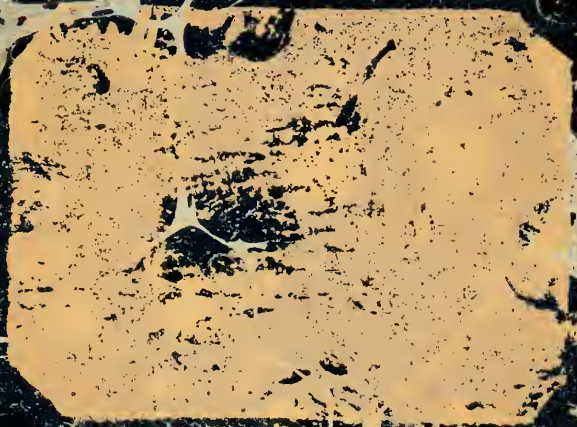




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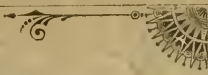



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BIENVILLE + PARISH,

LOUISIANA.

ITS GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION, TOPOGRAPHICAL
FEATURES, POPULATION, EDUCATIONAL
ADVANTAGES, COMMERCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION; ITS SOIL AND PRODUCTIONS,
GAME AND FISHES, ORES AND MINERALS.

—AND—

A COMPILATION OF THE HOMESTEAD AND EXEMPTION LAWS
OF LOUISIANA, AND THE CONSTRUCTION THEREOF
BY THE STATE SUPREME COURT,

—AND—

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY.

—BY—

R. B. HOWELL AND W. U. RICHARDSON.

NEW ORLEANS.

F. F. Hansell, Stationer and Printer.

1885.



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1200 Acres of Land in Bienville Parish
Louisiana.

This land lies within 12 miles of the V. S. & P. R. R., is well watered and supplied with excellent timber.

Good dwelling house and large area of land in cultivation.

For price and terms, etc., Address,

W. M. JAMES, Sparta, La.

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A Saw Mill, Grist Mill, Cotton Gin and Press

This machinery is located on an excellent mill site, with sufficient water power, if properly utilized, to propel machinery manufacturing cotton goods and other fabrics.

For terms, price, etc., address me at Saline Post-office, Bienville, Parish, La.

February 6, 1885.

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Real Estate, Machinery, Etc

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BIENVILLE PARISH, LOUISIANA.

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In the northern part of Louisiana, lying between parallels 32° and 33° North latitude, and on each side of the Meridian of longitude 16° West from Washington, D. C., at an altitude—at the highest point—of between 400 and 500 feet above the Gulf of Mexico, is the Parish of BIENVILLE.

Corresponding with counties in other States, it is a political division, created by an act of the Louisiana Legislature, dividing the parish of Claiborne, approved March

14, 1848, and named in honor of the patriot *Bienville*, founder of New Orleans and, for more than a quarter of a century during the French domination, Governor of Louisiana.

BIENVILLE is bounded by the Parishes of Webster, Claiborne and Lincoln on the North, Lincoln and Jackson on the East, Winn, Natchitoches and Red River on the South, and Webster, with Lake Bisteneau, on the West, and embraces a territory of 856 square miles, to which area it was reduced by the formation, in part from Bienville, of the contiguous Parishes of Red River and Webster in 1871, and Lincoln in 1873.

Though classed as one of the "Good Upland" Parishes, the surface of Bienville is varied. A topographical view will exhibit high hills, elevated plateaus, gentle undulations and dismal swamps.

Running through the Parish, from north to south, are the large bayous Black Lake and Saline, the low lands adjacent to which are subject to annual submersion.

Tributary to these are numerous smaller streams, of which many are likewise subject to overflow during the seasons of copious rains.

The area of swamp and overflowed land, however, constitutes but a small part of the surface of Bienville, and such are its topographical features as to warrant the conclusion that in the future these lands may prove to be an advantageous source from which may be obtained the finest and most durable timber for domestic use, and to supply, at remunerative prices, the increasing demands of the markets abroad.

The student of geography abroad can scarcely form a proper conception of Bienville as it is. To fully comprehend its beauties and advantages, and contrast them with its defects and disadvantages, he should ascend from the alluvial regions of the great rivers to the high lands, of which Bienville forms a part. Here he will find productive hills as well as fertile valleys ; bold springs as well as stagnant lagoons ; rapid creeks as well as sluggish bayous ; the stout oak as well as the stately magnolia ; dense pine forests as well as moss-fringed cypress-brakes ; and fragrant fields of corn as well as beautiful fields of cotton.

