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THE MESCHACÉBÉ

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE PARISH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST---LOUISIANA.

E. DUMÉZ & T. BELLOW, EDITORS.

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'TILL NEBBER COME NO MO.'

BY MRS. F. G. DE FONTAINE.
I've been waitin' long for de good old time
Dat'll nebber come no no;
When I used to work an' rock an' sing
In de little cabin do'.

"Mary Jane, have you laid the table-cloth and plates yet?" "Yeth' em, everything but the eggs, and them's Bridget's work."

"I say, Pat, what are you about—sweeping out the room?" "No," answered Pat; "I am sweepin' out the dirt and leaving the room."

"An Irishman with a hand-cart ran against a little man who was standing at a street corner in London, crying as if his heart would break, and tumbled him head over heels in the gutter. Pat pushed right on with his cart, but not without turning to observe:

"Bad luck to ye, an' it saivres ye right, to be standin' slobberin' an' waystin' yer salt-pater in the public streets."

"How much for the broad-faced chicken on the fence?" inquired an Irishman of a farmer on Staten Island. "That's not a chicken, it's an owl," replied the farmer. "I don't care how old he is, I would like to buy him," said the Irishman.

MOSS.

The Moss of Commerce--How it Grows--Where it Grows--How Gathered and Cured.

Extent of the Industry--Prices and Markets.

The long moss of our commerce is almost wholly a product of Louisiana; although found in the low lands of South Carolina and along the swampy borders of all the Gulf States, it is nowhere else found in sufficient quantities to make it an object of commerce.

It is rarely found above 33 degrees north latitude and usually keeps company with the palmetto. Its technical name is Tillandsia Uenerides. It is commonly called Spanish moss, long moss and gray moss. Its native habitat is on the tops and branches of living trees which grow in the gloomy swamps or along their borders. It revels in the darkest recesses of the deep and dismal cypress groves, above the exhalations of everlasting swamps and covers as with a mantle the broadarmed live and native oaks which fringe the ridgy margins of the lakes and bayous.

It even drifts away from the tops of the cypress and tupelo, and encroaches on the highlands adjacent to the swamps, and festoons with its gray drapery, the sweet gum, elm and ash.

Associated as it is by false report and preconceived ideas, with malarial fevers and swamp ague, the stranger, when he first views the long pendulous pennants of the gray moss, solemnly swaying in the breeze, cannot resist the impression that he is looking on the waving plumes of a hundred herons.

But prone as the imagination is to this delusion, it is now well settled that this long moss is the salvation of the swamp residents. Many a home along the dark margins of extensive swamps enjoy as perfect health and as great immunity from disease as those do which are located in the mountains.

This moss needs the tree simply to keep it in the air. It is, therefore, an epiphyte. It is not a parasite, because it does not derive any sustenance from the tree; but it feeds on the malarious elements in the atmosphere, and, consuming them, purifies the surrounding air, which would, for human lungs and skin, be otherwise loaded with poison, from the rapid decay of exuberant vegetation.

It cannot live on a dead tree, because the bark, among the crevices of which its tendrils creep, has slipped off. When the tree dies, the moss soon turns black, and drapes itself in mourning, as if for the tree, its dead mother.

No scenery in nature can convey a more solemn and impressive feeling to the traveler than a moss covered swamp. As he pushes his progress through the lofty

wreathes and verdant arches of the silent swamp, the tall columns of cypress rise up on every side like huge stalagmites, upholding the leafy, living cavern above, from the roof of which depend long masses of moss, like innumerable gray stalactites, so shutting out the sun as to make it twilight at noon.

The living moss is of a greenish gray color. It has long branching stems or filaments, and at each bifurcation produces tiny, trumpet-shaped flowers, smaller than tobacco flowers, and of a peach blossom color. It grows rapidly, and is easily propagated; a single thread blown from one tree to another, soon grows into a mass of moss.

In good localities, the bunches will grow twenty to thirty feet long. Often a single live oak tree, such as may be seen near the mouth of the Atchafalaya, will, in addition to the enormous weight of its own ponderous, horizontal branches, carry twenty to twenty-five tons of green moss!

The great moss region is all Southwestern Louisiana, wherever swamps exist, from Alexandria, on Red River, to the Sabine, and from Alexandria, down Red River, to the City of New Orleans. This includes the Atchafalaya basin and bayous with the Grosse Tête, Plaquemine, Lafourche, Terrebonne and Barataria regions.

The Region Over the Lake also furnishes a considerable yield of moss; this region includes all East Louisiana, Lower Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

The Best Moss Comes from the Atchafalaya basin. It is long, soft, fine threaded and glossy; this moss is the product of cypress swamps alone.

That from Lafourche, Terrebonne and Bayou Black is coarse, gummy, hard to clean, but very strong. It is gathered largely from gum trees and seems to be glued with the gum.

