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J. Fred. Anthon

1848



*Norman, B. M.*  
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# NORMAN'S

## NEW ORLEANS AND ENVIRONS:

CONTAINING A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

TERRITORY AND STATE OF LOUISIANA,

AND THE

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS,

FROM THE EARLIEST PERIOD TO THE PRESENT TIME:

PRESENTING

A COMPLETE GUIDE

TO ALL SUBJECTS OF GENERAL INTEREST IN THE SOUTHERN  
METROPOLIS;

WITH A

CORRECT AND IMPROVED PLAN OF THE CITY, PICTORIAL ILLUSTRATIONS  
OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS, ETC.



NEW ORLEANS:

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B. M. NORMAN,

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District of New York.

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DEDICATED  
TO THE  
CITIZENS OF NEW ORLEANS,  
WITH  
True Sentiments of Respect,  
BY THEIR  
HUMBLE SERVANT.  
The Publisher.

NEW ORLEANS, October, 1845.



## PREFACE

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To the stranger visiting New Orleans, and to those abroad who may feel an interest in the metropolis of the great South-West, no apology may be urged for the present work. Curiosity, in the one case, and necessity, in the other, will prove a sufficient plea, and prepare the way for that favorable reception, which it has been the aim of the publisher it should deserve. And, judging from the interest he has taken in compiling it, he flatters himself it will be found a communicative and agreeable companion to both the above classes of readers, and to the public in general.

The tables and index have been prepared with great care, and will be found highly convenient to those who wish to consult the work with reference to any particular subject of which it treats. All such subjects are there so arranged and classified, that the reader may see, at a glance, where they are to be found.

The engravings were executed by Messrs. Shields & Hammond, after original drawings, made expressly for this work, by Mr. Cowell. The plan of the city was engraved by the same artists, after an original draught by Mr. Mullhausen.

To several gentlemen, who have kindly aided the publisher in gathering materials for the work, he would here express his grateful acknowledgements. For the historical facts embodied in the volume, he is indebted to several works on the history of Louisiana, and the discovery and early settlement of our country.



# NORMAN'S

## NEW ORLEANS AND ENVIRONS.

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A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE DISCOVERY AND TERRITORIAL  
HISTORY OF LOUISIANA.



TOMOWEN. PINXT.

De Soto's discovery of the Mississippi.

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LOUISIANA is the name given by the French, to all that extensive tract of land, lying West of the Mississippi River, which was ceded by them to the United States in 1803. The line of its western boundary follows the Sabine River to the 32d degree of north latitude ; thence, due north to the

Red River ; along that stream westerly to the meridian of 100 west longitude ; thence due north to the Arkansas River, ascending that to its source ; thence due north to the 42d degree of latitude ; and along that, parallel to the Pacific Ocean. Its northern boundary is a matter of dispute between the United States and Great Britain, and the discussion, at the present moment is somewhat exciting and ominous. It is the only question in relation to any part of our border, which has not been amicably adjusted by treaty. *We* claim the boundary formed by a line drawn from the Lake of the Woods, in the 49th degree of latitude, due west to the Rocky Mountains, thence to the parallel of 54, and on that to the Pacific. The British, on the other hand, claim that part, lying west of the Rocky Mountains, and north of the 46th parallel, or the latitude of the Columbia River. Our claim to the whole of this Territory, the part in dispute being called the Oregon, is based upon priority of discovery, and purchase. The British claim the northern portion by right of possession. The question has been held in suspense for several years, under a treaty of joint occupancy, which is now about to terminate. The question of ownership and jurisdiction, will probably be adjusted definitely in the course of a few years. We trust it may be done without the necessity of an appeal to arms.

The vast domain, included within the above named boundaries, contains more than twelve hundred thousand square miles. It is about six times the size of France, and nearly twice as large as the whole territory embraced in the thirteen original States of the Union—an empire, in itself sufficiently extensive to satisfy the ambition of any ordinary people.

The discoveries of Columbus, and his immediate successors, were confined to the islands in and about the Gulf of Mexico, and a part of the adjacent coast of the two Continents. The immense tracts that lay inland, stretching thousands of miles towards the setting sun, were unknown and unexplored for nearly half a century after the landing of the Europeans on this coast. Those of North America were first visited in 1512, by Juan Ponce de Leon, a Spanish adventurer in quest of the FOUNTAIN OF IMMORTAL YOUTH, which the Indians represented as gushing up in one of the Elysian Valleys of the West;—but, unfortunately for him and for posterity, death overtook him before he reached the *Fountain*, and the directions for finding it perished with him. Having made the first land on Pascha *Florida*, or Palm Sunday, he gave the name of Florida to all the country lying to the North and West.

In consequence of the premature death of Ponce de Leon, the expedition was given up, and little

more was known of these regions until 1538, when Hernandez de Soto, having been made Governor of Cuba, and Adelantado of Florida, undertook, with a company of six hundred men, to explore these his western dominions. He penetrated Florida, Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky, and struck the Mississippi not far from the place now known as the Chickasaw Bluffs. Thence he passed over to the Red River, and descending that, had nearly reached its mouth, when he was seized with a sudden fever, and died. To prevent his body from falling into the hands of the Indians, it was sunk in the stream at the mouth of Red River, near its junction with "*the father of waters.*"

The expedition of de Soto consumed four years, during which, his adventures, among the various tribes and nations then teeming in these quiet regions, were diversified and full of the most romantic interest. He was succeeded in 1542 by Lewis de Moscoso, or Mucoso, who, with none of the address or enterprise of de Soto, found himself and his small company, now reduced by disease and constant warfare with the natives, to about three hundred men, encompassed with difficulty, and in danger of being entirely cut off. They built seven brigantines, probably the first specimens of scientific ship building on the Mississippi, and then dropped down the river. Pursued by

thousands of exasperated Indians in their canoes, harrassed, wounded, and some of them slain, the miserable remnant at length found their way out of the river, about the middle of July.

No sooner had they put to sea, than a violent tempest arose ; when another calamity befel them, which will be feelingly understood by many of the navigators of these waters, in our own day. I will give it in the language of the historian, who was one of the party. “ While they were in this tempest, in great fear of being cast away, they endured an intolerable torment of an infinite swarm of musketoos, which fell upon them, which, as soon as they had stung the flesh, it so infected it, as though they had been venomous. In the morning, the sea was assuaged, and the wind slacked, but not the musketoos ; for the sails, which were white, seemed black with them in the morning. Those which rowed, unless others kept them away, were not able to row. Having passed the fear and danger of the storm, beholding the deformities of their faces, and the blows which they gave themselves to drive them away, one of them laughed at another.”

It is manifest from the narrative of de Soto's expedition, that a dense population once covered this whole territory. It is equally manifest that they were a race infinitely superior to the almost exterminated tribes which still remain. In the

arts of what we term civilization, in the comforts and conveniences of social life, in the organization of society, in works of taste, in a knowledge of the principles, and an appreciation of the beauties of architecture, and in the application of the various mechanical powers requisite to the construction of buildings on a grand and magnificent scale, they may challenge comparison with some of the proudest nations of antiquity, in the old world. What has become of those mysterious nations, we are at a loss to conjecture; but their works remain, though in ruins, eternal monuments of their genius and power. As far as they have been explored, they afford ample evidence that the appellation "New World" is an entire misnomer. As the eloquent Mr. Wirt once said—" *This is the old World,*" and the day may come, when the antiquarian will find as much that is attractive and interesting in the time hallowed ruins and the almost buried cities, of America, as those of Pompeii and Herculaneum, of Thebes and Palmyra.

Changed as the whole country has been, in the lapse of three centuries, in respect to most of those things which must have struck the original discoverers with wonder, admiration, and awe—there is one feature, as described by de Soto, that still remains, so distinct and characteristic, that, if the brave old Adelantado should suddenly rise

from his watery grave, he would immediately recognize the place of his burial.

The Mississippi is still the same as when those bold adventurers first beheld it. The historian describes it as "a river so broad, that if a man stood still on the other side, it could not be discerned whether he was a man or no. The channel was very deep, the current strong, the water muddy and filled with floating trees."

Of all the great rivers of this continent, it is a distinction which is probably peculiar to the Mississippi, that it was discovered, not by navigators entering it from the ocean, but by a band of adventurous explorers, striking it in their march, at some thousand miles from its mouth!

For more than a century after the expedition of de Soto, these mighty regions were suffered to remain in the quiet possession of their original owners, undisturbed by the visits of white men. In 1654, the adventurous Col. Woods, from the infant colony of Virginia, wandered into these then remote regions, and crossed "the great river," after which it lay forgotten for twenty years longer.

In 1673, Marquette, a French monk, and Joliet, a trader, starting from Quebec, traversed the great northern Lakes, ascended the Fox River to its source, made a small portage west to the Wisconsin, and descended that river to the Mississippi,

where they arrived on the 7th of July. Committing themselves to the current, the two solitary travellers reached a village of the Illinois, near the mouth of the Missouri, where they were kindly received and hospitably entertained. After a brief stay, they proceeded down to a settlement of the Arkansas, near the river of that name. They did not proceed farther at this time, but returned to Quebec, by the same route, fully impressed with the belief that they could reach the Gulf of Mexico, by continuing their course on the great river. There was immense rejoicing in Quebec at the result of this adventure. *Te deum* was sung in the Churches, on the occasion, and the great Western Valley set down as belonging to France by right of discovery. They were little aware how brief their dominion in that land would be, or how soon the fruits of all their toils would fall into the hands of a nation then unborn, that in one little century, should leap to independence and power, and claim an honorable place among the hoary empires of the earth.

Six years after the return of Marquette and Joliet, Robert, Chevalier de la Salle, commenced operations for a further exploration of the Mississippi. With seventeen men, he proceeded to the Little Miami, near the mouth of which he built a fort. From thence he traversed the country, till he came to the Falls of St. Anthony. Descend-



ing the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico, he returned by land to Quebec during the year 1681. He then proceeded to France, procured a vessel, and sailed in 1685, with the intention of entering the river through the Gulf, but was unable to find its mouth.

In his next voyage, having met with the same disappointment, he erected a fort in the Bay of St. Bernard, near the mouth of the Colorado. Ascending that river, about sixteen miles, he established another fort, which, however, he soon destroyed, and returned to the first settlement. Here he built houses, erected another fort, which he called St. Louis, and prepared the ground for cultivation. He made many abortive attempts to find the entrance to the Mississippi. At length, a conspiracy was formed among his own party, and he was cruelly murdered by Dehault, on the 19th of March, 1687, near the western branch of Trinity River. Thus fell, in the midst of his toils, and in the prime of his years, by the hand of an assassin, one of the most renowned adventurers of the 17th century—a man who may be justly claimed as an honor to the country that gave him birth. He deserved a better fate. In cool courage, in hardy enterprise, and in fertility of resources, he was second only to Columbus. And in the power of subduing the wild spirits of his men, and bending all their energies to the one object

before him, he displayed much of the sagacity and tact of that great navigator. In vigor, decision and promptitude, he much resembled the renowned Cortes, without any of the bigotry or cruelty, that tarnished the reputation of the Conqueror of Mexico.

In 1699, eighteen years after La Salle had demonstrated the connection of the Mississippi with the Gulf of Mexico, by passing out at its mouth, Iberville succeeded in entering it from the Gulf. Ascending as far as the junction of Red River, he returned, and proceeded, by way of the Gulf, into Lake Pontchartrain. He formed a settlement and erected a fort, at Biloxi, which he left under the command of his brother Bienville, while he returned to France, to induce others to join the colony. Soon after he left, the new commander ascended the Mississippi as far as the present site of New Orleans. In returning, he met a British vessel of sixteen guns, under the command of Capt. Bard, who enquired the bearings of the great river, intimating that it was his intention to establish a colony upon its banks. Bienville, in reply, directed him to go farther west, and thus induced him to turn about; from which circumstance, the place of their meeting was called "The English Turn," a name which it retains to this day.

Iberville accompanied by a considerable accession of force, comprising hardy settlers, and

scientific men, soon returned to the colony. Finding things in a promising condition, he proceeded up the river as far as Natchez, and planted a settlement there. Leaving Bienville and St. Denys in command, he again took leave, and sailed for France. He was indefatigable in his exertions to establish and render permanent his little colony. It was the first attempt in this section; and Iberville may be well regarded as the father of Louisiana. But he did not survive to enjoy its growth and prosperity. He died in one of the West India Islands, a victim to the yellow fever, in 1708. About this time, one Sauville was elected Governor. He survived the appointment, however, but a short time. Bienville then succeeded him, and retained the office till 1710, when he was superseeded by De Muys and Diron d'Artaquette.

Finding that they derived no immediate advantage from this new accession of territory, the French Government, in 1712, granted to Antonio Crozat, a rich merchant of Paris, the monopoly of the trade of Louisiana, which he surrendered back in 1717. What a fortune a man might make now, out of a five years monopoly of the trade of that luxuriant region!

In 1717, a new charter was issued, under the style of "The Western Company," with the exclusive privilege of the trade of Louisiana for twenty-five years. Bienville was again chosen Governor, and

in the following year, 1718, he laid the foundation of New Orleans. Hitherto the pursuits of agriculture had been entirely neglected. Whether this neglect was attributable to the hostility of the Indians, compelling them to concentrate their little force in one spot, or to the flattering promises of trade, or to the illusive hope of discovering mines of gold, which occupied all their time, or to all these causes combined, we cannot now determine. We only know, that, up to this period, they had depended almost entirely upon supplies sent from France, for the common necessities of life. But now, the cultivation of the soil begun to be an object of considerable attention, tobacco and rice being the principal articles from which a profit was expected.

The chief personage in this "Western Company," was the notorious John Law, a Scotch financier, one of those universal speculators, who experiment upon every thing, human and divine, who revel only in change, and to whom mere innovation becomes the professional business of a life. As is usual in such cases, he managed so as to draw down ruin upon himself and his duped associates in France, while at the same time, he had the singular tact to place the colony in a condition for the time. The result of his schemes, however, was ultimately disastrous. The finances of the colony were thrown into inextricable con-

fusion. The French Ministry, instead of applying an efficient remedy, or leaving the evil to cure itself, only tampered with it, by changing the values of the coins, and thus deranging all the money transactions of the colony. The effect was ruinous to some, and embarrassing to all. And when was it otherwise? Never. History and experience utter but one voice on the subject of governmental experiments, and arbitrary legislative innovations, upon ordinary fiscal operations, and the course of trade. And that voice is—*“hands off.”*

In the mean time war was declared between France and Spain. The colonists, sympathizing with the mother country, commenced offensive operations against their neighbors in Florida, and took possession of Pensacola; which, however, the Spaniards soon recovered. The trade of war was never very profitable, even to conquerors. No sooner were the different colonies of pale faces at loggerheads among themselves, than their natural enemies, the Indians, began to take advantage of their divisions, and to endeavor to exterminate them both. A horrible massacre took place at Natchez, in 1729. This was but part of a plan which had been formed among the Mississippi tribes, for a general butchery throughout the colony. The Natchez tribe, mistaking the day appointed for the sacrifice, commenced their work of blood

too soon, and thus gave timely warning of the plot to all the other settlements. The war which followed was a destructive one, but the Indians were ultimately defeated.

Bienville, having returned to France in 1727, was succeeded by Perrier. Under his administration, the agricultural enterprise of the colony was considerably advanced. The cultivation of indigo was commenced in 1728. The fig tree and the orange were introduced at the same time.

In 1732, ten years before the legal expiration of their monopoly, the "Western Company" returned their charter to the King. The colony was then scarcely more than thirty years old, yet, notwithstanding their many and severe trials, by war and by disease, the population numbered five thousand whites, and two thousand blacks. Bienville was, the third time, appointed Governor, having the entire confidence both of the government and of the people. He continued to exercise this office till 1741, when he again resigned, carrying with him into private life the regrets and affectionate regards of the inhabitants. He was succeeded by the Marquis de Vandreuil.

In the winter of 1747-8, the orange plantations were visited by a severe frost, such as had never been known before, which not only cut off the crop for the season, but almost destroyed the prospects of that branch of business in the colony.

The cultivation of the sugar cane, now so extensive and lucrative a branch of business, did not begin to attract the attention of agriculturalists till 1751. It was then introduced by the Jesuits of St. Domingo, who sent some of the plants, as a present to their brethren in Louisiana, accompanied by negroes, well acquainted with its cultivation, and with the process then in use for manufacturing it into sugar. The lower part of the Fauxbourg of St. Mary was devoted to this experiment. That it was a happy experiment for the colony, and the country, the waving fields and princely estates on every side, and the annually increasing supply of this great staple, bear ample witness.

A large accession was made to the population of the colony in 1754, by the arrival of emigrants from Acadia, (Nova Scotia) which they were compelled to leave, owing to the oppressive measures of the British Government, by which that province had just been conquered. A few years afterwards, great numbers of Canadians, fleeing from the same oppressions, found refuge in the sunny vallies of the south, and brought a very considerable acquisition of strength and wealth to the colony.

“The seven years’ war” between France and England, ended in the cession, to the latter power, of all the French possessions in North America, except Louisiana. It was stipulated, between the two crowns, that the boundary line

of their respective dominions, in the New World, should run along the middle of the Mississippi, from its source as far as the Iberville, and along the middle of that river, and of Lakes Maurepas and Ponchartrain. This was in 1763. In the course of the same year, Louisiana was transferred by treaty to the crown of Spain. The tidings of this unexpected cession, which were not promulgated until two years after the execution of the treaty, spread dismay through the colony. The idea of being passed over, *nolens volens*, to the domination of Spaniards, was revolting to the thousands of true hearted and loyal Frenchmen, who had acquired and defended the territory, and claimed it as their own. They resolved, as one man, to resist this uncereemonious change of masters, apparently determined, if their old mother, France, persisted in casting them off, to set up for themselves.

In pursuance of this resolution, they refused to receive Don Ulloa, whom the King of Spain despatched in 1766, to take possession of the Province, and to assume the Government, as his representative. The point was disputed at the cannon's mouth, but the colony prevailed, and Don Ulloa returned with his dishonored commission, to his master. Charles was as indignant as his crest-fallen servant, at this unexpected repulse.



But he was too busy with his own troubles at home, to pursue the matter at that moment.

A fit instrument of Royal vengeance was at length found, in the person of Don O'Reilley, a renegade Irishman, who, in 1769, was appointed to subdue and rule over the refractory province. A more perfect exemplification of the remark, that the most depraved unprincipled man may gain the confidence and regard of Kings, can scarcely be found. In the execution of his trust, he showed himself a very fiend incarnate. First, by fair promises, cautiously mingled with just as much of intimidation, as would give an air of candor and courtly conciliation to his promises, he induced the too credulous Louisianians to abandon their purpose of resistance, and surrender without striking a blow. This artful guise he continued to wear, till he had obtained possession of all the insignia of government, and the sinews of power, and placed his own chosen tools in all the chief places of trust. Then the mask of hypocrisy was boldly thrown off, and the cloven foot uncovered. His fair promises were immediately shown to be only a master stroke of policy, to gain an end. In the face of his solemn stipulations, he caused those who had been foremost in refusing submission to his authority, to be seized and put to death. Five of them, principal citizens of New Orleans, he caused to be publicly shot. Five more he consigned

to the dungeons of the Moro, at Havana, and one he procured to be assassinated. Other acts of cold-blooded cruelty, and false-hearted tyranny followed, till he became the execration and abhorrence of the whole colony. He introduced the Spanish colonial system, and subjected the inhabitants to every species of indignity and abuse. At length, the extravagance of his measures, and his unprincipled abuse of power, wrought its own ruin. He was recalled by his King, and disgraced—if one already so infamous could by any means be rendered more so. His successor was Unzoga, who was shortly after superseded by Galvez.

The colony now enjoyed a brief season of comparative quiet. But the war between England and Spain, which broke out in 1779, afforded an opportunity for Governor Galvez to show his loyal zeal, and exercise his military talents. With the troops under his command, he invaded Florida, took possession of Baton Rouge, and Fort Charlotte, near Mobile, and proceeded to Pensacola, which, after an obstinate resistance, also submitted to his authority. Thus was the Spanish dominion completely established in Florida.

Governor Miro, who succeeded Galvez, carried into full effect the colonial system of Spain, which was by no means relished by the French inhabitants of the colony.

In 1785, a new firebrand was thrown into the

midst of these combustible elements. An attempt was made to establish an office of the Inquisition in Louisiana. It was fearlessly opposed, and fortunately crushed without bloodshed. The agent, to whom the obnoxious business was entrusted, was seized in his bed, conveyed forcibly on board a vessel, and sent home to Spain.

A census of the province, taken in 1788, just ninety years from the date of the first settlement, showed a population of 42,611. Of these, 19,445 were whites, 21,465 slaves, and 1701 colored freemen. New Orleans, then 70 years old, contained 5,338 inhabitants.

The Baron de Carondelet was appointed Governor in 1792. During his administration, in the year 1794, the first newspaper, called "Le Moniteur," was published in Louisiana. At the same period the Canal Carondelet was commenced; and the cultivation of indigo and the sugar cane, which had hitherto been the great staples of the colony, was suspended.

In 1795, by the treaty of St. Lorenzo, the navigation of the Mississippi was opened to the western States of the Union, and the great impulse given to the commercial prosperity of New Orleans, which secured forever the pre-eminence of the Crescent City. The same treaty defined the boundaries, as they now exist, between Florida and Mississippi. But Carondelet, being rather

more tardy in yielding possession, than suited the active, enterprising spirit of the Americans, the territory was seized by an armed force, under Andrew Elliott.

Two years after this, a plan set on foot by Carondelet, to dismember the American Union, by drawing the Western States into a separate compact, was detected and defeated by the address of General Wilkinson. Whether Aaron Burr was in the plot, or only took a hint from it a few years later, does not appear of record. Carondelet was succeeded by Gayosa de Lamor<sup>s</sup>, Casa Calvo, and Salvado, who, successively, but for a very brief period, wielded the chief magistracy of the colony.

In 1803, Louisiana was re-transferred to France, and immediately sold to the United States for 15,000,000 of dollars. The treaty which accomplished this important object was entered into on the 30th of April. Possession was taken, in behalf of the United States, by General Wilkinson and William C. Claiborne, amid the rejoicings of a people attached to liberty, and eager to grasp at any opportunity to shake off the yoke of Spain.

The population of Louisiana, at the time of the purchase, did not exceed fifty thousand, exclusive of the Indians, and these were scattered over every part of its immense territory. Seven years after, the population had nearly trebled, and her prosperity had advanced in equal proportion.

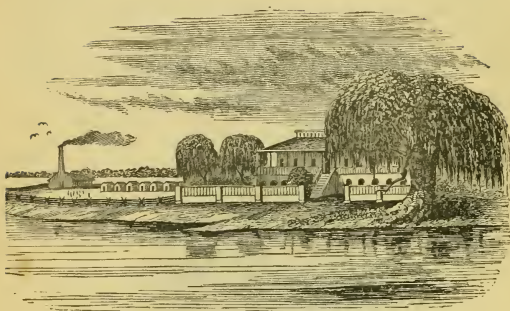
The year 1812 was a memorable era in the history of Louisiana, and marked with incidents never to be forgotten by her citizens. It was in this year, that the first Steam Boat was seen on the bosom of "the great river," now alive with hundreds of these winged messengers, plying to and fro. In the same year war was declared with Great Britain, and Louisiana, as now constituted, was admitted, as an independent State, into the great American Confederacy.



The Cotton Plant.

## THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

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Plantation House and Works.

THE State of Louisiana is bounded on the north by the states of Arkansas, and Mississippi ; on the east by the latter and the Gulf of Mexico ; on the south by the Gulf of Mexico, and on the west by Mexico and Texas. It is a well watered garden, the soil being rich, and intersected by the Mississippi, Red, and Wachita Rivers, and many inferior streams, and washed, on its western limit, by the Sabine.

The face of the country is exceedingly level, so much so, that in a portion equal to three fourths

of the State, there is scarcely a hill to be found. Those parts that are covered with pine woods are usually uneven, sometimes rising into fine swells, with broad table summits, intersected with valleys from thirty to forty feet deep. They do not lie in any particular range, but, like the ocean in a high and regular swell, present a uniform undulated surface. The alluvial soil is, of course level, and the swamps, which are only inundated alluvions, are dead flats.

A range of gentle elevations commences in Opelousas, and gradually increasing in height as it advances, diverges toward the Sabine. In the vicinity of Natchitoches, this range holds its way northwestwardly; about half way between the Red and the Sabine Rivers, and continues to increase in altitude, till it reaches the western border of the State. Seen from the pine hills above Natchitoches, it has the blue outline and general aspect of a range of mountains.

Another line of hills, commencing not far from Alexandria, on the northern side of the Red River, and separating the waters of that stream from those of the Dudgemony, extends northwardly, till it approaches, and runs into, the mammillæ, or bluffs, that bound the alluvions of the Wachita, diverging gradually from the line of that stream, as it passes beyond the western limits of the State.

That remote part of Natchitoches called Allen's

settlement, is a high rolling country. There are also hills of considerable magnitude on the east side of the Mississippi, beyond the alluvions. But generally speaking, Louisiana may be considered as one immense plain, divided into pine woods, prairies, alluvions, swamps, and hickory and oak lands.

The pine-wood lands, as I have already said, are usually rolling. There are some exceptions, but they are very few. They have almost invariably a poor soil. Some of those west of Opelousas, and those between the Wachita and Red Rivers, are even sterile, answering well to the name by which they are called in some other parts of the country, Pine Barrens.

Some parts of the prairies of Opelousas are of great fertility, and those of Attakapas are still more so. As a general feature, they are more level than those of the upper country. An extensive belt of these prairies, bordering on the Gulf of Mexico, is low and marshy, and subject to be wholly inundated in any extraordinary swell of the river. A considerable portion of them have a cold clayey soil, the surface of which, under the influence of a warm sun, hardens into a stiff crust. In other portions, the soil is of an inky blackness, and often, in the hot and dry season, cracks in long fissures some inches in width.

The bottoms are generally rich, but in very



different degrees. Those of the Mississippi and Red Rivers, and the bayous connected with these streams, are more fertile than those on the western border of the State. The quality of the richer bottoms of the Mississippi, as well as those of the Red River, is sufficiently attested by the prodigious growth of timber in those parts, the luxuriance of the cane and the cotton, the tangles of vines and creepers, the astonishing size of the weeds—which, however, find it difficult to over-top the better products of the soil—and the universal strength of the vegetation.

