



MARDI GRAS PARADE THROUGH THE STREETS OF NEW ORLEANS.

GALA OF THE GULF CITY.

*New Orleans Mardi Gras of 1910
Soon To Be a Pleasant Memory.*

Feasting and flirting, parading and cannonading (with confetti) are being indulged in by a large number of the American people each year in preparation for the solemn abstinences of the Lenten season. The fact that the meat strike unhappily coincides this year with the period preceding penance, and that the errant moon has fixed the beginning of Lent on February 9, a fortnight earlier than usual, are minor handicaps on hilarity. Thank heaven, there is no strike against bonbons nor yet a ban against flirting, while the price of ashes for the use of penitents the day after Shrove Tuesday remains reasonable.

It was the Latins who invented and the warm blooded Southerners who adopted the mid-winter vacation commonly known as the Mardi Gras carnival or festivity. A vacation holiday appeals to men of every clime, and it is no wonder that San Francisco and St. Louis, not to mention other cities, have followed the example of New Orleans and made the Mardi Gras celebration official.

While the rest movement is spreading, it will be a long time before any Northern city can hope to compete with the glorified gayety of New Orleans, which lasts almost a full month and costs officially about \$150,000. There are five street parades, a dozen balls and innumerable minor entertainments. Originating in the feast of the Lupercalia in ancient Rome, becoming somewhat Christianized and afterward Gallicized, the pre-Lenten celebration was imported from Paris to New Orleans in 1827. Street pageants and other features were gradually added.

In 1857 the Krewe (don't blame the printer) of Comus was organized, in honor of the god of mirth and revelry, and this society is annually responsible for a lot of frolicsome affairs. The Knights of Momus organized in 1872 for the purpose of parading on New Year's Eve, but they soon realized that they had better get aboard the carnival band wagon, and now their annual ball at the French Opera House of New Orleans is a delight to the devotees of the god of wit and ridicule.

Rex, the king of the carnival and a little brother of hoary Neptune, first merged from the Gulf of Mexico in 1872, and has since annu-

ally showed his head and trident above the waters on Shrove Tuesday. His coming is the climax and the end of a month of glee. The biggest steam yacht of the New Orleans Yacht Club will go down the Mississippi River day after to-morrow to meet his royal highness and bring him into town. At the landing whistles, bells and the shouts of the assembled populace will welcome the monarch, who will proceed to the City Hall and receive the keys of the city on a silken cushion. Rex has a consort who does not parade with him, but watches his progress from the royal box in front of the Boston Club. However, the queen dances with his majesty at the Rex ball in the evening.

There is nothing esoteric or sentimental about the selection of the individuals who are to take the part of king and queen each year. In accordance with logic and economic philosophy the king is the citizen who writes the largest check toward the expenses of the carnival, and his queen is the "reigning belle of radiant beauty" whose papa is most willing and able to pay the price. The method of selection is considered ideal, for any disputes about the quality of royalty can be speedily settled by reference

to the cash book of the committee in charge. It is also democratic, since anybody who wants to be a king or queen can go down to New Orleans and put in a bid—10 per cent down, or something like that.

"Did I have a good time at the carnival?" repeated a Northern girl. "Why, I had such a time I was willing to die the next minute. We don't know what fun is up here. It was just a scream"—and more to the same effect.

It is, of course, rather late for New Yorkers to run down to the Southern city and take in the finale of the month of mirth. Starting now, the visitor would arrive to get the bitter dregs, the ashes and sackcloth of the aftermath, and he would have no sinfully pleasant reminiscences to console him amid penitential gloom.

Here is the 1910 programme:

- January 6—Twelfth Night Revelers.
- January 10—Krewe of Nereus.
- January 17—Olympians.
- January 21—Falstaffians.
- January 24—High Priests of Mithras.
- January 27—Elves of Oberon.
- February 1—Atlanteans.
- February 3—Knights of Momus, ball and pageant.
- February 7—Krewe of Proteus, ball and pageant.
- February 8—Krewe of Comus, ball and pageant.
- February 8—Rex, ball and pageant.

MONEY FLOODS HEIGHTS.

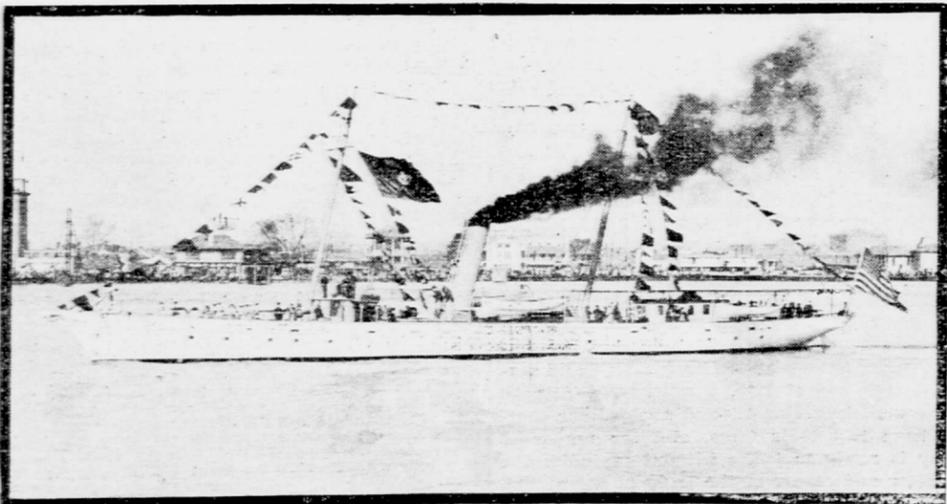
Morningside Institutions Already Represent \$40,000,000.

The announcement that the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the medical school affiliated with Columbia University, is to be removed from its present location in West 39th street to the north side of 116th street, between Amsterdam and Morningside avenues, adjoining Columbia, serves to draw attention to the many institutions which are being housed on Morningside Heights.

The elevation of Manhattan Island upon which has been bestowed the name of Morningside Heights has occasionally been denominated the acropolis of New York City. Year by year this appellation is more and more deserved. Each revolution of the earth around the sun finds an addition to the notable pieces of architecture on the heights intended to house institutions of learning, commemorate the deeds and sacrifices of heroes or provide shelter for the sick and soul weary while they gain fresh strength for the battle of life.

The features of this acropolis mark the difference between the old and the new. The old was a fortification for protection against the armed hosts of the barbarians, while the new is a citadel against ignorance, and intended to promote peace in every sense of the word. No stone bulwarks surround its palaces and temples of learning and religion, and access is had by the expenditure of a nickel for a subway ride.

Within the quarter square mile, which is the approximate area of the plateau comprising the summit of Morningside Heights, are to be found the site and a portion of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, a structure designed to be the most imposing and monumental of its kind in this country; St. Luke's Hospital, one of the richest hospitals in the city; the many buildings of Columbia University, the Union Theological Seminary, the Institute of Musical Art and the Jewish Theological Seminary. The value of the property of these institutions, the buildings and sites being included, is approximately \$40,000,000. This includes Kent Hall, the new home of the Columbia Law School, which is being erected at Amsterdam avenue and 116th street, at an expense of \$500,000; the great quadrangle of the Union Theological Seminary, which occu-



OFF TO FETCH THE KING.

A steam yacht goes down the river and in triumph brings Rex to the city from his abode in the Gulf of Mexico. He has never been seen going home again.

Continued on eighth page.