It is gathered by woodchoppers and laborers who follow the woodchoppers, but there are hundreds of whites and blacks who make it a business. They go into the swamps through canals and bayous; they push their way along in skiffs, flats or canoes; they carefully pick up all that the wind has blown down in great flakes; they reach up long poles, armed with hooks, and pull down the hanging bunches, and they, if necessary, climb the trees and throw the moss down. It is piled up in heaps, if on highland, where it is gathered, or of in the swamps, it is brought out in boats and piled up in heaps, if on highland, it is gathered, or if in the swamps, it is brought out in boats and piled in convenient heaps of several hundred pounds, like hay ricks or shocks.

After a few months exposure to the rain and sun, with perhaps sometimes a few buckets of water thrown on the heap to wet them, the heat and fermentation of the mass causes the grey skin or bark of the moss to peel off and drop away. At this stage it is usually turned over once or twice, and shaken up to remove thoroughly the grey rind. In a little while it begins to blacken and the longer it remains in the heap the more clear of bark and the blacker it becomes; twelve months is the longest time usually allowed for curing, and two the shortest.

When cured to the owners satisfaction, it is scattered and dried, it is then hauled or sold to the country dealers who bale it. Country moss is baled like hay in bales of unequal size, weighing from 200 to 400 lbs. weight.

It is baled by horse or hand power by screw presses, and by lever presses, the latter being usually a long log put into a mortise in a tree. These bales are all usually very rough and often contain old collars, matting and such articles. They are fastened by Cypress split boards on four sides, and bound with wire, or wooden

hoops or bands, and often with vines.

A good hand can gather enough in a day of green moss to put up 250 to 500 lbs. bale of black moss. When baled it is sent to the city dealer, who either buys directly or sells on commission to purchasers or speculators.

There are some half a dozen different firms in this city engaged in receiving on consignment and selling moss.

These receive consignments from country dealers and original shippers. They also purchase all unbaled lots which may come in from across the lake, or the plantations near the city.

Like cotton going to the cotton press, no matter who is the purchaser from the city dealers the moss all goes from the hands of the city dealer to the

City Factories.

There are but two factories, and all moss to be saleable must have the brand of one of these factories. These factories are

The Crescent--Ferguson & Habersham, 100 Front street, and The Delta--Clark & Brown, corner Galvez and Canal streets.

This factory business for making machine picked moss, that is ginning it, was started a few years ago by Dr. J. M. Ferguson, of the Crescent Factory, in order to make uniform grades and equal regular bales. He is a gentleman of energy and education and thoroughly understands his business.

By cleaning and preparing the moss and making uniform classifications, the moss trade has largely increased under the factory system.

The business of the factory is to open up the rough bales, sort the moss and gin it, so as to get rid of leaves, sticks, dust and trash, it is then boiled by steam in a secret bath; but the secret may easily be guessed. It is supposed to be simply copperas or sulphate of iron, in the water, which when boiled with the moss fixes the tannin in the moss and turns it into a deep glossy black.

After boiling the moss is dried, sometimes reginned, and then classified and baled. It is classified into four grades as follows: X gray, XX gray and brown, XXX brown and black, XXXX all black.

These grades are all uniform to both factories. It is put up in bur-lap bales of 100 to 120 pounds, called quarter bales, and 175 to 200 pounds called half bales. This is known as machine picked moss. Very little hand picked mosses sent out of New Orleans--not over 1500 bales annually.

These factories each employ from 10 to 15 men, and from 15 to 20 women, and each turn out from 30 to 40 bales a day. They are about equal in their operations, and together have turned out during the past year 19,000 bales.

Some moss is shipped from Berwick's Bay to Texas, but not much--not exceeding 800 bales per year.

The receipts at New Orleans average about 600 irregular bales per week. The busiest season is from middle of January to June, and slacks off from November to January, owing to the freezing up of Northern factories.

The prices are for green moss in the country, from 25 to 50 cents per hundred, for cured moss in the country 1 to 1 1/2 cents a pound. City dealers pay for:

Grey.....2 1/2 cents P. B.
Gray and brown.....3 1/4
Brown and black.....3 1/2
All black.....3 3/4

Crescent or Delta brand of machine picked moss sells at:

Grey.....7 cents P. B.
Gray and brown.....8
Brown and black.....9
All black.....11

The total sales of the past year have been 20,800 bales. This can only be estimated as the bales are irregular. It must be borne that green moss when piled loses a large per cent. of its weight, and that one pound of ginned clean moss takes 7 of green moss.

and Germany. It is used for making mattresses, stuffing chairs, cushions, car seats and all uses to which hair was applied.

The stock on hand is about 11,000 bales, and not much demand.--(N. O. Times.)

