

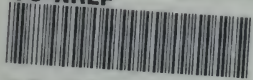
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Louisiana:

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An Introduction to the Study of Louisiana History.

Louisiana:

A SKETCH IN OUTLINE

—OF ITS—

.... Past and Present

By HENRY E. CHAMBERS,

Author of a School History of the United States; A Higher History
of the United States; Constitutional History of Hawaii;
West Florida: Colony, Province, and State,
and its Relation to the Historical
Cartography of the United
States, etc., etc.

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TO
THE TEACHERS OF LOUISIANA,
ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO,
IN THE GROWING BRIGHTNESS OF THE PRESENT,
CAN LOOK BACK INTO THE DARKENED
PAST
AND SEE THEIR STEADINESS OF EFFORT,
WHEREBY
THE COMING OF THE DAY
WAS
HASTENED.



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PART I.

A Short Sketch of Louisiana's
Past History.

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A Brief List of Books Current and Obtainable.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

- Winsor: Narrative and Critical History of America. (Vols. IV and V.)
King (Miss Grace): New Orleans: the Place and the People. (Contains much of Louisiana history in most attractive form.)
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AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

—OF—

Louisiana History.

—I—

To the historian the name Louisiana means more than the little commonwealth forming the keystone of the arch of states about the northern shores of Mexico.

The Louisiana of History.

To him it is a vast undefined wilderness contended for by mighty nations in an epoch-making

struggle;¹ a province passing from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, and in the passing occupying the attention of some of the most adroit of European diplomats;² a territory whose purchase changed the character of our federal union and sounded the advance along the lines of our national destiny.³

It suggests a political soil which germinated the

¹ The French and Indian War.

² De Choiseul, Tallyrand, Marbois, Napoleon, etc.

³ Federal jurisdiction over the American continent.

seeds of one of the greatest conflicts of modern times;⁴ a people who have preserved their European traditions to the latest day intact; a citizenry who have suffered and sacrificed to guard sacredly and inviolately the spirit of our earlier American institutions;⁵ and finally a narrative tinged with tragedy and pathos, fringed with triumph and achievement, and replete in all its parts with most romantic interest. Few themes more inspiring were ever given to him to interpret.

⁴ The War between the States, foreshadowed by the Missouri
[Compromise.

⁵ Self-government, State Sovereignty, Constitutional liberty.
[etc.



—II—

However strenuously the claim may be maintained, that the Western continent was known to the Phoenicians, Norse, Welsh, and other maritime peoples of the

**The Heart of
the Continent.**

past, the fact remains that Columbus was the first to bring the New World within the practical knowledge of the nations of modern Europe. The successful termination of his first voyage was immediately followed by Spanish occupancy of the principal West India islands. From these, Spanish exploration and dominion soon extended to the mainland.

Grijalva⁶ reaching the coast of Mexico, was followed by Cortez,⁷ whose ruthless conquest of the Aztec realm constitutes one of the saddest of the earlier pages of American history. With Cuba and Mexico as bases, the Spaniards soon entered what is now the United States. De Leon in his memorable search for the "fountain of youth"⁸ explored and named Florida. De Ayllon on one of his slave hunting expeditions reached the coast of South Carolina, then called Chicora.⁹ De Narvaez undertook the conquest of Florida,¹⁰ but disaster befall-

⁶ 1518.

⁷ 1520.

⁸ 1512.

⁹ 1520.

¹⁰ 1528.

ing him and his vessels, a few of his men made their way overland to Mexico. Among these were Cabecca da Vaca who upon his arrival unfolded such a wondrous narrative of adventures encountered and of fabulous peoples visited, as stamps him for all time the first American Munchausen.

From Mexico Spanish conquest extended northward. Coronado,¹¹ Onate,¹² Espejo,¹³ added to the domain of New Spain the greater portion of what is now the southwestern part of the United States; and Cabrillo traced the western coast line of California as far north as Cape Mendocino.¹⁴

The claim of Spain to a monopoly of the New World was at an early day ignored by England and France. While Spanish discoveries were yet of an insular nature, the Cabots from England had sailed directly across the Atlantic, discovered the mainland of Labrador, and explored the east coast for some distance southward.¹⁵

After a long period of unaccountable inactivity, Sir Humphrey Gilbert,¹⁶ Amidas and Barlow,¹⁷ Gosnold,¹⁸ Pring,¹⁹ Weymouth,²⁰ and others carried the flag of England to the eastern coast of what is now the United States, and prepared the way for the thirteen English colonies whose territorial claims were subsequently to

¹¹ 1540.¹² 1595-9.¹³ 1582.¹⁴ 1542.¹⁵ 1497-8.¹⁶ 1579-83.¹⁷ 1584.¹⁸ 1602.¹⁹ 1603.²⁰ 1605.

be maintained as extending from the Atlantic seaboard indefinitely westward.

Meanwhile France had established for herself a foothold in America. Denys²¹ was the first to carry the flag of a European nation into the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Verrazanni²² voyaged over much of the same route pursued by the Cabots. Cartier²³ and Champlain²⁴ laid the foundations of New France in the region watered by the St. Lawrence river.

French occupancy of Canada was followed by an inland exploration, participated in by stalwart *Coureurs-de-bois*, shrewd fur-traders, gowned priests, and high-born adventurers. Soon the heart of the continent was reached from the northeast as it had been from the southeast and southwest. Thus it was that three woovers from over the sea appear upon the scene as suitors for the hand of the queen valley of the western world.

²¹ 1506.

²³ 1534-5

²⁴ 1608.

²² 1524.



—III—

First to emerge from the mist of Louisiana's remote past is the distinct figure of Hernando de Soto. Among the earliest adventurers to reach America from

**The Quest for
the Fabulous.**

Spain, he had shared with Pizarro the gains and honors of Peruvian conquest, returned to his native country, married the Castilian dame of his choice, and in full enjoyment of his riches looked to a future of unending prosperity.

But from the New World were borne to his ears the tales of Da Vaca which told of unconquered peoples whose subduing would confer upon the victor a name higher than any in the annals of Spanish conquest, riches that would enable the wrestler to look down upon the princes of the earth.

With the first hearing came an end to his contentment. Again must the New World know his presence, new races feel the weight of his warrior arm, new regions by his energy and valor be added to the domain of Spain. And thus it was that in 1539 he landed at Tampa Bay, Florida. With him was a carefully selected body of men numbering more than six hundred, all equipped to the minutest detail. The story of his march into the interior has often been told. It is a

tale of endurance, of courage, of fortitude, of loyalty. and unanimity of purpose, of dogged determination, of disaster, of tragedy and of heroism.

North to the mountains of North Georgia ; southwest through the length of Alabama to the Indian town of Mauvilla;²⁵ northwest diagonally across the State of Mississippi marched the invaders. Their march was a succession of harrassings and savage baitings whose chronicles find fit place among the nightmares of history. The Mississippi river was discovered and crossed²⁶ below Memphis, and reaching the Missouri line, the invaders turned southward, their numbers lessening day by day. Nothing did they encounter in the whole length of their march to verify the rumors that had instigated their ill-fated enterprise. Their toilsome way was slowly made until they reached what is now northeastern Louisiana. Here amid the glooms of swamps and river bottoms, hemmed in by vengeful enemies, a weary remnant of that once fearless band gathered about their leader. Grim and stubborn soldier that he was, nothing but death could vanquish him, and here it was that he was overcome. In the dead of night his body found a watery sepulchre in the mighty river he had discovered. His survivors made their way slowly to the settlements of Mexico, having devoted two long years to their unsuccessful search.

²⁵ Near Mobile.

²⁶ 1541.

—IV—

In the sixty years following the founding of Quebec,²⁸ the forerunners of French civilization in America had reached the regions about the shores of the great

**“In the name of
King Louis.”**

lakes. Among the first to come to the hither side and enter what is now the United States

were Nicollet, Marquette, Joliet, Allouez, Hennepin, Duluth, Tonti, and La Salle—names made familiar to us in the earlier chronicles of inland explorations.

From their Indian friends the pioneers of New France learned of a great river further to the west, whose flow was southward. Marquette and Joliet made their way to this river through the wilds of Wisconsin, descended it as far as the mouth of the Arkansas;²⁹ and concluding that it must empty into the great Gulf of Mexico, returned and reported their adventures.

Into the master mind of Robert Cavalier de la Salle, a high born adventurer, there entered a conception to extend the dominion of France from sea to sea by French possession of this southward flowing stream. His efforts covered a period of several years. They included the establishment of a chain of forts and posts

reaching from the St. Lawrence, ³⁰ to the Illinois country, ³¹ and the exploration of the river called by the Indians the *Miche Sepe* from source to ³²sea.

Hennepin and Dacan were sent to the head waters,³² La Salle, his faithful colleague, Tonti, Father Zeuobe, and twenty Canadians voyaged down the river, planted the arms of France upon either side, entered into treaties with the numerous tribes along its banks, and finally reaching the mouth, with solemn hymn and fiery salute took possession of the whole territory watered by the main stream and its tributaries, in the name of Louis XIV, king of France.³³ This is where the name, Louisiana, first appears upon the map of history.

De Soto the Spaniard had set foot in the region traversed by La Salle, one hundred and forty years before,—the first European to do so. In that time a great change had been wrought in European affairs. King Louis of France had attained the ascendancy, Spain was entering upon the period of her decadence and was no longer able to maintain against her powerful neighbor, a claim to territory she had not occupied. France had won the territorial prize.

³⁰ Fort Frontenac.

³¹ Fort Creve Cœur.

³² 1680.

³³ April, 9, 1682.