The most productive district of this State, is a belt of land, called "*the Coast*," lying along the Mississippi, in the neighborhood of New Orleans. It consists of that part of the bottom, or alluvion, of the Great River, which commences with the first cultivation above the Balize, about forty miles below the capital, and extends about one hundred and fifty miles above it. This belt on each side of the river, is secured from an overflow by an embankment, called "*the levee*," from six to eight feet in height, and sufficiently broad, for the most part, to furnish an excellent highway. The river, in an ordinary rise, would cover the greater part of these beautiful bottoms, to a depth of from two to six feet, if they were not thus protected. This belt is from one to two miles in width; a

richer tract of land, of the same extent, cannot probably be found on the face of the globe.

On the east side of the river the levee extends to Baton Rouge, where it meets the highlands ; on the west side, it continues, with little interruption, to the Arkansas line. On the east, above the levee, are the parishes of Baton Rouge and West Feliciana. This latter received its appropriate and expressive name from its beautifully variegated surface of fertile hills and valleys, and its rare combination of all the qualities that are most to be desired in a planting country. It is a region of almost fairy beauty and wealth. The soil literally teems with the most luxuriant productions of this favored clime. The hills are covered with laurel, and forest trees of magnificent growth and foliage, indicating a soil of the richest and most productive character. Here are some of the wealthiest and most intelligent planters, and the finest plantations in the state, the region of princely taste and luxury, and more than patriarchal hospitality. The mouth of Bayou Sara, which is the point of shipment for this productive region, transmits immense quantities of cotton to New Orleans. Some of the plantations on this bayou have from five to eight hundred acres under cultivation.

On the western side of the Mississippi, are the Bayous Lafourche and Plaquemine, outlets, or

arms of the Great River, and subject, of course, to all its fluctuations. The bottoms bordering on these bayous are of the same luxuriant soil, as those on the parent stream, and are guarded from inundation in the same manner, by levees. In this region, the sugar cane is exceedingly productive. It is estimated that, within a compass of seven miles from Thibadeauxville, in the vicinity of the Bayous Black and Terre Bonne, about one tenth of the sugar crop of Louisiana is produced.

A considerable part of Attakapas is also very productive, as well as portions of Opelousas. The latter, however, is better adapted to grazing. The Teche, which meanders through the former, and the eastern part of the latter, of these two parishes, never overflows its banks. The land rises from the river, in a regularly inclined plane towards the woods, affording free courses for the streams, which discharge themselves into the bayou. The soil, therefore, cannot be called alluvial, though in the most essential quality of productiveness, it is scarcely inferior to the best of them. It is a lovely region, the most beautiful, perhaps, in the whole Union, for agricultural purposes. But it has one great drawback, especially for the cultivation of sugar; there is a deficiency of ordinary fire-wood; though the live-oak abounds there to such an extent, that Judge Porter once remarked in Congress, that "there was enough of it in At-

takapas, to supply the navies of the whole world with ship timber."

The lands on the Atchafalaya are of an excellent quality, and would afford a desirable opening for enterprising cultivators, if they were not liable to frequent inundations, an evil which will doubtless be remedied, as the population and wealth of that section advances. Those on the Courtableau, which runs through Opelousas, are equal in point of fertility, to any in that parish. From thence, proceeding northward, by Bayou Bœuf, we find, on that bayou, a soil which is regarded by many as the best in the State for the cultivation of cotton. There is also land of an excellent quality on bayou Rouge, though it is, as yet, for the most part, in the state of nature. The banks of the Bayou Robert, still further north, are of extraordinary fertility, the cane brake, a sure evidence of a very rich soil, flourishing with astonishing luxuriance. Bayou Rapid, which gives its name to the parish through which it runs, intersects one of the most beautiful tracts in the state, which is laid out, on both sides of the bayou, through the whole length of its course, into the finest cotton plantations.

The bottoms of the Red River are well known for their fertility. Those which lie about its lower courses are justly esteemed the paradise of cotton planters. The soil is of a darkish red color, oc-

casioned by the presence of the red oxide of iron. It is thought to derive its character of luxuriant productiveness from a portion of salt intimately blended with its constituents, which, from its tendency to effloresce in a warm sun, renders the compound peculiarly friable. This soil is deep, and has been accumulating for unknown ages, from the spoils of the Mexican mountains, (a species of natural annexation which the laws of nations have no power to regulate,) and the vast prairies which are washed by its upper courses.

The rich valley of the Red River is of a magnificent breadth, and for the most part, where it has not been cleared for cultivation, covered with a dense growth of forest trees. All the bayous of this river, which are very numerous, branching off in every direction, and intersecting every part of this luxuriant valley, partake of the fertilizing character of the main stream.\*

There are few things among the works of nature, more remarkable than the *floating prairies*, which are found upon the lakes bordering upon the coast of the Gulf. They seem to have been formed by the natural aggregation of such veget-

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\* Many of the preceding statements are the result of an extensive personal observation; for others, the work is indebted to McCulloch, a compilation of considerable value, but unfortunately, not always to be relied on as authority. In some points, he is glaringly incorrect.

able matter as lay suspended upon the surface of the water, supplied with a light substratum of soil, partly by its own decay and disintegration, and partly by attracting around its roots and fibres the alluvial treasures with which all these waters abound. From this, various kinds of grass and weeds have sprung up, the roots of which have become firmly interwoven with the subjacent mass, matting it completely together, and giving it all the appearance of a substantial island. It is often several inches in thickness, and so nearly resembles terra firma, that not only the sagacity of man, but even animal instinct has been deceived by it. These floating prairies are sometimes of great extent, and are by no means confined to waters comparatively shoal. They literally cover the deeps in some cases, and a great deal of precaution is necessary to avoid them, for, stable as they look at a distance, they are as unsubstantial as shadows, so that boats may oftentimes be forced through them. They are less trustworthy than quicksands, for the unlucky wight who should adventure himself upon their deceitful appearances, would find himself entangled in a net of interminable extent, from which it would be impossible to extricate himself.

It may not be deemed presumption, perhaps, to suggest, that the great Raft on the Red River may be a formation upon the same principle,

though upon a more enlarged scale. The stream being sluggish, and the alluvial deposit exceedingly heavy and rich, the accumulation of a productive soil, and the consequent growth and entanglement of roots would be very rapid; and a foundation would ultimately be formed sufficiently stable and permanent, to be travelled with safety. Floating trees from the upper courses, arrested by this obstruction, would imbed themselves in the mass, until, by continual accretions, it should become what it now is, an impassable and almost irremovable barrier to navigation.

The Delta of the Mississippi is a region of extensive marshes. For many leagues, the lakes, inlets and sounds, which dissect and diversify that amphibious wilderness, are connected by an inextricable tissue of communications and passes, accessible only by small vessels and bay craft, and impossible to be navigated except by the most experienced pilots. It is a perfect labyrinth of waters, more difficult to unravel than those of Crete and Lemnos. The shore is indented by numberless small bays, or coves, few of which have sufficient depth of water, to afford a shelter for vessels. Berwick and Barritaria Bays are the only ones of any considerable magnitude.

The prairies which cover so large a portion of this State, are, for the most part, connected together, as if the waters from which they were originally

deposited had been an immense chain of lakes, all fed from the same great source. And this was undoubtedly the fact. They were all supplied from the Mississippi, and their wonderful fertility is derived from the alluvial riches of those interminable regions, which are washed by the father of rivers and his countless tributaries. Those included under the general name of Attakapas, are the first which occur on the west of the Mississippi. It is an almost immeasurable plain of grass, extending from the Atchafalaya on the north, to the Gulf of Mexico, on the south. Its contents are stated to be about five thousand square miles. Being open to the Gulf, it is generally fanned by its refreshing breezes. To the traveller in those regions, who may have been toiling on his weary way through tangle, and swamp, and forest, there is something indescribably agreeable in this smooth and boundless sea of unrivalled fertility, whose dim outline mingles with the blue of the far off Gulf—the whole vast plain covered with tall grass, waving and rippling in the breeze, sprinkled with neat white houses, the abodes of wealth, comfort and hospitality, and dotted with innumerable cattle and horses grazing in the fields, or reposing here and there under the shade of the wooded points. The sudden transition from the rank cane, the annoying nettles, the stifling air, and the pestilent mosquitoes, to this



open expanse, and the cool salubrious breath of the ocean, is as delightful and reviving as an oasis in the desert.

In the midst of this immense prairie, is situated the parish of Attakapas. This word, in the language of the Aborigines, from whom it is derived, signified "man-eater," the region having been occupied by Cannibals. Strange indeed, that the inhabitants of a climate so bland, and a soil so fertile, should possess the taste, or feel the necessity for so revolting and unnatural a species of barbarism.

Opelousas prairie is still more extensive than Attakapas, being computed to contain nearly eight thousand square miles. It is divided by bayous, wooded grounds, points, and bends, and other natural boundaries, into a number of smaller prairies, which have separate names, and characteristics more or less distinctive. Taken in its whole extent, it is bounded by the Attakapas prairie on the east, pine woods and hill on the north, the Sabine on the west, and the Gulf of Mexico on the south. The soil though in many places extremely fertile, is generally less so than that of Attakapas. It has, however, a compensating advantage, being deemed the healthiest region in the State. It embraces several large cotton plantations, and a considerable region devoted to the cultivation of the sugar cane. The parish which bears its name is one of the most populous in Louisiana. It is the

centre of the land of shepherds, the very Arcadia of those who deal in domestic animals. To that employment, the greater part of the inhabitants are devoted, and they number their flocks and herds by thousands. On one estate five thousand calves were branded in the spring of 1845.

The people of this district are distinguished for that quiet, easy, unostentatious hospitality, which assures the visitor of his welcome, and makes him so much at home, that he finds it difficult to realize that he is only a guest.

Bellevue prairie lies partly in Opelousas, and partly in Attakapas. Calcasieu and Sabine prairies are only parts of the great plain, those names being given to designate some of the varied forms and openings it assumes in its ample sweep from the Plaquemine to the Sabine. They are, however, though but parts of a larger prairie, of immense extent. The Sabine, seen from any point near its centre, seems, like the mid-ocean, boundless to the view. The Calcasieu is seventy miles long, by twenty wide. Though, for the most part, so level as to have the aspect of a perfect plain, the surface is slightly undulated, with such a general, though imperceptible declination towards the streams and bayous by which it is intersected, as easily to carry off the water, and prevent those unhealthy stagnations which are so fatal in this climate. There is also a gentle slope towards the Gulf, along the shore

of which the vast plain terminates in low marshes often entirely covered with the sea. These marshes are overspread with a luxuriant growth of tall reedy cane-grass.

One of the most striking and peculiar features of these prairies is found in the occasional patches of timbered land, with which their monotonous surface is diversified and relieved. They are like islands in the bosom of the ocean, but are for the most part so regular and symmetrical in their forms, that one is with difficulty convinced that they are not artificial, planted by the hand of man, in circles, squares, or triangles, for mere ornament. It is impossible for one who has not seen them, to conceive of the effect produced by them, rising like towers of various forms, but each regular in itself, from the midst of an ocean of grass. Wherever a bayou or a stream crosses the prairie, its course is marked with a fringe of timber, the effect of which upon the eye of the observer is exceedingly picturesque, making a background to the view in many instances, like lines of trees in landscape painting.

All the rivers, bayous, and lakes of this State abound with alligators. On Red River, before it was navigated by steamboats, it was not uncommon to see hundreds in a group along the banks, or covering the immense masses of floating and stranded timber, bellowing like angry bulls, and

huddled so closely together, that the smaller ones were obliged to get upon the backs of the larger. At one period, great numbers were killed for their skins, which were made into leather for boots and shoes, but not proving sufficiently close grained to keep out the water, the experiment was abandoned. Alligators average from eight to twelve feet in length. Some have been caught, measuring twenty feet.

The fear is often entertained, and sometimes expressed, that the levees of the Mississippi are not sufficient to resist the great body of water that is continually bearing and wearing upon them; and these fears have, in several cases, been realized, though never to any very great extent. In May 1816 the river broke through, about nine miles above New Orleans, destroyed several plantations, and inundated the back part of the city to the depth of three or four feet. The crevasse was finally closed, by sinking a vessel in the breach, for the suggestion and accomplishment of which, the public was chiefly indebted to Governor Claiborne.

In June, 1844, the river rose higher than it had done for many years, marking its whole course, for more than two thousand miles, with wide spread destruction to property and life. It crept over the levee in some places near New Orleans, but caused no actual breach in that vicinity. At Bonnet Carre it forced a crevasse, doing considerable damage and

causing great alarm in the neighborhood; but the mischief was not so serious as might have been anticipated, and the embankment has been so increased and strengthened, as to leave but little apprehension for the future.

The interests of Education in Louisiana, though hitherto too much neglected, are now decidedly and preceptibly advancing. In the higher departments, are the College of Louisiana, at Jackson, in East Feliciana; and Jefferson College in St. James parish, on the coast—the former incorporated in 1825, the later in 1831. Both have at various times, received generous donations from the treasury of the state. Franklin College, in Opelousas was also incorporated in 1831, under the same favorable auspices\*

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\*The new constitution of Louisiana prescribes that the legislature shall establish free schools throughout the state, appoint a superintendent of education, and provide means for defraying the expense by taxation. The proceeds from the sale of all public lands granted by the United States, the estates of deceased persons escheating to the state, as well as certain other named emoluments, are to remain a perpetual fund, sacredly to be applied to the support of such schools. A provision is also to be made for establishing a college in the city of New Orleans, to be called *the University of Louisiana*, to consist of four faculties, viz. law, medicine, the natural sciences and letters—of which the Medical College of Louisiana, as now organized, is to constitute the faculty of medicine. The legislature is to be under no obligations to contribute to the support of this institution by appropriations.

There are also several Academies acting under the legal sanction of the State, although not endowed by it. The Ursuline Nuns' School and that of the Sisters of Charity—the latter in the parish of St. James, afford instruction in all the polite branches of female education. The Convent at Grand Coteau near Opelousas, has an average of about two hundred scholars; and efficient persons from France have the control and direction of their education.

The public schools, designed for the general and gratuitous dissemination of knowledge among all classes, have not only increased in number but have generally outstripped those of the higher order, by seizing at once upon all the improvements which the experience of teachers in other parts of the country, and the world, has from time to time suggested. Mere innovations rather hinder than advance the progress of education. But the simplest suggestion of an enlightened experience and a sound judgment, such as are brought to bear upon this great interest throughout the whole of the northern and eastern States, is entitled to the profound regard of the Southern philanthropist, whose aim and ambition it should be, to make the most of every facility and to be no whit behind the older, but not more wealthy sections, in any thing that can promote the moral and intellectual power of the masses of the people.

The climate of Louisiana is hot and moist. In the neighborhood of the marshes, and in the summer season, it partakes of the unhealthy character of nearly all tropical climates. Diseases of the lungs, however, and other complaints so prevalent at the north, are scarcely known; and to many, the quick consuming fever which finishes its work in a few days, may be considered but a fair offset to the slow but sure consumption, which flatters its victims with the semblance of life and hope, while dragging them through its long and dreary labyrinths, to the chambers of death.

This climate is favorable to almost all the productions of the tropics. The sugar, the cotton plant, the orange, the lemon, the grape, the mulberry, tobacco, rice, maize, sweet potato, &c., &c., flourish in rich abundance, and some of them attain to a luxuriance of growth scarcely known in any other part of the world. Sugar and Cotton are the two great staples. The former is confined chiefly to that tract, which, by way of distinction, is called "the coast," lying along the shores of the Gulf, and the bayous of the Mississippi.

The average sugar crop of the whole state, is now about 180,000 hogsheads. That of cotton, for the last year is not ascertained, but the amount produced in the whole valley of the Mississippi, sent to New Orleans for export in 1843, was 1,088,000 bales. Owing to the large extension of the cot-

ton growing districts, and excessive competition in its manufacture, the cultivation of cotton yields less profit than it formerly did, and there seems to be no substantial reason why it should not, in some degree, give place to sugar, at least until the latter can be furnished in sufficient quantity to supply the domestic consumption. Under the ordinary increase of population, the utmost exertions of the cane planters will hardly arrive at such a result, in half a century to come.

While on this subject, it will not, I trust, be deemed irrelevant or officious, to place before the reader the suggestions of an intelligent gentleman of New Orleans, in regard to the present mode of cultivating and manufacturing sugar. He observes that in order to carry on the business to advantage, and compete favorably with those already established, a large capital is required, since in addition to the ground to be cultivated, and the hands to be employed in the field, expensive mills and machinery must be set up, and kept in motion, with a large number of laborers in attendance. Consequently no man in moderate circumstances can undertake this branch of business, as it is now conducted. To obviate this difficulty, and extend the cultivation and manufacture of this important staple, he proposes a division of labor and profit, like that which prevails in the grain growing and milling regions of the north. The farmer sells his wheat, at a fair



market value, to the miller, or pays him a stipulated percentage for grinding and bolting. In the same manner might the business here be divided into two distinct branches. The planter might sell his cane to the miller, or pay him the established price for converting it into sugar and molasses. This would enable men of comparatively small means to undertake the cultivation of the cane, who now confine themselves to cotton, and thus relieve the larger cultivators of the latter staple from the dangers of over production.

Casting our eyes back to no very distant period, and noticing the small beginnings of our early planters of cotton, the reader will pardon the introduction of a trifling anecdote. During the year 1784, only sixty years since, and therefore within the memory of many now living, an American vessel, having *eighty bales* of cotton on board, was seized at Liverpool, on the plea that *so large* an amount of cotton could not have been produced in the United States. The shipment in 1785 amounted to 14 bales, in 1786 to 6, in 1787 to 109, 1788 to 389, in 1789 to 842. An old Carolina planter, having gathered his crop of five acres, was so surprised and alarmed at the immense amount they yielded, which was fifteen bales, that he exclaimed "well, well—I have done with cotton—here is enough to make stockings for all the

people in America!" The cotton crop of the United States for 1844 was 2,300,000 bales.

The fluctuations in the foreign cotton market, within a few years past, have produced, among scientific agriculturalists and experienced planters, no little speculation upon the course which a due regard to their own interests requires them to pursue. It is not to be wondered at, that in a country so vast, so luxuriantly fertile as ours, and teeming with the most enterprising and industrious population on the face of the earth, the strict relations of supply and demand should be occasionally disturbed in some of the many abundant productions of the soil. It is always a difficult problem to solve, especially where the field is very large, and the producers many, and constantly increasing. In attempting to meet it, the first question to be answered is, does the present supply greatly overreach the present demand?

An intelligent writer in Hunt's Merchant's Magazine for October, 1844, Henry Lee, Esq., has placed this subject, so far as he has there pursued it, in a very clear light. He commences by stating that "the consumption of cotton in Europe, other than the production of America and India, is too insignificant to have any important bearing upon prices." He goes on to show that the value placed upon the article at present, is quite sufficient, and that the advantage it gives to the manu-

facturer of New England, whose operations are vastly increasing, renders him a successful competitor to those of Great Britain ; and nothing but an inflated currency, or imprudent speculations can produce an advance. And any advance so procured must inevitably be followed by a ruinous reaction. He shows that, through the agency of the British manufacturers, and the exporters of their goods to countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope, a considerable quantity of American grown cotton had been sent to those regions, in the form of manufactures and twist, over and above the amount of Indian grown cotton consumed in the factories of England. This simple fact, which is demonstrated as clearly as figures can speak, completely nullifies the importation of cotton from that quarter.

The proportion of raw cotton, other than the produce of the United States and India, used in the manufactures of Great Britain, is very small, and constantly diminishing in quantity. After producing statistical evidence, Mr. Lee arrives at the satisfactory result that the consumption of cotton from the United States and India, is as ninety-four to one hundred, leaving, for all other sources of supply, only six per cent. With such a ratio as this, and the competition constantly declining, it is manifest that we have nothing to fear from rival producers.

The delicate enquiry now arises, can the American planter sustain himself under existing prices? Or, can he, by the exercise of better economy, make his labors more productive? It seems to me, if it will not be presuming too far to offer the suggestion, that there should be an understanding between the larger and more intelligent planters, in relation to these points, and that they should, for their own individual and collective interests, consider, whether it would not be better partially to restrain the cultivation of this staple, rather than permit it to increase beyond the known and certain demands of commerce. The question increases in importance, as the cotton growing region enlarges, by the admission of "the lone star" into the constellation of Freedom. While it secures to the United States forever almost the entire monopoly of production, it puts it in her power, by a judicious combination among her great producers, to command a fair compensating price for cotton. Without some such combination, or, which is equivalent to the same thing, a prevailing disposition on the part of the planters, rather to wait for a demand than to anticipate, or endeavor to create it, there will always be a surplus stock in the market, which, however insignificant, will affect the price of the whole crop.

The luxuriant soil of Louisiana is capable of

of producing many articles even more lucrative than cotton, of which there is no immediate danger of creating an over supply. For some of them, there is a very large and increasing home consumption, as well as an active demand in other parts of the world that are open to our commerce. Of sugar, I have spoken already. Madder, silk, hemp, tobacco, may also be mentioned, as promising sure results to any who are disposed to try them. Under the impression that, in view of what I have already presented, the subject will be interesting to my readers, I shall venture to add a few words in relation to some of the above-mentioned articles.

Madder,\* (*rubia tinctorum*,) the roots of a plant, which consist of several varieties. They are long and slender; varying from the thickness of a goose quill, to that of the little finger. They are semi-transparent, of a reddish color, have a strong smell, and a smooth bark. Madder is very extensively used in dying red; and, though the color which it imparts be less bright and beautiful than that of cochineal, it has the advantage of being cheaper and more durable. It is a native of the south of Europe, Asia Minor, and India; but has long since been introduced into,

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\* For many satisfactory particulars, see McCulloch's Commercial Dictionary, under article *Madder*.

and successfully cultivated in Holland, Alsace, Provence, &c. The attempt to cultivate it in England, like that of Indian corn, has proved a complete failure. The English, for a long time, depended upon Holland for their supplies ; but now large quantities are imported from France and Turkey, under a duty of two shillings sterling on the manufactured, and sixpence on the roots. The duties, formerly, were much higher.

The plant is raised from seed, and requires three years to come to maturity. It is, however, often pulled in eighteen months, without injury to the quality, the quantity only being smaller. It requires a light vegetable mould, that retains the greatest quantity of water and adheres the least to the tools. When the soil is impregnated with an alkaline matter, the root acquires a red color, in other cases it is yellow. The latter is preferred in England, from the long habit of using Dutch madder, which is of this color ; but in France, the red sells at a higher price, being used for Turkey red die.

The Zealand or Dutch madder is prepared for market in a manufactured state ; and is known in trade by the terms, *mull*, *gamene*, *ombro*, and *crops*. In some other countries, the roots are packed up promiscuously, and the article is sold by the quintal. The price of madder, like every thing else, is affected by the quantity in market, and ranges in

France from its minimum 22, to 100 francs a quintal. It does not deteriorate by age. The quantity used in this country is very considerable—but nothing equal to that required in Great Britain. For the particular manner of cultivating madder, the reader is referred to an excellent essay upon that subject, from the pen of M. De Casparin, which was laid before the Academy of Sciences at Paris, and a prize awarded to its author.

The *mulberry* is grown with little difficulty in these latitudes, and therefore, silk may be produced in abundance, and rendered an article of domestic and commercial consequence. Plantations have already been commenced in several of the parishes, which will soon test the feasibility of the undertaking. A gentleman by the name of Vasseur, recently from France, has purchased land and made preparations to enter into that business, under many years of experience. In the parish of St. James, particularly, considerable attention is being paid to the culture of silk. It would be extremely gratifying to be able to lay the result of these experiments before the reader; but the necessary information is not at hand.

*Hemp* is raised in Missouri and Kentucky to some extent, as the quantities annually landed on the levee in New Orleans afford ample evidence. The demand for it will be good for many years, and the hint should not be neglected by the citi-

zens of Louisiana, who possess the higher grounds, which are calculated for its production. When it is considered that this is a raw material of vast demand, which has heretofore been furnished from abroad, there can scarcely be any excuse for neglecting the culture, provided the profits be equal to those on sugar and cotton. The time may come, when even foreign nations will look to this republic for cordage and duck ; at all events, we should not depend upon them for articles necessary for domestic purposes, and especially for those which may with propriety be classed " among the sinews of war."

Specimens of *tobacco*, the produce of seed imported from Cuba, have been exhibited in this market, which are very little, if any, inferior to the best from that island. These samples were raised by a gentleman who resides near Jackson, who took no extraordinary pains in the cultivation. The segars manufactured from them would pass, among good judges, for the best Havana. This planter is of opinion that he can very much improve the crops, by bestowing as much care upon them as is given to the same pursuit in Cuba, and there can be little reason to question his assertion.

The Natchitoches tobacco stands higher abroad, particularly for snuff, than any other. This article is so well known in France, and many other



places, that those who are engaged in planting it, boast that it requires no protective duties, as it will be quite able to take care of itself.

The only drawback upon the cultivation of tobacco, in this state, is the worm, which begins its depredations in early summer. But much loss by this annoyance might be avoided, by forcing the plants in their early stage, in a hot-house, so that they might sooner be brought to maturity, and two clippings be made before the advent of the worm.

The thin soil on lake Pontchartrain is found to be well adapted to the *vine*. Already, considerable progress has been made in its cultivation in that neighbourhood, and grapes are abundantly furnished for the New Orleans market. There is no doubt that wine might be produced in abundance.

*Indigo*, one of the oldest products of this state, has been superseded by the sugar cane. Whether the planter has found more advantage in the latter than in the former cultivation, can only be inferred from his continuing to pursue it; for the maxim, that trade will regulate itself, is nearly as applicable to agriculture as to commerce.

*Grazing*, although it has been carried to a great extent in Attakapas and Opelousas, has never proved so lucrative as might be supposed. Many of the cattle perish there during winter, for the want of proper nourishment. There is a grass,

however, known by the name of *muskeet*, an ever-green, which flourishes abundantly in Texas, spreads rapidly, is exceedingly nutritious, and much sought for by animals, and might easily be introduced into these prairies. This improvement would make this section of country the best for grazing in the United States. More attention is being paid to breeding cattle, and the improvement of stock, than formerly. Sheep may be raised among the hills, in and about Natchitoches, in almost any numbers. In Lafourche, also, although they are of small size, they are fat and of fine flavor. This is a business which is yet in its infancy here. The capabilities for its extension are immense, and there is no doubt that the enterprise of the inhabitants will soon find means to make it profitable. The mutton of this state is already superior to any produced in the Union; good judges in these matters have even pronounced it to be equal to the best English.