List of Letters remaining at Edgar P. O. October 8, 1875.

- Augustin J. D.
Beneil P. A. jr. (2)
Berthelot D. & F.
Borne Octave Mme
Bourgeois G.
Champagne Angelo
Claire Jean-Baptiste
D'Arensbourg Valcour
Delattes Marie Miss
Edmondson T. N.
Edouard Eugene
Falgoust Victor Mme
Forstall Edwin
Hare Arthur
Hare J. B.
Jacob Ursin
Levy Alfred
Roussel Camille
Shexneydre Onésiphore
Songy Adam
Vial Charles

MONETARY AND COMMERCIAL.

NEW ORLEANS THURSDAY, Oct. 7, 1875.

GOLD.....117 @ 117 1/2
SILVER.....110 @ 110 1/4
STATE WARRANTS.....60 @ 70

SUGAR--
Common.....7 1/2 @ 8 1/2
Fair.....8 1/4 @ 8 1/4
Fully Fair.....9 @ 9 1/4
Prime.....9 1/2 @ 10
Choice.....9 1/4 @ 10
Yellow clarified.....9 1/4 @ 10
White clarified.....@ --

FLOUR--
Superfine.....4 75 @ --
Double extra.....5 50 @ --
Triple extra.....5 75 @ 6 95
Choice extra.....7 00 @ 9 00

CORN IN SACKS--
White, P bushels.....73 @ 74
Yellow.....71 @ 72
Yellow mixed.....71 @ 72

OATS--
P bushels.....43 @ 55

WHISKY
Rectified, P gallon.....1 16 @ 1 17

DRY SALT MEAT--
Shoulders, P lb.....9 1/2 @ 10 1/2

BACON--
Shoulders, P lb.....10 1/2 @ 11
Hams, sugar-cured.....12 1/2 @ 15 1/4

PORK--
Mess, P bbl.....24 50 @ 25 25

LARD--
Tierce, P lb.....14 1/2 @ 14 1/2
Kegs.....15 @ 15 1/2

ESCULENTS--
Potatoes.....2 00 @ 2 50
Onions.....2 00 @ 2 25
Eggs, P dozen.....18 @ 32 1/2

COFFEE--
Ordinary, P lb (gold) 18 1/2 @ 19 1/2
Fair.....20 1/2 @ 20 1/2
Good.....20 1/2 @ 21 1/2
Prime.....21 1/2 @ 22 1/2

RICE--
Common, P bushel.....4 1/2 @ 5
Ordinary.....5 1/2 @ 6
Fair.....6 1/2 @ 6 1/2
Prime.....6 1/2 @ 7

LAW OFFICE OF E. H. MARR, 27 Carondelet Street, NEW ORLEANS, OCTOBER 1st, 1875. THE STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE DEMOCRATIC AND CONSERVATIVE PARTY will meet at the City of New Orleans on Thursday, the 21st of October 1875. This call is made at the request of a number of the members of the Committee and a full attendance is earnestly requested. E. H. MARR, Chairman.

NEW ORLEANS COAST AND BATON ROUGE PACKET. Leaves every MONDAY, at 5 P. M., and FRIDAY, at 10 A. M. The passenger packet.

B. L. WEDGE. J. P. McElroy, master, P. Bergeron, clerk. Coming down the coast every Sunday and Wednesday in daylight. For Freight or Passage, apply on board or to E. O. MELANCON, 30 Conti Street.

REGULAR BATON ROUGE PLAQUE-MINE AND COAST SEMI-WEEKLY PACKET. LESSIE TAYLOR, Allen Jemel, master, Chas. A. Brule, clerk. Will leave New Orleans every WEDNESDAY, at 10 A. M., and every SATURDAY, at 5 P. M. Returning, will leave Baton Rouge every THURSDAY and SUNDAY evening.

NOTICE.

Succession of Mortimer F. Smith

The creditors of the above success hereby requested to make themselves known and to present their claims, and all indebted to said succession are requested to pay the amounts due by them to the signed attorneys of said succession, within a delay of ten days from the hereof.

Parish of St. John the Baptist, October 8, 1875. LEGENDRE & POCHÉ, Attorneys of the succession. WIDOW MORTIMER F. SMITH, Administratrix.

NOTICE!

Succession of Francois Haguenier.

The creditors of the vacant Succession of Francois Haguenier are requested to make themselves known and present their claims, and the parties indebted to said Succession are also requested to pay the amount due to them to the undersigned within a delay of ten days.

Parish of St. John the Baptist, September 25, 1875. GEORGE W. COMBS, Public Administrator.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

STATE OF LOUISIANA. PARISH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST. Parish Court. No. 217.

Vacant Succession of the late Francois Haguenier.