— V —

Upon La Salle's return to France he was received by the king with every manifestation of regard. Resources were placed at his disposal, and he soon had upon the

Plans**Miscarried.**

high seas a small fleet laden with colonists and supplies, whose destination was the mouth of the river over whose shores the jurisdiction of France had been proclaimed. Misfortune attended this colonizing enterprise from the start. One of the vessels was captured by Spanish privateers, two were wrecked after entering the gulf. The plans of La Salle were unwarrantedly interfered with by his naval commander.³⁴ To crown his misfortunes, miscalculations carried the fleet far to the westward of the Mississippi.

The disaffection of the commander compelled a landing, and the shores of Matagorda bay, Texas, received the two hundred and fifty colonists that should have been the nucleus of the earlier population of Louisiana. Upon the banks of the Lavaca river near by, a fort was built and named St. Louis. Now began a series of attempts to reach the French posts in the Illinois country. Upon the last of the expeditions undertaken with this

³⁴ Beaujeu.

end in view, LaSalle was murdered by treacherous companions.³⁵ The "Prince of American Explorers," after years of toil and partial achievement, found but an unknown grave in the wilderness of what is now east Texas.

Meanwhile the gallant Tonti had again voyaged to the mouth of the river to meet his loved commander, only to return disappointed, little knowing how sore was the need of his old chief for tried friends and faithful servitors. Tonti established a little settlement at the mouth of the Arkansas,³⁶ the earliest settlement on the lower Mississippi. Upon maps of a comparatively recent date this will be found under the name of Arkansas Post, though its site has long since crumbled into the river.

It was to this post that the few of LaSalle's followers not concerned in the murder eventually made their way. The conspirators, however, dared never to return to civilization, but remained behind and lost in time their identity among the savages with whom they took up their abode. The fate of those whom LaSalle had left at Fort St. Louis previous to his last and fatal expedition was indeed pitiful. When, under Alonzo de Leon, a force came up from Mexico³⁷ to drive the French intruders from what was considered the soil of New Spain, few of the trespassers had escaped disease and privation, and these few were found living in all hopelessness among the neighboring tribe of Indians.

³⁵ Lancelot, Liotot, and Hiens were the names of the conspirators.

³⁶ 1686.

³⁷ 1689.

—VI—

Next appears upon the scene Pierre Lemoyne, Sieur d'Iberville. The period of American beginnings presents to us no more heroic a figure. Iberville was a Canadian

**A Foothold
for France.**

by birth,—one of the eleven brothers all of whom attained eminence by faithful adherence to

king, country, and conscience. As an officer in the navy of France he rose to high distinction. In the wars with England he rendered valuable service in the waters about Labrador and Newfoundland, and it was he who taught the boastful Briton a lesson of naval superiority long before the Americans of a later day successfully undertook the same unpleasant duty.³⁸

Iberville was commissioned to establish settlements in lower Louisiana. France's determination to revive the plans of La Salle was arrived at none too soon. The Spaniards in their establishing of missions were making their way slowly up from Mexico. Soon would the English trader from the Atlantic seaboard be making his way westward. If France would possess she must occupy.

Associated with Iberville was his brother Bienville. The first settlement was made near what is now Ocean

³⁸ War of 1812.

Springs on the gulf coast of Mississippi, and here upon a beautiful bay named from the neighboring tribe Biloxi, a fort was built and called Fort Maurepas.³⁹ Here the seat of government for lower Louisiana was established, and the *Sieur Sauvolle* was appointed the first governor.

Bienville and *Iberville* immediately began an exploration of the surrounding region. In barges they traced much of the coast line, entered the Mississippi, and ascended as far as the mouth of the Red river. Returning the brothers parted a little south of the present site of *Baton Rouge*, *Iberville* returning to *Biloxi* by way of a bayou called *Manchac*⁴⁰ and the chain of lakes upon which were bestowed the names of *Maurepas*, *Pontchartrain* and *Borgne*. Continuing down the river *Bienville* obtained that knowledge of its banks which enabled him subsequently to select a suitable site upon which to establish a settlement. This soon became necessary, for *Bienville* upon one of his explorations down the Mississippi encountered an English vessel ascending from its mouth, and if he had not succeeded in persuading the captain that the French were already in possession of the country the visit of this vessel might have resulted in the English colonization of the region in question.

In order to hold the territory along the lower Mississippi for France, forts were established near what is now the town of *Natchitoches*,⁴¹ and another near *Natchez*.⁴¹

³⁹ 1699.

⁴⁰ Now closed.

⁴¹ 1714.

This last was called Fort Rosalie and its establishment was for the purpose of counteracting the English influence that was even at that early day making itself felt among the Chickasaws and other Indian tribes.



—VII—

The first governor of the French colony of Louisiana was Sauvolle who dying shortly after was succeeded by Bienville. And here another central figure steps

**Spoil and
Speculation.**

upon the scene of Louisiana history. Young in years, adroit, tactful and intelligent, we find him devoting his entire energies to the firm establishment of the colony; and when after years of unswerving fidelity to its interests, and after having served as governor three times he returned to France, the title of father and preserver of Louisiana was as firmly his as was the similar title of Capt. John Smith of colonial Virginia fame.

The growth of the colony was at first slow. In all lower Louisiana the population in 1712 numbered but little more than 400. In this year the French government pursuing a plan similar to that which led to the establishment of several English colonies⁴⁴ under proprietary grantees bestowed upon a wealthy citizen of France, Anthony Crozat by name, exclusive rights to the trade and commerce of Louisiana for a period of fifteen years, thereby constituting him the virtual owner of the territory for the time specified.

⁴² 1716.⁴³ Aug. 22nd, 1701.⁴⁴ Pa., Md., and the Carolinas.

Crozat sent his own governor in the person of LaMothe Cardillac, a name which will be found closely associated with the early history of Detroit. The superseding of Bienville was not well received by the colonists, and unpleasant contentions arose between the deposed governor and his successor.

The mind of Crozat was haunted by the old dream of mineral treasures to be found, and much of his energies were dissipated in fruitless efforts of discovery in this direction, which should have been directed towards the development of the colony.

Cardillac was succeeded by l'Epinay, and until the new governor arrived,⁴⁵ Bienville was temporarily invested with the duty of administering affairs. The policy of both of Crozat's governors was such as to produce a demoralized condition in the colony, and before a third of the time of the grant had expired, Crozat was glad enough to rid himself of that which had proved to him but an unprofitable enterprise; so he relinquished his claim.

With the passing of Crozat comes one who may well be termed the great original boomer, in the person of John Law. Of Law's connection with the financial history of France we shall have little to say. Considering his day and generation his schemes were most startling and gigantic in their conception. A study of his methods in connection with his times leads one to conclude that he

⁴⁵ March 1717.

lived too early. With the opportunities of our day he undoubtedly would have placed himself among the Napoleons of modern finance who, with methods of as doubtful honesty have made themselves moneyed magnates of our land.

Law organized the Mississippi Company. The object of this company was to develop Louisiana, and by the sale of lands and grants of privileges the subscribers and stockholders would realize fabulous returns upon their investment. His shrewd methods induced thousands to embark in the venture; the final failure of the company scattered ruin and devastation among the household of France, a parallel to which may be seen in the Panama Canal scandal of the day.

And yet the Mississippi Company did make some efforts to carry out its purpose in regard to Louisiana. Before the bubble burst a large number of emigrants were dispatched to our shores, and Louisiana felt the impetus that placed her on the way to permanency and success. Law himself settled a large colony of German emigrants upon a grant of land he had reserved to himself near the mouth of the Arkansas; but becoming dissatisfied with their location these settlers moved down the Mississippi and were granted lands a short distance above New Orleans, since known as the German Coast.

—VIII—

The inroads of the Spaniards from the southwest, and of the English from the east, which necessitated the establishment of Forts Rosalie and Natchitoches, convinced the French that to thoroughly command the territory they should fix their principal settlement on the banks of the Mississippi at some point easily accessible from the sea.

**The Founding of
New Orleans.**

With the coming of the colonists sent over by Law's company Bienville immediately took steps to put this plan into execution. Selecting a site occupied by the Indian village of Tchoutchouma, about 100 miles from the mouth of the river, he laid the foundations of the now historic city of New Orleans.⁴⁶ In five years this became the most important settlement in lower Louisiana, and to it the seat of government was soon transferred.⁴⁷

All about were lands remarkable to this day for extraordinary fertility. In the course of time these lands were granted and sold. Colonies were planted, settlements sprang up, and plantations were laid out along the banks

⁴⁶ 1718.⁴⁷ 1723.

of the river. Agricultural industries of a profitable character were rapidly developed. Slaves were imported, and these added to the wealth of the rapidly growing colony. Regular and frequent communication with the northern portion of the province, as well as with the more distant Canada, was maintained. It is interesting to note the names of the nine districts into which the Louisiana of those days was divided. These were: New Orleans, Biloxi,⁴⁸ Natchitoches, Natchez,⁴⁸ Yazoo, Alabamans, Arkansas, and Illinois.

⁴⁸ Now part of Mississippi.



—IX—

The student of American history recognizes the fact that the French above all other nations that colonized America were most uniformly successful in dealing with

Indian

Wars.

the natives. An exception must be made however of the French settlers of Louisiana. Two disastrous Indian wars mar the early history of the colony.

The first of these was the Natchez war. It appears that Du Chopart, the French commandant of Fort Rosalie, wishing to extend the bounds of his settlement, insisted that the Natchez Indians should abandon their time-honored village of the White Apple near by. These Indians were among the most intelligent of all who were found by Europeans dwelling upon this continent. In civilization they had reached a position second only to those of Mexico. At first the Natchez pretended to acquiesce to the demands of their French neighbors, begging for a little time in which to arrange for their removal. Then it was that word was sent around to the various villages, together with little bundles of sticks. Each morning a stick was taken from the bundle and

broken; and with the breaking of the last came a concerted movement which ended with the capture of Ft. Roaslie, and massacre of the entire garrison, numbering upwards of seven hundred.⁴⁹

The triumph of the Natchez was of short duration, for Commandante General Perier, who at the time was governor, with a force from lower Louisiana settlements completely destroyed the tribe in the war that followed.