He will also find snow and ice in winter as well as excessive heat in summer ; fruits that flourish in high latitudes as well as those that thrive in the far South ; and a population Southern in character, hospitable in conduct, patriotic in sentiment, and extending a welcome to the civilized immigrant from every land.

Water-Power.

Among the most attractive features of Bienville is its *water-power*.

In the southern part of the Parish, flowing from inexhaustible sources, are numerous bold streams on which are many excellent mill-seats. These natural advantages are being partially utilized, and the saw-mill, cotton-gin and grist-mill, propelled by water, are seen in many localities, on approaching which the ear of the traveler is saluted by the roaring waterfall.

This section presents topographical features varying from gentle undulations to hills of considerable elevation. Its soil, too, varies in degrees of fertility from compara-

tively sterile to highly [productive—the latter, in many instances, yielding crops comparing favorably with those of the alluvial regions.

Here, too, are dense forests of long-leaved yellow pine, from which may be obtained, in close proximity to the mill streams, logs of large dimensions, easily converted into excellent merchantable lumber.

To the cautious financier and skilled mechanic the inducements here found are great ; and with the advent of railroads through this section of North Louisiana, and the consequent influx of immigration and capital, these water courses that now flow rapidly on, “ though wooed by their friendly banks that would fain retard their onward progress,” will doubtless be diverted into the channels of enterprise, and their dormant powers aroused to drive forward the machinery, of the manufacturer, transferred from the distant crowded East to the land of production.

Population.

According to the census of 1880, the total population of the Parish was 10,442, of whom 5455 were white and 4987 colored. Those born in the United States aggregated 10,421 ; in foreign countries, 21. Of the former, 7575 were natives of Louisiana ; 430, of Mississippi ; 701, of Alabama ; 110, of Virginia ; 820, of Georgia ; 407, of South Carolina ; 53, of Texas ; 30, of Kentucky ; 134, of North Carolina ; and 51, of Tennessee. Of the latter, one was a native of British America ; 5, of England and Wales ; 3, of Ireland ; 10, of the German Empire ; and 2, of Sweden and Norway.

The increase since 1880 will make the present population of Bienville approximate 12,000.

In politics, Bienville is largely Democratic.

In religion, there are various denominations, but the Methodist Episcopal Church South and the Missionary Baptist Church are the leading denominations, each having a considerable membership, and in some places good churches.

Education.

Prior to the late civil war, the educational advantages of Bienville compared favorably with those of any Parish of North Louisiana.

At Mt. Lebanon, in the northern part of the Parish, were located the "Mount Lebanon Male College," and the "Mount Lebanon Female College," both flourishing institutions, than which no schools in North Louisiana sustained better reputations. Here resided the venerable DR. BARTHOLOMEW EGAN, for a number of years presiding officer of these colleges, whose classical attainments and profound scholarship would have entitled him to the appellation of "Sage" of North Louisiana.

In 1867, the Female College was destroyed by fire, and has never been rebuilt. The Male College, a commodious building, is now occupied as a "Male and Female College," with Rev. W. P. Carter, President, who, assisted by a corps of able and efficient teachers, has a flourishing institution with extensive and remunerative patronage. Situated within three miles of the V., S. and P. Railroad, in a healthful locality, there is no reason why the future of Mt. Lebanon College should not emu-

late the past, and its lost prestige of *ante bellum* days be regained in the light of the new era of progress dawning upon Bienville and North Louisiana.

At the flourishing town of Arcadia, on the line of the V., S. & P. R. R. is located the E. A. Seminary, of which Prof. R. A. Smith is principal. This institution, governed by one of the best educators in the State, with proper buildings, will soon take its position in the front rank of high schools of Louisiana.

Sparta, Ringgold and Liberty Hill have also sustained good schools.

In 1884 there were fifty teachers enrolled in the public schools of Bienville, at a total cost of \$3,345.51, which fund was derived from the general school fund of the State, from the poll tax of the parish, and from the interest on the 16th Sections fund.

The colored population share the public school funds, contribute from their private resources, and manifest a considerable interest in education.

Newspapers.