By virtue of, and in obedience to an order of sale to me directed by the Honorable Numa Trépanier, Judge of the Parish Court for the Parish of St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, I will proceed to sell at public auction, at the grocery store of the deceased, situated on the property of Wm. Marie Cambre, in this Parish, on

SATURDAY the 9th day of OCTOBER 1875, at the hour of 9 o'clock A. M.,

the following property, belonging to said vacant succession, to wit: One building used as a store, the furniture and fixtures, one warehouse and out buildings, one horse, two carts and harnesses, one wagon tongue, one lot of iron, one copper skiff with oars; and the contents of said store, consisting in dry goods, groceries, liquors, hard ware, tin ware, medicines, and other notions, two show cases, and a lot of movable effects and household furniture, etc. etc.

Merchants and the public in general are called to this very large sale.

TERMS: Cash. Parish of St. John the Baptist, September 25, 1875. LUCIEN CAMBRE, Sheriff.

REWARD!

Escaped from the PARISH JAIL of St. James on Friday morning, September 17, 1875: A black man named

Jno. Baptiste Celestin,

About 28 years of age; 5 feet, 8 inches high; a crook; speaks broken English; talks fast; voice like a woman's; walks erect; square build; weighs about 140 pounds; had a little goatee and moustache; mother lives about half a mile above English Johnson's plantation in St. John the Baptist; with on the old Governor Roman place in this parish; known by the name of "GADDA"; also a griot colored man named

Albert Willsie,

About 25 years of age; 5 feet 10 1/2 inches high; speaks English and French; walks with a head down; weighs about 140 pounds; has bushy, shaggy hair; never looks a true squatin the face; head, but little larger than his neck; eyes like a half-breed; very muscular and powerful.

A suitable reward will be paid for the arrest and delivery of any of the above named men to me, at the Court House in this parish, of St. James. VICTOR MILAN, Sheriff, Parish of St. James.

EMILE LEGENDRE, & FELIX P. POCHÉ, New Orleans, P. O. Box 1309. Convent P. O. St. James.

LEGENDRE & POCHÉ ATTORNEYS & COUNSELLORS AT LAW.

OFFICES: 25 Royal Street, New Orleans. St. James Parish, at P. P. Fournier's residence, near the Court House.

One of the partners will be at the Court House of the parish of St. John the Baptist every Thursday.

CHARLES LOUQUE, ATTORNEY AT LAW.

100 Customhouse street, corner Royal Street, opposite Citizen's Bank, New Orleans.

Local Items.

Succession of Commerce of the Parish of St. John the Baptist, in its session of last Monday, adopted the resolution to increase the tax on sugar in 15 per cent; the old rate of 10 per cent is maintained. It is recommended that planters brand their sugar with the actual

Mr. R. H. Marr, president of the Democratic and Conservative State Central Committee calls a general meeting to be held in New Orleans on the 21st. October. The object of the meeting is to discuss the question whether a State convention shall be called, and if so, when and where.

According to the report of the levee engineers, 300,000 cubic yards of levees will have to be built in St. John the Baptist this season.

The property seized in the suit of Octave Hymel vs. B. S. Labranche & others, divided in 8 lots of 1/2 acre front by 80 in depth, was sold last Saturday by sheriff Lucien Cambre, as follows: lot No. 20, to Similien Madere for \$400; lot 21, Lapeyrolerie & Levet, \$360; lot 22, Joseph L. Cambre, \$325; lot 23, Joseph L. Cambre, \$275; lot 24, Joseph L. Cambre, \$311; lot 25, Joseph Hymel, \$300; lot 26, Joseph Hymel, \$300. A lot of rice was sold to John Kestee for \$361; 35 barrels corn to Honore Olement for \$35; 1200 barrels to Lapeyrolerie & Levet for \$361; total, \$3353. The claim of plaintiff amounted to \$3,478.58.

On the same day, the property seized in the suit of A. Vignes vs. Mortimer F. Smith, was adjudicated, in two lots, to A. Vignes, for \$2,100 and \$205; 25 cords of wood brought \$31; 9 barrels corn, \$12; 6 barrels rice, \$15; total \$2,413.

"The pass word is 'Saxe'--now don't forget it, Pat," said the colonel, just before the battle of Fontenoy, at which Saxe was marshal. "Socks? Faith and I will not. Wasn't my father a miller?" "Who says there?" cried the sentinel, and the Irishman had arrived at his post. Pat was as wise as an owl, and in a sort of whispered howl, replied, "Bogs, yar honor!"

Two sons of the Emigrant Isle had a visit to Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, recently. They visit the water works. Looking on with amazement at the great turbine wheels while in motion, one exclaimed to the other, "Faith, Pat, the Americans must be queer people; they must have their water wheels before they can drink it."

Why is Ireland the richest country in the world? Because its capital is always Dublin.