North of the territory of the Natchez lived the Chickasaw Indians, famous for their prowess and fighting qualities. These were the Indians who opposed so fiercely the march of De Soto and his men years before The French had never succeeded in winning the Chickasaws to their side, and English emissaries found it no difficult matter to stir them up to hostilities.⁵⁰

Bienville who at the time was serving his third term as governor took steps to subdue the hostiles. He ordered a force from Ft. Chartres in the Illinois country under the young and intrepid d'Artaguet to march southward to the Chickasaws' stronghold, while he himself advanced northward with a heavy force from New Orleans. In this expedition Bienville was singularly unfortunate. Arriving upon the scene he, without waiting for d'Artaguet, made an impetuous attack upon the strongest of the Chickasaw forts, but was repulsed and so seriously disabled that he was compelled to return to New Orleans,

shortly after reaching which place he learned that d'Artaguet and his men had met with a worse fate, many of them having been put to death. Subsequently Bienville prepared another expedition, but it only resulted in bringing about a treaty of peace not altogether advantageous to the French.



—X—

Briefly enumerated the governors of Louisiana while it was a colony of France were as follows: Sauvolle, Bienville (first term), Cardilacca, De l'Epinay, Bienville

**The Waning of
French Power.**

(second term), Perier, Bienville (third term), De Vaudreuil, Kerlrec, D'Abbadie, and Aubry.

We come now to a time when Louisiana passed to the dominion of Spain, and in order to understand the facts of the transfer we must widen our view so as to include certain significant events that were happening elsewhere — events having a most important bearing upon what subsequently became the United States.

The English colonies along the Atlantic seaboard had so increased in population that by 1754 pioneers were crossing the Alleghany mountains. To the French who claimed the valleys of the Mississippi and Ohio, these pioneers were looked upon as intruders, and were so dealt with.

The history of colonial America is a record of fierce and jealous conflicts between the French of Canada and the English south of them. Three times had colonial rivalry crystallized into formal warfare, each instance of which is known by the name of the monarch who occupied the English throne at the time—King William's, Queen Anne's, and King George's wars.

When English settlers first penetrated to the Ohio valley, the inevitable conflict deciding who were to be the masters of America was precipitated. In American annals this is known as the French and Indian War.

Space does not permit any dwelling upon the features of this war, or to detail the European complications which compelled France to withhold assistance from her needy colonial possessions then grappling with England in a life and death struggle. The war ended with the fall of Quebec, and the English proved the victors. By the terms of the treaty terminating hostilities⁵¹ France was compelled to relinquish all her territories upon the continent of America. In the division of the spoils, that portion of Louisiana east of the Mississippi river fell to England, with the exception of the small triangular portion lying south of Lake Pontchartrain, and known as the Isle of Orleans. This and the whole territory west of the Mississippi was ceded to Spain who likewise made a cession of her Florida possessions to England.

Thus it was that Louisiana suffered her first territorial loss inasmuch as a goodly portion of her domain was wrested from her through no fault of her own. In time we shall see how she was deprived of the remainder in order that the sisterhood of American States might be completed. Having yielded up her daughters she quietly reposes a mother of States within the narrow limits now accorded her.

—XI—

A number of episodes characterize the history of Louisiana while it was yet a colony of France, which if recounted, might be taken for the most imaginative flights

**The Romance of
the French Colony.**

of the romancer's fancy. Take the advent of the Casket Girls into the colony. The experience of Louisiana was similar to that of Virginia in its earlier day, inasmuch as in the beginning of both colonies it was found that little stability and permanence could be expected unless the settlers established for themselves homes. And how could homes be instituted without wives! In the case of Virginia we read that ninety young women were sent from England to supply the matrimonial market, and each colonist of Jamestown who was so fortunate as to secure for himself one of those enterprising damsels was called upon to pay the expenses of her sea passage in good standard tobacco.

In Louisiana's narrative we also find that a cargo of virtuous and cultured young women was sent over from France.⁵² The expense was borne out of the coffers of the French king. Each girl was provided with a small trunk or casket in which she carried her dowry and femi-

nine outfit, hence arising "Casket Girls" or "*Filles a la Cassette*." Mary Hartwell Catherwood has drawn a fine picture in her "Romance of Pollard" of the arrival of a similar consignment of precious freight during the early period of Canadian history. It is needless to say these casket girls were well received, each finding herself a veritable queen, and in the exultation of their new found power we find them dictating to their liege lords upon matters of domestic economy, even going so far as to institute a "petticoat insurrection" because forsooth the new fangled diet of maize to which they were introduced did not agree with their gustatory desires.

The story of Evangeline immortalized in the verse of Longfellow is for that reason so well known as to require but scant allusion. It was at the beginning of the French and Indian war that the Acadians, a peaceful, frugal, industrious and home-loving people, were unmercifully torn from their homes by English conquerors and scattered along the Atlantic coast. Many of these made their way to Louisiana, where the ties of kindred, language and loyalties soon bound them into close fellowship. Along the banks of the poetic Teche, and upon the prairies of what is now the southwestern part of the state, these Acadians took up their new abode, their descendants becoming a most valuable element of population, furnishing in time the state with brave defenders and civic heroes.

Today the tourist finds much in Louisiana to awaken

his interest, pleasure, and surprise. But fortunate indeed does he count himself if before his visit is over he has penetrated to the interior of the state, away from the rush of civilization, and felt the indescribable charm of peace, contentment and simplicity to be encountered in many a humble "cajun" home.



—XII—

The intelligence that Louisiana had been transferred to Spain occasioned much angry surprise in the colony. The love of Louisianians for their mother

**The Transfer
to Spain.**

country was of an intensity little conceived of in these days of easily broken ties. Loyalty to their king was regarded by them as the brightest jewel in the casket of their virtues. A transfer of allegiance was thoroughly distasteful to them. Indeed it was some time before the fact forced itself home to their minds that they were aliens to the land of their inspirations, to the land from which they had inherited the traditions that mankind generally hold dear.

An ugly spirit soon manifested itself and gradually increased as Spain in recognition of it deferred the formal ceremony of taking possession. D'Abadie who was governor when the treaty was agreed upon,⁵³ held over for two years undisturbed and was succeeded by Aubry. Antonio de Ulloa the first appointed Spanish governor arrived in New Orleans March 5th, 1766, but hesitated to proclaim the authority of his monarch, Charles III of Spain, in fear by so doing of precipitating civil strife.

Aubry stood ready to surrender the province as soon

as the formal demand should be made. It was this fact that wrought the colonists up to the point of revolution which needed but governmental interference to have culminated in blood shed. Ulloa was forced to depart, not however, without having been subjected to some indignities on the part of the more hot-headed and ill-tempered ones.

Then followed a period of uncertainty. A committee was dispatched to France to plead for the restoration of French authority over the province, but without success. Meanwhile a revolutionist council was administering affairs in the colony. But there was a strange absence of that triumphant feeling which accompanies a successful political movement. The skies were bright overhead but in the distance was the cloud "no bigger than a man's hand"—the cloud of Spanish vengeance.

Don Alexander O'Reilly was the instrument of this vengeance, a man of suave and courteous manners, but of cool and determined character. Arriving with a powerful fleet and force,⁵⁴ he proceeded to accomplish the tasks assigned him with a directness that was a distinct characteristic of his. The French flag was lowered and in its place was given to the breeze the flag of Spain. Then came the arrest of the ringleaders and conspirators in the bloodless revolution. As men who responded to the call of patriotism, and who received for the laurels of revolution the penalties of rebellion, let their names be handed down.

They were Lafreniere, Villere, Marquis, John and Joseph Milhet, Mazent, Doucet, Poupet, Petit, Foucault, Brand, Boisblanc, Caresse, and Noyau Bienville. Of these, five were found guilty and shot, viz: Lafreniere, Marquis, Noyau Bienville, Joseph Milhet, and Caresse. Six were transported to Havana—Doucet, Petit, Boisblanc, John Milhet, Maxent, and Poupet. Villere was slain under particularly harrowing circumstances. While a prisoner on board a ship in the harbor he heard the voice of his wife who had come on board, supplicating to be permitted to see him. Carried away by her implorings he made a desperate effort to reach her side and was killed by his guard.



—XIII—

The lesson taught by O'Reilly was a terrible one; but after the severity—justified by some writers—with which he inflicted punishment upon the ringleaders

Spanish**Governors.**

of the colonial revolt, the colonists had little of which to complain and much to admire in their new ruler. O'Reilly reorganized the government, attended carefully to the proper administering of affairs, and conserved the interests of the colony in such a way as to leave behind a flattering record for wisdom and prudence.

In succession there followed him as governors of Louisiana during the Spanish domination, Unzaga, Galvez, Miro, Carondelet, Casa Calvo, and Salcedo—names all made familiar to us as being embodied in the nomenclature of New Orleans streets.

As a rule all the Spanish governors ruled over the colony with ability. Under the influence of their benign reigns the old antagonism to Spain soon died out. Unlike most of the late French governors who seemed to have little in common with the colonists except to exercise authority over them, the Spaniards identified themselves with the people; several of them selected wives

from among the fair daughters of their French speaking subjects, and thus bound the colonists to themselves by the strong ties of relationship.