Bienville is the domicil of three weekly newspapers. The *Rural Times*, published at Sparta; the *Louisiana Advance*, at Arcadia, and the *Bienville New Era*, published at Gibsland, are educational auxiliaries and disseminators of news in Bienville and North Louisiana.

Markets.

Arcadia, in the northeastern part of the Parish, is the principal market of Bienville. Situated on the line of the V., S. & P. R. R., nearly equidistant between Monroe and

Shreveport, and surrounded by a good upland region, interspersed with fertile valleys, it is destined to enjoy an extensive trade, and in the near future to become one of the leading markets in North Louisiana.

Gibbsland, eight miles west on the same railroad, is a growing place and bids fair to become the second commercial town in Bienville.

Sparta, located near the center of the Parish, is the seat of justice, and does a very good mercantile business. In former years it controlled an extensive local trade, and was a good cotton market for an interior town.

Mt. Lebanon, Ringgold and Liberty Hill are also places of mercantile business, whose merchants enjoy a fair share of the patronage of their respective localities, and, in some instances, of the Parish.

In various parts of Bienville are country stores whose proprietors doubtless do business on a safe basis, and purchase annually a fair share of the cotton raised in their respective sections.

Transportation.

The V., S. & P. R. R., running through the northern portion of Bienville and Lake Bisteneau, forming part of its western boundary, renders intercourse with the markets of the southwest easy and rapid. The former constitutes a part of the Erlanger system and is a connecting link of the great Southern chain of railroads extending from the Atlantic on the East to the Pacific on the West. The latter is a large, fresh-water lake, navigable several months each year for large steamers from Red river, with which stream it is connected by Loggy Bayou,

through which steamboats laden with cotton and other products pass out of Lake Bisteneau into Red river, thence into the Mississippi to New Orleans and other places.

Thus the merchants, planters and other business men of Bienville are enabled to ship over competing lines of transportation to New Orleans, St. Louis, Shreveport and other cities with which they have commercial relations.

Greeting :

To the energetic tiller of the soil Bienville Parish offers wholesome inducements and tenders him an anxious invitation to settle within her limits. To any one desirous of finding a pleasant, permanent home, and a moderately fertile soil, her citizens will give a cheerful greeting.

Past Difficulties and Present Advantages.

Possibly, Bienville Parish cannot boast of lands superior to those of neighboring Parishes, but she can well boast of their freshness. While other Parishes of North Louisiana have been more completely and rapidly settled, they have been correspondingly impaired by occupation and tillage. Bienville certainly has more unimproved, better known as "wild lands," than many of the adjoining parishes, and consequently will be more eagerly sought in the near future by immigrants from older States. In the past the geographical position sustained by her had much to do with her seeming inaccessibility and lack of deserved notoriety. Prior to the completion of the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Railroad, which enters the northeastern portion of the parish near the promising

town, Arcadia, and which continues through the territory thereof on a line nearly parallel with the northern boundary of the parish, the great throng of ardent adventurers seeking homes or business in the great West usually, by steamboat, ascended Red River on the west or the Ouachita on the east without having obtained a view of the beautiful hill country of North Louisiana.

For many years teeming thousands have thus been surrounding Bienville Parish, and many of whom have, doubtless, found homes in far less inviting districts, have purchased soil far less productive and far less easy of cultivation. But this state of facts will not continue to the extent hitherto witnessed, as Bienville now can claim a great thoroughfare, and that her many and excellent resources are beginning to be developed. Her honest hard-working citizens are now beginning to realize their commercial connection with more enterprising States and the great need of "push and economy." Now and then may be found one who, possibly, would prefer the howl of the native wolf to the whistle of the locomotive, but the majority are becoming anxious to have an early influx of self-supporting citizens from other sections settle in their midst and share with them the excellencies of Bienville homes.

Soil and Productions.

In Bienville there is a considerable diversity of soils, but for all practical purposes they may be divided into four classes, viz.: red clay uplands, gray sandy loam uplands, yellow sandy loam uplands and creek bottoms.

All these soils are productive, but to some extent adapted to special crops.

The red clay lands usually produce Indian corn, other grains and orchard fruits to the best advantage, yielding in corn from fifteen to twenty-five bushels per acre, or from ten to twenty bushels of wheat, the latter, however, being seldom planted. No data is now at hand by which an estimate of orchard fruits can be made. This kind of land admits of subsoil tillage to great advantage.