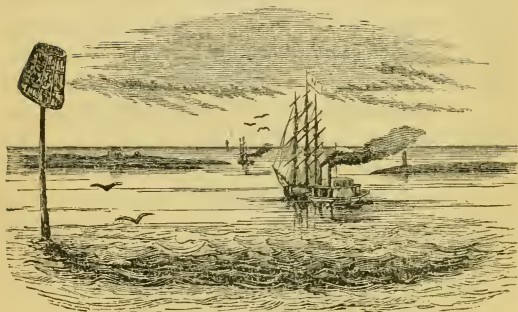
The minerals of Louisiana, so far as known, are very limited. Lead has only been found in fragments; and none of these have proved to be rich. Valuable beds of gypseous marl exist in the vicinity of the Wachita, which admit of being worked to great advantage. Lignite coal has been discovered in tertiary formations, which never present any article of this kind beyond an ordinary quality, the better being always confined to the

secondary strata. On the lands north of lake Pontchartrain, clay exists of an excellent quality and very pure, suitable for manufacturing not only the best bricks, but pottery of all kinds. It is to be hoped that this will remedy the great evil that New Orleans has hitherto experienced, by the use of a bad material for buildings. This has arisen from the employment of a substance too near the surface of the earth ; whereas, by going a little deeper, a prime clay is obtained, that would bid defiance, when well burnt, to the humidity peculiar to this southern atmosphere.



## NEW ORLEANS.

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Mouth of the Mississippi.

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NEW ORLEANS, the capital of Louisiana, stands on the right side of the Mississippi, in ascending, ninety-two miles from its mouth. The river here makes a considerable bend to the northeast, and the city occupies the north-western side, although its situation is east of the general course of the stream. It is in latitude  $29^{\circ} 57'$  north, longitude  $90^{\circ} 8'$  west; by the river 301 miles below Natchez; 1220 miles below St. Louis; 1040 below Cairo, at the mouth of the Ohio; 2004 below

Pittsburg ; and 1244 southwest from Washington city.

In 1718, Bienville, then governor of the province, explored the banks of the Mississippi, in order to choose a spot for the chief settlement, which had hitherto been at Biloxi. He selected the present site, and left fifty men to clear the ground, and erect the necessary buildings. Much opposition was made, both by the military and the directors of the Western Company, to removing the seat of government to this place. Another obstacle, for a while, threatened almost insurmountable difficulties to his design. In 1719, the Mississippi rose to an extraordinary height ; and, as the company did not possess sufficient force to protect the spot from inundation, by dykes and levees, it was for a time abandoned. In the November of 1722, however, in pursuance of orders, Delorme removed the principal establishment to New Orleans. In the following year, agreeably to Charlevoix, it consisted only of one hundred cabins, placed with little order, a large wooden warehouse, two or three dwelling-houses, and a miserable store-house, which had been used as a chapel, a mere shed being then the only accommodation afforded for a house of prayer. The population did not exceed two hundred. Thus commenced what is now called the "Crescent city ;" which, in a commercial point of view, and

in proportion to the number of its inhabitants, has not an equal upon the face of the globe.

During the same year, a party of German emigrants, who had been disappointed by the financier, Law, of settling on lands granted to him in Arkansas, descended the river to New Orleans, in the hope of obtaining passage to France ; but the government being either unwilling or unable to grant it, small allotments of land were apportioned them, on what is now called the German Coast. These people supplied the city with garden stuffs ; and most of their descendants, with large accessions from the old country, still cultivate the same land, upon a much improved scale.

In September of this year, the capital was visited by a terrible hurricane, which levelled to the ground the church, if such it might be called, the hospital, and thirty houses ; and three vessels that lay in the river were driven ashore. So destructive was it to the crops and gardens, that a scarcity of provisions was the consequence ; and such was the distress, that several of the inhabitants seriously thought of abandoning the colony.

In the summer of 1727, the Jesuits and Ursuline nuns arrived. The fathers were placed on a tract of land now forming the lowest part of the faux-bourg St. Mary. The nuns were temporarily lodged in a house in the corner of Chartres and Bienville streets—but, soon after, the company laid

the foundation of the edifice in Conde and Ursuline streets, to which they were removed in 1730 ; this place was occupied by them until the great value of the land induced them to divide the larger portion of it into lots. Their new convent was erected about two miles below the city, and there they removed in 1824. At this period, the council house and jail were built, on the upper side of the Cathedral.

In 1763, Clement XIII expelled the Jesuits from the dominions of the kings of France, Spain and Naples. They were, consequently, obliged to leave Louisiana. Their property in New Orleans was seized, and sold for about one hundred and eighty thousand dollars. It is now estimated to be worth upwards of fifteen millions. At the time of the expulsion of this order, they owned the grounds which are now occupied by the second municipality. The valuable buildings in which they dwelt, were situated in Gravier and Magazine streets. Some of them were pulled down to make room for the late banking house of the Canal bank, on the corner of those streets. It is computed, that more than one half of the real estate in this city, is derived from the confiscation of the property of the Jesuits, under legal proceedings had by order of the French government. The archives of the first municipality contain many interesting and curious documents in relation to these proceedings, that are well worth examination.

The first visitation of the yellow fever was in 1769. Since that time it has continued to be almost an annual scourge. It was introduced into this continent, in the above named year, *by a British vessel*, from the coast of Africa, *with a cargo of slaves*. In addition to this affliction, (the yellow fever above alluded to,) the colony was, during the year 1769, transferred to Spain, and the capital was taken possession of by O' Reilly, with a show of military power, and an individual disposition to oppress, that brought equal disgrace upon himself, and upon the government that commissioned him. The commerce of this city suffered very much from the restrictive colonial system of Spain. This, however, was removed in 1778, (a year memorable for a fire that burnt nine hundred houses at one time) and, in 1782, the mercantile interest of the place was benefited by still further extended privileges of trade.

The census of 1785 gives to the city a population of 4,780, exclusive of the settlements in the immediate vicinity.

In consequence of the commercial advantages above alluded to, a number of merchants from France established themselves here, and British trading vessels navigated the Mississippi. They were a species of marine pedlars, stopping to trade at any house, by making fast to a tree, and receiving in payment for merchandize, whatever the



planter had to spare, or giving him long credits. The Americans, at that time, commenced the establishment of that trade from the west to New Orleans, which has been steadily increasing ever since. The idea of this traffic was first conceived by General Wilkinson. A lucrative business was also conducted by the Philadelphians, which the colonial authorities winked at for a while ; but the Spanish minister, finding that he did not participate in the profits of it, as the Americans refused to comply with his hints to consign to his friends, put a stop to it. He procured a list of the names of the vessels, severely reprimanded the intendant, Navarro, and so worked upon his fears that he began to prosecute all infringements of the revenue laws, seizing the vessels, confiscating the goods and imprisoning the owners, captains and crews. The venal minister, perceiving that he had rendered himself extremely unpopular by his intermeddling with the commerce between Philadelphia and New-Orleans, finally released all the individuals he had imprisoned, restoring the confiscated property, and discontinuing any further interference. The trade immediately received a new impulse and was greatly increased. General Wilkinson at the same time obtained permission to send one or more launches loaded with tobacco, from Kentucky.

Soon after, many Americans availed themselves

of a privilege which was granted, of settling in the country.

The first company of French comedians arrived here in 1791. They came from Cape Francois, whence they made their escape from the revolted slaves. Others from the same quarter opened academies—the education of youth having hitherto been confined to the priests and nuns.

The baron Carondelet, in 1792, divided the city into four wards. He recommended lighting it, and employing watchmen. The revenue did not amount to seven thousand dollars, and to meet the charges for the purchase of lamps and oil, and to to pay watchmen, a tax of one dollar and an eighth was levied upon chimneys.

He also commenced new fortifications around the capital. A fort was erected where the mint now stands, and another at the foot of Canal street. A strong redoubt was built in Rampart street, and at each of the angles of the now city proper. The Baron also paid some attention to training the militia. In the city, there were four companies of volunteers, one of artillery, and two of riflemen, consisting of one hundred men each, making an aggregate force of 700 men.

A great extension was given to business in February of this year. The inhabitants were now permitted to trade freely in Europe and America, wherever Spain had formed treaties for the regu-

lation of commerce. The merchandise thus imported, was subject to a duty of fifteen per cent ; and exports to six per cent. With the Peninsula it was free.

In 1795 permission was granted by the king to citizens of the United States, during a period of ten years, to deposit merchandise at New Orleans. The succeeding year, the city was visited by another conflagration, which destroyed many houses. This reduced the tax upon chimneys so much, that recourse was had to assessing wheat, bread and meat, to defray the expense of the city light and watch.

At the time of the transfer to the United States, the public property consisted of two large brick stores, running from the levee on each side of Main street, (which were burnt in 1822,)—a government house, at the corner of Levee and Toulouse streets, (which also suffered a similar fate in 1826,)—a military hospital, and a powder magazine, on the opposite side of the river, which was abandoned a few years since—an old frame custom house—extensive barracks below those now remaining—five miserable redoubts, a town house, market house, assembly room and prison, a cathedral and presbytery, and a charity hospital. At this memorable era, the grounds which now constitute that thriving portion of the city, known as the second municipality, were mostly used as a plantation. It was

the property of a wealthy citizen named Gravier, after whom one of the principal streets that runs through the property has been called. How has the scene changed? At this moment it contains a population of nearly fifty thousand, and has become the centre of the business, and enterprize, and beauty of the city.

In 1804 New Orleans was made a port of entry and delivery, and Bayou St. John a port of delivery. The first act of incorporation was granted to the city, by the legislative council of the territory, in 1805, under the style of "the Mayor, Aldermen and inhabitants of the city of New Orleans." The officers were a mayor, recorder, fourteen aldermen, and a treasurer. This year, a branch of the United States bank was established in this capital.

The population of the city and suburbs, in 1810, amounted to 24,552; having been trebled in seven years, under the administration of its new government. The prosperity of its trade increased in an equal ratio.

At that time, the city extended no further down than Esplanade street, with the exception of here and there a villa scattered along the levee; nor above, further than Canal street, unless occasionally a house occupying a square of ground. A few dwellings had been erected on Canal and Magazine streets, but it was considered to be get-

ting quite into the country, to go beyond the *Polar Star Lodge*, which was at the corner of Camp and Gravier streets. [The progress of this municipality has been greatly increased by the act for the division of the city, passed by the Legislature in 1836, by which the second municipality acquired the exclusive control of its own affairs.]

There was not then a paved street in the city. The late Benjamin Morgan, who, some time after, made the first attempt, was looked upon as a visionary. The circumstance which gave an impulse to improvements in the second municipality, was the erection of the American theatre, on Camp street, by James H. Caldwell, Esq., the only access to which, for long a time, was over flat-boat gunwales. This was in 1823-4. He was ridiculed for his folly, and derided as a madman—but time proved his foresight. He was soon followed by a crowd that gave life and energy to that section; and, in a few years, through the enterprise of others of a similar spirit, the suburb of St. Mary has reached to its present advanced state of elegance and prosperity.

The block where the Merchants' Exchange has since been built, was then occupied by a row of frail wooden shanties; and the corner of Royal and Custom house streets, where the bank now stands, was tenanted by Scot, who now furnishes food for his hundreds a day directly opposite, and

who laid the foundation of his fortune, in the tenement that was removed to make room for the present beautiful edifice.

Some of the old Frenchmen in the city proper, who have rarely trusted themselves three squares beyond their favorite cabaret, are very incredulous of the reported progress and improvement in the fauxbourg St. Mary. A few years since, a gentleman of the second municipality asked the old cabaret keeper, who has made himself illustrious and wealthy by vending, to the habitués of the lower market, a drink of his own compounding, called *pig and whistle*—why he did not come up into the fauxbourg St. Mary, and see the buildings?—at the same time describing the St. Charles Exchange, the Theatre, the Verandah, Banks' Arcade, the magnificent stores, &c. The old Frenchman, listened in doubting wonder for some time; at last, however, his faith and his gravity both gave way, and he burst into a laugh, exclaiming, “ah Monsieur B. dat is too much! You von varry funny fellow—I no believe vat you say—its only von grand—vot you call it—vere de mud, de alligator, and de bull frog live?—von grand—grand—mud swamp, vere you say is von grand city, I no believe it!”

The city proper is bounded by Canal, Rampart, and Esplanade streets, and on the river by the levee, on which it extended about thirteen hundred

yards, and back about seven hundred—in the form of a parallelogram.

This portion is traversed by twenty-two streets, forming eighty-four principal and fourteen minor squares. The whole extent of the city, including the incorporated fauxbourgs and Lafayette, is not less than five miles on a line with the river, and running an average of half a mile in width.

The houses are chiefly constructed with bricks, except a few ancient and dilapidated dwellings in the heart of the city, and some new ones in the outskirts. Wooden buildings are not permitted to be built, under present regulations, within what are denominated the fire limits. The modern structures, particularly in the second municipality, are generally three and four stories high, and are embellished with handsome and substantial granite or marble fronts. The public buildings are numerous ; and many of them will vie with any of the kind in our sister cities. A particular description of these will be found in the ensuing pages.

The view of New Orleans from the river, in ascending or descending, is beautiful and imposing—seen from the dome of the St. Charles Exchange, it presents a panorama at once magnificent and surprising. In taking a lounge through the lower part of the city, the stranger finds a difficulty in believing himself to be in an American city. The older buildings are of ancient and foreign construc-

tion, and the manners, customs and language are various—the population being composed, in nearly equal proportions, of American, French, Creoles, and Spaniards, together with a large portion of Germans, and a good sprinkling from almost every other nation upon the globe.

The Water Works constantly supply the people with water forced from the Mississippi, by the agency of steam, into a reservoir, whence by pipes it is sent all over the city. This water is wholesome and palatable.

Gas was introduced into New Orleans, through the enterprize of James H. Caldwell, Esq., in 1834; he having lighted his theatre with it several years previous. The dense part of the city is now lighted by it; and the hotels, stores, shops, and many dwelling-houses within reach, have availed themselves of the advantages it offers.

In the summer of 1844, a fire destroyed about seven blocks of buildings between Common and Canal streets, near the charity Hospital. The ground has since been occupied with much better buildings, and presents a very improved appearance.

The population of New Orleans, after it was ceded to the United States, increased very rapidly. At the time of the transfer, there were not eight thousand inhabitants.



	<i>Blacks.</i>	<i>Whites.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
In 1810	8001	16,551	24,552
1815	—	—	32,947
1820	19,737	21,614	41,350
1825	—	—	45,336
1830	21,280	28,530	49,826
1840	—	—	102,191

and, at the present period there are, probably one hundred and thirty thousand. During 1844 there were more buildings erected than any previous year—notwithstanding which, tenements are in great demand, and rents continue high. It will not be a matter of surprize, if the number of inhabitants at the next census, 1850, should be over one hundred and sixty thousand.

The first ordinance for the establishment of a board of health in this city, (so far as known,) was passed by the general council in June, of 1841.\* The board consisted of nine members—three aldermen, three physicians, and three private citizens. It was invested with ample powers to adopt and enforce such sanitary regulations as were thought conducive to the health of the city. This board performed all its functions well during the first year of its existence. The second year there was a falling off; but a dissolution did not take place till 1843. In 1844, the board of health

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\* See New Orleans Medical Journal, vol. 1, part 2, July, 1844.

having ceased to officiate, the general council invited the medico-chirurgical society to take charge of this duty. This proposition was accepted, and a committee of nine members appointed, with full power to act as a board of health. If this body do their duty, as there is no reason to doubt they will, much benefit may be expected to result. Their advice to citizens, and strangers who were unacclimated, on the approach of the warm weather of 1844, was certainly marked with a great degree of good sense and seasonable caution. They will now be looked up to as the great conservators of the health of the city ; and, it is to be hoped that public expectation will not be disappointed.

The following abstract of a Meteorological Journal for 1844 was obligingly furnished by D. T. Lillie, Esq., of New Orleans, a gentleman whose scientific acquirements are a sure guaranty for its accuracy. The thermometer (a self registering one) used for these observations, is not attached to the barometer, and is placed in a fair exposure. Hours of observation, 8 A. M., 2 P. M., and 8 P. M. The barometer is located at an elevation of 28 feet above the level of the ocean ; and is suspended clear of the wall of the building. The rain guage is graduated to the thousandth part of an inch, and the receiver of it is elevated 40 feet from the ground.

## METEOROLOGICAL TABLE.

1844. Months.	Thermometer.			Barometer.			Rainy Days.	Prevailing Winds.	Force of Winds, ratio 1 to 10.	Quan. of Rain.	
	Max. 0 tenths.	Min. 0 tenths.	Range, 0 tenths.	Max. 0 hund.	Min. 0 hund.	Range, 0 hund.				Inches.	Thousands.
January,	79.5	36.5	43.0	30.38	29.73	0.65	11	S. E.	2.4	4	966
February,	81.0	40.0	41.0	30.40	29.91	0.49	5	S. E.	2.4	0	879
March,	83.0	38.0	45.0	30.40	29.83	0.57	9	N. W.	3.0	3	031
April,	85.0	40.0	45.0	30.46	29.98	0.48	3	S. E.	2.5	1	797
May,	88.5	66.0	22.5	30.31	29.83	0.48	9	S. W.	2.7	4	847
June,	91.0	69.0	22.0	30.18	30.03	0.15	12	S.	2.3	5	789
July,	92.5	73.0	19.5	30.22	30.01	0.21	16	S. W.	2.2	9	801
August,	92.5	69.0	23.5	30.26	29.93	0.33	14	S. W.	2.4	5	199
September,	91.5	61.0	30.5	30.23	29.95	0.28	8	E.	2.5	1	080
October,	85.5	46.0	39.5	30.31	29.89	0.42	4	N. E.	2.5	2	180
November,	74.0	40.0	34.0	30.34	29.94	0.40	9	N.	2.2	7	754
December,	74.5	32.5	42.0	30.44	29.83	0.61	4	N.	2.4	1	077
Ann'l Mean,	84.9	50.9	33.9	30.33	29.90	0.42	104		2.5	48	400

Annual range of the thermometer 60 degrees 0 minutes—of the barometer 00. degrees 73 hundredths.

Society, as at present constituted in New Orleans, has very little resemblance to that of any other city in the Union. It is made up of a heterogeneous mixture of almost all nations. First, and foremost, is the Creole population. All who are born here, come under this designation, without reference to the birth place of their parents. They form the foundation, on which the superstructure of what is termed "society," is erected. They are remarkably exclusive in their intercourse with others, and, with strangers, enter into business arrangements with extreme caution. They were

once, and very properly, considered as the patri-  
cians of the land. But they are not more distin-  
guished for their exclusiveness, and pride of family,  
than for their habits of punctuality, temperance,  
and good faith.

Till about the commencement of the present  
century, the period of the transfer of Louisiana to  
the United States, the Creoles were almost entirely  
of French and Spanish parentage. Now, the in-  
dustrious Germans, the shrewd and persevering  
Irishmen, are beginning to be quite numerous, and  
many of them have advanced to a condition of  
wealth and respectability.

Next come the emigrants from the sister States,  
from the mighty west, from the older sections of  
the south, and (last not least) from the colder re-  
gions of the north, the enterprising, calculating,  
hardy Yankee. To the latter class this emporium  
is indebted, for many of those vast improvements  
which, as if by magic, have risen to the astonish-  
ment and confusion of those of the ancient regime,  
who live in a kind of seclusion within the limits of  
the *city proper*—to whom beautiful and extensive  
blocks of buildings have appeared in the morning,  
as though they had sprung up by enchantment  
during the night.

Then come the nondescript watermen. Our  
river steam navigation, averaging, during half the  
year, some three hundred arrivals per month, fur-

nishes a class of ten thousand men, who have few if any parallels in the world. The numberless flat-boats that throng the levees for an immense distance, are peopled and managed by an amphibious race of human beings, whose mode of living is much like that of the alligator, with whom they ironically claim relationship, but who carry under their rough exterior and uncouth manners, a heart as generous and noble, as beats in any human breast. They are the children of the Mississippi, as the Arabs are of the great desert, and, like them, accustomed to encounter danger in every shape. Combining all the most striking peculiarities of the common sailor, the whaler, the backwoodsman, and the Yankee, without imitating, or particularly resembling any one of them, they are a class entirely by themselves, unique, eccentric, original, a distinct and unmistakeable feature in the floating mass that swarms on the levees, and threads the streets, of the crescent city.

Among them may be found the representatives of nearly all the states. Some are descendants of the Pilgrims, and have carried with them the industrious habits, and the strict moral principles, of their Puritan forefathers, into the wilds of the West. They are all active, enterprising, fearless, shrewd, independent, and self-sufficient, and often aspiring and ambitious, as our halls of legislation, and our highest business circles

can testify. They are just the stuff to lay the broad foundations of freedom in a new country—able to clear the forest, and till the soil, in time of peace, to defend it in war, and to govern it at all times.

Of the one hundred and thirty thousand souls, who now occupy this capital, about twenty thousand may be estimated as migratory. These are principally males, engaged in the various departments of business. Some of them have families at the North, where they pass the summer. Many are bachelors, who have no home for one half the year, and, if the poets are to be believed, less than half a home for the remainder. As these two classes of migratory citizens, who live at the hotels and boarding houses, embrace nearly, if not quite, one half the business men of the city, it may serve to some extent, to account for the seemingly severe restrictions by which the avenues to good native society are protected. Unexceptionable character, certified beyond mistake, is the only passport to the domestic circle of the Creole. With such credentials their hospitality knows no limits. The resident Americans are less suspicious in admitting you to their hospitality, though not more liberal than their Creole neighbors, when once their confidence is secured.

The restrictions thus thrown around society, and the great difficulty which the new comer experien-

ces in securing a share in those social enjoyments to which he has been accustomed in other places, have had an unfavorable effect upon the morals of the place. Having no other resource for pastime, when the hours of business are over, he flies to such public entertainments as the city affords. And if these are not always what they should be, it behooves us to provide better. Public libraries, reading rooms, galleries for the exhibition of the fine arts, lyceums for lectures, and other kindred rational amusements, would do much to establish a new and better order, and to break down those artificial barriers, which separate so many refined and pure minded men from the pleasures and advantages of general society, condemning them to live alone and secluded, in the midst of all that is lovely and attractive in the social relations of life.

The character of New-Orleans, in respect to health, has been much and unjustly abused. At the north, in ratio to their population, the consumption annually destroys more than the yellow fever of the south. The city of New York averages about thirty a week. Patients with pulmonary complaints, resort to these latitudes for relief, where such diseases are otherwise rarely known. In truth, this capital shows a more favourable bill of mortality, than any seaport town in the United States, except Charleston and Baltimore.

There is little to be said in favor of the morals of New Orleans, during the first few years after its cession. Report made them much worse than they were. As the community was composed of some of the worst classes of society, gathered from every region under the sun, nothing very good was to be expected. But circumstances have changed. A system of wholesome police regulations has been introduced and enforced, which has either brought the desperate and the lawless under subjection, or expelled them from the community. By reference to the statistics of crime, in other commercial cities in proportion to the number of inhabitants, the stranger will be convinced that this City has reason to be proud of her standing. Riots here are unknown, robberies seldom occur. Personal security in the public streets, at all hours, is never endangered—and females may venture out after dark, without a protector, and be free from insult and molestation. Foreign influence has entailed upon society here a *code of honor* which, in some measure, has had a tendency to injure it, but the false notion is fast falling into disrepute.

The new state constitution, if adopted, will put an effectual stop to this barbarous practice. Article 130, reads,

“Any Citizen of this State who shall, after the adoption of this constitution, fight a duel with deadly weapons, or send a challenge to fight a duel,



either within the state, or out of it, or who shall act as second, or knowingly aid and assist in any manner those thus offending, shall be deprived of holding any office of trust or profit, and of enjoying the right of suffrage under this Constitution."

The learned professions here, generally, stand preeminently high. The science of medicine may boast of a talent, and a skill, that would confer honor upon any city in the Union—and the few empirics who disgrace the practice, are so well known, that the evil is circumscribed within very narrow limits. The clergy are proverbial for their learning and eloquence—and the same remarks will apply with equal force to the members of the bar.

This city, at the present time, possesses no public library. Considering the population, and their ability, this must be regarded as a blot upon the intelligence of its citizens. This is completely a commercial community, however, and money is the universal ambition. Thence springs that acknowledged deficiency in literature and the fine arts, observable to the stranger. But shall it still remain? Is there no Girard—no Astor—among our millionaires, who will leave behind them a monument which shall make their names dearer and more honored in all coming time, than those of heroes and conquerors?

After several attempts to establish a library, an association of young men, some years ago, at

last succeeded in organizing one ; but, for want of proper aid and support from the rich, it lingered on for some time, and was finally sold out by the sheriff! It then consisted of four or five thousand volumes of well selected books. It was purchased by a private gentleman, B. F. French, Esq. for a mere nominal sum. Thus has a work intended for the honor of the city, become, in an evil hour, the monument of its shame! It is soothing however, to learn that, at length, a love of letters and the fine arts is springing up in our midst. Under the head of Lyceums, National Gallery of Paintings, and Public Schools, in this volume, facts illustrative of this assertion may be seen.

The Masonic fraternity in New Orleans appear to enjoy all their ancient privileges. There are some ten lodges, besides a grand lodge, and an encampment. Here is a large number of the order of Odd Fellows, as one of Equal Fellows—a Typographical Association, and Mechanics, Hibernian, St. Andrews, German, and Swiss societies. These are all, more or less, of a benevolent nature ; and within their own circles, have all been extremely serviceable.

The navigation of the Mississippi, even by steam boats, in 1818, was extremely tedious. The Etna is recorded as arriving at Shipping port, a few miles below Louisville, in *thirty two* days. The Governor Shelby in *twenty two* days, was considered as

a remarkably short passage. An hermaphrodite brig was *seventy one* days from New Orleans—and a keel boat *one hundred and one* ; the latter to Louisville. Now, the time occupied is *five to six* days.

During the business season, which continues from the first of November to July, the levee, for an extent of five miles, is crowded with vessels of all sizes, but more especially ships, from every part of the world—with hundreds of immense floating castles and palaces, called steam boats ; and barges and flat boats innumerable. No place can present a more busy, bustling scene. The loading and unloading of vessels and steam boats—the transportation, by some three thousand drays, of cotton, sugar, tobacco, and the various and extensive produce of the great west, strikes the stranger with wonder and admiration. The levee and piers that range along the whole length of the city, extending back on an average of some two hundred feet, are continually covered with moving merchandize. This was once a pleasant promenade, where the citizen enjoyed his delightful morning and evening walk ; but now there is scarcely room, amid hog-heads, bales and boxes, for the business man to crowd along, without a sharp look out for his personal safety.

