry H. & L. Ass'n.

Hotel Denechaud. Cor. Perdido and Carondelet Sts., N. O. American and European Plans.

T. C. GIBBENS, Washington, La. Dealer in—Cypress and Pine Split and SAWED LUMBER, SHINGLES, BOARDS, FLOORING, OILSTERN LUMBER, CEILING, DOORS, SASH, BLINDS.

The Best—ALWAYS—The Cheapest—THE—Opelousas Courier

BEST NEWSPAPER Parish of St. Landry. Standing squarely and uncompromisingly upon the Democratic Platform

Opelousas Courier is the advocate of Democratic principles and the friend of the people. Their welfare is its welfare, and it will ever be found defending their rights with all of its ability.

The value of a newspaper as an advertising medium consists in its circulation. When you can secure the combined circulation of two papers for the price of one, it is money saved!

"The St. Landry Democrat" was consolidated on the 8d of March, 1894, with "The Opelousas Courier." The advertising rates have not been increased while the price of subscription has been reduced to \$2 a year.

THE COURIER being by odds the best paper in the empire Parish of St. Landry is therefore the cheapest.

ESTABLISHED 45 YEARS. JAMES H. HOUSTON, Real Estate Agent, OPELOUSAS, LA. PROPERTIES BOUGHT AND SOLD. I am prepared to handle your real estate upon the most satisfactory terms. If you desire to sell or purchase real estate in this section of the State, I would be pleased to have you write or call and see me before going elsewhere. My new catalogue for 1900, describing a large number of extraordinary bargains is in the hands of the printer and will soon be ready for distribution. If you are interested, send for one, sent free postpaid to any address. JAS. H. HOUSTON.

Opelousas Ice and Bottling Works, Manufacturers of... ICE AND CARBONATED DRINKS. Pure Water used. Careful attention to orders. Quick delivery in the city limits. ICE AS CHEAP AS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. ANDREW MORESI, President.

MT. PLEASANT BRICK AND TILE WORKS. WASHINGTON, LOUISIANA. H. L. Bidstrup - Proprietor. Best quality of Building and Paving Brick and Tiles, Ac. Sidewalk Tiles a specialty. Large stock on hand for immediate delivery at Lowest Prices. Large bricks 2 1/4 inches thick at \$6.50 per M at the yard. If you want a hard, well made, well burned cheap brick, this is the place to get it. Factory back of the saw mill. M. Boagni, President; J. J. Thompson, Vice-President; Fritz Dietlen, Cashier.

St. Landry State Bank, Of Opelousas, La. CAPITAL, \$50,000.00. Safety Deposit Boxes for Rent.—A general banking business transacted. Foreign exchange bought and sold. Careful attention given to collections. Money to loan on good security. Directors.—E. M. Boagni, J. J. Thompson, Fritz Dietlen, E. D. Estierre, Ant. Dietlein. J. J. PERRODIN, Cashier.

The Peoples' State Bank, Of Opelousas, La. CAPITAL, \$25,000.00. Your Accounts and Collections Solicited. DIRECTORS—David Roos, Isaac Roos, J. W. Castles, Lewis Goldstein, Jr., J. A. Haas. OFFICERS—David Roos, President; Isaac Roos, Vice-President; J. J. Perrodin, Cashier; J. A. Haas, Assistant Cashier.

WE LEAD IN LOW PRICES, OTHERS FOLLOW. A. C. SKILES, (Successor to E. R. WHITE.) New Lumber Yard. Near Southern Pacific Depot, Opelousas, where a full and complete stock of Atchafalaya Red Cypress and Long Leaf Yellow Pine Lumber, Shingles and Siding. Also Sash, Doors, Blinds, Mouldings, Coal and Sand. We only ask to make you our figures and your better judgment will do the rest.

YOU NEED IT. WE DO IT. Job Printing. NEAT WORK. LOW PRICES.

Two Hundred Complete Stories By Popular Authors. This mammoth collection of amusing and entertaining complete stories is comprised in a large and handsome volume of 192 large quarto pages, printed in clear, bold, readable type, and neatly bound in attractive colored paper covers. This great book contains Two Hundred Complete Stories, each story being given complete and unabridged, and they are written by such famous authors as Oliver Optic, Horatio Alger, Jr., Ned Buntline, Sylvanus Cobb, Jr., Josiah Allen Wyse, Mrs. May Agnes Fleming, Mrs. Mary A. Deane, Esther Serle Kenneth, Ella Rodman Church, Mary Grace Halpine, Clara Augusta, A New York Detective, Mary Cecil Bay, George R. Sims, Emma Garrison Jones, Mary Eyle Dallas, M. T. Caldwell, Dr. J. B. Robinson, Arthur L. Meserve, and many others. These stories are all extremely interesting, and so varied in character as to please every taste, embracing Love Stories, Domestic Stories, Detective Stories, Stories of Adventure, Sea Stories, Border Stories, Humorous Stories, Stories of Railway Life, Dramatic Stories, Fairy Stories, etc., etc. We have space to enumerate only a few of the titles as follows: "The Engaging Story," "By a Hair's Breadth," "A Dangerous Woman," "From a Living Death," "A Terrible Night," "Bill Jenkins and the Greased Pole," "Peter's Conquest," "Adventure with a Panther," "Hunted Down," "A Dark Night's Work," "A Struggle for Life," "An Old Hunter's Story," "The Criminal's Fate," "The Valley Flower," "The Hunter's Peril," etc., etc. A whole season's delightful reading is contained in this mammoth volume, and in no other way can such a vast amount of charming reading matter be secured for so little money. Every story lover should have this great book. It will please both young and old. We will send Two Hundred Complete Stories, as above described, by mail post-paid to any address, upon receipt of only Twenty-five Cents.

W. C. PERRAULT, (Late Judge 11th Judicial Dist.) ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, OPELOUSAS, LA. Office over St. Landry State Bank. WM JOEL SANDOZ, Attorney-at-Law and Notary Public, OPELOUSAS, LA. Will practice in all Courts, State and Federal, and before the Patent and Pension Offices at Washington, D. C. Short-hand and Typewriting promptly and carefully done. Office over St. Landry State Bank, Main Street.