The gray uplands are particularly adapted to cotton, sweet potatoes, peas and melons, yielding from five to fifteen hundred pounds of seed cotton per acre; potatoes, from one hundred to two hundred bushels per acre, and peas and melons in almost inexhaustible quantities. The extreme sweetness of the melons raised on this class of lands is particularly observable. This kind of soil is mellow, and easy of culture.

The yellow upland sandy soil, while well adapted to the production of corn and other grains, is remarkably fine for the cotton plant. On one acre of this soil, with some fertilizing, in 1882, Mr. Thomas Neal, one of Bienville's most energetic farmers, gathered over twenty-eight hundred pounds of seed cotton, and like results can be obtained, under similar circumstances, by others.

The creek bottoms are usually more productive than the other classes named when the seasons are suitable, and are specially adapted to the growth and yield of both corn and cotton. They also produce greater quantities of sugar cane than other lands. Unless carefully man-

aged, however, they are more subject to injury from great rainfall than the higher lands.

Nature has afforded to Bienville Parish these different soils, and thereby secured to her a greater variety of productions. In some instances, a single farmer possesses the four grades of soil in the same farm, and he is therefore able to raise a greater variety of products in the same year on a given quantity of acres.

Classification.

The products of Bienville are of two classes, viz.: Cultivated and natural. The chief products of the first class are Indian corn, cotton, wheat, oats, rye, potatoes, peas, pumpkins, turnips, sorghum and sugar cane, melons, peaches, apples, pears, plums, figs, grapes, raspberries, strawberries, and almost every variety of garden vegetables that are grown anywhere in the same latitude and climate.

For some time after the termination of the late war between the States the agriculturists of this Parish, like those of other Parishes, thought that to secure a speedy fortune cotton was the only plant necessary to assure that results. A conclusion like this could have no other than unfortunate and totally impracticable effects. As a matter of course, the prices for same being somewhat fabulous, the farmer became completely fascinated with its culture, even to the neglect to a great extent of all the grains. But now they have changed their views on this subject, and a new era seems to be about to dawn in Bienville. More attention is being given to the planting and cultivation of a larger area in corn, oats, rye, potatoes, both sweet and

Irish, sorghum and sugar cane, with highly favorable results. Strange, too, to say that the latter product, as well as the others mentioned, grows well here and furnishes an abundant yield of syrup. Many of the farmers of the Parish make annually a sufficiency to supply themselves bountifully during half or two-thirds of each and every year, some of whom make as much as one, two or even three hundred gallons, and that, too, of such a grade as commands readily in our home market from fifty to seventy-five cents per gallon.

Special attention is also being given to the culture of peas, and the result is usually an abundant harvest. The different kinds of the cowpea as forage for cattle are remunerative. While other varieties will remain on the ground longer without decay, the speckle pea seems to be the favorite in this Parish, it being much earlier in ripening and less easily injured by hot, dry weather. It is desirable, also, for the reason that it is capable of producing two crops from the same support if the vines be cut early enough—say, by the first day of August.

Turnips are also being cultivated largely, not for table use alone, but also for cattle. All varieties grow to be large, weighing from about three to ten pounds, and they are of excellent flavor.

The different pumpkin varieties on recently cleared land produce an abundant yield and form a very important item in "the bill of fare" for animals.

Every farmer has an orchard of peach trees, but no one has yet realized what a source of profit remains unutilized by a failure to place the fruit on some good market. The

culture of the peach will specially pay, as the different varieties here ripen from May to December. They are very luscious, and can be transported to colder latitudes early in the season and sold for handsome prices.

From experiments made at the Bienville nursery, apples raised here are of superior flavor, and time will completely demonstrate this fact to fruit growers and vendors throughout the United States.

The plum is a fruit common to every household, but not neglected. At this time, however, no great variety is under culture. The goose plum may be seen in almost every orchard, and grows to a very large size. Many varieties of the small red and the yellow plum are almost universally grown as a food for the pig.

Figs do well with a little care, by sheltering during the winter months from spells of extremely cold weather, and they could be made a profitable crop.

The strawberry is not indigenous to this soil, but seems to flourish well with proper culture. In many instances a lazy-bed will yield tolerably well, if the weeds and grasses which spring up thereon during the warm months be burned off in the winter.

