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Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 19, 1901.
Life Plant Company, Canton, O.
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ANTHONY L. NIXON,
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AMERICA'S FIRST REPUBLIC.

Not the United States, But the Republic of Louisiana—Its Tragic History.

The first republic in this hemisphere to succeed in compelling recognition of its independence was, of course, the republic whose proud capital is Washington, D. C. But there was an earlier one which died soon after its birth, of which little or nothing is said in our American histories. The Louisiana Purchase Exposition must be credited with the revival of the memory of the "Republic of Louisiana," which had its tragic little existence some years before Patrick Henry and Sam Adams were talking about revolution in the north, says the Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

When France, in 1764, ceded Louisiana to Spain, the subjects of King Louis XV. objected to the transfer without their consent. The local government submitted the question to the council, which, under the lead of Nicholas Chauvin de Lafreniere, rose in revolt. Lafreniere called a convention of the people at New Orleans, while the new Spanish governor was on his way to the colony, and the convention selected a delegate to go to Paris to dissuade the French king from his course. Louis XV. however, rebuffed the delegate and sent back word that the people must recognize the authority of Spain.

It was then that the people of Louisiana resolved on a radical course. On the night of October 28, 1768, the rebels took possession of the French forts and the gates of the town in the name of the Republic of Louisiana. The old French governor offered no resistance, while the new Spanish governor took refuge on a ship and sailed for Havana. On October 29, 1768, the council at New Orleans adopted a formal declaration of independence, officially named itself the Republic of Louisiana, elected Lafreniere "protector" and prepared a written constitution. This interesting government lasted from October, 1768, to July, 1769, when a Spanish squadron of 24 vessels, with an army of 2,600 men, arrived at New Orleans. The new republican state was destroyed and five republican leaders, including Lafreniere, put to death. Then all the republic's official papers, including its declaration of independence and constitution, were burned in the public square.

The anniversary of the execution of the leaders, October 28, is going to be celebrated at St. Louis by the laying of the cornerstone of a monument to Lafreniere and his colleagues, on the exposition grounds. A direct descendant of Lafreniere, now living in Wisconsin, has received a special invitation to be present at the exercises. The Louisiana episode of 1768-69, which has never won more than a footnote in history, merits the proposed memorial, and the celebration at St. Louis ought to interest the American people. Republics have some right to our sympathy.

BURIAL CUSTOMS CHANGE.

The Gloom of Funerals Has Been Relieved to a Degree in Later Years.

"It used to be thought almost sacrilegious to attempt in any way to dispel the suggestion of death and gloom at a funeral, and every cortege, no matter what the social or financial condition of the people, had to have its sombre hearse, coal, black horses and general atmosphere of crape and black bordered handkerchiefs," said an undertaker the other day, to a New York Tribune man.

"Fifteen years ago such a sight as a funeral party dressed in bright colors accompanying a body being borne to its last resting place in a blue and silver hearse, as was the case in London recently, would have horrified staid Americans," he continued. "To-day, although they frown upon such an open lack of respect to the dead, the people here are gradually working up to a condition where such sights will be viewed with perfect equanimity, and it can be said with truth that the old-fashioned funeral is a thing of the past.

"The absence of that depressing atmosphere and general suggestion of the tomb is nowhere more noticeable than in the house of death itself. Formerly it was the undertaker's duty to repair to the house a few hours before the time set for the funeral and drape everything in the room where the body lay—mirrors, pictures, mantel, windows and the bier—with black crape. Daylight was almost wholly excluded, and the entire place wore such a doleful appearance that a person of any imagination and susceptibility could not remain in the house long without having a touch of the blues.

"To-day almost no crape is displayed at the better class of funerals. Even the old-time lugubrious death at the front door is replaced in most cases with a wreath of flowers or ivy, while the interior of the house or church is made bright and attractive by the use of flowers, greens, etc. The immediate family of the dead may wear mourning at the funeral, but black or sombre colors are no more in evidence than on other occasions.