For thirty-four years⁵⁵ Louisiana was a Spanish province. In that time the population of New Orleans increased from 3190 to 10,000. The period of Spanish domination furnishes many a theme for song and story, and several Louisiana writers are delving among the treasures and bringing to the light of the 19th century civilization the gems whose sparkle is delighting the lovers of American literature.

55 1769-1803.



—XIV—

Of the several governors who exercised authority over the colony in the name of the king of Spain, without doubt, the most remarkable was Don Bernard de

**Louisiana in the
American Revolution.**

Galvez. At the time of his incumbency he was but a youth in years, yet he left a deep impress upon his time and environment by his intrepidity and genius.

It will be remembered that in the division of the French territory conquered in the French and Indian War, Spain received Louisiana, and surrendered Florida to the English. The Florida of those days extended to the Mississippi river and its western portion was bounded by the Isle of Orleans on the south.

In the War of the American revolution, England found her old antagonist, France, arrayed against her and espousing the cause of the rebellious English colonies.⁵⁶ Seeing a possible opportunity of winning back the much coveted fortress of Gibraltar. Spain entered the conflict and actively engaged in hostilities with England.⁵⁷

As soon as news reached Louisiana that Spain had

⁵⁶ French alliance of 1777. ⁵⁷ 1779.

declared war, Galvez who was then governor immediately undertook the conquest of the neighboring English colony of West Florida. The Louisianians had never taken kindly to their English neighbors, so the young leader had very little difficulty in raising an army. With 1,400 men he marched northward from New Orleans, stormed and captured Fort Bute on the dividing line of Manchac, and followed up his success with the capture of the British fort at what is now Baton Rouge. His next undertaking was to proceed to Mobile, which post surrendered March 14th, 1780.

The news of these victories was received with great satisfaction in Spain. Every facility was now accorded him to extend his operations. His next expedition was fitted out at Havana and with it he sailed to the attack of the strongly fortified fort at Pensacola. Here he was joined by reinforcements from New Orleans and Mobile, under Miro and Espelleta respectively. The personal bravery of the young commander always entered largely into his military successes, and no where did this trait manifest itself more than in the attack upon Pensacola. The fort soon capitulated and Florida from the Atlantic to the Mississippi, by right of conquest, which right was afterward confirmed,⁵⁸ became again Spanish territory.

Upon Galvez were conferred many honors. He was commissioned Lieutenant-General, decorated with the cross of Knight Pensioner, and created a count. He

filled successively the position of Governor of Louisiana; Captain-General of Louisiana and Florida; Governor-General of Cuba, the Floridas, and Louisiana; and Viceroy of Mexico. With a record of achievements, attained by few he died at the early age of 38.



—XV—

The establishment of a Federal government followed the successful termination of the American Revolution. The relations between the newly-organized government

**The Sale of
a Province.**

and the Spanish authorities of Louisiana were by no means harmonious. The boundary line between Florida and what was then the western portion of the United States was in dispute. The Spanish authorities endeavored to alienate the settlers of the Ohio valley from the Federal Union and bring about if possible an annexation of territory. The produce of these western settlers could only reach a profitable market by way of the Mississippi, and the mouth of this river being under Spanish control, American commerce was prohibited or conceded in a manner somewhat arbitrary and altogether unsatisfactory to those who depended for their material prosperity upon the free navigation of this river

Thus it was that the United States was called upon to take steps towards the securing of a commercial depot near the mouth of the river, and to this end commissioners were dispatched to Europe, and negotiations were opened with a view to purchasing a portion of the Isle of Orleans.

By this time Napoleon Bonaparte was the most conspicuous figure in Europe, and in the moves upon the chess-board of European politics, Spain was compelled to retrocede Louisiana to France, which was done by the treaty of Ildefonso.⁵⁹ For a time the fact of the treaty was kept secret, but the American commissioners soon learned that it was with France and not Spain with which they had to deal.

Negotiations were therefore opened and the Americans were soon surprised to ascertain that Napoleon was not only willing to dispose of the Isle of Orleans but of the whole of Louisiana. He was in need of resources to carry out his warlike undertakings, and he understood that it would be well nigh impossible for France to hold the province against foreign invasion.

Of the tremendous responsibility assumed by the plucky and struggling young American republic, and of the nerve displayed by President Jefferson in closing promptly with Napoleon's offer, the political history of the United States gives full account. The sale was closed.⁶⁰ Livingstone and Monroe acted for the Americans and Marbois for the French. The consideration was eighty million francs, sixty millions of which was to go to France and twenty million to liquidate the spoilation claims which citizens of the United States held against France for the illegal destruction of shipping during the "quasi French War."⁶¹

⁵⁹ 1801.

⁶⁰ 1803.

⁶¹ 1798.

No event in American history is fraught with greater importance than the purchase of Louisiana. From the day of its purchase the United States assumed a position among the nations of the world. No larger area of territory has ever been formally ceded by one country to another. Without including what is now Texas, claim to which was at one time advanced as constituting a part of the cession, the territory embraced an area of 1,182,745 square miles.

From it have been carved the states of Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon, and Washington; and there still remains a goodly portion of it from which to form other states. Shortly after the purchase an expedition headed by Lewis and Clarke explored the territory to its westernmost limits.



—XVI—

The retrocession of Louisiana to France had been made in 1801, yet, as no formal transfer had occurred, the Spanish governor held over until 1803. To consummate

**A Short-Lived
American State.**

the sale to the United States, Pierre Clement Laussat as representative of France received the province from Governor Salcedo⁶² and twenty days afterwards⁶³ turned it over to Gen. W. C. C. Claiborne, governor of the neighboring Territory of Mississippi, who was commissioned to receive it.

In the transfer thus made that portion of the present State of Louisiana lying north of Lakes Maurepas, Pontchartrain, and Borgne was not included, it being the province of West Florida and at the time still in Spanish possession. The manner in which it came to be a part of the Union forms a most interesting episode.

Florida while an English possession had been divided into East and West Florida, the Chattahoochee river forming the boundary between the divisions. With the garrisoning of the West Florida posts by English troops a few English settlers made their way into the district. The conquest by Spaniards under Galvez did not check

⁶² Nov. 30, 1803.

⁶³ Dec. 20, 1803.

altogether this English immigration from that older colonies; and when in time the neighboring territory of Mississippi was organized and an influx of pioneers and settlers took place, there were many who, attracted by the fertile region around Baton Rouge manifested little unwillingness in placing themselves under a foreign jurisdiction by crossing the boundary line. This line had been fixed by treaty⁶⁴ as the thirty-first parallel of latitude.

These new-comers brought with them into West Florida the Anglo-Saxon spirit of independence which was not long in manifesting itself. In 1810—seven years after the Louisiana purchase—a well planned revolt was successfully instituted against the Spanish authorities. A convention presided over by John Rhea was called together, a declaration of independence issued, a provisional government instituted with Fulwar Skipwith as governor, and a little army under Gen. Philemon Thomas organized.

This force overthrew the Spanish garrison at Baton Rouge and by this victory wrested that portion of West Florida west of the Pearl river from Spain. Application was made for admission into the Union as an independent state. Instead of being admitted it was annexed. Madison who was then president issued his proclamation declaring West Florida under Federal jurisdiction, Oct.

27th, 1810. Governor Claiborne marched into the territory and at St. Francisville in what is now West Feliciana parish he raised the flag of the United States, and the short-lived little republic came to an untimely end. In time the annexed territory was divided into six parishes which to this day are known as the Florida parishes.



—XVII—

Shortly after its purchase the province acquired by the United States from France was divided into the Territory of Orleans and the District of Louisiana,⁶⁵ the

**The Battle of
New Orleans.**

former conforming in its boundaries to the present State of Louisiana. Claiborne was appointed the territorial governor and served as such until 1812 when the territory having adopted a constitution⁶⁶ was admitted as a state⁶⁷. Under the constitution Claiborne was elected the first governor of the State serving until 1816.

Meanwhile the Federal Union of which Louisiana was now a part had become involved in a war with Great Britain.⁶⁸ Most of the active engagements of this war took place either upon the high seas or upon the Canadian frontier. It is no boast however to say that the most important event of this war as well as one of the most remarkable achievements of American arms chronicled in history, took place and was won upon Louisiana soil.

British veterans from European battlefields, in the full flush of victory were dispatched to America towards

⁶⁵ March 26, 1804.

⁶⁷ April 8, 1812.

⁶⁶ Jan. 22, 1812.

⁶⁸ The War of 1812.

the latter part of the war referred to. A systematic pillaging of the coast cities of the United States was begun. Washington city was captured and treated by the soldiers of a civilized country in a manner that better became the Vandals of Medieval times. Baltimore narrowly escaped a similar fate. New Orleans came in for a full share of attention.

General Andrew Jackson had been entrusted with the supervision of military matters in the south. Any reference to his name calls up the image of a man of indomitable will and unyielding courage. When the Creek Indians of Alabama inspired by Tecumseh, the ally of England, instituted the uprising whose saddest feature was the massacre of four hundred whites at Fort Mims near Mobile, Jackson marched into the country of the hostiles and promptly administered the crushing defeats of Eccacacacaha, Talladega, Emucfaw, and Tchopeka or Horse Shoe Bend, teaching them a terrible lesson of the vengeance and power of the whites.

When it was learned that the Spaniards of Pensacola were giving aid and encouragement to the British, Jackson with no authority save his own determination marched upon the town, and compelled the British to vacate the shelter and refuge that the Spaniards had extended to them.

Advised that New Orleans had been selected as a point of attack, he hastened to the defense of the city.

He was joined by riflemen from Kentucky and Tennessee, and the Creoles of Louisiana promptly rallied to his assistance and joined in the work of defense. Forts were constructed to oppose the enemy's advance by river. The advance, however was made by way of the lakes, back of the city. Fortifications were therefore thrown up on the plains of Chalmette just beyond the suburbs and Jackson soon had everything in readiness for the coming attack.