The grape, and especially the Scuppernong, thrives remarkably well in Bienville. There are several nice and extensive vineyards in the Parish, but no wine therefrom has as yet been made for market or foreign consumption.

For fear more time than necessary should be consumed by this pamphlet, designed merely to invite the attention and kind consideration of the capitalist seeking remuner-

ative investment, or to elicit action from the hardy adventurer seeking a pleasant home and a section of country in which a handsome support can be realized, a general remark as to other products not herein specially described must suffice. It is only necessary to plant them, give special care to the preparation of the land and then to use energy and discretion in their cultivation, and an abundant yield will be the almost invariable result.

Natural Products.

The natural products of this Parish are almost too numerous to mention and entirely too inviting to describe.

There are many varieties of forest trees, the principal of which are white oak, red oak, post oak, pin oak, cypress, gum, beech, elm, lind, mulberry, chincapin, dogwood, locust, sassafras, sumac, persimmon, hickory, walnut, long-leaf pine, common hill-pine, cedar, Bermuda, crab, sedge and other grasses. The most of these trees grow very tall, and in the main have fine trunks. They are capable of yielding an immense quantity of lumber per tree, and of an excellent grade. The pine forests are specially attractive, since they are both extensive and very valuable. The exact area covered by this valuable pine is not accurately known, but if properly surveyed would possibly embrace an area of ten or twelve miles square. Some acres of land, of course, support more of this fine timber than others, but the average worth of this timber, put into good, merchantable lumber, would approximate \$50 per acre; yet a great deal of the land on which this timber is found can be obtained at government prices. It is simply a wonder why this little world

of fine timber has not been utilized by transportation to different localities, where it is so much needed and would be so highly appreciated. *Why do men of means and enterprise not move in this direction?* Will not well-directed saw-mills soon open up an extensive lumber business with Texas and other States of the Union? We will patiently wait to see this good result and great prosperity to Bienville follow.

Game.

Bienville also has a liberal share of game, consisting mainly of deer, turkeys, ducks, wolves, now and then a straggling bear or panther, catamounts, foxes, beavers, otters, raccoons, opossums, minks, squirrels, rabbits, partridges, snipes, hawks, owls, etc. In the southern and southwestern portion of the Parish, that is to say, in the most sparsely settled portion thereof, deer and turkeys are sufficiently abundant to render hunting desirable and somewhat profitable. To chase the bounding stag with well-trained hounds is here a fascinating and popular amusement. In the spring season, the noisy wild gobbler is eagerly sought by the skilled rifleman, and easily becomes his delightful prey. This, sometimes, is a risky sport, as the amateur hunter, with inflated eyes and joyous expectations, and without any plausible reason, mistakes his innocent comrade for the desired bird, and gives him possibly his first lesson in an uneven, one-sided skirmish, entirely away from any reinforcement.

With a well-trained bird dog to find and flush the partridge or quail here, the shooting is very entertaining and exciting. These birds are quite numerous, and are suc-

cessfully found mainly in plantations where grain has been cultivated, but frequently are found in great numbers in the forests.

Squirrels are plentiful throughout the entire Parish—fox squirrels abiding on the hills, and gray squirrels principally on the bottoms. An experienced hunter can well kill fifty per day in some localities in the fall season. Usually, in the summer, they are troublesome to the farmer, and very destructive to corn while in the roasting ear.

Some persons, at a considerable expense, enjoy the commingled tongues of twenty-five or thirty hounds while chasing the cunning fox or the sneaking catamount. This sport seems here to be confined to the few, as those who love to avail themselves of the greatest possible amount of ease and slumber are in the majority.

To the lover of the breech-loading gun, ducking is very captivating. While considerable numbers, at certain periods, frequent our bayous and creeks, the great rendezvous is Bisteneau, an extensive lake on the western boundary of Bienville. October and November constitute the favorite months for their pursuit. For a single huntsman to capture several hundred of this highly relishable fowl is certainly enough profit for one day, and sufficient to induce the hardship incident thereto. Any one who never had the pleasure of a visit to this lake cannot form the remotest idea of the numbers of mallards, teals, canvas-back, etc., that feed during said months on the inexhaustible grass seeds in the bed of that lake. Persons go from all parts of this and adjoin-

ing Parishes to hunt them, and yet seemingly, no diminution in numbers takes place. Millions are still left as a special mark for other sportsmen.