The position of New Orleans, as a vast commercial emporium, is unrivalled—as will be seen

by a single glance at the map of the United States. As the depot of the west, and the half-way-house of foreign trade, it is almost impossible to anticipate its future magnitude.

Take a view, for instance, of the immense regions known under the name of the Mississippi valley. Its boundaries on the west are the Rocky Mountains, and Mexico ; on the south, the Gulf of Mexico ; on the east the Alleghany mountains ; and, on the north, the lakes and the British possessions. It contains nearly as many square miles, and more tillable ground, than all continental Europe, and, if peopled as densely as England, would sustain a population of five hundred millions—more than half of the present inhabitants of the earth. Its surface is generally cultivable, and its soil rich, with a climate varying to suit all products, for home consumption or a foreign market. The Mississippi is navigable twenty one hundred miles—passing a small portage, three thousand may be achieved. It embraces the productions of many climates, and a mining country abounding in coal, lead, iron and copper ore, all found in veins of wonderful richness. The Missouri stretches thirty nine hundred miles to the Great Falls, among the Flat Foot Indians, and five thousand from New Orleans. The Yellow Stone, navigable for eleven hundred miles, the Platte for sixteen hundred, and the Kansas for twelve hundred, are only

tributaries to the latter river. The Ohio is two thousand miles to Pittsburgh, receiving into her bosom from numerous streams, the products of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Western Virginia, Tennessee, Indiana and Illinois. The Arkansas, Big Black, Yazoo, Red River, and many others, all pouring their wealth into the main artery, the Mississippi, upon whose mighty current it floats down to the grand reservoir, New Orleans.

The Mississippi valley contained over eight millions of inhabitants in 1840, having gained eighty per cent., during the last ten years. The present number cannot be less than ten millions.

The last year, the Mississippi was navigated by four hundred and fifty steam boats, many of which are capable of carrying 2,500 bales of cotton, making an aggregate tonnage of ninety thousand. They cost above seven millions of dollars; and to navigate them, required nearly fifteen thousand persons—the estimated expense of their navigation is over thirteen millions of dollars. The increase since, may be calculated at fifty additional boats—which would make an advance in all these items in a ratio of ten per cent.

Such statements as these, large as they seem, convey to the reader but a partial idea of the great valley, and of the wide extent of country upon which this city leans, and which guaranties her present and future prosperity. To form a full

estimate, he must, besides all this, see her mountains of iron, and her inexhaustible veins of lead and copper ore, and almost boundless regions of coal. The first article mentioned (and the phrase in which it is expressed is no figure of speech) has been pronounced, by the most scientific assayer of France, to be superior to the best Swedish iron. These, and a thousand unenumerated products, beside the well known staples, constitute its wealth; all of which by a necessity of nature, must flow through our Crescent City, to find an outlet into the great world of commerce. With such resources nothing short of some dreadful convulsion of nature, or the more dreadful calamity of war, can prevent New Orleans from becoming, if not the first, next in commercial importance to the first city in the United States—perhaps, in the world. The flourishing towns upon the Mississippi and her tributaries, are merely the depositories for this great mart. In twenty years she must, according to her present increase, contain a population of three hundred thousand, with a trade proportionably extended.

With such views, it may be deemed folly to attempt to look forward to the end of the nineteenth century, when this metropolis will in all probability extend back to lake Pontchartrain, and to Carrollton on the course of the river. The swamps, that now only echo to the hoarse bellowing of the alligator, will then be densely built upon,

and rendered cheerful by the gay voices of its inhabitants, numbering at least *a million of human beings*. If, like Rip Van Winkle, we may be permitted to come back after the lapse of half a century, with what surprize and astonishment shall we witness the change which the enterprize of man will have wrought. But let us not waste a moment in dreaming about it. Let us be up and doing, to fulfil our part of the mighty achievement. It would not be strange, however, if the present map, which is given to show the rapid growth of the city, by comparison with one drawn in 1728, should then be republished with a similar design, to exhibit the insignificance of New Orleans in 1845! We ask the kindness of the critics of that period, should they deign to turn over these pages, begging them to consider that our humble work was produced far as back as the benighted age of steam!



## PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

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HAVING noticed, in the preceding sketch, the most prominent features in the history of this interesting section of country, it becomes a duty now to present to the intelligent reader, and more especially to the inquiring traveller, a description of such of the public institutions, buildings, and places of resort, for business and amusement, as may be deemed worthy of his attention. In attaining this object, it was necessary to have recourse to the most carefully digested statements of facts now existing, as well as to collect others from personal inspection.

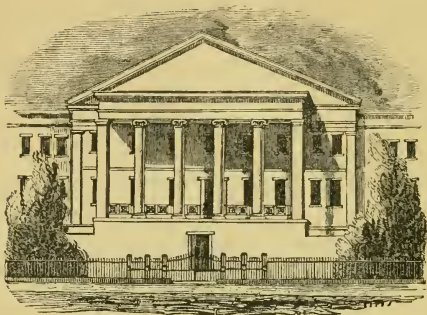
### THE UNITED STATES BARRACKS.

The buildings formerly used for the accommodation of the troops garrisoned in New Orleans, were erected by the French about a century since. These were directed to be sold in 1828, and ten years after were demolished. The act was soon discovered to be an error, and in 1833, the government determined to replace them. A plan was accordingly forwarded to the seat of government and approved. On account of the difficulty of ob-



taining a suitable site within the incorporated limits, a location was selected, by assistant quarter master Drane, about three miles below the city. The works were begun the 24th of February, 1834, and completed on the 1st of December, 1835, at a cost, including the enclosure of the public grounds, of \$182,000. The late Assistant quarter master J. Clark, superintended the operation, aided by Lieutenant J. Wilkinson, who had furnished the plans.

The Barracks occupy a parallelogram of about three hundred feet on the river, by nine hundred in depth. The ground in the rear belongs to the general government, to the depth of forty arpents, and can be used for the benefit of the troops. The garrison was intended to consist of four companies of infantry, but ample accomodation exists for a much larger number. The quarters of the commandant occupy the middle of the front; those of the staff and company officers being on either flank. The companies are quartered in a hollow square, which is thrown back far enough to give space for a handsome parade ground. In the rear of these quarters are the hospital, store-house, and corps des garde, and still in rear, and beyond the walls, is the post magazine, as well as other buildings necessary for the comfort and convenience of the troops. In front of the whole is a commodious wharf for the landing of supplies.



## THE UNITED STATES BRANCH MINT

Is situated on what was once called Jackson Square, being nearly the former site of fort St. Charles. It is an edifice of the Ionic order, of brick plastered to imitate granite, having a centre building projecting, with two wings; is strongly built, with very thick walls, and well finished. Our limits will not permit us to go into a detailed description of its interior arrangements; which, however, may be generally spoken of as such as not to discredit the distinguished engineer who planned it. The total length of the edifice is 282 feet, and the depth about 108—the wings being 29 by 81, and the whole three stories in height. It was begun in September, 1835; and the building was perfectly completed at a cost of \$182,000. The machinery is elegant and highly finished,

and, when in operation, proves an interesting sight to visitors ; which, from the gentlemanly urbanity of the officers of the establishment, may be easily enjoyed. The square is surrounded by a neat iron railing on a granite basement. The coinage of 1844—gold, \$3,010,000—silver, \$1,198,500—making in all \$4,208,500.

#### THE CUSTOM HOUSE.

This establishment is conducted in an old building, quite too small, even if the United States Courts did not occupy a considerable portion of it. The square, in the centre of which it stands, is about 300 feet each on Old Levee, Custom-House, Front-Levee and Canal streets ; and, from its peculiarly happy location, is well calculated for public improvement. Considering the great commercial importance of New-Orleans, as being scarcely second to any city in the Union, it is a matter of congratulation that the government are now disposed to place her upon a more respectable footing, in regard to offices of this nature ; which have been furnished in a princely style to some of the sea-ports that had less need of them. The immense revenue that flows into the treasury department here, demands a suitable edifice for the transaction of the business it creates. The site is the most eligible that can be imagined. The Post-Office, United States Courts, and warehouses for

the storage of bonded merchandize, can all have ample accommodation within its limits; and a more desirable location for them cannot be found. An appropriation of \$500 was made at the last session of Congress, to secure a suitable plan for the buildings to cover this spot. The plan has been prepared by Mr. Gallier, and is highly approved by those who have examined it. It is to be hoped there will be no unnecessary delay in completing a work, in which the public convenience and economy, as well the accommodation of the mercantile community, is so deeply interested. If Mr. Gallier's plan is adopted, all the above departments will be clustered together in one central spot, with ample room for each, and in a structure that will be at the same time a durable ornament to the city, and an honor to the nation.

#### THE POST OFFICE,

Is located in the Merchants' Exchange. It has two business fronts, besides a passage way through the building, where letters and packages are received for mailing. The private boxes have their delivery here, where also the publishers of newspapers receive their exchanges and communications. The general delivery for English letters is in Exchange Place, those for letters in the foreign languages, and for the ladies, are on Royal

street. The edifice seems to answer the purpose well ; and, considering the extent of the establishment, the duties of the office have been managed much to the satisfaction of the public. But we look for something more worthy of the place, when the new Custom House shall rear its noble front to the *father of rivers*.

#### THE STATE HOUSE,

Formerly the Charity Hospital, and purchased by the state in 1834, is a plain structure, composed of a centre and two detached wings ; and is finely situated on the square enclosed by Canal, Baronne, Common and Philippa streets. The main entrance to the square, which is laid off as a pleasure ground, and well kept, is from Canal street. The principal building is occupied by chambers for the senate, and the house—that for the latter being recently constructed. There are also suitable rooms for the different clerks, and offices required by the public business. The chamber for the house of representatives is handsome, but, like some others in more conspicuous places, badly adapted to public speaking.

In the right wing of the building is the office of the adjutant general of Louisiana ; it is also used as a temporary armory, until the law for the erection of a new one is carried into execution. The left room is occupied by offices for the governor,

secretary of state, state treasurer, and civil engineer.

The whole was built in 1815. It is in contemplation to erect an edifice more worthy of the state, but when this will be done, or where located, is as yet undetermined. It will probably not be within the precincts of our city, as the late convention provides that the Legislature shall not hold its sessions hereafter within sixty miles of New Orleans. It is doubtless intended that the public servants shall do more work, and less eating, drinking and carousing, than they have heretofore done.



*St Louis* THE CATHEDRAL,

Or *Church of St. Louis*, is the principal and centre of three buildings which stand on Chartres street, immediately opposite to the *Place d'Armes*,

or Parade Ground. This edifice forcibly strikes the stranger by its venerable and antique appearance. There is perhaps, none in the Union which is on this account more impressive. The foundation of the building was laid in 1792, and it was, to a certain extent, completed in 1794, at the expense of Don Andre Almonaster, perpetual regidor, and Alvarez Real.

The architecture of the Cathedral is by no means pure, but is not wanting in effect on this account. The lower story is of the rustic order, flanked at each of the front angles by hexagonal towers, projecting one half of their diameter, showing below Tuscan antes at each angle, and above pilasters of plain mason-work, in the same style, with antique wreaths on the frieze of the entablatures. These towers are crowned by low spires, erected after Latrobe's designs, about 1814.

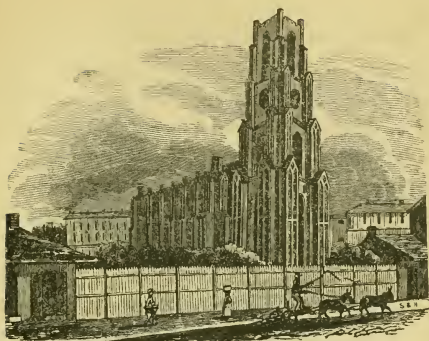
The grand entrance to the Cathedral is in the middle of the front, being a semicircular arched door, with two clustered Tuscan columns on either side. This entrance is flanked by two smaller doors, similar to the principal one.

The second story of the front has the same general appearance, as to the number of columns &c. as the lower one, but is of the Roman Doric order. Above, and corresponding to the main entrance, is a circular window, with niches on either side, above the flanking doors below. On the apex of

the pediment of this story rises the chief turret, being in the Tuscan style, and in two parts —the lower being square, about twenty feet in height, with circular apertures on each side ; the upper hexagonal, having a belfry, with apertures at the sides for letting out the sound, flanked by antes. The proportions of the order are not observed in this belfry, which was erected about 1824, by Le Riche.

The Cathedral has a tenure, to speak in legal phrase, of every Saturday evening offering masses for the soul of its founder, Don Andre. The requirement is faithfully observed, for as the day returns, at set of sun, the mournful sound of the tolling bell recalls the memory of the departed. This building is almost inseparably connected, in the minds of the old residents, with the memory of the venerable Pere Antonio de Sedella, curate of the parish for nearly fifty years. This excellent old man, adored for his universal benevolence, came to Louisiana, then a province, in 1779, and is supposed to have performed nearly one half of the marriage and funeral ceremonies of its inhabitants, until the period of his death, at the ripe age of nearly ninety years, in 1837. This venerated relic of by gone days lies buried at the foot of the altar.





### ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH,

Is situated in Camp-street, near Lafayette square. The design is a triumph worthy of the genius of Gothic architecture, whether the dimensions, or the splendor of the structure be considered.

The measurement is 93 feet by 164 on the ground ; and from the side walk to the summit of the tower, 190. The style is taken from the famous York Minster Cathedral, and executed agreeably to the designs of Messrs. Dakin & Dakin, which were adopted by the trustees of the church. It surpasses every attempt at a similar order on this side of the Atlantic, and when completed, may proudly challenge comparison with any modern parochial edifice in Europe. It cost about \$100,000.

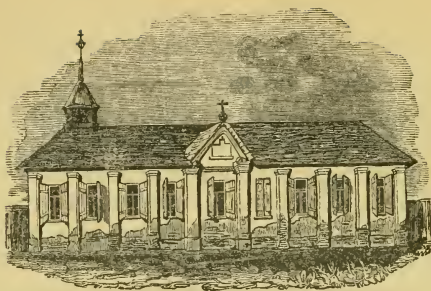
## ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH.

THIS structure, erected in 1841, stands on St. Claude street, corner of Bayou road. It is about 50 feet front by 90 deep. The architect, Mr. Depouilly, has displayed an excellent taste in its construction. The style is of a mixed order, but extremely neat—and in such good keeping, that the interior has the appearance of being much smaller than it actually measures. The decorations are worthy of the sacredness of the place. The colored glass of the windows throws a beautiful mellowed light across the aisles, producing a chastened effect suited to the solemnity of the place. Immediately over the altar is a full length painting of the tutelar saint, which is executed with the bold hand of a master. At the right of this is the Virgin Mary, little inferior to the first, but finished with much greater delicacy of touch. Our Saviour is conspicuously represented in the ceiling, over the centre—around which, on the gallery below, and between the windows, are portraits of the saints, arranged in the pannel-work. Take this church altogether, it is one of the neatest houses of devotion in this city.

## ST. ANTOINE'S, OR THE MORTUARY CHAPEL.

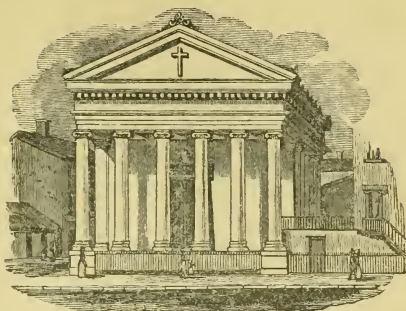
On account of the great increase in the population of the city, and consequent greater number of interments, objection was made, about the year 1822, to the performance of services for the dead in the Cathedral, it being in a very prominent and public situation. Under these circumstances, the city made a grant of a piece of land at the corner of Conti and Rampart streets, to the foundation of the Church of St. Louis, on condition of their erecting upon the same, a chapel, as a place for the performance of the funeral ceremonies, in conformity to the catholic ritual. In pursuance of this intention, a cross, marking the present site of the altar of the chapel, was placed there with proper ceremonies, on the 10th of October, 1826, and on the following morning the building was begun. Its erection was prosecuted at the expense of the catholic foundation, and completed within a year after its commencement, at a cost of about \$16,000.

It is a plain but very neat edifice, of the Gothic composite order; and was dedicated to the most holy St. Antony of Padua, as its guardian. All funeral ceremonies of catholics are performed there.



THE CHAPEL OF THE URSULINES.

An edifice strongly characteristic of our city, and well calculated to cause reflection on the many and sudden changes of dynasty to which New Orleans has been subjected. This building, of a quaint old style of architecture, was erected, according to a Spanish inscription on a marble tablet in the middle of the façade, in 1787, during the reign of Carlos III, (Don Estevan Miro being governor of the province,) by Don Andre Almonaster Y Roxas. It is exceedingly plain and unpretending in its exterior, and chiefly interesting from its associations, and extremely antiquated appearance.



CHRIST CHURCH, (EPISCOPAL.)

A fine Ionic building, situated on Canal, at the corner of Bourbon street, was designed by Gallier and Dakin, architects, and its erection begun in the autumn of 1835, under the direction of Mr. D. H. Toogood. It was completed in the summer of 1837, and consecrated during the same year. The cost of the edifice was about \$70,000. The form of the ceiling, being a flat dome, is much admired. The Rev. Dr. Hawkes is pastor of this church.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, (EPISCOPAL.)

This is a neat frame structure, located on the corner of Camp and Bartholomew streets. The Rev. Mr. Goodrich officiates in this church.

## THE ANNUNCIATION CHURCH, (EPISCOPAL,)

Is to occupy a conspicuous place near Annunciation Square. The location was selected with good taste, both in regard to the beauty of the position, and to the great improvements of the neighbourhood. The church is to be placed under the pastoral charge of the Rev. Mr Prescott.



## THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

Is an edifice of the Grecian Doric order, finely situated, fronting on Lafayette square—the handsomest public ground in the city. The basement story is of granite; the superstructure being

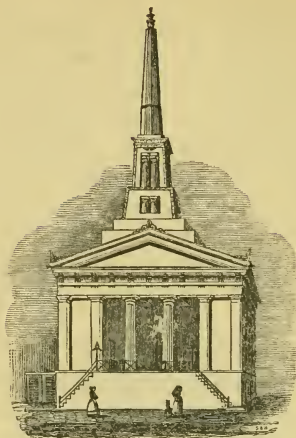
brick, plastered to imitate stone. The building was commenced in November, 1834, and opened for public worship in July, of the following year. It was finished by subscription, at a cost of \$55,000. In 1844, this building was considerably enlarged. In the court, in front, a neat obelisk has been erected, as a monument to the memory of the Rev. Sylvester Larned, first Presbyterian pastor of this city, who died 31st August, 1820, at the early age of 24, much and deservedly regretted. Rev. Mr Scott, is the present pastor.

#### THE SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

This is a plain and unpretending structure, on the corner of Calliope and Phytanee streets ; and like its near neighbour, St. Paul's, evidently erected more for utility than for external display. It is a neat frame building, with only sufficient ornament to give to it the appearance of a place of public worship. Rev. Mr. Stanton is the pastor.

#### THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,

Is an edifice of brick, in the plain Gothic style of architecture. It was erected in 1817, on St. Charles street at the corner of Gravier, where formerly stood the store-houses of the Jesuits, and upon a part of the foundations of those buildings. Rev. Mr Clapp, is the pastor.



THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

At the corner of Poydras and Carondelet streets, is of the Grecian Doric order, the details of which are copied from the temple of Theseus, at Athens. The height of the steeple is 170 feet from the side walk. This edifice was erected in the year 1836—7, by Messrs. Dakin, and Dakin, architects, at an expense of \$50,000. Rev. Mr Nicholson officiating as pastor.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH,

Is under the pastoral care of Rev. Mr. Hinton.



## WESLEYAN CHAPEL.

This is a plain frame building, on St. Paul near Poydras street, and is devoted to the colored portion of the community.

## THE OLD URSULINE CONVENT,

Situated in Conde street, was completed by the French government, in 1733; and is therefore, probably, the most ancient edifice in Louisiana. The architecture is plain, being Tuscan composite, and the smallness of the windows, and the peculiar form of the roof and chimnies, together with the general venerable and time worn aspect of the building, render it, independent of its history, an object of interest to both citizens and strangers.

It was occupied by the Ursuline nuns for nearly a century; and only abandoned by them, when, on account of the great rise in the value of real estate around it, they disposed of a part of their property, and removed, in 1824, to the new convent, two miles below the city. It was then used by the state legislature, as a place for their sessions, until their present accommodations were prepared for their reception, in 1834. Since that period it has been inhabited by the Right Rev. Bishop Blanc, and several other of the higher clergy of the diocess. From its great solidity of construction, there is no reason to doubt but that

it may stand many years longer, as a monument of "the olden times."

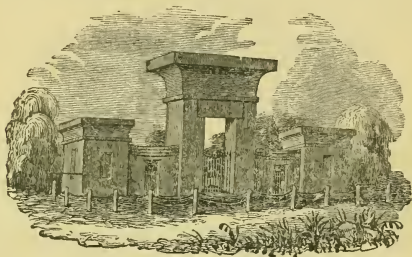
#### THE NEW CONVENT.

This richly endowed establishment was founded in 1826, and the chapel was completed in 1829. The main building is about 100 feet long, of brick, two stories high, and has two wings, running from the rear, at each end. It is principally occupied as a seminary for the education of young ladies. The average price for instruction and board is \$200 per annum. The number of scholars at present is 120. On a line with this building is the nunnery, containing 40 sisters of the Ursuline order. Annexed to the latter edifice is the chapel, a remarkably neat and plain structure. Immediately in front of the latter building is the residence of the priests. There are eighty acres of land, three of which are enclosed and beautifully embellished. The position is pleasant and healthy. It fronts upon the river, two miles below the city, and embraces a charming view of the Mississippi.

#### THE CARMELITE CONVENT,

Is a frame building, which stands upon ground adjoining the church of St. Augustine, and is occupied by the nuns of this order. They have an excellent school under their care, divided into two

apartments—one of which is appropriated to white and the other to free colored children, many of the latter class, have wealthy parents, and pay a high price for their education.



#### THE CYPRESS GROVE CEMETERY.

This resting place for the dead is about four miles from the centre of the city upon the right of the upper Shell Road, that leads to lake Pontchartrain, and occupies a ridge, which is supposed once to have been the embankment of the Mississippi.

The plat of ground devoted to the cemetery, measures 244 by 2700 feet. The spot was purchased and improved at an expense of \$35,000, by the Firemen's Charitable Association. The revenue that arises from interments is exclusively devoted to benevolent purposes—all the business of the association being conducted by its members without any compensation. The front wall and lodges are built in pure Egyptian style, and cost

\$8,000. The grounds are divided into avenues, and arranged and embellished with an effect appropriate to the solemn associations of the place.

The simple and striking motto over the entrance is selected from Pierpont :—

“ Here to thy bosom, mother earth,  
Take back in peace, what thou hast given ;  
And, all that is of heavenly birth,  
O God, in peace recall to heaven.”

Some of the tombs are very richly wrought—and, one in particular, erected by a fire company, a memento to a brother who was killed in the performance of his duty, is a specimen of superior skill and workmanship. The nature of the soil admits graves to be sunk six feet without approaching water. They are laid with brick and securely cemented. The tombs above ground (here called *ovens*, which they somewhat resemble) are faced with marble, built in the best manner. There are four hundred of them, which cost an average of twenty-five dollars each. These are sold at fifty dollars, and the surplus goes into the funds of the society, for charitable purposes.

A central avenue, twenty-eight feet in width, called Live Oak Avenue, traverses the whole length of the ground. Cedar and Magnolia avenues, on either side of this, are each twenty feet wide. Next the outer walls, are those named Cypress and Willow, of eighteen feet each. At a

distance of every two hundred feet, are transverse avenues. The spaces between these are reserved for the erection of tombs, and may be purchased at a stipulated price, according to the location. These privileges are sold in fee for ever, and the title is held sacred in the eye of the law.

#### CATHOLIC CEMETERIES.

Of these there are two. The larger ranges between Robertson and Claiborne, and extends from St. Louis to Canal streets, occupying four full squares. The square on St. Louis street is principally appropriated to natives of France and their descendants. There is a great deal of refined sentiment and delicate fancy in some of their memorials of the departed. Tombs are often embellished with fresh flowers, that look as if they received daily attentions. This is a custom not peculiar to the French, but seems to be the natural language of that refined affection, which cherishes the memory and the virtues of the dead, among the dearest and most sacred treasures of the heart. The smaller of these grounds lies on Basin and St. Louis streets. It presents, like the other, many tasteful monuments, that show us where repose the honored and the wealthy of the land. These necessarily attract the notice of strangers—but there is one among them less conspicuous than the rest, the eloquence of whose simple and touch-

ing memorial has rarely been surpassed. It is in the side wall, near the north-west corner of the cemetery, surrounded by many more of a similar construction. There is no display—only a simple record, that tells it is occupied by a female fifteen years of age. Beneath this is quite a plain stone, with the inscription "*Ma pauvre fille !*" What an affecting history in those three brief words ! It was undoubtedly placed there by an affectionate mother, deploring the untimely death of a beloved daughter. It contains more pathos, and speaks to the heart with more effect, than volumes of labor-ed eulogy, or frantic grief. The proud mausoleum, and the turgid epitaph, sink into insignificance beside this humble burst of maternal love—" *My poor child !*"

Illustrative of the false pride with which the Creole population still, unfortunately, regard the practice of duelling, nearly opposite is the following inscription:—

"*Victime de l'honneur.*

Aet. 24."

#### THE PROTESTANT CEMETERY.

This burial place fronts on St. Paul street, and occupies about two city squares. The inscriptions do not date back beyond 1810. It is a spot, however, where the northern and eastern traveller will often recognize familiar names of those who

have found graves far from endeared friends and connexions. There is little of the display here that is observed in other grounds. Tombs that, apparently, were commenced with a resolution to show honor to the departed, have been left without a stone to record the name of the neglected tenant.

In one of the side walls, is a tomb stone of plain white marble, with only the words, "MY HUSBAND!" engraved upon it. In this vault were deposited the remains of a distinguished tragedian, who fell a victim to the yellow fever, some years since, in this city. It is a delicate souvenir, that bespeaks the true feeling and affection of a desolate widow. On another is the emphatic inscription, "*Poor Caroline !*"

#### ST. PATRICK'S CEMETERY.

Is situated within sight of the Cypress Grove Cemetery, and having been but recently commenced, has not yet become an object of much attraction.

There is quite a spacious Catholic burying ground near Bayou road, more than a mile back of the city, that seems to have been considerably used, but has few monuments of any interest.