Right here comes into prominence one of the most romantic figures in Louisiana history. In the southern part of the state is to be found a bay called Barataria. Along the shores of this bay dwelt a people in a state of partial outlawry addicted to smuggling and other questionable practices. Their leader was a man of great daring named Lafitte, who though outlawed by his country could not turn against her. Tempting bribes of money and high position in the English navy were held out to him by the British if he would co-operate with them in the attack upon New Orleans. These he promptly refused, and instead tendered the services of his men to Jackson. The American commander accepted them with out question. For their gallant conduct in the battle which ensued the United States government subsequently offered a full pardon to such of them as would settle down into law abiding citizens, which many of them did.

The British army led by Pakenham advanced

through the swamp and appeared before the fortification of the Americans. Of the memorable engagement which followed much has been written. The defenders were cool and determined; the attacking army were steady and experienced veterans. The battle raged all day,⁶⁹ with the result that the enemy were driven back with terrible slaughter. Two thousand of their troops were killed and disabled, Pakenham himself being of the number slain. The loss of the Americans was but eight. The saddest feature about the event was the fact that the terrible bloodshed was useless as the treaty of peace had been concluded some days before.⁷⁰ The telegraph had not been invented and news travelled slowly in those days. Before the intelligence of the treaty reached America the most decisive battle of the whole war had been fought and won.

⁶⁹ Jan. 8, 1815

⁷⁰ Dec. 24, 1814



—XVIII—

In depicting the history of Louisiana from its attainment to statehood to the beginning of the late war, in an article as brief as this must be only a few hasty lines can

Ante-Bellum

Louisiana.

be sketched. The growth of population and the development of the agricultural resources under what has been termed the American domination steadily advanced. Originally peopled as we have seen, by French and Canadians, there were added in the course of time with little blending of races, Spaniards, Acadians, San Domingo refugees, Canary Islanders, and enterprising and adventure loving Americans.

The peopling of the western states gave rise to a commercial intercourse between the peoples of the northern and southern portions of the Mississippi valley, and the American immigration which drifted down the river attained considerable proportions. The purchase of the province had removed the barrier that had checked the instinctive flow of American population due west, so that the state soon admitted of two distinct divisions. The Creoles and other descendants of Latin races predominated in the southern portion, and here foreign tongues were heard. In the northern portion of the state a hardy enterprising race that had migrated from South Caroli:-

na, Georgia, Alabama, and other states to the eastward found permanent abode. Both embodied valuable qualities, and if the racial instincts already implanted bear their natural fruit, we may anticipate in the coming generations of Louisianians all the wit and fire of the Latins as well as all the sturdiness and independence of the Anglo-Saxon.

In the period alluded to the history of Louisiana touches affairs of national importance at few points. When Florida was purchased by the United States, the treaty of cession also determined the Sabine river as the boundary line between Louisiana and the Spanish territory of Texas.⁷¹ To defray her part of the expense incurred by the war with the Seminole Indians of Florida, the state appropriated \$75,000. In the efforts of Texas to secure independence the men who fought under the banner of the Lone Star⁷² had the full sympathy of Louisianians, and many were the accessions to their rank supplied by the Creole state. When the admission of Texas into the Union incurred the enmity of Mexico, it was Louisiana who sent her sons equipped at her own expense to the field long before the general government responded to the cry for succor.

During the progress of the war with Mexico the soldiers furnished by the State attained marked distinction in the armies of both Scott and Taylor; and one of her

volunteers Gen. Persier F. Smith, rose by brevet to the rank of Brigadier in the regular army.

The governors who served during this period are; W. C. C. Claiborne, 1812-1816; James Villere, 1816-1820; Thos. B Robertson' and H. S. Thibodaux, (acting), 1820-1824; Henry Johnson 1824-29; Peter Derbigny, A. Beauvais, and Jacques Dupre (the last two acting, owing to the death of the first named), A. B. Roman, 1831-1835; E. D. White, 1835-1839 A. B. Roman, 1839-1843; Alex. Mouton, 1843-1846; Isaac Johnson, 1846-1850; Joseph Walker, 1850-1853; Paul O. Hebert 1853-1856; Robt. C. Wickliffe, 1856-1860; Thos. O. Moore, 1860-1862, (occupation of Louisiana by the Federals).



—XIX—

The years following the Mexican war were years leading up to a crisis in American affairs. The year 1861 ushered in a conflict among the most terrible of history,

**On the Side
of the Gray.**

—a conflict in which American was arrayed against American, both contending for American

principles, and each side deeming itself in the right.

The South maintained the principles of local self-government and State sovereignty,—principles that generally prevailed when the Federal government was first instituted. The North stood by the later evolved principle of Union. Contrary to what many writers have given the cause of the war was not the high moral purpose to right the so-called wrong of slavery, but for the preservation of the Union.

The South being an agricultural community, its interests were not at all times identical with those of the manufacturing North. The tariff upon which the North thrived was thoroughly distasteful to the South, becoming the disturbing element which led up to the nullification controversy.⁷³ The welfare of the South was bound up in its labor system. The institution of slavery

peculiar to the section was recognized by the constitution under which the Union was formed. When this institution became the point of attack of a rapidly growing political party, property rights, in the opinion of the South, were threatened, and the constitutional compact in danger of being violated. Antagonisms developed rapidly. Secession was resorted to. The war was waged on the one side for Southern independence, on the other, for the preservation of the Union. The slavery question was incidental to that antagonistic development which drove brother to contend against brother in fratricidal strife.

The crossing of the currents of immigration, one southward from the north-western states, the other eastward from the south Atlantic states, accounts for the divergence of opinion that existed in Louisiana in regard to Secession. There were many strong Union men in the state who raised their voices in opposition. But the States-rights element prevailed, and Louisiana was the sixth state to pass the ordinance of secession.⁷⁴ When however, it became manifest that secession was to be followed by war, both unionists and secessionists united in defense of the cause to which their state had committed itself.

In "the time that tried men's souls" Louisiana did her full duty. Her sons donned the gray and marched away to the battle fields of Virginia and Tennessee, bore their share in victory and defeat with courage in the one

⁷⁴ January 26, 1861.

and fortitude in the other as become honorable men. Of the six full generals in the Confederate States' armies, Louisiana furnished two,—Bragg and Beauregard. Thirty-six regiments besides eight battalions went from her peaceful hills and prairies to battle for the cause which bravery though unsurpassable could never win unaided by the material resources which sustain invincible armies. No word of mouth or pen is needed to tell of the courage and heroism of these men. Let the deeds of Jackson's "foot cavalry"—mostly Louisianians—in the Shenandoah valley, the record of the Washington Artillery, Fenner's Battery, Gibson's Brigade, the Louisiana "Tigers", and other commands bear testimony. And oh the energizing influence that love of one's state brings to bear, that could woo the gentle Acadian from pastoral scenes of his Attakapas home and transform him into the dashing debonair warrior equally ready to fight to the death for his "*belle Louisiane*," or dance with patois-speaking comrades during the lull of battle, to the old familiar home-reminding tunes of his regimental band.

The promptness with which Louisiana responded to the call for men and means left her with inadequate defense against the invading Federal forces. In the early part of the war New Orleans through the gallantry of Comodore Farragut, was taken by the Union forces⁷⁵ and subjected to the rigors of military rule. The fall of Port

Hudson shortly followed. The attempts of the Federals to overrun the state led to the Red river Expedition, during which the Federal General Banks suffered reverses at the hands of Gen "Dick" Taylor at the battles of Mansfield⁷⁶ and Pleasant Hill⁷⁷.

The surrender of General Lee at Appomatox terminated the war. The men of the southern armies returned to their homes and with the same courage with which they met their foes upon the battlefield faced the new conditons with which they were confronted. Defeat must ever have its compensations. The South is profiting most by the last war because she suffered most. Her sons, strong armed and full handed are still waging her battles, but now they are the battles of peace, and the victories won are the victories of industrial prosperity. In the march of progress that has been sounded from one end of the American continent to the other Louisiana will prove herself no laggard.

⁷⁶ April 8, 1864.

⁷⁷ April 9, 1864.



—XX—

The South to-day joins with the North in yielding full tribute of admiration to the character of Abraham Lincoln. His death was a calamity in more senses than

**At the Feet
of Henry Clay.**

one. His election had jeopardized the Union through no fault of his own, and throughout the war it was his insistent purpose to restore this Union and strengthen it for all time. Never considering the South as out of the Union, peace meant to him but the laying down of arms and recognition of the authority of the United States. The humanitarian in him dictated the policy of restoration. His unfortunate death suspended this policy and substituted one of reconstruction according to which the South was treated as conquered provinces to be dictated to, to be subjected to military alien, and other despotisms, to be divested of all those rights that to Anglo-Saxons wherever found are most dear.

Dark indeed is the least harrowing picture that can be drawn of the reconstruction era. An ignorant race was suddenly invested with the franchise, and it was sought to force unnatural political relations into existence. The negro through no effort of his own was

raised to that peerage which the white man had obtained only after centuries of civilization and after years of struggle, of privation, of heroism, and of sacrifice upon the battlefields of the American Revolution.

The armies of the North had come and gone, but the hangers-on that flock like wolves and vultures in the rear of advancing hosts remained. The curse of the carpet-bagger was felt in the land. The disfranchisement of the whites, and the elevation of the ignorant easily-manipulated blacks to citizenship gave control to those whose creed was extortion, whose highest gratification was the despoiling of the helpless, whose exultation was that of the successful thug and blackmailer proportional, however, to the magnitude of their crime inasmuch as their hands were at the throat of a sovereign State and a helpless commonwealth was their victim.