Fish.

The principal kinds of fish in the streams of this Parish are trout, buffalo, catfish, suckers, gar-fish, bass, and a variety of other perch, such as the white, red, goggle-eye, etc. Angling in the spring season is an amusement remarkably popular. On the clear creeks frequently immense crowds of neighboring citizens, young and old, assemble, catch as many fish as needed and desired for an extensive repast, then build up fires and proceed to prepare them for the frying-pan. These social gatherings, called "fish-frys," are greatly enjoyed by the young, and usually are had with as much reference to social enjoyment as to the actual sport derived from fishing. Mills are constructed on most all of the creeks in south Bienville, and the dams prevent the further ascent of the finny tribes. Here the fish accumulate in numbers, and here the successful fishing is done. The fish bite with voracity, and fishermen capture them as if by magic. Here, frequently, bushels of them are caught with the hook in a single day. The most noted of these places for fishing is at Braswell's mills, a few miles from the Natchitoches Parish line. Good fishing is also sometimes done at the mills of Ben P. Edwards and J. B. Blume. Black Lake and Saline bayous afford the most continuous fishing. The best fishing in the Parish, however, is usually done at

Horner's Lake, near the Dugdemona, or on Brushy and other creeks flowing into Bisteneau.

Ores.

There is a considerable quantity of surface iron-ore in Bienville Parish, but the specimens obtained have not been, so far as the writer knows, submitted to crucial test. Judging from their apparent richness, there must be rich underground veins somewhere. The richest specimens so far obtained have been found in the northern portion of the Parish, near Mt. Lebanon. One of these stones, weighing about two thousand pounds, has been sent to the Exposition by Capt. J. P. Murphy.

In the Fifth Ward of the Parish, in considerable quantity, is a very pure lime rock, which has a very fine composition, admits of a very handsome polish, and would make a fine exhibit as a building rock. Near the same place a fine bed of bituminous coal has been discovered. It has been partially submitted to a test and pronounced to be of excellent quality. There are other coal-beds in other portions of the Parish, one of which is not far from the V., S. and P. R. R.

There is a tradition here that a lead mine exists somewhere in the eastern part of the Parish, near the bayou Saline, but the precise locality has not yet been ascertained. It is evident that in the early history of the Parish the old settlers had access to this mine, melted this ore into bullets and used them in their fire-arms for hunt-

ing purposes. By proper examination its location may be determined and its value ascertained.

Near Arcadia tripoli has been found, and Mr. U. C. Pipes, a silversmith there, has been using some for polishing purposes with good results.

In two wards of the Parish are two inexhaustible salt mines, known as Raborn's and King's salt works. The late Confederate States drew heavily on these works, and thousands of wagons were annually laden with this much needed article, to be distributed in a variety of ways to different sections thereof. Individuals from almost every quarter were eagerly in search of these mines, and yet there was no apparent diminution of the quantity of salt. The Raborn works were leased to individuals by S. Raborn, then the owner, for about one-fourth of all the salt made thereat. The amount made in 1863 per day was about three thousand bushels, worth from five to twelve dollars per bushel. With but meager expense these works can be reconstructed and the salt could be remuneratively sold at about one dollar per bushel.

Mineral Waters.

Many of the springs and wells in Bienville afford water impregnated with sulphur, iron and alum. At Mt. Lebanon is a spring which has curative properties, and being convenient to the V., S. & P. R. R., may some day be a place of considerable resort. Along the Keplar are frequent, bold and beautiful springs, supposed to contain sulphur. If the latter have ever been analyzed, we know not when nor by whom. The sulphur appearance and

taste are very perceptible to the most casual observer. Time and the attention of the chemist will determine their worth.

Recapitulation.

We have now concluded a fair and impartial description, as we believe, of Bienville Parish, for the benefit of all persons who now have or may have any interest in her future prosperity, including herein her geographical position and her topography ; her population, both native and foreign born ; her past and present educational advantages ; her commercial facilities ; her towns, present status thereof and also their future promise ; her beautiful and constant streams, as well as their power and adaptation to machinery ; the grades, fertility and products of the soil, both cultivated and natural ; her game, fishes, ores, mineral waters, and have also added the homestead and exemption laws of the State, and an official directory of the State and Parish, believing that they will be of benefit to the inquiring mind as well as to business men everywhere.