Besides these, there is a general burying ground at Lafayette. The Jews have a place of interment, also, in that city.

## CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

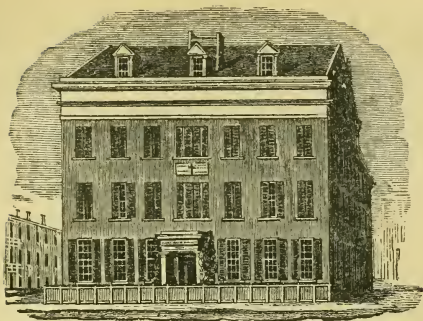
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THERE is probably no city in the United States that has so many benevolent institutions as New Orleans, in proportion to its population. Certainly it has not an equal in those voluntary contributions, which are sometimes required to answer the immediate calls of distress. Here are assembled a mixed multitude, composed of almost every nation and tongue, from the frozen to the torrid zone, and, whether it be the sympathy of strangers, or the influence of the sunny south, their purses open and their hearts respond, like those of brothers, to the demands of charity. To illustrate these assertions and to carry out the plan of this work, a description of the most prominent of these establishments is annexed.

### THE FEMALE ORPHAN ASYLUM

Stands at the intersection of Camp and Phytanee streets, on an angular lot, widening to the rear on Erato street. It has a northerly front on the junction of the two first named streets, and occupies all the grounds that are contained in this irregular space—the rear, however, being reserved





as a site for a church, to be erected at some future period. The land was a liberal donation from Madame Foucher, and her brother, Francis Soulet. Previous to the erection of this building, the establishment was conducted in rented tenements, under the direction of the Sisters of Charity ; in whose hands it still continues to present a praiseworthy example of neatness and parental care. It commenced in 1836 with *six* children ; and, in 1839, with great exertions, it accommodated *ninety*.

The history of this charity seems to trespass on the region of romance. In its struggle, it received an important impulse from the suggestions of a benevolent lady, Mrs. Pogue. In conversation with a female friend of similar feelings, she remarked, "if a fair could be organized for its benefit, and the opulent induced to patronize it,

money might be raised to erect the necessary buildings." That friend told the Bishop; who, taking up the hint, announced it from the pulpit. This led to the call of a meeting—where, instead of a small assemblage, the rooms were crowded with the wealth and beauty of the city. It resulted in the collection of over *sixteen thousand dollars!* Thus, to almost a chance expression from the kind heart of woman, New Orleans is mainly indebted for the prosperity of one of the noblest of her humane institutions.

From this moment, the Asylum assumed a firm standing. A suitable house was at once commenced. The second municipality gave a thousand dollars, and the legislature at different periods, twelve thousand dollars. In 1840 the whole was completed, and the children, to the number of about one hundred, took possession. Since that time they have averaged one hundred and forty-five annually. They receive the rudiments of a good education. At a suitable age they are apprenticed to persons of character and responsibility; and a vigilance is continued, that guaranties to them the kind treatment, which their isolated position seems to demand.

The edifice, built by D. Hayden, cost over forty-two thousand dollars. Though conducted *with the utmost prudence*, the institution is some twenty-five hundred dollars in debt. In a capital

like this, where so many of the citizens have princely revenues, and with them a princely liberality, there is little doubt that arrangements will soon be made to relieve it of this embarrassment. It has now about one hundred and sixty children, of whom over thirty are in the nursery.

#### THE MALE ORPHAN ASYLUM.

The Society for the Relief of Destitute Orphan Boys have their establishment in Lafayette. It went into operation in 1824, and was incorporated the year after. By a calculation of the first sixteen years, it appears that an average of thirty-five have annually participated in its benefits. Although its title would seem to imply, that orphans only are admitted, yet the board are authorized to receive any boy, whose destitute condition requires their protection.

#### THE POYDRAS FEMALE ORPHAN ASYLUM.

This is one of the oldest establishments of the kind in New Orleans. It was endowed by Julien Poydras, and possesses an immense revenue from valuable improved real estate. They occupy on Julia, from St. Charles to Carondelet streets, and extend back about two-thirds of an immense square. It has for several years had an average of one hundred and twenty children. The excellent system and regulations, in regard both to

instruction and health, will not be disparaged by comparison with the best institutions in the world. Possessing so much property and such beautiful grounds, it is to be regretted that more spacious and comfortable buildings are not erected for the accommodation of the inmates.

#### THE CATHOLIC MALE ORPHAN ASYLUM.

This institution is supported by an association, and by private donations. The establishment occupies a large building fronting the river, and a few squares above the New Convent. About one hundred and seventy children receive the benefits of this charity.

#### LES DAMES DE LA PROVIDENCE.

This association was formed in 1839. It consists of about one hundred ladies, who each contribute a certain sum monthly as a charitable fund. Its object is to render aid to the sick, the poor and the infirm. The institution was put into operation by the benevolent French ladies of New Orleans; and, were its resources equal to the kind feelings of its members, it would be rendered a means of alleviating much distress among the sick and destitute.

#### THE SAMARITAN CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION.

This institution was founded during the epidemic of 1837, for the purpose of alleviating the wants

of the poor and the sick. They established an office at that period, where some of the members, day and night, were always in readiness to attend the bed-side of disease, and to administer aid to the indigent. The late mayor, and many of the most wealthy citizens are members; and, in time of need, the association is liberally endowed by the spontaneous donations of the generous public.

#### THE FIREMEN'S CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION

Was incorporated in 1835, and managed by a board of directors chosen from each company, subject to certain restrictions. The officers, (a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer,) are elected by the board from members of the association, on the first Monday of January, of each year. The object of this society is the relief of its members, who are incapacitated from attending to business from sickness or misfortunes not arising from improper causes. It makes provision also for the benefit of their families—particularly widows and orphans. This is a very laudable association, and every way deserving of the excellent fire department from which it originated.

#### YOUNG MEN'S HOWARD ASSOCIATION.

This benevolent institution was established in 1837; and its object is the relief of the indigent and sick. Its resources depend entirely upon pub-

lic contributions—and appeals for aid have always been responded to with alacrity. During the prevalence of the epidemic of 1841, this society collected and distributed over five thousand dollars among the sufferers on that dreadful occasion. It is a noble charity that waits not for calls upon its benevolence; but its members seek for worthy objects in the hidden recesses of misery, and soothe and administer to their wants, with a brotherly solicitude that does honor to the name they have assumed.

#### THE HEBREW BENEVOLENT SOCIETY,

Although but a short time in existence, has accomplished much good; diffusing charity, not in mere accordance with sectional prejudices, but in that catholic spirit of genuine benevolence, which freely dispenses its benefits alike upon Jew and Christian, and recognizes but one brotherhood in the family of man.

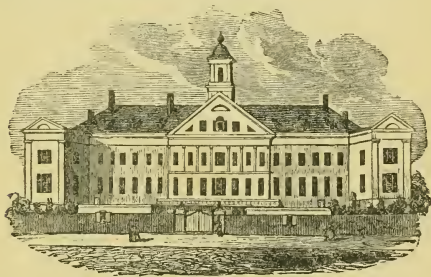
#### THE MILNE ORPHAN ASYLUM.

This institution was endowed in 1839, by Alexander Milne, a liberal Scotch gentleman, from whom it takes its name. It was established for the education and protection of helpless orphan children of both sexes.

## HOSPITALS.

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No city in the United States is so well provided with establishments of this kind as New Orleans. Here, the only passport required for admission to the best attendance, is sickness, or an injury. No cold formalities are thrown in the way of the suffering patient. Indeed, it has become a subject of complaint, that access is so easy, and the position so agreeable, that the improvident and the indolent take undue advantage of its benefits.



THE CHARITY HOSPITAL.

The first hospital for indigent persons erected in the city of New Orleans, appears to have been

built on the site formed by the west side of Rampart street, between Toulouse and St. Peter streets. It was blown down in 1779; and, being of wood, was entirely destroyed.

In 1784, Dr. N. Y. Roxas commenced one of brick on the same position, which he completed at an expense of \$114,000 in 1786, and called it the New Charity Hospital of St. Charles. He endowed it with a perpetual revenue of \$1500 per annum, by appropriating the rents of the stores at the corner of St. Peter and Levee streets. It continued under the patronage and direction of the family, until March 1811, when it was relinquished to the city by authority of the legislature, the edifice having been previously consumed by fire. It was now subjected to a council of administration, appointed by the governor and city council—the first six, the latter three.) Since 1813 the council has been appointed by the governor and senate. It consists of eight members, and the governor. Its support has been derived from several sources. A most liberal legacy was left it by that public benefactor Julien Poydras, of real estate, valued at \$35,000. Several smaller sums have been received from other benevolent individuals. It has also received aid from the state, directly and indirectly. Pennsylvania made a liberal grant of \$10,000, in 18—.

In 1812, the council of administration sold to



the state the square now occupied by the state house, with the buildings, for \$125,000, and purchased the present site, and built their large and commodious structure at the foot of Common street, at an expense of \$150,000, containing sufficient room to accommodate four or five hundred patients. This is the building particularly referred to in the heading of this article. Besides being under the charge of the ablest of the medical faculty, the institution has the assistance of the Sisters of Charity, as nurses to the sick, who cannot be excelled in kindness and careful attention.

The edifice itself is very imposing, from its immense size. It is substantially built with brick. Suitable supplementary out-buildings for lunatics, and lying-in apartments, are on the same grounds; and the whole is encompassed by a permanent brick wall.

To show the great usefulness of this establishment, it is only necessary to state that, during 1844, there were five thousand eight hundred and forty-six patients admitted, seven hundred and thirteen of whom died, and five thousand and fifty-nine were dismissed. Of this number, only one thousand three hundred and sixteen were natives of the United States, and four thousand five hundred and thirty foreigners. This year the yellow fever was not epidemic.

The following table, taken from the New Orleans Medical Journal, shows the number of cases of yellow fever admitted into this hospital from Jan. 1, 1822, to Jan. 1, 1844, with the dates of the first and last cases each year, with the discharges and deaths, constituting a term of twenty-two years.

TABLE.

Year.	First Case.	Last Case.	Adm'd	Dis'g'd	Died.
1822	Sept. 3.	Dec. 31.	349	98	239
1823	Sept. 11.		1		1
1824	Aug. 4.	Nov. 13.	167	59	108
1825	June 23.	Dec. 19.	94	40	59
1826	May 18.	Nov. 18.	26	19	5
1827	July 17.	Dec. 5.	372	263	109
1828	June 19.	Dec. 10.	290	160	130
1829	May 23.	Nov. 29.	435	220	215
1830	July 24.	Nov. 29.	256	139	117
1831	June 9.	Oct. 7.	3	1	2
1832	Aug. 15.	Oct. 25.	26	8	18
1833	July 17.	Nov. 17.	422	212	210
1834	Aug. 28.	Nov. 22.	150	55	95
1835	Aug. 24.	Nov. 27.	505	221	284
1836	Aug. 24.	Oct. 25.	6	1	5
1837	July 13.	Nov. 28.	998	556	442
1838	Aug. 25.	Nov. 1.	22	5	17
1839	July 23.	Nov. 17.	1086	634	452
1840	July 9.		3		3
1841	Aug. 2.	Dec. 8.	1113	520	594
1842	Aug. 4.	Nov. 26.	410	214	211
1843	July 10.	Dec. 31.	1053	609	487
Total Number, : : :			7787	4034	3803
A discrepancy of : : :			50		4034
			7837		7837

“This discrepancy between the number of admittances, discharges, and deaths,” say the editors, “arises from the fact that a good many cases of yellow fever occur, after the patients are admitted into the hospital for other diseases—and some remain to be treated for other diseases, long after having been cured of yellow fever; and, it may be, that some cases are not noted upon the hospital books at all.” The proportion of deaths is accounted for by the exposed state of the patient before admission. In private practice they do not average one death to ten.

The absence of quarantine regulations in New Orleans, is often remarked by strangers. Acts of legislation have been passed at different times, establishing laws for the protection of the city, which proved of but little service, owing, it is generally admitted, to their not being carried out as it is now known they should have been to test their efficacy, consequently they soon fell into disuse.

Much able, and it would seem unanswerable argument has been employed, to prove that this scourge of tropical climates is not contagious; yet, Dr. Carpenter, an eminent and learned member of the medical profession of this city, with great research, has tracked it through all its secret channels of communication, by which at different periods it has been introduced.

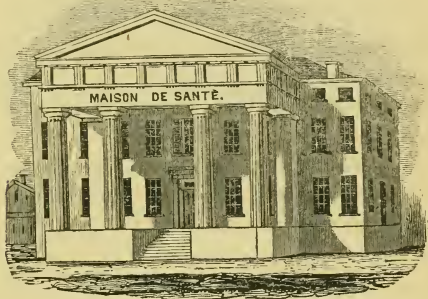
The recent able essay of Dr. Hort, read before

the Physico-Medical Society of this city, and the proceedings and resolutions of that body, had in reference to it, with equal conclusiveness show it to be endemic, or of local origin, and not an imported or contagious disease.

When such eminent "doctors disagree" what shall the unlearned and uninitiated do?—we are surely in a dilemma, and hardly know on which horn to hang our own humble judgment—but it would really appear that with a sanitary system, commending itself to the more cautious views of the Atlantic cities, an advantage would be gained, that would far more than balance any diminished trade of our neighbors in the Gulf. Are there not also, many hundreds of active, intelligent, business making citizens, who now fly to the North on the first approach of the sickly season, who, with such guards faithfully maintained about them, would remain through the summer? and are there not thousands more in various parts of the country, who, inspired with confidence by the existence and maintenance of a system of measures which *they* deem essential to the preservation of the health and lives of the citizens, would throng to our metropolis as the most inviting field of enterprize, and thus multiply our numbers and enlarge our business far more rapidly than it can, or will be done under the present system?

If in making these suggestions it should be sup-

posed that we have “defined our position,” we shall shelter ourselves under “the generally received opinion” “the prevailing fears of the community”—and the prudential measures of other cities.



MAISON DE SANTE.

This noble edifice, emphatically the house of the stranger, was built in 1839, and opened in August of the same year. The full and complete success of the enterprise is written in the grateful memories of the thousands of patients who have resorted to it in the hour of sickness and danger. The prices required secure to every sick person more than the attention and comforts of the house of his childhood. Not a doubt need to cross his mind but that all which science, and the most devoted care can effect, will be done for him; he

only goes there to get well, if it be possible in the nature of his case. The names of the attending physicians, Doctors Stone, Kennedy and Carpenter, are a sufficient guaranty for the respectability of this establishment.

#### CIRCUS STREET INFIRMARY.

This institution, situated between Poydras and Perdido streets, was established by Doctors Campbell and Mackie, in July, 1841. It is neatly furnished, and offers all the comforts and advantages of a private house to the invalid. No contagious diseases are admitted, and kind and skilful nurses are furnished.

#### THE FRANKLIN INFIRMARY,

Is situated in the Fauxbourg Franklin, in Champs Elysees street, fronting the Pontchartrain rail-road, and about two miles from the city. It is a private hospital, founded by Dr. C. A. Luzemburg. The building, although not large, is accommodated with several out houses, and the grounds are spacious and pleasant.



#### THE UNITED STATES MARINE HOSPITAL,

Situated at Macdonough, opposite New Orleans, occupies a square, measuring three hundred and fifty feet each way, which is enclosed by a good substantial fence, intended, eventually, to give place to an iron railing. The edifice measures, in front, one hundred and sixty feet, by seventy eight deep—from the rear of which two adjuncts extend fifty feet further back, leaving sufficient room between them for a spacious court, immediately behind the centre of the main building.

The whole is laid off into three stories. It is fifty feet from the ground to the eaves, and one hundred and thirty-five to the top of the flag-staff, which surmounts the belvedere. It is built in the Gothic style; and was designed by Mondele and Reynolds, who were the original contractors. It was commenced in 1834, but for want of the ne-

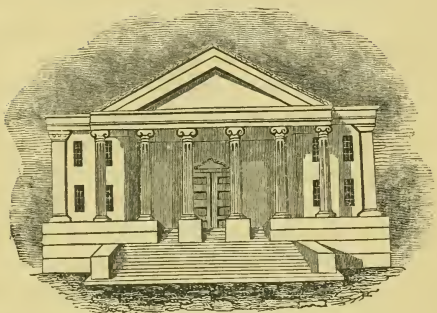
cessary appropriations by the government, the work was suspended, and has gone so much to ruin, that it will require \$20,000 to repair the damage.

James H. Caldwell, Esq., has contracted for the completion of this work. The building, when finished and furnished for receiving patients, will cost \$130,000. It will accommodate two hundred and sixty nine persons. The grounds, tastefully laid out, are to be embellished with shrubbery. As seen from the Mississippi, or from a distance, this structure presents a very majestic appearance. It stands in a healthy position, elevated and dry; and from its great height, commands a complete view of the river, city, surrounding country, and a whole forest of masts—affording to poor Jack at at once a delightful and a busy prospect, that must have a great tendency to cheer the hours of his convalescence.



## PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

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THE MUNICIPAL HALL.

THIS edifice, when completed, will be one of the noblest public buildings of the Second Municipality. It is to occupy the corner of Hevia and St. Charles streets, facing the westerly side of Lafayette Square, a site selected particularly on account of its conspicuous and airy position. Its grand entrance ranges along the latter thoroughfare 90 feet, running back upon the former 208,

and presenting an altitude of 54 feet to the eaves, displaying two bold stories above a basement of 11 feet ceiling. This lower apartment is intended for the accommodation of the military, and the police and watch departments. It is intersected from end to end by a corridor twelve, and across, in the centre, by one of fourteen feet wide, the latter giving room for a double flight of stairs, which ascend to the upper story. The same division of passage-ways is observed on each floor.

The grand entrance from St. Charles street, is by a flight of eighteen blue Quincy-granite steps, of which material the principal front is constructed. At the top of these, at an elevation of fourteen feet, is a platform extending along the whole front, twenty-five feet deep, sustaining, by a range of six pillars in front, and four in the rear, a massy pediment, all of which is of Ionic Grecian construction, and in good keeping with the main fabric. On entering the corridor through this portico, on the right hand, is an apartment seventy-five by thirty-five feet, and, and like all the others on this floor, eighteen feet in the ceiling, appropriated to the library of the School Lyceum. In the rear of this, on the same side, are four others for public offices and courts, as are also those on the opposite direction.

Ascending to the third story, in front is the great hall, sixty-one by eighty-four feet, and twenty-

nine in the ceiling, set apart for the School Lyceum. Immediately in front of this, is a central platform, advancing between two side rooms, over which are two others, similar, all four of which are intended for the accommodation of the apparatus, necessary for this new institution.

The main room is furnished with galleries on three sides, arranged in the best manner for the convenience of scholars and spectators. The rooms in the rear, like those in the story below, are devoted to public offices.

The walls of this building are to be based upon granite, and the residue of white marble, after the Grecian Ionic order. The whole will cost about \$120,000.

#### THE CITY PRISONS.

These edifices are built of brick, and plastered to imitate granite, they are three stories in height, occupying one hundred and twenty three feet on Orleans and St. Ann streets, by one hundred and thirty-eight feet nine inches between them. They are two in number, and divided by a passage way that is closed to the public. The principal building has its main entrance from Orleans street, through a circular vestibule, closed by strong iron doors. The lower story contains the offices and apartments of the jailor. The second story is divided into large halls for such prisoners as require

to be less strictly guarded. The plan of the third story is similar. The whole is surmounted by a belvidere, with an alarm bell. The cost is estimated at \$200,000.

#### SECOND MUNICIPALITY WORK-HOUSE.

This institution was formed in obedience to legislative enactment, under date of the 5th of March, 1841. The buildings were completed and occupied the same year. The site is a portion detached from the northern extremity of the Protestant Episcopal Burying Ground, and the centre of the front is directly facing St. Mary street. The plot is two hundred and ninety feet, front and rear, and two hundred and fifty-five deep—the whole being enclosed by a wall twenty-one feet high, twenty-six inches thick at the base, and eighteen at the top, externally supported throughout by abutments at a distance of every fourteen feet.

The entrance is by a strong and well secured gate, into a public passage flanked by offices, over which are rooms assigned to the use of the keepers, for the accommodation of the guard, and such *materiel* as good order, and the safety of the establishment require. This structure is partially separated from the prison by well constructed gates and partition walls. Within, on each side, engrossing the residue of the immediate front of the grounds, are two buildings. The one on the

right is for white females, and that on the left for blacks of both sexes. These tenements are divided from the other parts of the prison by high fences of frame work. Going thence into the principal yard, the building for the male whites is seen on the extreme right. This is of one story, measuring eighty by thirty feet, and is the largest one on the premises. Arranged along near the rear wall, extending to the left, are the work shops.

The average number of white prisoners is eighty, not one-seventh of whom are females; and one hundred blacks, a third of these also being females. The prison discipline seems to be of a first rate order; and it is seldom necessary to punish for offences against the rules. Religious service is performed on Sundays, and a physician is in attendance every day. It is a singular fact, that only five persons have died there since it was opened, notwithstanding their former irregular habits. The prisoners are kept at constant labor; and their food, though not luxurious, is of a wholesome nature, which may, when their abstinence from intemperate habits is taken into consideration, account for the excellent state of their health. It would not be hazarding much to say that many here were never before accustomed to so many of the comforts of life—"in all, save these bonds;" for they lodge upon clean and comfortable bedding, surrounded by moscheto bars; and,

once a week, at least, can enjoy the luxury of a bath.

This is the receptacle of that class of society, both white and black, who are denominated vagrants. They embrace two sorts of individuals—those who have no visible means of obtaining a livelihood, and those who live by committing unlawful depredations upon others. Besides these, colored seamen, while in port, not being suffered by the laws to go at large, are accommodated, for the time being, with an apartment in the Workhouse. Slaves are placed here by their masters, for punishment, for safe keeping, and for refusing to perform labor, as well as for the commission of crimes. These last are sent out in gangs, under keepers, to clean the streets, and to perform certain other menial services within the control of the municipal authorities.

Nothing could render this establishment more complete, except a classification of its inmates; so that the hardened offenders should be prevented from drawing the young, the thoughtless, and the incipient transgressor, into the vortex of their own viciousness. To the philanthropist, this must be a consideration of the utmost importance. The saying, that “evil communications corrupt good manners,” is illustrated even in this place—and here, many who seem upon the very verge of destruction, might be saved from ultimate and

utter ruin, by the judicious care and protection of the humane and reflecting magistrate.

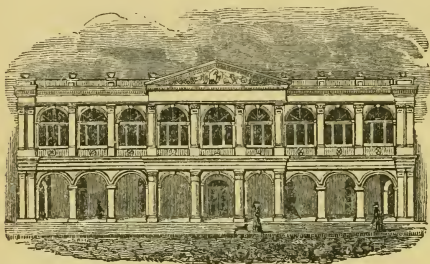
### THIRD MUNICIPALITY WORK-HOUSE.

This new establishment stands on Moreau street, running from Louisa to Piety streets, and taking within its limits the building formerly used as the Washington market, which has been altered to suit its present purpose. The buildings were prepared under the superintendence of Charles K. Wise, and are well arranged. The prisoners average about one hundred—thirty of whom are females. The regulations are excellent.

### THE COURT-HOUSE.

This edifice stands on Chartres street, and to the right of the Cathedral, as it is seen from the Place d'Armes, opposite to which it is situated. The lower story is of the Tuscan order, with a wide portico along the front of the edifice, supported by ten antes, between semi-circular arches. The four in the middle are strengthened in front by Tuscan columns, and those at the angles by two clustered pilastres. The ascent to the second story is through the principal entrance, which is composed of a semi-circular arched door, with antes at the sides, and Doric entablature. It opens into a spacious lobby, through which, by a stone stair-way, of a single flight below, and a

double one above, the second floor is reached. The front of the upper story is of the Ionic order, but generally similar to the lower. The entablature is surmounted by a denticulated cornice, and the pediment is relieved by an oblong shield.



#### THE CITY HALL.

This building stands on the upper side of the Cathedral, on a line with the Court House described above, both of which were erected the latter part of the preceding century, through the liberality of Don Andre Almonester. This edifice in all general respects, much resembles the Court-House on the right of the Cathedral, except that the main entrance, under the portico, is of the Tuscan order; and that the stair within is a winding one, leading to the upper story by three flights; also, that the pediment of the front bears the American eagle, with cannon and piles of balls.



## MARKETS.

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THE markets are a prominent feature in a description of New Orleans. They are numerous, and dispersed, to suit the convenience of the citizens. The prices of many articles they offer are very fluctuating. Not dearer, however, on an average, than in New York. Stall-fatted meats are not so usual here as at the North, preference being given to the grass-fed. The mutton has no equal in America. Poultry and fish are fine; and vegetables, except potatoes, are abundant, and speak well for the soil that produced them. Fruit, from the West Indies and our own West, is not only plenty, but of the best kind. The regulations are excellent, and are strictly enforced by officers appointed for that purpose.

The greatest market day is Sunday, during the morning. At break of day the gathering commences—youth and age, beauty and the not-so-beautiful—all colors, nations and tongues are commingled in one heterogeneous mass of delightful confusion; and, he must be a stranger indeed, who elbows his way through the dense crowd, without hearing the welcome music of his own

native language. The traveller, who leaves the city without visiting one of the popular markets on Sunday morning, has suffered a rare treat to escape him. Annexed is a brief descriptive account of them.

#### POYDRAS STREET MARKET,

Is designed for the accommodation of the inhabitants in the rear portion of the second municipality. It covers a space of ground in Poydras street forty-two feet wide by four hundred and two long—extending from near Baronne to Circus street. It was built in 1837, and cost \$40,000.

#### THE VEGETABLE MARKET.

The ground plan of this building is irregular; having been constructed at different periods. It approaches the Roman Doric order—is supported by brick columns plastered, and covered with a wooden frame roof tiled. It fronts on Old Levee, St. Philip and Ursuline streets, and the river. The design was by J. Pilié, who superintended the work. It was completed in 1830, at an expense of \$25,800.

#### THE MEAT MARKET.

Built in the rusticated Doric order, was completed in 1813, after the designs of J. Piernas, city surveyor. The building is of brick plastered,

with a wooden frame roof, covered with slate. It is situated on the Levee, and extends from St. Ann to Main streets; and, from its favorable location, and neat simplicity of architecture, is a striking object to those who approach the city by water. It cost about \$30,000.