"The color of coffins, too, has undergone a change. Plumes are relegated to the country districts. Hearsees now have several sets of hangings—black to go with black coffins, gray for coffins of that color, and white for small children. Very often black horses are used when the coffin is black, but gray horses are seen as often as black ones.

"To my mind the most important innovation is noticeable at the cemeteries. Formerly a funeral party had to stand about the grave, no matter how inclement the weather, unprotected from the elements, and often bareheaded. Now things are different. Recently tents have been introduced, and these are spread over the grave and a good size plot of ground surrounding it. Being enclosed on all four sides, those within are protected from the weather as well as from the eyes of the curious.

"Matting is spread on the ground and delicate women can alight from the carriages at the entrance to the tent and enter the vehicles again after the service is over without having touched their feet to the ground. Again, flowers and greens have been called into play, and now the grave itself, the earth that is thrown out and the masonry are covered with evergreens or flowers."

THE CITY BEAUTIFUL.

Such Has Hamilton (Ont.) Become Through Work of Civic Improvement Society.

Hamilton is being made more attractive every year through the efforts of the Civic Improvement society, which awards prizes for the best kept lawns, flower boxes and gardens. The idea is so excellent that it is remarkable that it has not been more generally adopted, says the Toronto Mail and Express. The natural tendency of all centers of population is toward ugliness. To resist this and aspire toward "the city beautiful" is a worthy effort. We are influenced more than we are generally willing to acknowledge by our surroundings. The power of beauty to cheer and purify human nature is immeasurable. Why, then, should all the natural beauty of a city be confined to its parks, or its boulevards, which are visited only on rare and exceptional occasions?

Here and there, it is true, efforts are made to beautify the daily surroundings. In this city some of the modern factories are adorned with flowers and clinging ivy. For this, and the consequent appearance of cheerfulness, the public, we believe, is sincerely grateful. It is a contribution to the comfort of everyone. The splendid lawns and the gardens of our residential quarters also appeal to public appreciation. But there are districts of the city in which the sun or beauty seldom shines. Prominent among these are the business quarters, where the tiresome monotony of brick walls is rarely relieved by the presence of any green thing. It is here that the people spend most of their time, and here it is that beauty and freshness are most required. In the more humble quarters, too, though there is many a homely garden, and many an effort to catch an inspiration from nature, the lack of beauty is often painful and depressing. Anything that will awaken an interest in the adornment of a city, and stimulate effort along that line, is a wholesome and valuable influence. By all means, let us beautify our cities, and if Hamilton has shown us how to do it thoroughly and well we shall be grateful.

MISTAKE OF MANKIND.

It Lies in Doing Only as Well as We Know How, When We Should Do Better.

Doing as well as we know how is ordinarily considered a very creditable performance. One who can honestly say that he has done as well as he knows how is likely to take credit to himself for his doing; and, in passing judgment on another for his conduct, we are inclined to commend him if he, or if we can say that he has done as well as he knows how. Yet just here is a common mistake of mankind. All of us ought to do better than we know how. Doing only as well as we know how may be a lack and a failure on our part, says the Detroit Free Press.

Doing better than one knows how, doing better than one's best, is the duty and the practical attainment of every person who wants to fill his place in the world and help his fellows as he should. One who expects to be limited, in his work and in his endeavors, by the best that he has done, or by the best that others have done, or by what he can do, is practically without the noblest ambition, and certainly without the highest aspirations. To be stopped by the thought of the impossible is to be held within the bounds of the ordinary and the commonplace.

