

# The Meridional.

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ABBEVILLE, LOUISIANA, SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1891.

NO. 4.

**LASTIE BROUSSARD,**  
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Office at Abbeville, La.,—June 30 '88.

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**ATTORNEY AT LAW.**

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January 12, 1889.

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June 13, 1891.

**Notice.**

Notice is hereby given that my wife Eve Lége, having abandoned my domicile without any just cause, I will not be responsible for any debts contracted by her from and after this date.

Abbeville, La., May 23, 1891.

**MICHEL A. HARDY.**

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**SPLENDID** opening for right man. For sale the official journal of Lincoln parish and of the Farmers' Union. In a very prosperous condition. Good reasons for wishing to sell. Address, Progressive Age, Ruston, La. June 13-14.

**The Mocking Bird.**

The mocking bird belongs to the great thrush family. It has a slender form with a long tail, and a bill as long as its head and rather wide at the base, a long and strongly built breast bone, and its tongue is deeply cleft, with hair on the ends and outside edges of the forked part. Its color is a mixture of gray, brown and white, with pink eyes, but these specimens are extremely rare.

Their nests are made of twigs and and weeds, and are lined with fibrous roots, horse hair and cotton, sometimes mixed with human hair and cotton cord. They are about six inches wide and two inches deep. The birds do not take much pains in building them and they do not seem to try to hide them. They select some spot within a few feet of the ground in an orange tree or a blackberry bush, and, like their cousins the robins, they love to live near the dwellings of men.

This may be owing to the protection such places afford against their natural enemies. The hawk the wildcat, the opossum and other animals that would disturb his peace are likely to shun human abodes, and the country's being open about such places makes the approach of any foe readily seen. The eggs, as well as the young birds, are much sought after by snakes, but the parent birds are often successful in driving them off, and they are always ready to wage war on any intruder upon their property.

In the early spring the female lays from three to six eggs, about an inch long and of a pale greenish blue color, spotted and blotched with yellowish brown. Then she sits on them and keeps them warm, and the male bird brings her worms and other delicacies during this time and when the birds are young.

When they are first hatched the birdlings are very ugly, for they have long bills that are always stretched open for food, and scrawny bare bodies with a few pale yellow hairs scattered over them. But their feathers grow very rapidly, and in about two weeks they are full fledged and are able to leave the nest, and their father begins to give them lessons in flying and singing.—New York Telegram.

**The Moss Industry.**

During the last few years the moss business has assumed quite large proportions. It is very profitable and at the same time not as tiresome as field work. We were informed the other day by a young man, that in one day he picked 200 pounds. Now as this moss sells for from 3 to 4 cents per pound, it can easily be seen, why so many laborers seek the swamps and woods instead of doing field work.

This is one of the chief causes of the scarcity of labor and it is easily seen that owners of swamp lands could prevent it. Very few persons outside of negroes make a business of picking moss and if the men who own these lands would club together and forbid anyone picking moss on their lands, the trouble of securing labor would be done away with. It seems to us that owners of swamps lands have really a fortune 'in the woods' but for some reason they let it stay there, or allow it to be taken away by others.

If moss gathering pays on a small scale why should it not do so on a large scale?—Bruly Light.

Some of our practical jokers put up a job on a certain young friend of ours this week by having a telegram sent here announcing that a certain lottery ticket, which number he held a fractional part, had won the capital prize in the last drawing of the La. State Lottery. The hoax was so well concocted that the victim felt truly rich for several hours, until some friend disabused him of the bright delusion.—Opelousas Courier.

**Her Dying Request.**

There died not long ago the little daughter of a New York lawyer who approached the dark river with a composure that was as pathetic as it was unusual. She was the second in the family connection to succumb to diptheria. A few weeks before she had known of the illness and death to a young cousin and playmate, and, though not allowed at the funeral or bedside, had been much impressed and had asked questions which showed that the dismal features of the last sad rites were full of horror to her. The New York Times says that when she was taken ill it was carefully concealed from her that she had diptheria lest she should become frightened. It was a malignant attack, and ran its course quickly. The crisis approached and all hope was abandoned. Her father sat by her side watching her pale face take on a grayer pallor that had only one meaning. The little girl's eyes closed, and in her father's hand her own were held nerveless. A tear wrung from his agony dropped upon them. The child opened her eyes wide. "Are you crying papa?" she said, as well as she could speak; "am I so sick?—papa, am I going to die?" The question was earnest and the eyes searched his face for hope, but she saw there was none. For a long minute she watched him closely. Who shall say what that look contained? Fear, entreaty, affection, and final renunciation—for at length, with a little weary sigh, she turned away, putting her face toward the wall but leaving her hand still fast in his. "Papa," she said again, after a brief silence, and in the tone there was a touching resignation, "sing 'Bye-low," which was a nursery lullaby she had never outgrown. Although cloaking with grief, the stricken father complied, and so, holding his hand, with her face still to the wall and in her ears the crooning, familiar melody, the little girl quietly met her death.—Albany Telegram.

**Cure For Hog Cholera.**

A correspondent of the Farmer-ville (La) Gazette, in mentioning the fact that hog cholera was one of the chief topics discussed at the recent meeting of the State Agricultural Society at Alexandria, says:

Hon Charles Schuler, of DeSoto, stated that he had lost from fifty to sixty head of hogs from disease, and that in the morning of a certain day he hauled off seven head and buried them; that same morning he began to feed his remaining forty head with a slop made of poke weed root, and that since that time he had not lost a hog.

The root of poke weed, a common growth throughout your parish, is cut in small pieces and cooked to slop with water, the stronger the better, feed twice a day. Mr. Schuler said his hogs refused to eat corn but they immediately relished the poke slop.

The symptoms and effects of disease were identical to those related to me which have carried off so many hogs in Union parish and I hasten to give my people the above information \* \* \*

Poke weed in our country is often eaten as a salad in early spring. Its root, however, is known to be a poison and even the berries were formerly thought to be poisonous to children. Such, however is not the case. Medical men tell us that birds feeding on these poke berries are found to be very poor and that an extract made of them is now used as an anti fat remedy.

A Bucks county hen is now sitting on an egg and also as judge in a law suit, for if she hatches a peculiar bred of chick, a negro who is accused of having stolen the fruit will go to jail. The hen is in'er nest about this; but she may have been deceived and have nothing to crow over when the hatching job is done.