What Louisiana suffered at the hands of the corruptionists may best be expressed in figures. In one year of carpet-bag rule, \$2,278,915 taxes were collected. To-day the state levies hardly a million. For collecting these taxes office-holders retained as their fees, \$493,324, or a commission of $12\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. In one year,⁷⁸ the legislative expenses for a short session were \$626,000 or \$6,150 for each member of the legislature. In four and one half years,⁷⁹ the expenditures of the government amounted to \$26,394,578, and in two years⁸⁰ the bonded debt of the

78 1871.

79 1868-72.

80 1868-70.

state increased from \$6,000,000. to \$25,021,000. The cost to the state for four years of this misrule amounted to the sum of \$106,020,337.

Crushed by their late defeat the best people of Louisiana could interpose or organize little opposition. Appeals to the ballot-box counted as naught. Either the right to vote was denied them, or their ballots were nullified by Returning Boards whose *personnel* was often of a most villainous character. For the natural guardians of the State's welfare there were none of the fruits of political victory, for when they endeavored to install their duly and legally elected state officers they found usurpers backed by Federal bayonets barring the way.

What wonder was it then, that a "White League" organization for mutual protection and for the rescue of the State, was called into existence. Men were found willing to take their lives in their hand and stand up for the principle of self-government. There came a time when the people could no longer submit to extortion and to infringements upon constitutional liberty. They refused to pay the taxes. Severer laws were passed and to enforce these tyrannous measures a body of military or Metropolitan police were mustered into service and placed under the immediate control of the governor, to be dispatched to any and all portions of the State for the purpose of carrying out his imperious decrees, and to serve as convenient instruments of intimidation. Human

nature could stand no more, and one fair day the people of New Orleans were called to assemble in mass meeting at the Clay monument.

There is another historic spot in New Orleans in front of the City Hall, known as Lafayette Square, where the people often assemble to listen to political harangues. When the people of New Orleans gather in Lafayette Square, they gather to talk, When they gather at the feet of Henry Clay they gather to act. In a number of instances not unknown to the country at large the truth of this statement has been so exemplified as to make it axiomatic.

What was done upon this occasion is known to all. Earnest speakers addressed the assembly. Grim determination steeled the hearts of every one within the sound of their voices. Immediately there was an arming of the citizens, a forming of companies, an uprising — not of an uncontrolled mob but of earnest men whose part in the re-establishment of free government was as heroically played as was the part performed by any revolutionary patriot when the right of this free government was won.

A battle took place at the head of Canal Street between the citizens and the Metropolitans, the latter heavily armed, and fully equipped with Gatling guns. The hirelings were scattered in every direction. Eleven of the citizens were slain in the action. No more memorable a day is to be found in the annals of Louisiana than

Sept. 14, 1874, and no more sacred a spot can be pointed out in the city famous for its historic memories than Liberty Place where these martyrs fell.

In twenty-four hours the usurping government was swept away, and the rightful authorities installed. But not for long were the citizens to behold the successful culmination of their sacrifice and effort. The military authorities of the Federal government interposed, and the deposed State officials were reinstated. But the cause for which the citizens contended was not lost. The attention of other states was attracted to their suffering sister; and when two years afterward Francis T. Nicholls, one of the bravest of Louisiana's many brave soldiers, was elected⁸¹ the rightful governor of the state, and expressed his quiet determination to be installed, Federal bayonets were withheld and with the withholding the hopes of the Returning Board claimant faded away and carpet-baggery was at an end.

⁸¹ 1876.



PART II.

—I—

We have seen that the term, Louisiana at one time embraced the whole region watered by the Mississippi and its tributaries; and that by the several territorial changes

**The Geography
of the State.**

touched upon it has been narrowed down to its present limits. The State as it exists to-day

occupies an area of 45, 420 square miles. Its Northern boundary line coincides with the 33rd parallel of North latitude. The Mississippi river forms its eastern boundary as far as the 31st parallel which line serves as a boundary as far east as the Pearl river. The Gulf of Mexico so blends with the southern limits of the state as to form a considerable area of marsh indented by numerous lagoons and navigable bays and inlets. Westward the state extends as far as the Sabine river whose main channel serves as the western boundary from the gulf northward as far as parallel 32, from which point the western boundary is completed by a line drawn due north.

Geographically considered, Louisiana occupies a unique position among the states of the union. It is the "Delta State." A large portion of its area has been built up by the alluvial deposits of the Mississippi which for hundreds of years has been bringing down the soluble

riches of the valley above. This fact has never been more interestingly quoted than it has in an anecdote told of one of Louisiana's reconstruction governors,—a man to whom the reproach of political adventurer was at one time applied, but who has since identified himself with the industrial interests of the State. In his native State, Illinois, his father's farm fronted upon the Mississippi. At one time during his boyhood a goodly portion of this farm crumbled into the river and, according to his account, he formed the determination of following the vanished real estate down stream, which he did when he became a man. He could not in justice be called a carpet-bagger or adventurer. He had simply come to Louisiana to claim his own. How well he succeeded in finding his missing property is evidenced by the fact that he now owns one of the most extensive and well managed sugar plantations on the river. The conditions in Louisiana, climatic and otherwise, are conducive therefore to a wonderful productiveness, and the magic virtues that can transform a modest little Illinois farm into a quarter million dollar Louisiana plantation may well be regarded with envy by less favored communities. Of course the fact that the possessor thereof served incidentally as governor of the State during four years of his search need not be taken into consideration.

Louisiana possesses more miles of navigable streams than any other State of the Union. In an area embrac-

ing two-thirds of its territory no point is to be found further away from a navigable stream than twenty miles. The last three hundred miles of the Mississippi's course lies wholly within its borders. Red river runs through the central portion, and is particularly valuable as a means of communication between remote parts. The Ouachita, rising in Arkansas, is navigable from its mouth to a point beyond the boundary line.

Many of the Louisiana streams instead of flowing into larger rivers as branches ordinarily do, flow out of them. These generally go by the name of Bayous. Atchafalaya, Plaquemines, and Lafourche are streams of this character. Among the rivers and bayous of the state that are more or less navigable should be included, Courtableau, Teche, Boeuf, Cypremort, Cocardie, Macon, Tensas, DeGlaize, Des Allemandes, Tangipahoa, Tchefuncta, Amite, Calcasieu, Cane, Sabine, Vermillion and Lacombe.

The population of Louisiana numbers 1,118,587. The state is divided into fifty-nine parishes,—a parish corresponding to a county in other states. New Orleans, the largest city, contains a population of 260,000 and is the only city of the first rank south of the Ohio river. Shreveport on the Red river in the north-western portion of the state is the second largest and has a population of 11,979. Baton Rouge, the capital, with a population of 10,478 ranks third. Other important centers of popula-

tion are, New Iberia, Lake Charles, Franklin, Morgan City, Lafayette, Donaldsonville, and Thibodaux, in the southern part, Alexandria and Natchitoches in the central, and Monroe, Bastrop, Minden, and Homer in the northern.



—II—

Industrially considered Louisiana occupies as unique a position as it does geographically. Of all the agricultural states of the union it alone can boast of

**The Industries
of the State.**

soil, climate and condition adapted to the production of three profitable agricultural staples. It contributes annually more than a half million bales to the world's supply of cotton. In the producing and milling of rice 50,000 people and more than \$9,000,000 capital are employed the yield of its 15000 rice plantations amounting in 1890 to the enormous figures of 120,000,000 lbs.

But it is chiefly as a sugar producing state that Louisiana is known. The culture of the sugar cane was introduced from the West Indies at a very early day. It was some time however before a profitable method of crystallizing the juice into an article of commerce was discovered. To Etienne de Bore' is due the credit of the discovery, and the credit is augmented by the fact that his experiments were conducted with the persistency of an enthusiast and with a courage that faced unflinchingly poverty and financial disaster in the event of failure.

Bore's first crop netted him the handsome return of \$12,000 a sum large enough in those days to transform the

modest cultivator of indigo into a man of position and affluence. The sugar industry spread rapidly. The rich lands along the Louisiana streams were laid out into broad estates upon which was developed that peculiar blending of farm and factory work characteristic of typical Louisiana rural life.

The sugar industry has been largely fostered and encouraged by revenue tariffs upon the imported article. The bounty system that up to recently was in effect gave it a fresh impulse. More than \$90,000,000 are invested in sugar plantations and mills. In 1890 production reached 330,000 hogshead of sugar and 500,000 barrels of molasses, the value of which was more than \$25,000,000.

In recent years the tendency seems to be to separate the agricultural from the manufacturing features of the industry. Central sugar refineries are being erected at suitable points and these will contract to be furnished with cane at so much a ton. Under the old system it required a large amount of capital to embark in the raising of sugar. In addition to lands, livestock, implements wages and dwellings for the laborers, the sugar mill of a plantation necessitated an outlay in some cases as high as \$100,000. During nine months of the year this mill remained idle. Under the new arrangement cane culture can be undertaken by the small farmer as easily as any other crop, and much more profitably. The yield per acre with ordinary care reaches thirty tons, which com-

mands at the mill \$3.50 or \$4.00 per ton. During the grinding season the cane can be converted into syrup and put aside in quantities sufficient to supply the mill with raw material the rest of the year.

Until recently it could not be said that Louisiana occupied a very prominent position in manufacturing enterprises, The very richness of her soil seems to have militated against advancement in this direction except in connection with the preparation of raw agricultural products for market.

Agriculture and commerce were the two lodestones that seem to have attracted capital. The development of both has gone hand in hand. The beginning of many of the large commission and business houses of New Orleans may be traced back to the time when some enterprising planter established himself in the city so as to be in position to market the crop raised by his overseer to best advantage and gradually extended his operations so as to include consignments from his neighbors and acquaintances formed during the course of his business experience. Then again there are business firms starting as strictly commercial enterprises whose members in time have bought country estates and who now combine into a happy medium the occupations of merchant, broker, and planter.