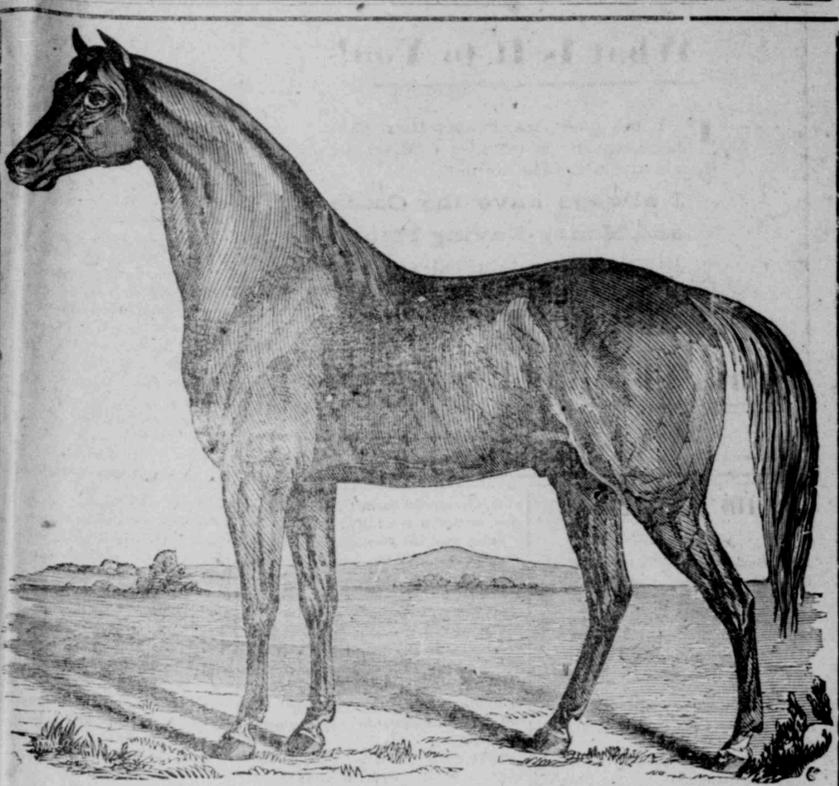
All substantial progress in this world is by doing better than one knows how. Every great explorer and discoverer and inventor and pioneer and master missionary, in all lands and on all seas, and in all ages, has secured to the world and to his fellows results and advantages of priceless value, and has proved himself a benefactor of his race, because he was not limited by precedents and possibilities, but was determined to do better than his best, better than he knew how.

Benevolence Limited.

Poorchap—I have called, sir, to—tc ask for the hand of your daughter.
Old Bullion—Oh, really, now, I couldn't give you my daughter, you know. That is asking too much. But here are some soup tickets.—N. Y. Weekly.

She Succeeded.

Patience—I hear she has quite a reputation as an amateur cook.
Patrice—Oh, yes.
"And that her husband was a famous eater before he married her."
"Yes; and she married him to reform him."—Yonkers Statesman.



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Record 2:19

This great sire belongs to a trotting family that is second to none. He is a proven sire of fast, game and level-headed race horses. He breeds large and strong. Alfred G. is a rich brown horse in color, 16.3 hands high, weighs 1150 pounds, a perfect feet individual and with the best of disposition. He is the sire of 32 with records from 2:07 to 2:30. In his list are the name of some of the greatest horses known to the harness horse world. Alfred G. will make season of 1904 at my Oakwood Farm 3 1/2 miles east of Hickman, Ky., on the State road, at the low price of \$25 to insure foal. **USUAL TERMS.**

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"Handy Andy" is a bay horse, eight (8) years old, sixteen (16) hands high and weighs twelve hundred (1200) pounds. He is a perfect individual with fine disposition. There is nowhere to be found a better combined saddle and harness horse than "Handy Andy." To see him is to want one of his colts. Terms, ten dollars (\$10) to insure. "Handy Andy" will make the season of 1904 at my Oakwood Farm, three and a half miles east of Hickman, Ky.

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American Eclipse is a registered black jack with white points. He is by IMPORTED REBO. This Jack was said by some of the best jack men of Middle Tennessee to have been the best jack that had ever been in Middle Tennessee for years. He took the premium at Pulaski, Tenn., over a field of 62 jacks. American Eclipse is a perfect individual, 15.3 hands high under the standard, and weighs 1150 pounds. He has a fine head, ear, bone and muscle. He pleases all who see him. American Eclipse will make the season of 1904 at my Oakwood Farm three and a half miles east of Hickman, Ky., on the State road. Terms, \$10 to insure mares; \$20 to insure jennets.

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