#### ST. MARY'S MARKET.

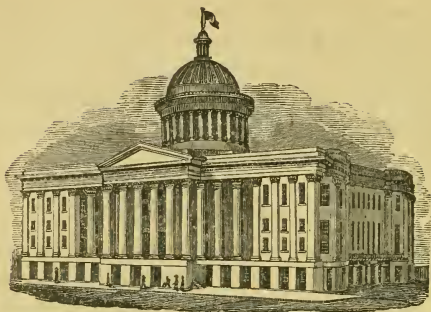
This building fronts on Tchoupitoulas street, and runs to New Levee, a distance of four hundred and eighty-six feet by a width of forty-two feet. It was completed in 1836, in the rusticated Doric order, at a cost of about \$48,000. In the vicinity, on the first named street, is a vegetable market—a very neat edifice.

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Besides these, there is a very respectable market at the head of Elysian Fields street, near the Levee; and another in Orleans, between Marais and Villeré streets, near the City Prison.

#### EXCHANGE HOTEL, (ST. CHARLES.)

This magnificent establishment, which, for size and architectural beauty, stands unrivalled, was commenced in the summer of 1835, and finished in the May of 1838, by an incorporated company. The building was designed by, and erected under



the superintendence of J. Gallier, architect, at an expense of \$600,000, including the ground it stands on, which cost \$100,000. It presents fronts on three streets. The principal one on St. Charles street, consists of a projecting portico of six Corinthian columns, which stand upon a granite basement fourteen feet high, with a pediment on the top, and four similar columns on each side of the portico, placed in a range with the front wall; behind which is formed a recess fifteen feet wide and one hundred and thirty-nine long, and floored over with large granite slabs, which, supported on iron beams, serve as a ceiling to that portion of the basement story standing under the portico; and on top affords a delightful promenade under the shade of the portico and side columns. The entrance to the bar-room is under this; and the outside

steps, leading from the street to the portico, are placed on each side thereof, between it and the front range of the building. In one of the rear angles of the basement is a bathing establishment, consisting of fourteen rooms, elegantly fitted up, with every convenience for hot or cold bathing. On the opposite angle are placed the wine cellars, store-house, and other domestic apartments. All the remaining parts of the basement are divided into stores, which are rented out to various tradespeople. The bar room is in the basement, near the centre of the edifice ; and is octangular in the plan, seventy feet in diameter, and twenty high ; having an interior circular range of Ionic columns, distributed so as to support the weight of the floors and partitions of the upper stories. The architecture of this room is Ionic. That of the saloon, which is immediately over the bar room, is of the Corinthian order, and eighteen feet ceiling. A grand spiral stair-case commences upon the centre of the saloon floor, and is continued up to the dome. Around this stair-case, on each side of the upper stories, a gallery is formed, which gives access to six bedrooms within the octagon, on each of the six upper stories. As the bar room is six feet higher than the other parts of the basement, the entrance to the saloon from the portico is by a flight of marble steps, twelve in number, and thirty-five feet long. On the top of these steps is

placed a beautiful marble statue of Washington, presented to the company by John Hagan, Esq.

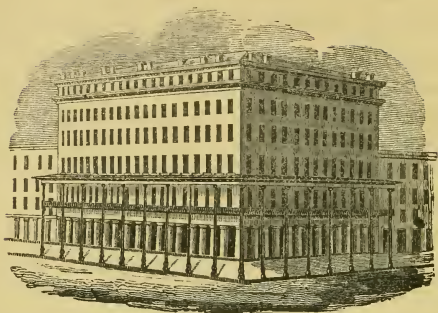
The gentlemen's dining and sitting rooms occupy the whole side of the building on Gravier street. The dining room, with a pantry at the end, is one hundred and twenty-nine feet long by fifty wide, and twenty-two feet high, tastefully finished in the Corinthian order, with two inside ranges of columns, so placed that there is abundant space for four ranges of dining tables, sufficient to accommodate five hundred persons. The ladies' dining room is placed over the bathing apartments, and is fifty-two by thirty-six feet. The kitchen, fifty-eight by twenty-nine feet, is placed in the rear wing of the building, on the same story with, and in the centre between the two dining rooms. The two angles of the principal front contain the ladies' drawing room, and the gentlemen's sitting room, the former forty by thirty-two feet, the latter thirty-eight feet square. There are nine private parlors on the second story, to some of which are attached adjoining bedrooms; and the same number on the upper stories. There are four stories of elegantly furnished and well lighted bedrooms, all around the four sides of the building, with central passages, or corridors, which communicate with the centre and with each other, having three stair-cases opening to the corridors, besides the grand stair-case in the octagon. There are, in the edifice, three hundred and fifty rooms.

A dome, of beautiful proportions, after a plan of Dakin, forty-six feet in diameter, surmounts the octagon building, elevated upon an order of fluted columns, which stand eleven feet from the dome, around the outside, and on the dome is elevated an elegant little Corinthian turret. There is a large circular room under the dome, on the floor of which the spiral stair-case terminates, and around the outside of which the circular colonade forms a beautiful gallery eleven feet wide, from whence can be seen the whole city, and all the windings of the river for several miles in each direction. The effect of the dome upon the sight of the visitor, as he approaches the city, is similar to that of St. Paul's, London.

No better evidence can be adduced—nor more flattering encomiums presented to the architects, than the fact of the indescribable effect of the sublime and matchless proportions of this building upon all spectators—even the stoical Indian and the cold and strange backwoodsman, when they first view it, are struck with wonder and delight. The view of this structure by moonlight is a sight not easily described. The furnishing of this establishment cost \$150,000.

#### THE VERANDAH,

So called from being covered on its front toward the streets, to a certain height, by a projecting roof



and balcony, is situated at the corner of St. Charles and Common streets, diagonally opposite the Exchange Hotel. The building was intended for a family hotel, by its enterprising projector and builder, the late R. O. Pritchard.

The great dining room, is, probably, one of the most highly finished apartments in America. The ceiling, especially, is a model; being composed of three elliptic domes for chandeliers. This room measures eighty-five by thirty-two feet, and twenty-seven high. The chimney pieces of the ladies' parlors are fine specimens of sculpture, and the rooms are otherwise handsome. The sleeping apartments are not excelled. The whole was designed and constructed by Dakin & Dakin, architects, in 1836-8, at a cost of \$300,000, including the ground.



## ST. LOUIS HOTEL.

This building, as a hotel, may be considered as one of the most respectable in New Orleans. It stands nearly in the centre of the French portion of the population ; and, in the combination of its brilliant and business-like appearance, is not an inappropriate representative of their national character. In this establishment the *utile et dulci* are so happily blended, that the accomplished guest can find no cause of complaint. A more particular description of this superb edifice is omitted here, in consequence of its being given under the head of the City Exchange, to which the reader is respectfully referred.

## HEWLETT'S HOTEL.

This is a large and well-constructed building, on the corner of Camp and Common streets. It has been long known as a hotel, but, during the last year, has been opened, under new auspices, by the gentleman whose name has become associated with that of the house. The position is airy, healthy and central, and the table is said to be unexcelled.

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The Planter's Hotel, in Canal street, and the National Hotel, in Tchoupitoulas street, are both good houses ; and the prices being less, they are

sought after by those who wish to economise their expenses. There are several other respectable establishments, of which, like those last named, the limits of these pages will not permit a particular description.

#### THE GAS WORKS

Occupy a square fronting on St. Mary street four hundred and sixty-seven feet, with a depth of two hundred and thirty-five feet on Gravier and Perdido streets; which is enclosed by a substantial brick wall fourteen feet high. The site was selected by James H. Caldwell, Esq., to whom New Orleans is mainly indebted for this great undertaking, as well as for many others which stand as lasting eulogiums to his memory. In 1834, the original works were put in operation. Mr. Caldwell, at this time, had the exclusive privilege of lighting the city for thirty years. His were the fourth gas works in the Union, and the first west of the mountains. The first wrought-iron roof in this country, was erected over the retort house by Mr. C., and has served as a model for all since built. The largest cast iron tank ever constructed was also put up by him. It is fifty-one feet diameter and eighteen deep, and contains over two hundred thousand gallons of water. In 1835 Mr. Caldwell disposed of this property to the Gas Light and Banking Company; who, finding the

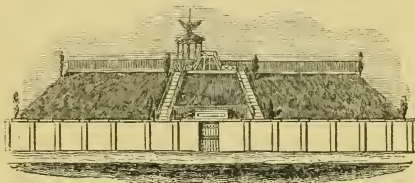
buildings insufficient, constructed them anew. The present establishment was planned and erected under the superintendence of David John Rogers, in whose care it still continues to prosper. The works, finished in 1837, cost \$150,000. The whole present value is \$650,000.

These consist of a retort house on Gravier street, one hundred and seventeen by eighty feet, and parallel to which is the purifying house, one hundred and seventeen by fifty-two feet. On the rear is the chimney, constructed to resemble Trajan's pillar, one hundred and seven feet high; and presents a chaste specimen of classical architecture. There are three fifty feet gasometers, arranged along in the centre of the premises, capable of containing thirty thousand cubic feet each, built after the most approved workmanship, and considered to be superior to any others in this country. On Perdido street is a three story dwelling, thirty by seventy-five feet, for the workmen. The coal shed is one hundred and ninety by fifty-two feet. In addition to these are the blacksmith, carpenter, and other shops, necessary for advantageously conducting so extensive a business. The structures are all fire-proof, and every thing is kept in the neatest possible condition.

In addition to the works already described, and immediately in front of them, embracing nearly another square, two more gasometers, of equal

dimensions, together with the accompanying buildings, have been constructed during 1844—5. These will enable the company to transmit the gas through a distance of one hundred and fifty miles of pipe, sufficient for the accommodation of a half million of persons.

The gas is extracted from Pittsburgh coal—after which the coke is sold for fuel, at about half the price that is asked for the original coal.



THE WATER WORKS.

In 1833, a company was incorporated under the title of the "Commercial Bank of New Orleans," the principal object of which was to supply the city with pure water from the Mississippi river. To effect this object, an artificial mound was constructed on the square comprised within Richard, Market, John the Baptist and Religious streets, consisting of seventy thousand cubic yards of earth, taken from the batture (deposit) of the river. The work was completed during 1834—5. The reservoir is constructed on the top of this mound.

It is two hundred and fifty feet square, built of brick, and divided into four compartments, measuring each one hundred and eighteen feet in the clear. The walls and bottoms forming the reservoir, are built with brick, and plastered with hydraulic cement. A pavilion of an octagonal form has been erected on the intersection of the partition walls, supported by eight pillars. It is about fifteen feet wide and ten high, and affords quite a commanding and pleasant prospect.

The reservoir is supplied with water from the Mississippi river, by plunge pumps, worked by a condensing engine, acting expansively on Bolton and Watt's plan. These pumps were adopted as the most efficacious, on account of the great quantity of matter held in suspension by the water. They are connected to a suction pipe sixteen inches in diameter, and about eight hundred feet long ; and to the main, descending into the reservoir, sixteen inches in diameter and six hundred feet long. The cylinder is twenty-five inches in diameter and six feet stroke, and is calculated to raise three millions gallons of water in twenty-four hours. The engine and pump houses are built of brick, and are situated on the lot forming the corner of Tchapitoulas and Richard streets.

The water is distributed through cast iron pipes, capable of sustaining a pressure of water of three hundred feet head. They vary from eighteen to

six inches in diameter for the mains—but the greater part of them consist of the larger sizes, which have numerous ramifications of less dimensions. There are two mains from the reservoir ; one of eighteen, the other of twelve inches bore, which are gradually reduced in size as the distance becomes greater from the source, or as circumstances may require. In 1836, water was first pumped into the reservoir. It can be delivered in the upper part of the city twenty-one feet, and in the lower sections, twenty-seven feet above the level of the soil.

The daily average consumption of water, during the year 1844, was one million gallons ; and, from the comparative great capacity of the reservoir, sufficient time is allowed for the water to settle, in one of the four compartments, before it is drawn for the use of the city.

Much good might be achieved by a more enlarged operation of these works. The water is capable of being made fit for all domestic purposes, thus obviating the necessity for cisterns, the birth-place of millions of moschetoës, and, possibly the source of much sickness. For the purposes of bathing it is almost indispensable ; and, for forming fountains, to cleanse the streets and to purify and cool the air, it may be rendered equally a convenience, a luxury, and an embellishment.

## ARMORIES.

A room has been fitted up in Camp street, for which the substantial and well constructed walls of the old Camp street Theatre have been used—a building erected by James H. Caldwell, Esq., in 1822. This apartment, used as an armory for the Washington Battalion, is sixty by one hundred and twenty feet, and twenty-two feet high, and is decidedly one of the largest in New Orleans.

Another armory is located at the corner of Perdido and Baronne streets, in the upper part of the Carrolton Rail-Road dépôt. Both of these armories are the depositories of arms, all kept in the best order, and disposed in various tasteful forms.

## THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

There are in New Orleans, fifteen engine, three hose, and one hook and ladder—in all nineteen companies. The city may justly boast of the energy and efficiency of this arm of safety. The members are exempt from military and jury duty ; and, after a certain term, are enrolled as honorary members, who are free from the performance of further service. The expenses of the department are defrayed by appropriations from the municipalities, and from fines imposed upon delinquent members.

The courage and bearing of these companies during a conflagration, are much to be admired. They proceed with that cool and determined spirit that shows a consciousness of their power in subduing the destructive element. An excellent and convenient supply of water, which is always at command, enables them promptly to extinguish the most dangerous fire.

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## MANUFACTURES

IN New Orleans, have, until recently been but little known. There are now however, several actively employed and well patronized branches of the manufacturing business; which, if not calculated to compete with those in other markets, answer a very good purpose for its own.

### THE IRON FOUNDRY

Of Messrs. Leeds & Co. produces every variety of machinery, that steamboats and manufactories require for extensive operations. It has been established many years, at the corner of Foucher and Delord streets, occupies nearly a whole square, and is on as extensive a scale as any in the country. The business-like and prompt system prac-



ticed by the conductors, is known to all who require their aid upon the whole line of the Mississippi and its tributaries.

#### STEAM PLANING MILL,

Upon Carondelet Walk, has been in successful operation over four years. Lumber is landed from Carondelet Canal, which passes in front of the building.

#### STEAM SAW MILLS.

Of these there are two; one located in the third municipality, the other five miles below the city, and both upon the banks of the river. They can furnish lumber of almost any description in abundance.

#### ROPE WALKS.

There are several of these, in different parts of the city, where cordage may be manufactured, to any extent, demanded by the business of the place.

Besides these there are several Flour Mills, a Paper Mill, Sugar Refinery, Cotton Factories, &c., all in successful operation.

## THE COTTON PRESSES.

THIS is the place of all others, for these extensive buildings, which, generally, occupy a square, and sometimes more. They are numerous and extensive establishments. A brief description of two of the most prominent, will serve for the whole, as they very much resemble each other in their construction.

## THE LEVEE COTTON PRESS,

Erected by a company under that name, was completed in 1832, at a cost of \$500,000. No architectural effect was aimed at in the façade, which is, however, neat and plain. This establishment can press about 200,000 bales per annum.



## THE ORLEANS COTTON PRESS.

This vast establishment fronts on the Mississippi, running back on Roffignac and New Levee streets. The ground occupied is six hundred and thirty-two by three hundred and eight feet, and is nearly

covered by the buildings. The whole was built according to designs made by Charles F. Zimpel, begun in 1833, and completed in 1835, at a cost, including the site, of \$753,558. The front on the river, although having no pretensions to architectural effect, is still, from its location and extent, quite impressive. This press can store twenty-five thousand bales of cotton ; and compresses, on an average, one hundred and fifty thousand bales per annum ; but its capacity is much greater.

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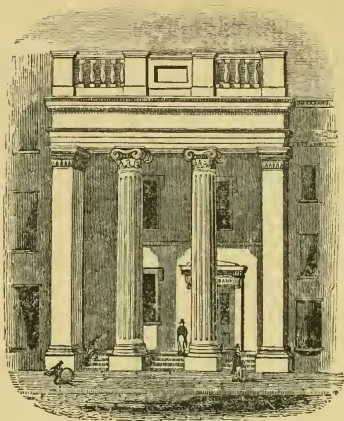
## BANKS.

### LOUISIANA STATE BANK.

This building was erected in 1822, at a cost, including the ground, of \$55,000. The plan was from Latrobe, and Benjamin Fox the architect. It stands on the corner of Royal and Bienville streets, and presents rather a plain but neat external appearance. It is most substantially built ; the lower story is heavily arched, and the banking apartments are completely fire-proof. Capital, \$2,000,000.

### THE MECHANICS' AND TRADERS' BANK,

Is situated on Canal street, occupying only an ordinary house, compared to some others, and requires no particular description. Capital \$2,000,000.



#### THE CITY BANK

Is a building of the Ionic order, situated in Camp, near Canal street, and designed by W. L. Atkinson, architect. Its construction was commenced in 1837, and finished in 1838, under the superintendence of J. Gallier, at a cost of about \$50,000. The banking room is admired for its elegant simplicity. Capital \$2,000,000.

#### THE GAS BANK.

This building, in St. Charles street, between Canal and Common streets, is so closely squeezed in among others, that it has little opportunity to

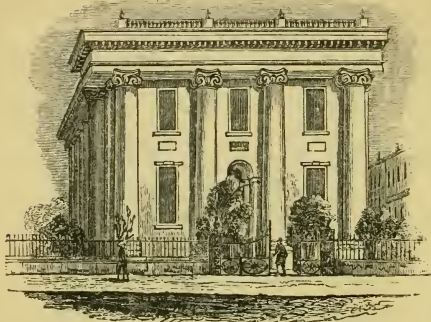
show off the beauty it possesses. It was erected in 1839, under the superintendence of Sidel & Stewart, at an expense of about \$25,000, ground \$25,000, making \$50,000, and is every way well calculated for a banking house. The original capital was \$4,000,000, but it was reduced to \$180,000, and by request of the stockholders, the banking privileges have been withdrawn by an act of the Legislature of 1845.

#### THE CANAL BANK

Has its entrance in the centre of the front on Magazine street, of a substantial granite building which stands on that and the corner of Gravier street. That portion of the edifice is very tastefully arranged after the designs of Dakin, the architect. It was erected in 1845. The residue of the structure is used for stores. Capital, \$4,000,000.

#### THE BANK OF LOUISIANA.

Is a fine Ionic building at the south-west corner of Royal and Conti streets, surrounded by a handsome court. The whole edifice is well arranged, the banking room in particular, is admired for its good architectural effect, being 60 feet square, and of a proportionate height, with a fine gallery above. It was commenced by Bickle, Hamlet and Fox, builders, in 1826, and fin-



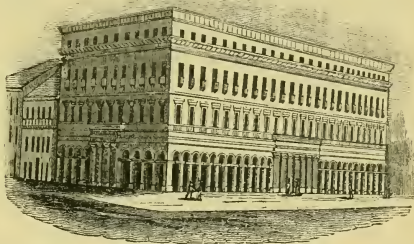
ished the following year, at a cost of \$80,000  
Capital \$4,000,000.

#### BANKS' ARCADE

Occupies the front of a square on Magazine street, between Gravier and Natchez streets, having a main entrance, from each of those last named, to the Arcade, which divides the building through the whole length—being three stories high, and covered in with glass, to exclude rain and admit the light. In the lower and second stories, are offices of almost all descriptions—and the third is appropriated mostly to sleeping rooms.

The bar-room, opening on Magazine street, is 100 by 60 feet, and 35 in height. It is handsomely embellished, has a gallery surrounding

the upper story, and is a popular place for public meetings. It will accomodate 5,000 people on such occasions. This building stands in the centre of business, and, consequently, is a place of great resort for merchants and others. Erected by Thomas Banks in 1833, Charles Zimple, architect.



#### CITY EXCHANGE.

This magnificent edifice, which is one of the greatest ornaments of the city, fronts on three streets—about 300 feet on St. Louis, and 120 each on Royal and Chartres street—the building being intended by the projectors to combine the convenience of a city exchange, hotel, bank, large ball rooms, and private stores.

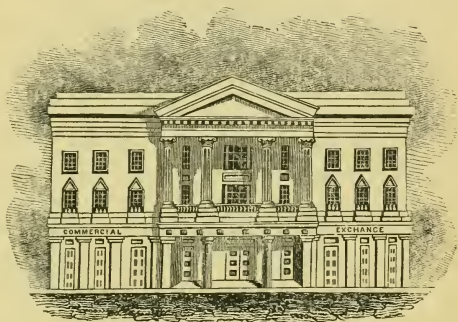
The principal facade, on St. Louis street, may be generally described as being composed of the Tuscan and Doric orders. The main entrance is formed by six columns of the composite Doric

order. Through this portico, access is had to the vestibule of the Exchange, a handsome, though simple hall, 127 by 40 feet. This room is appropriated to general business, and constantly open during waking hours. You pass through this into one of the most beautiful rotundas in America, which is devoted exclusively to business, and is open from noon to three o'clock P. M. This fine room is surrounded by arcades and galleries, always open to the public, (Sundays excepted,) and its general appearance cannot fail to impress upon the mind a most favourable idea of its grandeur and beauty. The dome is most tastefully laid off in compartments, within which the magic pencils of Canova and Pinoli have portrayed allegorical scenes and the busts of eminent Americans, in rich fresco—a style of painting comparatively new in the United States. The floors of the gallery which engird the rotunda, and the winding stairs leading to them, are of iron.

By a side entrance on St. Louis-street, access is obtained to the second story ; the front of which, on this street, is occupied by a suite of ball-rooms and their dependencies. The great ball room is magnificent in its size and decorations. The building also has a capacious entrance on Royal-street, as a hotel that can accommodate 200 persons. At the corner of Chartres street are the public baths. In the spring of 1840 this building



was nearly burnt down—but, in less than two years, it was completely restored to its original splendor.



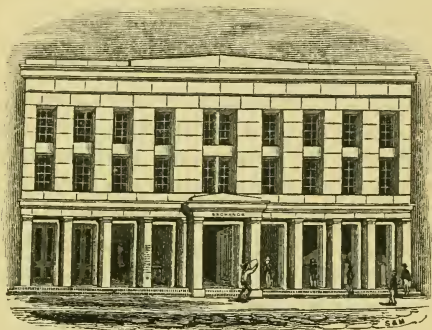
#### THE COMMERCIAL EXCHANGE.

This edifice is now being erected upon the south west corner of St. Charles and Perdido streets, fronting one hundred and three feet upon the former, and running one hundred upon the latter. The main part of the building is to be constructed of brick and stuccoed; the upper portion is purely Corinthian the lower entirely Tuscan. The principal entrance on St. Charles street, is by a portico supported by two Ionic pillars, and the same number of pilastres, composed of granite. The vestibule is eleven feet deep, which admits visitors by three separate doors into the exchange saloon, the

most spacious apartment of the kind in the United States ; it being seventy by one hundred feet, and twenty seven to the ceiling, which is supported by twelve well arranged and substantial pillars. At the rear of this public room are two others, intended for the accommodation of auctioneers, leaving only sufficient space on the left for the necessary offices and access to the second floor.

The structure shows three stories in front—on the second of which is the news room, expressly arranged for the occupation of the New Orleans Reading Room. This apartment is fifty-five by eighty-three feet, and thirty-seven to the ceiling ; and is lighted by thirty-six windows. A portico, with a recess of eleven feet, occupies the immediate front, supporting the pediment by two Corinthian pillars, and an equal number of pilastres. Two rooms are set apart in connection with this establishment, one for the accommodation of captains of vessels, and one for that of sugar-brokers. On each side of the news-room are ranges of offices, to which admission is obtained by corridors on the inner side. Immediately over these, the third floor is arranged in the same manner. The intention of the company, under whose auspices this exchange is building, is, to furnish to the mercantile community a place solely for the transaction of business, similar to Lloyd's of London. There are to be no liquors sold on the premises. Mr.

Gallier is the architect, and builder, and the building and land cost \$90,000.



#### THE MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE,

Fronting on Royal street and Exchange Place, was erected by a joint stock company in 1835-6, from the designs and under the superintendence of Mr. Dakin, architect. Both fronts are of marble, in a plain and bold style. The cost of the erection was \$100,000.

#### THE MERCHANTS' READING ROOM,

Entrance from Royal street and Exchange Place. This reading room occupied a spacious apartment in the second story of the Merchants' Exchange, and is under the patronage and control

of the company interested in that building. It is generally supplied with most of the newspapers of the country, and has received a patronage quite equal to the extent of its accommodations.

#### THE NEW ORLEANS READING ROOMS

Occupy the second story of a spacious building on the corner of Common and St. Charles streets, opposite the Exchange and Verandah hotels. This is an enterprise started upon the plan of Galignani's, in Paris, and Lloyd's, in London—professing to supply the earliest commercial and general information. The fixtures are arranged with a degree of neatness and convenience that is extremely gratifying to the stranger, who has a spare hour to devote to reading. Here he can peruse the latest papers, not only from almost every section of the United States, but English, French, German, Mexican, Irish, Scotch, and Colonial, together with all the periodicals, to his heart's content. The merchant can see the prices current from nearly every part of the world; arrivals and departures of vessels and of travellers—sales of the great staples and merchandise and their prices, and many such matters of interest to the business man.

## THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS,

IN each parish, have heretofore been placed under the management of a board of five administrators, who reported annually to the secretary of state the condition of those under their direction. This system has been adhered to, till very recently, in the first and third municipalities. In the second a change took place in 1841, which has proved to be so complete a revolution, is attended with such important results to this large portion of the city, and so extended its influence even to the neighboring parishes, that it is referred to with a degree of pleasure which can only be surpassed by our pride in its success.

In accordance with an act of the legislature, approved the 14th of February, 1841, authorizing the municipalities of New Orleans to establish public schools, the authorities of the second municipality set themselves at work with a will. They selected twelve of their fellow-citizens as a board of directors for public schools, together with a standing committee on public education, to whom were granted almost unlimited powers.

Zealous of acquitting themselves with honor, they at once looked to the fountain head, to New England, where the best schools in the country existed, and secured the aid of Mr. J. A. Shaw, who was perfectly conversant with all the im-

provements, and placed this efficient gentleman at the head of the department as superintendent. From a despairing beginning, in less than one year, the prospect seemed to be most cheering. Commencing with only thirteen children of each sex, it increased, in two years, to ten hundred and sixty-one in actual attendance—and nearly double that number enrolled.

Thus far these schools occupied rooms under the Methodist church in Poydras street, and a new building, called the Washington school, on Magazine, at the corner of Basin street; but since that, the undertaking has been continually extending, until it was found necessary to erect another structure, the Franklin school, on St. Charles street—all of which are now scarcely sufficient to answer the increasing demand for admission.