But a change is being wrought. The natural advantages possessed by many localities in the state are mak-

ng themselves known. Increasing population and costly freight rates to the distant manufacturing centers are the two incitants to rapid development of manufacturing enterprises. Already New Orleans can boast of 2,000 establishments where men and women are employed in the production of wares and articles of necessity* and convenience.

The hitherto almost untouched forest treasures of the state are beginning to find their way to the centers of trade and the hum of the saw mill, wood working and shingle making machinery is now heard in the land. And not alone is it the land that yields up its inexhaustible riches, but the waters of the blue gulf washing the whole line of its southern shores are sources of wealth to the man of industry. Louisiana oysters are the finest in the world and their reputation is rapidly extending. The most delicate and acceptable of food fishes abound in the gulf waters and the business of catching, packing, and shipping of these to distant points is a prominent industry.



—III—

If in the beginning of the century the question should have been propounded to a thoughtful person as to which of the two,—New York or New Orleans,—was

**The Commerce
of New Orleans.**

destined to become the greater city, or which had the brighter prospect for growth, the answer

undoubtedly would have favored the latter.

Situated near the mouth of one of the noblest streams of the world, whose tributaries reached to every part of the broad expanse between the Alleghany and Rocky Mountain systems, the southern city at one time gave every evidence of outstripping its older eastern rival.

This was in the days when freight and farm products were compelled to follow natural routes to and from market. But time passed on. The Erie Canal was dug and lines of railroad began creeping westward over the northern country. The wealth and sagacity of man forestalled nature. The Northwest was made tributary to the east, and the city by the Hudson became the metropolis of the western continent.

But man can not long interpose his will in the way of Nature. There are those whose faith in the future of New Orleans persuades them to the belief that nothing can prevent it from becoming in time the leading

American city. Already the breezes of enterprise are playing about her spires. Within recent years the railroad builder has been at work for her also. Six trunk lines¹ already terminate within her portals, coming from all parts of the U. S. Two more are to follow. Through and separate trains now connect her with Dallas, Denver, Little Rock, Kansas City, Memphis, St. Louis, Chicago, Louisville, Cincinnati, Chattanooga, Atlanta, Washington, and New York.

She still has the broad Mississippi and its affluents, rendered the more navigable by a perfected system of levees and channel improvement² whose water ways reduce the expense of transportation over immense distances to nominal figures. The success of the Jetties³ at the mouth of the river enables vessels of the heaviest draught to gain access to her harbor. Numerous lines of transatlantic steamers ply regularly to the port. The South and Central American countries are just without her doors and she is the only natural port through which the commercial relations between the U.S. and these countries whose establishment is inevitable can be

¹ New Orleans and Northeastern; Louisville and Nashville; Illinois Central; Louisville, New Orleans, and Texas (Mississippi Route); Texas Pacific; and Southern Pacific.

² More than ten million dollars have been expended by the U. S. government upon the improvement of the Mississippi. Louisiana alone expends annually more than a million dollars upon the construction and repair of her levees.

³ Cost, \$5,000,000.

brought about. The construction of the proposed Nicaragua Canal will emphasize her commercial supremacy. Not the least factors in her growth will be a Naval Yard and a bridge spanning the river at the point occupied by her, both of which are promising realities for the near future.

Already New Orleans ranks third in commercial importance among the American cities. In amount of annual exports⁴ she stands second only to New York. She is the greatest cotton market in the world. Within the past year she has taken the first place away from New York as the greatest grain shipping port in America. Her annual trade with the interior approximates in volume \$250,000,000. The value of the real estate has doubled within the last five years and is still rapidly advancing.

Until recently New Orleans banks were famous throughout the country for their solidity and conservativeness. The panics which have swept over the country scattering the wrecks of speculation and bad management on every hand seemed always to affect the banks of New Orleans so little that no less an authority than Hugh McCulloch, secretary of the National Treasury during three administrations pays a glowing tribute to their methods and financial soundness.⁵

⁴ Value of annual exports, \$111,000,000.

⁵ See McCulloch's "Men and Measures of Half a Century."

—IV—

There was a time when it was customary to decry the South for its lack of educational facilities. That time has passed. True the public school system which

**Education in
Louisiana.**

forms so interesting a phase of American development was later in reaching a state of efficient organization than in other sections. The responsibility for this, however, is to be attributed to natural causes, and is not to be placed with those who have presided over the political destinies of the section.

Colonial life in the North tended to compactness: In the South, owing to the peculiar agricultural development, the reverse was the case. The necessity of education became apparent at an early date to both sections. The community and town life in the North enabled it to respond to the need by establishing *common* schools which later developed into public school systems. In the South the response could be made only by the employment of the private tutors; or by sending the youth to the North or abroad, the wealth of the southern planter enabling him to make the necessary outlay.

By the time the Northwest Territory was organized into States, popular education had come to be a living

force in American civilization. Ample provision was made for the future public school systems of these States⁶ by the setting aside a large area of the public domain, the revenue from which has magnificently sustained the purpose intended. With the possible exception of Texas no southern State has received so rich an endowment for public school purposes.

Louisiana occupies a position of its own in the school annals of the country. No colony planted upon the continent was prompter in recognizing the need of educational facilities. As early as 1723 the question of establishing a school began to be agitated, and with such good effect that within four years⁷ some Ursuline Nuns arrived from France and established the first school in Louisiana.

The province of Louisiana had scarcely passed to American control when the first college was established.⁸ This was known as the College of Orleans. Its curriculum included thorough instruction in Greek, Latin, Spanish, French, and English. In 1825 it was transferred to Jackson, East Feliciana parish and its name changed to the College of Louisiana. An outgrowth of this old institution of learning is the venerable Centenary College still in operation.

Efforts were made to establish a school system by taxation as early as 1808. A singular fact in connection

⁶ See Ordinance of 1787.

⁷ 1727.

⁸ 1805.

with the growth of education in the State is that up to the year 1845 more careful provision seems to have been made for the support of secondary and higher institutions of learning than for the elementary schools. In one year⁹ we find at least twenty of these colleges and academies receiving State aid.

The creation of the State public school system really dates with the year, 1845, at which time a new constitution went into effect. In that year the appropriation for school purposes amounted to more than \$60,000, the greater portion of which amount was expended upon the elementary schools.¹⁰ Alexander Dimity, a savant, a celebrated linguist, a man of genius, and a pure minded patriot was the first State Superintendent of Education. Inspired by his active efforts we find the State expending for public school purposes during the year 1850 \$602,828—a handsome sum for those days.

In the period following the last war the development of the State's public school system was greatly retarded. As the affairs of the commonwealth emerged from the chaos of the reconstruction era the State began to key itself in educational unison with the tuneful march of progress. When again the people of the State had the naming of their own State officers, Robert M. Lusher was called to the office of State Superintendent.¹¹ He took up the work where Dimitry left off, and to him

⁹ 1840.

¹⁰ \$48,420.

¹¹ 1876.

every Louisianian who holds the welfare of his State at heart, is indebted for the great work he did in behalf of Louisiana schools at a most critical time in their history.

Much of what is best in the public school system of to-day dates from the year 1884 at which time Warren Easton, a practical and experienced educator and a gentleman of fine executive ability was elected State Superintendent of Public Education.

Largely through his personal efforts the State Normal School at Natchitoches was established; a State Educational Association organized; the annual convention of the parish superintendents of education instituted; Normal Institutes for teachers provided for; and the school law amended and changed for the better.

The public school system of New Orleans will compare favorably with that of any other American city. The growth and development of this system presents a number of interesting phases. New Orleans' original municipal organization consisted of four districts; and each had its own elaborate system from the high school down, wholly distinct from the others. A fact that may occasion some surprise among our Northern friends is that during its earlier school history New Orleans furnished not a few lessons in successful school organizing and managing to cities which have since become educational famous.¹² No less a person than Horace

¹² Mr. Ira Divoll, while superintendent of the St. Louis public

Mann, the great educational reformer of Massachusetts, was greatly interested and saw much to admire in the several school systems of the New Orleans municipalities.

During the war the several systems were consolidated and the one great system which now exists made possible—a system consisting of sixty schools and six-hundred teachers, To no one is due greater credit for the high character of the New Orleans schools and their good repute abroad than to Mr. Wm. O. Rogers who served for many years as city Superintendent; and whose whole career is intimately associated with the educational welfare of the State. No chronicler can fail to recognize in him one of an illustrious quartette having Dimitry Lusher and Easton as components.

schools visited New Orleans on a tour of inspection and publicly expressed his indebtedness for information received.



—V—

The flower of a civilization is its literature. To determine what progress a people has made towards the higher refinements we have but to examine into

<p>The Literatures in Louisiana.</p>

the efforts made by that people to give voice and expression to what is best in their lives,

thoughts, and feelings. Let a search light be turned upon Louisiana's past and her contributions to art and letters will be found to confer upon her an exalted place.

Having two distinct elements of population—the Latin and the Anglo-Saxon,— she has developed two distinct literatures, in either of which the State may well take pride. The briefest account of the work of the French writers of Louisiana from colonial times to the present day in the several domains of History, Poetry, Criticism, Fiction, and the Drama would of itself fill a good size volume. This would include the productions of Villeneuve, DeBouchel, Remy, Dufour, Lussan, the Roquette brothers, Cononge, Dr. Mercier, Roman, Delery, Dessommes, Martin, Miss Querouze, Mrs. De La Houssaye Delpit, Fortier, Gayarre and a host of others

Of these the three last named have won more than local celebrity although all are worthy of the widest recognition.