Now, those wishing a good, healthy country, fine drinking water and a law-abiding citizenship, and many other advantages too numerous to mention, before settling elsewhere, will make it to their interest to visit Bienville, price her lands and compare her resources, present and future, with other sections of country to which special attention is being called by pamphlets of a character similar to this.

Recognizing the fact that Louisiana is very productive

and wonderfully inviting as a whole, and that all the Parishes therein have a vast amount of territory to which thousands from older and more densely populated States might do well to turn their attention for permanent homes, we will not be over selfish in our love for this Parish, but will herein unite with the great sisterhood of the State in cheerfully soliciting immigrants to the

“Land of the mocking bird, sunlight and beauty,
 Land where the willow bends over the stream;
 Land where the odor of sweet-scented flowers
 Enraptures the senses and nurtures a dream.
 Land where the cypress, majestic and solemn,
 Enfolds in its shadow a silvery gloom;
 Land where the prairies are frosted with lilies,
 And yellow-leaved jassimines are always in bloom.
 Land where the maidens are worthy of Eden,
 Land where the men are chivalric and brave;
 Land where the hero lives ever in story,
 Whilst tears of affection drop over his grave.
 Land of DeSoto, of Bienville, of Tonti,
 Land where no exile stood ever alone;
 Land where the seeds of ambition are springing,
 Land where great enterprise broadcast is sown.”



“ HOMESTEAD AND EXEMPTIONS.”

(CONSTITUTION OF 1879.)

“ARTICLE 219. There shall be exempt from seizure and sale by any process whatever, except as herein provided, the ‘homestead’ *bona fide* owned by the debtor and occupied by him, consisting of lands, buildings and appurtenances, whether rural or urban, of every head of a family, or person having a mother or father, a person or persons dependent on him or her for support; also, one work horse, one wagon or cart, one yoke of oxen, two cows and calves, twenty-five head of hogs, or one thousands pounds of bacon or its equivalent in pork, whether these exempted objects be attached to a homestead or not, and on a farm the necessary quantity of corn and fodder for the current year, and the necessary farming implements, to the value of two thousand dollars.

“Provided, that in case the homestead exceeds two thousand dollars in value, the beneficiary shall be entitled to that amount in case a sale of the homestead, under any legal process, realizes more than that sum.

“No husband shall have the benefit of a homestead whose wife owns and is in the actual enjoyment of property or means to the amount of two thousand dollars.

“Such exemptions, to be valid, shall be set apart and registered as shall be provided by law. The benefit of this provision may be claimed by the surviving sponse, or minor child or children of a deceased beneficiary, if in indigent circumstances.”

“ART. 220. Laws shall be passed, as early as practicable, for the setting apart, valuation and registration of property claimed as a homestead. Rights to homesteads or exemptions under laws or contracts, or for debts existing at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall not be impaired, repealed or affected by any provisions of this Constitution, or any laws passed in pursuance thereof. No court or ministerial officer of this State shall ever have jurisdiction or authority to enforce any judgment, execution or decree against the property set apart for a homestead, including such improvements as may be made thereon from time to time; *provided*, the property herein declared to be exempt shall not exceed in value two thousand dollars.

“This exemption shall not apply to the following cases, to-wit:

“1. For the purchase price of said property or any part thereof.

"2. For labor and material furnished for building, repairing or improving homesteads.

"3. For liabilities incurred by any public officer or fiduciary, or any attorney-at-law, for money collected or received on deposit.

"4. For lawful claims for taxes or assessments."

"ART. 221. The owner of a homestead shall, at any time, have the right to supplement his exemption by adding to an amount already set apart, which is less than the whole amount of exemption herein allowed, sufficient to make his homestead and exemption equal to the whole amount allowed by this Constitution."

"ART. 222. The homestead shall not be susceptible of mortgage, except for the purchase price, labor and material furnished for the building, repairing or improving homestead; nor shall any renunciation or waiver of homestead rights or exemptions be valid. The right to sell any property which shall be recorded as a homestead shall be preserved, but no sale shall destroy or impair any right of creditors therein."

"ART. 223. Equitable laws shall be passed for the protection of creditors against the fraudulent claims of debtors, for the punishment of fraud, and for reaching property and funds of the debtor concealed from the creditor."