That, which at first was tested as an experiment, has proved to be a successful enterprise, producing an example which promises to have a beneficial influence over the southern method of education. It found strong opposition and prejudice to contend against, but these have subsided—and the children of the rich and the poor are seated side by side, sharing advantages and striving intellectually—the only distinction recognized among them—"teaching one, as well as informing the other, that adventitious wealth confers no superiority over the fortunate competitor, when engaged in a contest of the mind."

The third municipality school is under the charge of Mr. Geo. W. Harby. All the branches of a good education are taught here in the English, French and Spanish languages. Although this school is under excellent discipline, and has all the advantages of a classical and gentlemanly teacher, it still has labored under the old régime, and could have educated double the number that have attended it. That nothing stands still is as applicable to the intellectual as to the physical world. Already the spirit of improvement, that has done so much for the second municipality, is busy in the first and third—and though slowly, it is as sure, eventually, to push its way into them as water is to find its own level. Beside the public schools, there are many private seminaries of a high order, and conducted by teachers of ability, where the wealthy, who have objections to those above designated, may send their children for instruction.

The education of youth is of the utmost importance to a country—especially to one like this, that should be governed by the intelligence of its citizens. The portals to learning should be thrown wide open, equally to all—for upon knowledge is based the beautiful temple of liberty. Tear away this foundation and the fair edifice must fall. Cherish and support it, and freedom

will become as permanent as our rocks, as everlasting as our hills.

PUBLIC SCHOOL LYCEUM AND SOCIETY LIBRARY.

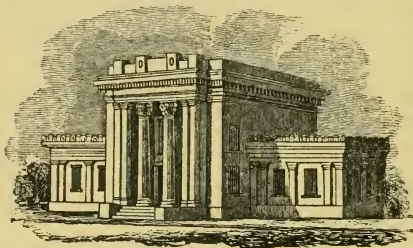
The intention of this undertaking, is to establish a library for the benefit of the juvenile class of the second municipality, by the voluntary subscriptions and contributions of the scholars attached to the public schools, and by private donations. To advance this important object, the common council passed an ordinance organising the establishment, regulating and directing its proceedings, and tendering liberal advantages to encourage success in its operations. When \$5000 are subscribed they are pledged to furnish rooms to accommodate the library—and, as soon as it amounts to \$15,000, to purchase ground and erect suitable buildings. It also provides that, at a certain period, a chemical and philosophical apparatus shall be purchased, and lectures delivered once a week, during eight months of the year, by the most competent men in the country, on astronomy, geology, chemistry, natural and moral philosophy navigation, book-keeping, engineering, civil architecture and design, and such other useful branches as may be determined by the directors—who are the same as those of the public schools, with the mayor, recorder and aldermen as *ex-officio* members. The scholar paying twenty-



five cents a month, or three dollars a year, for three years, is constituted a life member, and for ever after may have access to this excellent institution. Such has been the success of this undertaking that a building will soon be provided, and very little time will transpire before it will realize all the advantages that its beginning promised. To Samuel J. Peters, Esq., particularly, is this city indebted for introducing and maturing this measure—and for generous presents, to many other citizens and strangers, who have not permitted their names to come before the world.

The growing popularity of the "*Peoples Lyceum*," and of the "*Young Men's Literary Association*," is noticed with no ordinary feelings of gratification. These, commenced and continued by the young, fostered and cherished by all—have become a cheering sight to the eye of the christian, the patriot, and the philanthropist. Established upon judicious principles, tending to give a wholesome direction and salutary stimulus to the mind of their members, the moral influence may be deemed of incalculable consequence to this growing metropolis. History and science are the leading objects of their inquiry, facilitated and encouraged by the delivery of lectures, affording not only instruction but recreation—creating a taste for the rapid acquirement of knowledge—

giving a new impulse to the intellectual powers, and to the advancement of literature—all nobly contributing to the refinement and happiness of mankind. These, and others in the course of being established under the auspices of our most eloquent and learned literati, the city may class among the brightest of her jewels.



MEDICAL COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA.

This building is erected on a fine lot of ground, on the corner of Common and Philippa streets, granted to the college by a recent act of the legislature. It was designed by, and completed under the direction of Mr. Dakin, architect, whose reputation is a guaranty for its taste and elegance. The location is retired, and yet near all the public buildings and thoroughfares. The faculty of this institution are gentlemen of superior qualifications, enthusiastic in their zeal to give it the first place among the kindred establishments of

the country. The advantages of New Orleans, for acquiring a practical knowledge of medicine and surgery, are superior to any city in the United States, especially for the study of all diseases peculiar to a southern climate. The facilities for prosecuting the study of anatomy and surgery are unrivalled. The school is well furnished with models, plates, casts, and every thing necessary for illustrations. The requisitions for graduation are those adopted by the best colleges. With these advantages presented to southern students, they will see the benefits resulting from an institution built up among them, conducted by gentlemen acquainted by experience with the wants of the country.

#### THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF PAINTINGS.

This establishment occupies rooms, expressly built for its accommodation, at 13 St. Charles street, and was opened in 1844, under the personal inspection of the proprietor, Mr G. Cooke, who is himself an artist of taste, and well known among the profession. The principal object was, to form a rallying point for the exhibition of the works of celebrated artists, both of foreign and American origin, and to dispose of such as might please the fancy of the public, at a certain fixed price. Here, visitors will have an opportunity of selecting copies and originals from a quarter that may be

relied upon, works both of the old masters, and of the best of the modern schools.

The proprietor is under obligations to a number of the gentlemen of this city, connoisseurs of painting, for the exhibition of some of the most prominent pieces. From R. D. Shepherd, Esq., he has a picture by Rothmel, representing De Soto discovering the Mississippi. If this artist should leave no other work, his reputation, as a genius of no ordinary ability, will remain as durable as the canvas on which he has portrayed the Spaniard and the "Father of Waters."

From James Robb, Esq., whose magnificent collection of modern paintings is better known in other cities than our own, the gallery has received its richest treasures, and most valuable contributions. The chef d'œuvre is from the pencil of a native artist now at Rome, Leutze; and illustrates this sentence in our Lord's prayer—"deliver us from evil." To speak of this gem in terms equal to its merits, would place it immeasurably above the estimation of the age in which we live. Aware that it may be considered presumption to compare living genius with the justly venerated names of the immortal dead, whose works, on account of their antiquity and intrinsic worth, are doubly valued—yet, at the risk of losing our little reputation in such matters, we venture the assertion that this picture of Leutze's will compare with

the most beautiful of the Italian school, and is excelled by none in America, not excepting those of our lamented and talented Alston. This picture alone would make any gallery in Europe attractive, and the public are greatly indebted to Mr. Robb for the opportunity he has afforded them of seeing not only this, but many other brilliant productions.

Here, also, is a landscape of no ordinary excellence, by Boddington, an English artist, who has most successfully represented one of his native scenes, in a style of handling peculiarly true and free. Here may be seen four of Doughty's best landscapes, and several fine specimens from the pencils of Cole and Chapman. The portrait of Col. David Crocket, as large as life, in his forest costume, by Chapman, and two large altar pieces, copied from celebrated works in the Vatican—The Entombing of Christ, after Corregio—and The Crucifixion of St. Peter, after Guido—comprise a portion of the more recent additions to the gallery.

Among the most attractive performances, are The Wreck of the Medusa, The Roman Forum, and a Sketch of Rome—from the pencil of the proprietor. The first of these is very much admired—but, to the classical visitor, the last two are far more fascinating; calling up, as they do, with all their endearing associations, our happy school-day remembrances.

Much more might be said respecting this establishment, but the brevity of these pages will not permit an indulgence of our wishes in a more minute detail.

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It is probably the general impression of strangers, suggested by the limited number and extent of the public galleries of paintings in this city, that there is, among us, an entire deficiency of a proper taste for the fine arts. And we may, ourselves, inadvertantly have contributed to such an impression, by representing our citizens as exclusively absorbed in commercial pursuits. It must be received, however, with many abatements. We have our artists, and not a few of them, who are highly talented, and deservedly patronised.

There are choice collections of paintings in the possession of several private gentlemen, other than those already alluded to ; among which are many valuable productions, not only of the modern but ancient masters, purchased at enormous prices.

Among others, those owned by our highly esteemed fellow-citizens, Glendy Burke, H. R. W. Hill, and Joseph M. Kennedy, Esqs., are well worth a visit of the connoisseur and admirer of fine specimens of the arts, to which the known courtesy of the proprietors will cheerfully afford ready access. The only original painting of the famous

Wilkie in this country, is in the splendid collection of Mr. Burke.

Several fine specimens of original statues are in the possession of James Dick, and John Hagan, Esqs., which are not excelled by any collection in this country.

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### THE PRESS.

“What is it but a map of busy life,  
Its fluctuations, and its vast concerns?”

THE diurnal press of this country, is not only a mighty political engine, but one of the utmost importance in a commercial and literary point of view. Its increase, within a few years past, like its extending liberty, is without a parallel, and almost beyond belief. Junius, in his peculiar manner, observes, that “they who conceive that our newspapers are no restraint upon bad men, or impediment to the execution of bad measures, know nothing of this country.” The force of this remark applies nowhere better than to the Press of the United States.

Every enlightened American, who loves the constitution of his country, and correctly estimates its lofty principles, will lend his aid to preserve

these invaluable privileges from the violation of power on the one hand, and the equally injurious outrages of popular licentiousness on the other.

The press of this city comes in for a portion of the credit that is attached to that of the country—more particularly for its elaborate commercial details and general literature. To embody the spirit of the age ; to relieve the grave by the gay ; and to embellish the useful by the amusing, is its daily task. The choicest of home and foreign literature is found in the leading issues from the New Orleans press. It is equally interesting to the merchant and the general reader ; and it preserves, above all its cotemporaries of other cities, a self-respect that does infinite credit to the gentlemen to whose hands the important trust is confided.

There are eight daily papers published in New Orleans—three of which may be rated as of the “mammoth” size ; the other five are smaller, but of sufficient dimensions to furnish the ordinary news of the day. They are as follows :

The Louisiana Courier is the only evening paper of the city, and is published in French and English. This is the pioneer, before referred to in this work, under the name of “La Moniteur.” The Bee, also in French and English, and the Commercial Bulletin, in English, make up the three mammoth sheets. The Picayune, the Tropic, the Jeffersonian Republican, the Native American,



and the New Orleans Times, are all in English. The New Orleans Price Current is a very useful publication, issued twice a week.

In addition to these, the Catholics and Protestants each have their weekly Journals, and the Medical faculty their bi-monthly Periodicals, edited by the most prominent members of the profession, and devoted to Medicine, and Collateral Sciences. They are intended to bring forth the industry and talents of the profession in the South, and to furnish the most recent information of its progress generally.

The subject of Organic Chemistry is that to which, at the present day, the eyes of all thinking members of the profession are directed, and upon which their hope of progress mainly depends,—the relations of chemical action to the functions of organized matter, the application of chemistry to physiology and pathology, are to be treated of as fully as present knowledge extends.

Such contributions to the noble science, in which these gentlemen have long been successful labourers, cannot fail to be properly estimated throughout the scientific world.

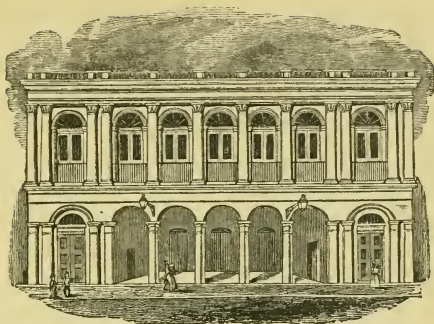
## AMUSEMENTS.

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At the commencement of the holydays, the city begins to put on a gay aspect. Visitors, from all parts of the habitable globe, have arrived, either on business or pleasure. A general round of balls, masquerades, soirées and parties begin, and are continued without intermission during the season. Theatres and operas, with their *stars* and *prima donnas*, circuses and menageries, bell-ringers and serenaders, are in full success—and New Orleans, filled with every description of amusement, from the top of the drama down to Judy and Punch. Strangers are surprised and delighted at the splendor that is carried out in these circles of pleasure. Our present object, however, is merely to describe the most conspicuous places of public resort.

## ORLEANS THEATRE.

The site of this building was occupied by an edifice erected for dramatic performances in 1813, somewhat on the plan of the one now existing. This, which was built by a joint stock company, was burnt to the ground in 1816. Mr. John Davis afterwards became the sole proprietor, and began the erection of the present theatre.



The building was opened by the first dramatic corps, ever in Louisiana directly from France, in November, 1819. The total cost of the edifice was about \$180,000. The lower story is of the Roman Doric order, certainly not a pure specimen. The upper is what may be called the Corinthian composite. The interior and scenic arrangements of the house are excellent for seeing and hearing, having a pit, or parquette, quite elevated and commodious, with grated boxes at the side for persons in mourning; two tiers of boxes, and one of galleries above; the whole being of such a form as to afford the greatest accommodation to the spectators.

Nothing can exceed the decorum of the audience, except the brilliancy of the dress circle, which, on certain occasions, is completely filled

with the beautiful ladies of our city, in full evening costume. The performances are in the French language, and the stock company always respectable. The orchestra is excellent. Melodramas and operas are perfectly got up at this house. The strict adherence to nature and history, in costume and manners, will never fail to please the man of taste who visits the Orleans theatre.

#### THE NEW ST. CHARLES THEATRE,

Like the phoenix, literally arose from the ashes of its predecessor. The first house was erected by the sole exertions of James H. Caldwell, Esq., in 1835, at the cost of \$250,000, exclusive of the ground. It occupied one hundred and twenty-nine feet front by one hundred and eighty-six deep, and was seventy-six high. It held four thousand people, and was the fourth in size in the world—one at St. Petersburg, in Russia, another at Pescala, in Milan, and the third at San Carlos, in Naples, were those only which excelled it in size. It was destroyed by fire in 1842. That structure was styled “the Temple of the Drama,” and the city had good reason to be proud of such an ornament.

The present building has a front of seventy-nine feet on St. Charles street, extends back one hundred and forty-nine, and is fifty-three high.

The main entrance and front wall are remains of the former establishment ; which, from the substantial workmanship, resisted the conflagration so effectually as to be made available the second time. Passing this memento, the spectator finds himself in the vestibule, thirty-four by twenty-three feet, from which a double flight of geometrically formed stairs ascend to the first tier. Here the pit is seen in a semi-circular shape. The centre box is but fifty-one feet from the foot lights, which brings the audience within a convenient distance of the stage. The depth of the front boxes to the rear is twenty-one feet. The proscenium presents an elevation of thirty-nine feet in the clear, by fifty in width. The upper circles of boxes possess the like advantage of the first, in respect to a distinct view of the performances.

The fronts of the boxes consist of an open balustrade, producing a novel, and agreeable effect. The dome is ornamented with sunken panels, suitably embellished with emblematic devices. A golden-fringed national drapery falls from the proscenium, displaying an ingeniously contrived allegory in the centre. Four columns sustain an ornamented entablature above, composed of a mixed style of architecture, and copied after those of the celebrated temple of Benares.

## THE AMERICAN THEATRE,

Burnt on the 30th of July, 1842, was rebuilt and reopened on the 5th of December following, at a cost of \$28,000. The building is ninety by one hundred and fifty feet, and sufficiently elevated for all the purposes of the drama, but irregular in its altitude. The depth of the stage is sixty feet, and the width of the proscenium thirty-eight. The house will accommodate over fifteen hundred persons. It stands near Lafayette square, on Poydras street; and, from its isolated position, presents quite an imposing appearance.

## THE CIRCUS.

The company have fitted up the old dépôt of the Carrolton rail-road, situated on the corner of Poydras and Baronne streets, as a place for exhibiting feats of horsemanship. As the buildings possess no especial interest beyond these performances, they require no particular description—but as this amusement has an attraction for almost every class of visitors, not to have referred to it might have been deemed an inexcusable oversight. There is a stage attached to this establishment; and farces and the ballet relieve the monotony of the sports of the ring.

## THE PUBLIC SQUARES.

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ALTHOUGH the public squares in New Orleans are neither numerous, nor upon a very extended scale, they are located with good taste, and are exceedingly convenient. The centres of Canal, Esplanade, Rampart and Basin streets have a very considerable space set apart for embellishments. Shrubbery, and other ornaments, are in progress, and they already begin to assume a beauty that does much credit to the city authorities. Nothing is more conducive to health than these pleasant resorts for wholesome exercise. Here the toil-worn citizen, the wearied scholar, and the confined artizan, may breathe the fresh air, enjoy a delightful morning or evening promenade, and catch an imaginary enjoyment, in miniature, of the blessed country.

WASHINGTON SQUARE is in the third municipality; is bounded by the Elysian Fields, Great-Men's, Casa Calvo and Frenchmen streets.— Though admirably situated, owing to the distance

it stands from the denser portion of the city, it has not yet received those attentions which, at some future day, will render it a beautiful promenade.

PLACE D'ARMES, or *Parade Square*, is still more prominent, and is embellished with fine trees; but, as it is in the centre of the first municipality, with the public buildings on one front and the levee on the other, it is a matter of surprise that it has not been improved in a style worthy of the inhabitants; who, certainly are capable of appreciating the advantages of such delightful grounds.

CIRCUS PLACE is below Rampart street, with St. Claude on the rear, and St. Ann and St. Peter streets on its sides. This is the square once known as *Congo Park*; and is the place where the negroes, in olden times, were accustomed to meet to while away the cares of servitude. Many an old inhabitant can remember when he beheld these thoughtless beings dancing "Old Virginia never tire," or some other favorite air, with such a hearty gusto, upon the green sward, that the very ground trembled beneath their feet. Though the loud laugh, and the unsophisticated break-down, and double-shuffle of these primitive days have ceased, the spot yet remains, with all its reminiscences, as original as ever, with its capabilities of improvement still unimpaired.

LAFAYETTE SQUARE is decidedly the handsomest in the city. It is in the second municipality, and



has St. Charles and Camp streets in front and rear, and several public buildings in its immediate neighborhood. It has a handsome and substantial iron railing around it, based upon well laid blocks of granite ; is well laid off in regular walks, and is ornamented with beautiful and rare shrubbery, set out with geometrical accuracy on a raised surface, calculated to make it dry and pleasant.

ANNUNCIATION SQUARE, in the same municipality, is the largest, and, consequently, may some day become the most elegant in the city. Orange and Race streets are on its front and rear—and facing are some very tasteful private residences.

TIVOLI CIRCLE, as its name would imply, is a circular piece of land laid off as a public ground in Nyade, at the head of St. Charles street, and is intended to be ornamented.

## THE OLDEN TIME.

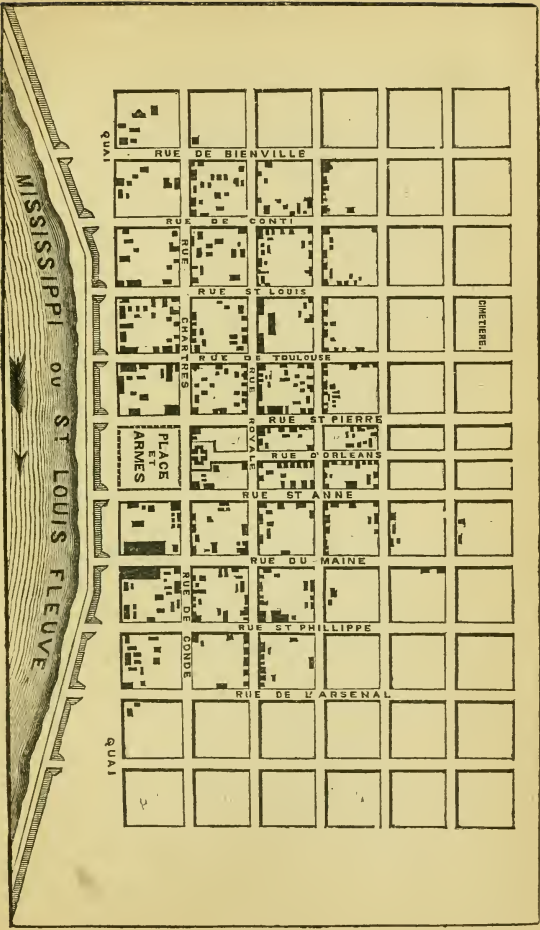
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ANTIQUITY ! the olden time ! the hoary, venerable past ! there is something sacred and soul subduing in the very sound of the words. Like the dying echo of the last tones of the departed, it is full of hallowed memories, and cherished associations, that haunt the inner chambers of the imagination, and linger with a mournful tenderness about the better feelings of the heart.

But what have *we* to do with Antiquity ! They of the old World, who were grey with time and tottering with decay when, but yesterday, they saw us spring into being, laugh at our sometime boast of Antiquity ; and well they may, for it is hardly as well substantiated as that of the simple boy who conceived himself the oldest person in the world, because he could not remember when he was born. Yet even we, in the New World, we, of its second or third generation, whose fathers were present at its birth and baptism, even *we* begin to talk gravely of the olden time, and to sigh and look sad over the melancholy grandeur of the past !

Well, be it so. In these stirring times, an age is shorter, and sooner achieved, than in those of "the

New Orleans in 1728.





sluggish eld.” Time is measured by events, and not by revolutions of the sun—by the progress of the mind, not by the slow sifting sands of the hour glass, and the amazing precocity of these latter days makes many ages out of a single century.

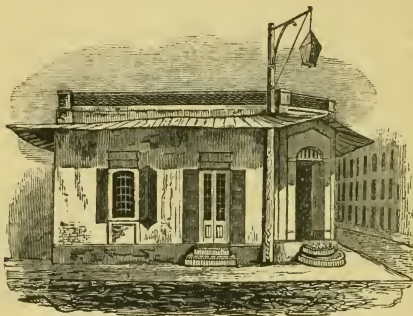
But what a vandal spirit is innovation! what a ruthless destroyer is this boasted modern improvement! It sweeps over the land with the energy of a new creation, demolishing and scattering whatever lies in its way, for the mere pleasure of reproducing it in a new and better form. It removes the ancient land marks, obliterates the last traces of ancient power and grandeur, levels mountains, fills up valleys, turns the courses of rivers, and makes all things bend to its iron will.

It works such rapid and magical changes in its headlong career, that few of us are able to point out what *has been*, or to predict with certainty what *will be* to morrow. Let us cherish then, with deeper veneration, the few relics that remain of the days of our fathers. Let us reverence Antiquity such as it is. Let the street commissioner, and the *improver* of old estates—

Spare that ancient house,  
Touch not a single brick—

It is almost alone in its sombre dignity, in the midst of younger and gayer edifices, that have swept New Orleans *as it was*, into the shade of oblivion. Antiquity—I mean, if I may be allowed the

Irish figure of speech—modern Antiquity, her countenance grave with sorrow, with here and there a furrow upon her yet ample brow, protests against the desecration of all that *was* dear and sacred. Standing on the verge of annihilation, with “one foot in the grave,” and conscious that her days are numbered, her dissolution nigh at hand, she commands, she implores us to save one memento of the past, one legible souvenir of “the days of auld lang syne” And here it is.



THE OLD SPANISH BUILDING.

At the corner of Royal and St. Anne streets, is delineated in the above engraving as it now stands—and long may it remain as a memorial of other times.

Thirty years ago—which, comparatively would take us back three centuries in any European

city—thirty years ago, one might have seen from that spot, then the centre of the city, long perspective street-scenes of a similar character. INNOVATION has now done her work—has absolutely trodden the city of the last century under her feet.

The Casa Blanca, at the corner of Bienville and Old Levee Streets, has also escaped the general demolition. It was once the courtly residence of Bienville, the first governor of Louisiana—the seat of power, and the centre of wealth, beauty and fashion in the province. It is still on its old foundation, standing “alone in its glory,” and the spirit of innovation has so far respected its ancient uses, that it is still a treasury of wealth, and a conservatory of the *sweetness* of our favored clime—a store house of sugar and molasses!



Environs of New Orleans.



## EXCURSIONS.

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IN consequence of the level surface of the country in the environs of New Orleans, a great variety of scenery cannot be expected—yet, on the northern shore of lake Pontchartrain, the ground is somewhat higher and rolling, and affords very pleasant positions. Although not formed like the prolific north and west, in hill and dale, cliffs and cascades, alternately varying and beautifying the landscape, yet there are charming rides and rambles in the neighborhood of this city, of which a more minute account will be given under their respective heads, which follow.

CARROLTON, a distance of six miles by the rail-road, is an exceedingly pleasant resort. The line, for nearly a third of the way, passes through the suburbs of the city, and is dotted on either side with beautiful residences—the remainder passes through cultivated fields, pleasant pastures, and delightful wood-lands. The road, like the country, is perfectly level, and kept in the finest condition. At the end of the route is situated the village; which is principally composed of tastfully built cottages, constructed in every variety of

architecture that suited the individual fancy of the owner. Opposite the rail-road depôt, is one of the handsomest and most extensive public gardens, that is to be found in the vicinity of New Orleans. A race course is near by ; and the strolls around are quit cheering to those who fly from the turmoil and dust of the metropolis.

THE SHELL ROAD of the Canal and Banking Company, affords an agreeable ride to lake Pontchartrain, also a distance of six miles. The highway runs on the margin of the canal, and is not excelled by any road in the United States. It is the great resort for every species of pleasure vehicle that the city furnishes ; and here may be seen, on an afternoon, all grades of society, from the gay sportsman, mounted on his fast trotter, to the sober citizen, who sallies forth on his ambling poney, all of whom appear to realize an equal share of enjoyment. A line of comfortably arranged barges also ply on the canal from the lake, at which place a convenient hotel is established. Half way on this road, between the city and the lake, is the highly celebrated Metarie race track.

THE PONTCHARTRAIN RAIL-ROAD, runs to the lake from which it derives its name, from the head of Elysian Fields street, a distance of five miles. It is a very pretty ride. This route communicates with the great nothern mail line, which goes by the way of Mobile—and all the steamboats,

that traverse the lakes to the various villages and landings that surround it, make this their general starting point. From here, a passage is obtained to Biloxi, which, the reader will recollect, was the first spot settled by the French in this portion of the world ; and, from that circumstance, will naturally excite the curiosity of the intelligent wayfarer. At the termination of this rail-road is a first-rate hotel for the accommodation of visitors. Here is good bathing, fishing and shooting ; and, beneath the shade of the trees, the breeze from the water is delightfully refreshing.