Delpit was born and reared in New Orleans. Removing to Paris he became known as one of the most brilliant and successful of the younger writers of the French Capital. Prof. Fortier writes equally well in English and French. He has made some valuable contributions to the history of Louisiana, and to the history of French Literature. His published works and lectures have a finish about them that have made them classics in their respective fields. Gayarre's historical works bear the stamp of greatness, and were one called upon to mention the five leading Historians produced by America his name would in justice be of the number.

The fact that the English phase of Louisiana's literature is of but recent development makes the further fact the more remarkable that she already furnishes so many bright stars to the galaxy of American Letters. Were one to seek a reason for the unusually successful fruition of intellectual activities one might well find it to be the high standard maintained by the New Orleans journals from their first date of issuance, and the encouragement extended by them to all whose earnestness is indicated by painstaking effort. "The States," "City Item," "Times-Democrat" and "Picayune" are all newspapers of standard character and strong editorial caliber

but to the last two named,—longer established than the others, must be given the credit for much that is best in Louisiana's present literary status.

To many who read these lines the names of Lafcadio Hearn, Mrs. M. E. M. Davis, Grace King, Mrs. E. J. Nicholson, Geo. W. Cable, Mrs. Ruth McEnery Stuart, Mary Ashley Townsend, Mrs. C. V. Jamison, Charles Patton Dimitry, Julie K. Wetherill, W. W. Howe, Mrs. Marie B. Williams, Catherine Cole and Mrs. Sarah A. Dorsey are as household words.

Space permits only a bare mention of the many gifted sons and daughters of this State whose pens are being and have been exercised to the delight of their admirers.

Among the poets of Louisiana may be named, first the brilliant trio Mrs. E. J. Nicholson (Pearl Rivers), Mrs. M. E. M. Davis, and Mrs. M. A. Townsend (Xariffa). Mrs. E. J. Nicholson occupied while living a unique position among the women of America, being the only lady proprietor and manager of a metropolitan daily newspaper¹³ in the world. Mrs. M. E. M. Davis is without doubt one of the most versatile and gifted woman writers the South has yet produced, and her contributions find places of honor in the standard magazines of the country. Mrs. Townsend's "Creed" and "The Bather" both deserve place among the fifty brightest gems in all American poesy. The list of Louisiana poets might be

¹³ The New Orleans Picayune founded in 1837.

extended to great length. Among the most distinguished may be named, Helen Pitkin, William Preston Johnston, Henry P. Dart, Lucile Rutland, Mrs. M. A. Baker (Julie K. Wetherell), Mrs. P. W. Mount (Ruth Ramay), John Augustin, Katharine Kavanagh.

Among historians, Louisiana furnishes the names of, Gayarre and Fortier already mentioned, Martin, Grace King, Castellanos, John Dimitry, William Miller Owen. The contributions of Louisianians to biographical literature include Wm. Preston Johnston's *Life of Albert Sidney Johnston*,¹⁴ Roman's *Life of Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard*, and Grace King's *Life of Bienville in the Makers of American series*.

The following are among those who have published at least one successful novel, John Dimitry, Mrs. Dorsey, Dr. W. H. Holcombe, Grace King, Mrs. R. T. Buckner, Geo. W. Cable, Julie K. Wetherell, Lafcadio Hearn, Mrs. R. M. Stuart, Mrs. M. E. M. Davis, E. C. Wharton, Mrs. C. V. Jamison, Mrs. E. Burke Collins. Of these, perhaps Cable has attracted most attention, but even his warmest admirers, in the State that knows him as a citizen no longer, cannot but regret that after drinking deeply of its crystal waters he should have stirred up the sediment and beclouded the fountain of his inspiration.¹⁵

Among the magazinists and successful writers of short

¹⁴ Father of the biographer.

¹⁵ See Cable's "Silent South" and contributions on the "Negro Question."

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stories are, Mrs. Davis, Grace King, Marie L. Points, Mrs. Marie B. Williams (of Opelousas), Lafcadio Hearn, Mrs. Stuart, Mrs. Addie McGrath Lee, Mrs. C. V. Jamison, Dimitry, and Cable. Of these the three who have been most successful in catching upon the point of their pens the charm of Creole life, legend, and local color, are, Mrs. Davis, Miss Points, and Miss King.

The woman journalists of Louisiana constitute a most brilliant coterie. A better all-round newspaper woman than Mrs. M. R. Field of the "New Orleans Times-Democrat" does not exist. Her "Catherine Colé" letters, that have been a characteristic feature of New Orleans' journals, for many years touch the highest water-mark of charm of expression and power of description. Mrs. E. J. Bently (of Donaldsonville), Mrs. Garner Graham, Mrs. Addie McGrath Lee, Mrs. Mattie H. Williams and Mrs. Julia Rule (of Shreveport), Mrs. M. B. Slaughter (of Mt. Lebanon), who as "Pleasant Riderhood" has long been identified with the Detroit Free Press, and Mrs. Leon Jastremski are all practical and working journalists who would bring honor to wider fields than the ones they now occupy.



—VI—

We have given as fully as the compass of these pages will permit, a narrative of Louisiana's past, and a description of its present. What its future is to be only time can determine.

**The Future
of Louisiana.**

Judging the future by the present and past, the state has nothing to fear.

As high a type of manhood has developed within her borders as may anywhere be found; and coming generations may well revert to these as standards by which they may gauge their own advance.

A State that has given to the world the greatest American-born naturalist,¹⁶ the greatest architectural genius native to American soil,¹⁷ the only musical virtuoso of world-wide fame produced by this continent,¹⁸ the master genius of all time in the chess world,¹⁹ the greatest legal light of the century,²⁰ who at an age when most men are descending from the pinnacle of their life work entered single-handed the forum of the English Bar and was at once proclaimed its leader, that has given to

¹⁶ John J. Audubon.

¹⁷ Richardson.

¹⁸ Gottschalk.

¹⁹ Paul Morphy.

²⁰ Judah P. Benjamin.

the United States a President,²¹ an orator whose claim to co-peerage was unquestioned by such fellow senators as Webster,²² a military engineer who in defensive operations was never equalled,²³ that has erected the first statue of a woman yet reared in the Western World.²⁴ Such a State may well hold up her head among her sisters and her daughters wear in modesty and grace the heritage of loveliness and purity she has bequeathed to them.

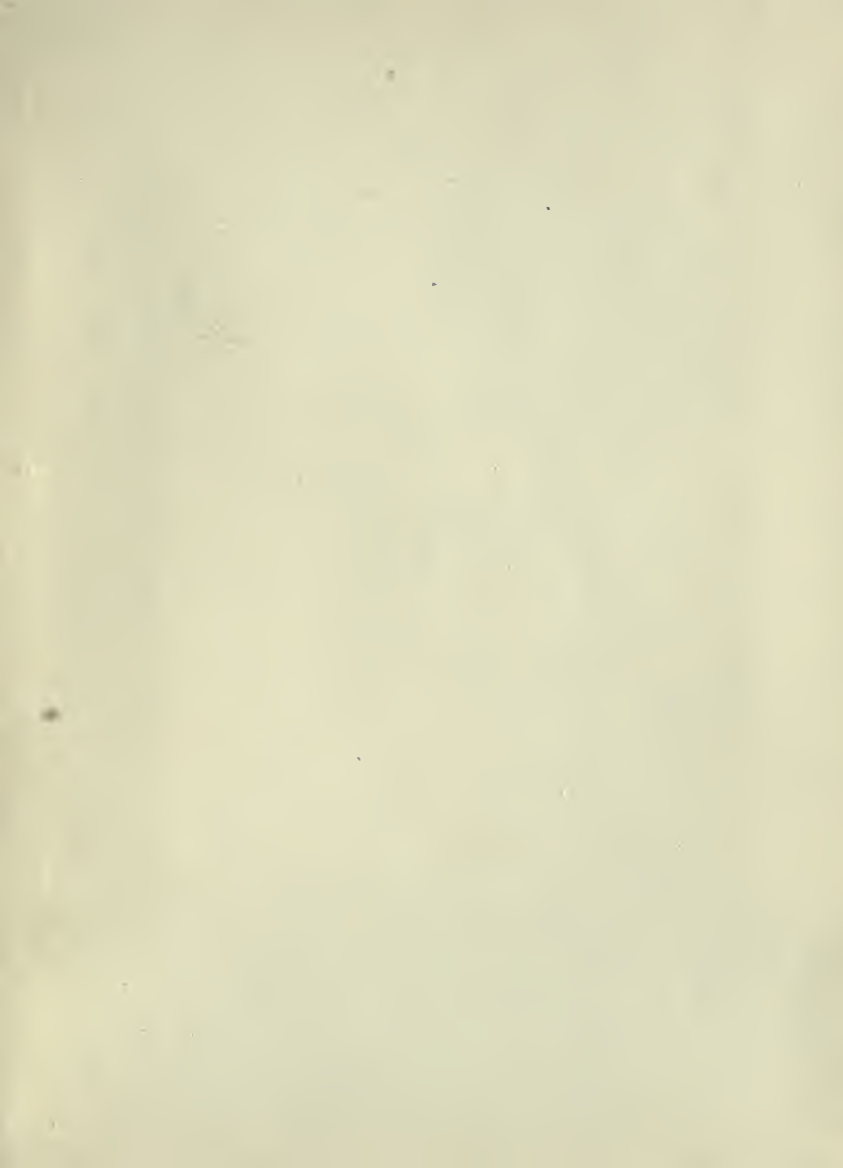
²¹ Zachary Taylor.

²² Pierre Soule.

²³ Beauregard.

²⁴ Margeret's statue erected in honor of Margeret Haughery philanthropist and founder of orphanages.





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