AN ACT

To carry out the provisions of Articles 219 and 220 of the Constitution, in relation to recording homesteads and exemptions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana :

The person or persons claiming the benefit of the homestead and exemptions provided by law, pursuant to Articles 219 and 220 of the Constitution of 1879, must execute a written declaration of homestead. This declaration must contain (1) a statement of the facts that show the person claiming the homestead and exemptions is a person of the description to be entitled thereto; (2) a statement that the person claiming it is residing on the land or lot claimed as a homestead and owns it by a *bona fide* title, stating the nature of title; (3) a description of the lot or tract of land; (4) an enumeration of the other exemptions; (5) an estimate of the cash value of the homestead and exemptions, a statement of intention to claim such homestead and exemptions. The declaration must be sworn to, and recorded in the book of mortgages for the parish where the homestead claimed is situated

Approved April 10, 1880.

"Under the homestead provisions of the Constitution of 1879 the exemptions therein provided only take effect from the date of registry, as provided by law, and are inoperative against debts contracted prior to such registry."—Succession of Francis, 34 A. 1013.

AN ACT

To amend Article 644 of the Code of Practice; to repeal all laws contrary to or in conflict with this act and all laws on the same subject-matter; the amendment of Article 644 of the Code of Practice; to fix penalties for the violation of this act, and to fix the limits of this act and the interpretation to be given to it.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, in General Assembly convened,* That Article 644 of the Code of Practice be so amended as to read as follows: The sheriff or constable cannot seize the linen and clothes belonging to the debtor or his wife, nor his bed, bedding or bedstead, nor those of his family, nor his arms and military accoutrements, nor the tools and instruments and books and sewing machines necessary for the exercise of his or her calling, trade or profession by which he or she makes a living; nor shall he in any case seize the rights of personal servitude, of use and habitation, of usufruct to the estate of a minor child, nor the income of dotal property, nor the money due for the salary of an officer, nor laborers' wages, nor the cooking stove and utensils of the said stove, nor the plates, dishes, knives and forks and spoons, nor the dining table and dining chairs, nor wash-tubs, nor smoothing irons and ironing furnaces, nor family portraits belonging to the debtor, nor the musical instruments played or practised on by any member of the family.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted, etc.,* That any person offending against the provisions of this act, or who shall by any artifice or subterfuge induce or procure another to sign away, by contract or otherwise, any of the rights which he or she may have under this act, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be fined in a sum not exceeding \$200, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or both, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted, etc.,* That all laws and parts of laws conflicting with this act or contrary to any of its provisions, and all laws on the same subject-matter, the amendment of Article 644 of the Code of Practice, be and are hereby repealed.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted, etc.,* That the repealing clause of this act shall not be construed or interpreted so as to affect the exemption of the homestead, the widow's \$1000, nor the rural and agricultural exemptions now in force by existing laws, i

being the true meaning and intent of this act that those exemptions should not be affected by this act.

SEC. 5. *Be it further enacted, etc.,* That this act shall take effect from and after its passage.

(Signed) E. D. ESTELETTE,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(Signed) C. C. ANTOINE,
Lieutenant-Governor and President of the Senate.

Approved April 4, 1876.

(Signed) WM. P. KELLOGG,
Governor of the State of Louisiana.

A true copy.

A. DURAND,
Assistant Secretary of State.

“Whenever the widow or minor children of a deceased person shall be left in necessitous circumstances, and not possess in their own right property to the amount of one thousand dollars, the widow or the legal representatives of the children shall be entitled to demand and receive from the succession of their deceased father or husband a sum which, added to the amount of property owned by them or either of them, in their own right, will make up the sum of one thousand dollars, and which said amount shall be paid in preference to all other debts, except those for the vendor’s privilege and expenses incurred in selling the property.

“The surviving widow shall have and enjoy the usufruct of the money so received from her deceased husband’s succession during her widowhood; afterwards to vest in and belong to the children or other descendants of said deceased.”

Revised Statutes of La., sec. 3686, Act of 1852.

“When there are no descendants of the husband, the amount due to the widow is received by her in full property, and she is not bound to give security.”

13 A. 257, 378; 29 A. 414.



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Attorney and Counselor at Law,
SPARTA, BIENVILLE PARISH, LOUISIANA.

February 19, 1885.

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