THE MEXICAN GULF RAIL-ROAD, runs from Elysian-Fields street, on Good Children street, towards Lake Borgne. There are twenty eight miles of this road now in operation. When finished, it will afford considerable facilities to commerce, besides great benefit to the citizens, conveying them, in about one and a half hours, to the refreshing breeze of the ocean—where fish, oysters and game may be found in abundance. No doubt it will compete with the most favored watering places of Bay St. Louis, Pass Christian, Boloxi, &c. It will also be a great accommodation to the planters in the neighbourhood—who already, so far as it goes, have given it good encouragement. This road has recently been purchased of the State, by A. Gordon and Co., who, availing themselves of about 22 miles of the Nashville rail-

road iron, are bringing this work to a rapid completion.

THE ROAD OF BAYOU ST. JOHN, which follows the sinuosities of that stream, and reaches lake Pontchartrain at the site of the old fort St. John, after travelling the distance of about six miles, presents a very pleasant drive. Returning by the new Shell road before mentioned, it varies the route without adding much to the distance.

MACDONOUGH stands on the banks of the river opposite to New Orleans ; and the crossing, in the hottest weather, is generally accompanied by a slight breeze, rendered cool and pleasant by the mighty current of the river, which comes from the icy springs of the Alleghanies and the Rocky mountains. The village, of itself, possesses no great beauty—but the country, the beautiful country is all around—and the noise and confusion of the city no longer annoy you. The great attraction at this spot is in visiting the United States marine hospital, one of the handsomest structures in Louisiana, which stands a little above.

ALGIERS adjoins, and seems a part of Macdonough. This is the great work-shop of New Orleans, for the building and repairing of vessels. It has its dry docks, and other facilities for the most extensive operations. In business times, it presents a scene of activity that is seldom observed in any other part of these regions, and re-

minds one of the bustling and enterprise of the North. The period has been when Algiers prescribed the law, *vi et armis*, to the city itself—but the day and the disposition, have happily long since passed away.

GRETNA, on the same shore, is nearly two miles further up the river, and stands opposite Lafayette. The whole distance is spotted with comfortable residences, principally inhabited by the owners of the adjoining grounds, and the walk from Algiers to this village is very gratifying to one partial to such exercise. There is a steamboat constantly plying from here to the city, which affords a desirable excursion of nearly three miles, touching at Lafayette in its passage each way. The village has a rural appearance, is regularly laid out, and exhibits some neat tenements. The forest approaches quite near; and, the idea that one may so easily lose himself in the neighbouring woods, gives to the place a touch of romance which only the denizens of a crowded city know how to appreciate. From the great number of cattle observed along the shore, it would seem as if there was no necessity of diluting the milk for the New Orleans market, unless the milkmen be tea-total temperance men, and take this method to introduce the inhabitants gradually to a taste for water.

THE RACE COURSES. There are three of these

in the vicinity of this city. The *Louisiana*, near lake Pontchartrain; the *Metairie*, near the Shell road; and the one at Carrollton. These are as well patronised as any in the country, and, in the racing season, the inhabitants of the neighbouring states, from a great distance, flock hither to participate in the sports of the turf. Much praise has been bestowed upon the arrangements on these occasions. Even here, as in many other countries, the ladies, by their presence, have given them countenance and encouragement—and the course usually is “gemmed by the rich beauty of the sunny south.”

THE BATTLE GROUND, (formerly known as “the Plains of Chalmette,”) the very naming of which causes the bosom of an American to swell with patriotic pride, lies five miles below the city. It may be approached either by the Grand Gulf railroad, or by a good highway along the levee, the new Convent and United States barracks being within full view. But first it may be necessary to look briefly at the historical facts which give celebrity to the spot.

Early in December, 1814, the British approached New Orleans, about 8000 strong, by the way of the lakes Borgne and Pontchartrain. Their passage into the lake was opposed by a squadron of gun-boats under Lieut. Jones. After a spirited conflict, in which the killed (500) and

the wounded of the enemy exceeded the whole American force, he was compelled to surrender to superior numbers.

On the 21st of Dec. four thousand militia arrived from Kentucky and Tennessee, under General Jackson. On the 22nd, the enemy having previously landed, took a position near the Mississippi, eight miles below the city. On the evening of the 23d, the Americans made a furious attack upon their camp, and threw them into disorder, with five hundred of their men killed. The enemy rallied; and Gen. Jackson withdrew his troops, and fortified a strong position six miles below the city, supported by batteries on the west side of the river. Here he was unsuccessfully assailed on the 28th of Dec. and 1st of Jan., the enemy losing two hundred to three hundred men. In the mean time both armies received reinforcements.

The decisive battle was fought on the 8th day of Jan. 1815. The American right was on the river, running in a right angle to the wood. A redoubt was raised (which is still visible) strengthened by bales of cotton along the whole line. The enemy were about a half mile lower down, on a parallel line, their head quarters resting on the river, near three large oaks which still mark the spot. The scene is distinct, and this is *the battle ground*.

The British commenced the assault at day light.

As they approached the works, sixty deep, many were killed by grape shot ; but, when they came within musket range, a destructive stream of fire burst forth from the American lines. Our troops were placed in two ranks, the rear loading while the front fired, thus pouring an incessant peal—which, from Kentucky and Tennessee riflemen, was most deadly. While leading on the troops of the enemy, Gen. Pakenham, the chief in command, was killed ; Gen. Gibbs, the second in command, was wounded mortally ; and Gen. Keene severely. Without officers to direct them, the troops halted, fell back, and soon fled in confusion to their camp. In a little over an hour, two thousand out of eight thousand veterans lay dead upon the field, while the Americans had but seven killed and six wounded—a disproportion unparalled in the history of warfare. Gen. Lambert, upon whom the command then devolved, after one more unsuccessful attempt to assault, availed himself of a truce of twenty-four hours to bury the dead, made good his retreat—which Gen. Jackson felt no disposition to molest, as he was resolved to hazard none of his advantages. Thus was New Orleans saved from the hands of an invading enemy whose War cry was—“Beauty and Booty.”

The British lost during the month they were in Louisiana, more than three thousand three hundred and fifty in killed, while the loss of the



Americans was not two hundred. The wounded of the enemy must have been much less, on account of the sure aim of the backwoodsmen. The greater portion of our army were plain honest farmers—who knew nothing of battle—they heard that their country was in danger—the country which gave a home to them, and their children, and they flew to its defence,—drove the invaders from their shores, and then returned to their homes to till the ground.

It is not a matter of surprise—though the battle is without a parallel in the history of the world—that even “invincibles,” were so dreadfully routed by undisciplined backwoodsmen defending their native soil, with their wives and children behind them.

A jaunt to these grounds is a sort of pilgrimage, that no stranger will, that no citizen can neglect. Not to have seen the field of this great victory, would be a reflection upon the taste, not to say the patriotism of any who should visit our city. The ground it is true, presents few memorials to remind the patriotic visitor of the deadly strife. There is no proud monument, towering to the sky, to mark the place where the great victory was won. But he beholds the consequences wherever he turns his eye, and he feels them—deeply feels them in every throb of his heart. Those born upon the soil, and those who participated in the struggle.

have reason to be proud of the spot, and to cherish the memory of that eventful day. If there is no lofty structure of granite or marble, to perpetuate the glorious achievement, it has a holier, a more enduring memorial in the heart of every true American, which thrills with lofty pride at every allusion to it, as did the ancient Greek at the name of Marathon, or the Spartan at that of Thermopylæ.



## TRAVELLING ROUTES.

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THE facilities which this metropolis affords for reaching any accessible portion of the world, particularly all sections of the union, are not excelled. Steam and sailing ships of the first class, hold commercial intercourse with almost every nation. Steam-boats, with accommodations equal to the best regulated hotels, are plying through every river and bayou. Four to five thousand miles can be achieved, in those floating palaces, with perfect ease, and comparative safety.

The principal routes between the north and the south are here given, as also the intermediate places, together with those inland most frequented by the traveller and the man of business, and the distances carefully noted as they diverge, in their various directions. Beside the four annexed routes to New York, there are several that lead to favorite watering places, and other points attractive to travellers of leisure, which it would be quite impracticable to lay down in a work of this kind.

They can always obtain information of these resorts, from intelligent companions on the road, that will prevent their deviating much from the point they wish to attain. The distances on the river have been corrected agreeably to the latest survey. The other routes conform to the most approved authorities ; and, frequently, have been corrected by personal observation, with the utmost care and attention.

ROUTE 1.— <i>From New Orleans to New York, via Pittsburg, Pa., by Steamboat.</i>		Miles.		Miles.	
New Orleans to Carrollton,	6			Princeton, Miss.,	10 510
Red Church,	20	26		Columbia, Ark.,	45 555
Bonne Carre Church,	16	42		Bolivar, Miss.,	53 608
Jefferson College,	22	64		Napoleon, (Arkansas),	12 620
Donaldsonsville,	19	83		Victoria,	20 640
Louisiana Institute,	12	95		Delta,	66 706
St. Gabriel Church,	12	107		Helena,	10 716
Plaquemine,	10	117		Sterling,	10 726
Baton Rouge,	23	140		Peyton, Miss.,	12 738
Port Hudson,	25	165		Commerce,	33 771
Bayou Sara,	11	176		Buck Island,	6 777
Tunica Bend,	27	203		Memphis, Tenn.,	21 798
Red River, cut off,	33	236		Devil's Race Ground,	34 832
Fort Adams, Miss.,	11	247		Randolph, Tenn.,	33 865
Homo Chitta River, Miss.,	10	257		Fulton, Tenn.,	11 876
Ellise Cliffs, Miss.,	26	283		Plumb Point,	10 886
Natchez, Miss.,	18	301		Ashport,	12 898
Rodney, Miss.,	31	332		Needham's Cut-off,	8 906
Bruinsburg, Miss.,	12	344		Walker's Bend,	31 937
Grand Gulf, (big black) Miss	10	354		Riddel's Point,	18 955
Carthage, Miss.,	25	379		New Madrid, Mo.,	10 965
Warrenton, Miss.,	19	398		Mills' Point,	42 1007
Vicksburg, Miss.,	10	408		Columbus, K.,	15 1022
Old River, (Yazoo,) Miss.,	12	420		Cairo, (Mo'th Ohio R'r.) Il,	18 1040
Tompkins' Bend,	46	466		Trinity,	6 1046
Providence, La.,	15	481		America, Il.,	5 1051
Bunch Bend,	19	500		Caledonia, Il.,	3 1054
				Fort Massac, Il.,	23 1077
				Paducah, (M. Tenn R'r) K.	8 1085
				Smithfield, (M. Cum'd) K.	1 1097

	Miles.		Miles.
Galconda, Il.,	18 1115	Levana, O., and Dover, K.,	2 1592
Tower Rock,	15 1130	Ripley, O.,	3 1595
Cave in the Rock,	5 1135	Charleston, K.,	5 1600
Battery Rock,	9 1144	Maysville, K., and Aber-	
Shawneetown, Il.,	12 1156	deen, O.,	7 1607
Raleigh, K.,	6 1162	Manchester, O.,	11 1618
Wabash River,	6 1168	Vanceburg, K.,	16 1634
Carthage, K.,	7 1175	Alexandria,	18 1652
Mount Vernon, Ia.,	13 1188	Portsmouth, O.,	2 1654
Henderson, K.,	28 1216	Concord, O.,	8 1662
Evanville, Ia.,	12 1228	Greenupsburg, K.,	13 1674
Owensboro, K.,	36 1264	Burlington, O.,	23 1697
Rockport,	12 1276	Guyandot, Va.,	7 1704
Troy, Ia.,	16 1292	Gallipolis, O.,	35 1739
Cloverport,	21 1313	Point Pleasant,	3 1742
Stephensport, K., and		Letart's Rapids,	30 1772
Rome, Ia.,	10 1323	Belleville, Va.,	28 1800
Fredonia,	34 1357	Troy, O.,	5 1805
Leavenworth,	2 1359	Belpie and Blennerhas-	
Mauckport, Ia.,	14 1373	sett's Island,	12 1817
Brandenburg,	3 1376	Parkersburg, Va.,	2 1819
West Point, K.,	18 1394	Vienna, Va.,	5 1824
Portland, K., and New		Marietta, O.,	6 1830
Albany, Ia.,	20 1414	Newport, O.,	15 1845
Shippingport,	1 1415	Sistersville,	27 1872
Louisville, K.,	3 1418	Wheeling, Va.,	40 1912
Jeffersonville, Ia.,	1 1419	Warren,	9 1921
Westport, K.,	19 1438	Wellsburg, Va.,	6 1927
Bethlehem,	6 1444	Steubenville,	7 1934
New London.	6 1450	Welleville, O.,	20 1954
Madison, Ia.,	7 1457	Georgetown,	7 1962
Port William, K.,	14 1471	Beaver,	13 1974
Vevay, Ia., and Ghent K.,	8 1479	Economy,	12 1986
Warsaw, K.,	11 1490	Middletown, Pa.,	8 1994
Rising Sun, Ia.,	20 1510	Pittsburg, Pa.,	10 2004
Bellevue,	2 1512	Warrenton, by Canal	47 2051
Petersburg,	7 1519	Blairsville, do	28 2079
Aurora,	2 1521	Johnstown, do	29 2108
Lawrenceburg,	3 1524	Holidaysburg, by rail road,	37 2145
North Bend,	7 1531	Alexandria, by Canal,	26 2171
Cincinnati, O., and Cov-		Lewiston, do	57 2228
ington and Newport, K.,	17 1548	Newport, do	36 2264
Columbia,	8 1556	Harrisburg, do	26 2290
Richmond,	13 1569	Philadelphia, by rail road	101 2391
Point Pleasant,	4 1573	Trenton, do	28 2419
Macon,	4 1577	Brunswick, do	27 2446
Neville,	3 1580	Jersey City, do	31 2477
Mechanicsburg, O.,	3 1583	New York, by steamboat,	1 2478
Augusta,	7 1590		

ROUTE 2.—*New Orleans to New York, via St. Louis, Chicago and Buffalo, [see route 1,] to Mouth of the Ohio, Steamboat to St. Joseph.*

	Miles.	Cleveland, O.	do	34 1986
Mouth of Ohio,	1040	Fairport, O.,	do	30 2016
Elk Island,	8 1048	Ashtabula, O.,	do	32 2048
Dogtooth Island,	8 1056	Fairview, Pa.,	do	28 2076
English Island,	15 1071	Erie, Pa.,	do	11 2087
Cape Girardeau, Mo.,	12 1083	Bugett's Town, Pa.,	do	17 2104
Bainbridge, Mo., and		Portland, N. Y.,	do	18 2122
Hamburg, Il.,	10 1093	Dunkirk, N. Y.,	do	18 2140
Lacouse's Island,	31 1124	Cattaraugus, N. Y.,	do	13 2153
Kaskaskia River,	15 1139	Sturgeon Point, N. Y.,	do	10 2163
River au Vases,	10 1149	Buffalo, N. Y.,	do	16 2179
St. Genevieve, Mo.,	9 1158	Williamsville, by rail road,	10 2189	
Fort Chartres Island,	10 1168	Pembroke,	do	16 2205
Rush Island,	10 1178	Batavia,	do	14 2219
Herculaneum, Mo.,	10 1188	Rochester,	do	25 2244
Harrison, Il.,	1 1189	Canandagua,	do	25 2269
Merrimack River	11 1200	Geneva,	do	16 2285
Carondelet, Mo.,	13 1213	Waterloo,	do	7 2292
St. Louis, Mo.,	7 1220	Seneca Falls,	do	4 2296
Alton, Il.,	22 1242	Cayuga,	do	3 2299
Illinois River,	15 1257	Auburn,	do	9 2308
Monroe,	5 1262	Skaneateles	do	7 2315
Guilford,	10 1272	Marcellus,	do	6 2321
Montezuma,	20 1292	Onondaga,	do	8 2329
Augusta,	15 1307	Manlius,	do	12 2341
Meridosia,	23 1330	Oneida,	do	18 2359
Beardstown,	16 1346	Utica,	do	22 2381
Havana,	27 1373	Herkimer,	do	16 2397
Pekin,	34 1407	Little Falls,	do	7 2404
Peoria,	7 1414	Caughnawaga,	do	33 2437
Henry,	10 1424	Amsterdam,	do	10 2447
Columbia,	10 1434	Schenectady,	do	15 2462
Lacon,	4 1438	Albany,	do	15 2477
Hennepin,	18 1456	New Baltimore, steamboat.	15 2492	
Chippeway,	16 1472	Kinderhook landing,	do	4 2496
Shippingport,	2 1474	Hudson,	do	9 2505
Dresden,	46 1520	Catskill,	do	5 2510
Mount Joliet,	15 1535	Clermont,	do	9 2519
Lockport,	36 1541	Redhook, upper landing,	2 2521	
Chicago, Il.,	29 1570	Redhook, lower	do	3 2524
Michigan City, Ind.,	52 1622	Rhinebeck,	do	7 2531
New Buffalo, M.,	12 1634	Esopus,	do	1 2532
St. Joseph, M.,	28 1662	Hyde Park,	do	9 2541
Detroit, by rail road,	200 1862	Poughkeepsie,	do	5 2546
Fighting Island, by steam-		New Hamburg,	do	8 2554
boat	12 1874	Newburg,	do	7 2561
Amhurstsburg, U. C., do	6 1880	Fishkill,	do	1 2562
		New Windsor,	do	1 2563

	Miles.		Miles.
Cold Sping, by steam boat,	3 2566	Canton, by steam boat.	14 396
West Point, do	3 2569	Portland, do	29 425
St. Anthony's Nose, do	7 2576	Cahaba, do	21 446
Fort Fayette, do	5 2581	Selma, do	18 464
Stony Point, do	1 2582	Benton, do	35 499
Haverstraw, do	4 2586	Vernon, do	39 538
Sing Sing, do	3 2589	Loch Ranza do	6 544
Tarrytown, do	6 2595	Washington, do	16 560
Phillipstown, do	10 2605	Montgomery do	12 572
Fort Independence, do	4 2609	Chehaw, Al., by railroad,	40 612
Fort Washington, do	2 2611	Covington, Ga., by stage,	155 767
Fort Lee, do	1 2612	Augusta. Ga., by railroad,	121 888
Manhattanville, do	2 2614	Charleston, S. C., do	136 1024
New York, do	8 2622	Wilmington, N. C. by steamboat,	220 1244

ROUTE 3.—*New Orleans to New York, via Wheeling and Baltimore.*

To Wheeling, by steam boat, [see route 1.]	1912
Cumberland, by stage,	131 2043
Hancocktown Md, railroad	39 2082
Williamsport, Md., do	27 2109
Frederickstown, Md., do	27 2136
Poplar, Md., do	20 2156
Ellicott's, Md., do	17 2173
Baltimore, Md., do	10 2183
Havre de Grace, Del., do	31 2214
Wilmington, Del., do	36 2250
Philadelphia, Pa., do	26 2276
New York, (see route 2,)	88 2364

ROUTE 4.—*New Orleans to New York, Mail line.*

Point Pontchartrain, by rail road,	5
Fort Pike, by steamboat	21 26
Bay St. Louis, do	33 59
Biloxi, do	31 90
Pascagoula, Miss., do	20 110
Cedar Point, Al., do	26 136
Mobile, Al., do	28 164
Junction of Alabama and Tombigkbe river do	65 229
Claiborne, do	72 301
Black Bluff, do	46 347
Dale Town, do	35 382

ROUTE 5.—*New Orleans to Fort Gibson by steam boat.*

Arkansas river, (see route 1)	620
Arkansas,	62 682
New Gascony,	71 753
Pine Bluffs,	25 778
Little Rock,	150 928
Lewisburg,	66 994
Scotia,	50 1044
Morrison's Bluff,	33 1077
Van Beuren,	72 1149
Fort Smith,	8 1157
Fort Coffee, Mo.,	10 1167
Fort Gibson,	84 1251

ROUTE 6.—*New Orleans to Balize, and Gulf of Mexico, by Steam boat.*

Battle Ground,	5
English Turn,	6 11
Fort St. Leon,	5 16
Poverty Point,	18 34
Grand Prairie,	27 61
Fort St. Philip,	9 70
South West Pass,	9 79
South Pass,	2 81
Pass a' l'Outre,	2 83
Balize,	4 87
Gulf,	5 92

	Miles.			Miles	
<b>ROUTE 7.—<i>New Orleans to the Raft on Red River, by Steamboat</i></b>			<b>ROUTE 9.—<i>New Orleans to Nashville, Tenn., by Steamboat.</i></b>		
Mouth of Red River,	236		Cumberland river,	1097	
Black River,	28	264	Eddyville, K.,	56	1153
Bayou Saline,	20	284	Canton,	20	1173
Alexandria,	56	340	Dover, Tenn.,	30	1203
Regolet de Bondieu,	18	358	Palmyra,	31	1234
Bayou Cane,	36	394	Red River,	6	1240
Natchitoches,	24	418	Harpeth River,	20	1260
Bastian's Landing,	40	458	Nashville,	40	1300
The Raft,	40	498			
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<b>ROUTE 8.—<i>New Orleans to Pittsburg, Miss., by Steamboat.</i></b>			<b>ROUTE 10.—<i>New Orleans to Florence, Ala., by Steamboat.</i></b>		
Mouth of Yazoo River,			Tennessee River,	1085	
Miss.,	420		Petersville, Tenn.,	71	1156
Satartia,	66	486	Reynoldsborg,	36	1192
Liverpool,	5	491	Perryville,	42	1234
Manchester,	25	516	Carrollville,	27	1261
Tchula,	88	604	Coffee,	26	1287
Marion,	37	641	Savannah,	9	2196
Mouth of Yalo Busha river,	33	674	Waterloo,	25	1321
Cochuma,	38	712	Bear Creek,	12	1333
Pittsburg,	27	739	Colbert's Ferry, Tenn.,	14	1347
			Florence, Al.,	24	1371





## GENERAL INDEX.

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Academies for Females, .....	44
Algiers, a description of, .....	194
Alligators, killed for their skins, .....	42
American Theatre, erected in 1823, .....	67
description of, .....	180
Amusements, .....	176
Ancient Settlements supposed to have existed, .....	11
Anecdote of an old Frenchman, .....	68
early cotton growing, .....	47
Annunciation Square, .....	183
Church, .....	100
Armories, .....	149
Association, Young Men's Howard, .....	115
Associations for charitable and other purposes, .....	110
Asylums of New Orleans, their excellence, .....	ib.
Asylum, Catholic Male Orphan, .....	114
Female do .....	110
Male do .....	113
Milne do .....	116
Poydras Female do .....	113
Les dames de la Providence, .....	114
Attakapas Prairie, .....	38
Parish, .....	39
produces abundance of live oak, .....	33

Atchafalaya lands, .....	34
Bank of Louisiana, .....	155
Louisiana State, .....	153
Canal, .....	155
City, .....	154
Mechanics' and Traders', .....	153
Gas, .....	154
Banks' Arcade, .....	156
Bard, Captain, Return of, .....	16
Bar of New Orleans, .....	79
Barracks, the United States, .....	86
Baton Rouge taken, .....	24
Battle Ground, .....	196
Bayou St. John Road, .....	194
Beautiful land bordering the Teche, .....	33
Bellevue Prairie, .....	40
Benevolent Society, Hebrew, .....	116
Best lands, .....	31
Bienville, made governor. ....	17
is superceded in 1710. ....	ib.
deceives the English captain, .....	16
is reappointed governor in 1717, .....	17
founds New Orleans, 1718, .....	18
sails for France in 1727, .....	20
is succeeded by Perrier, .....	ib.
governor for the third time, .....	ib.
resigns in 1741, .....	ib.
Biloxi settled by Iberville, .....	16
Board of Health established in 1841, .....	71
Boatmen of the Mississippi, .....	75
Bottom lands, their luxuriance, .....	30
Boundaries of the State of Louisiana, .....	28
Territory of Louisiana, .....	7
Branch Mint of the United States, .....	88

Branch Bank of the United States, established 1805, ..	66
Breed of cattle improving, .....	56
Bricks, why they are not well made, .....	57
Buildings, the public, .....	86
Burr, Aaron, .....	26
Business season, appearance of the levee in the .....	81
Calcasieu prairie, .....	40
Caldwell, James H., his great enterprise, .....	67
Carmelite Convent, .....	104
Carondelet appointed governor in 1792, .....	25
fortifies New Orleans in 1792, .....	64
his schemes defeated by Gen. Wilkinson, .	26
Casa Blanca, .....	189
Carrolton, .....	191
Casa Calvo succeeds governor Gayosa de Lemor, .....	26
is succeeded by Salado, .....	ib.
Catholic Cemeteries, .....	107
Cathedral, .....	92
Cattle, improvement in the breed, .....	56
Ceded to the United States, Louisiana, .....	26
Cemetery, Cypress Grove, .....	105
Catholic, .....	107
Protestant, .....	108
St. Patrick's, .....	109
Chapel of the Ursulines, .....	98
St. Antoine's, or the Mortuary, .....	97
Wesleyan, .....	103
Charitable Association, the Samaritan, .....	114
the Firemen's, .....	115
Charitable institutions, .....	110
Charity Hospital. ....	117
Church, Annunciation, .....	100
St. Augustine, .....	96
Christ, .....	99

Church, St. Pauls, .....	95
St. Patricks, .....	95
First Presbyterian, .....	100
Second     do, .....	101
First Congregational, .....	ib
Methodist Episcopal, .....	102
First Baptist, .....	ib
Circus, the, .....	180
Circus Place, .....	182
Circus street Infirmary, .....	124
City Exchange, (St. Louis,) .....	157
Bank, .....	154
Hall, .....	134
Improvements, an anecdote, .....	68
Proper, its extent, .....	ib
Prisons, .....	129
Clay, of a very pure kind, .....	57
Clergy, of New Orleans, .....	79
Climate of Louisiana, .....	45
College of Louisiana, .....	43
Jefferson, .....	ib
Franklin, .....	ib
Medical, .....	168
Colonial system introduced, .....	17
carried out, .....	21
Colony transfered to France in 1803, .....	24
Colorado ascended by La Salle, .....	15
Comedians first arrived in 1791, .....	64
become teachers, .....	ib
Commercial advantages of New Orleans, .....	81
Commercial exchange, .....	159
prosperity commences in 1795, .....	25
Comparative speed of navigating the Mississippi, .....	80
Congregational Church, first. ....	101

Convent of Ursuline nuns, erected in 1730, .....	61
its description, .....	103
Convent, new one erected in 1824, .....	61
its description, .....	104
Coast, the, .....	31
Convent, the Carmelite, .....	104
at Grand Coteau, .....	44
Cotton, when first exported, an anecdote, .....	47
the quantity estimated for 1844, .....	45
opinions on the fluctuating price of, .....	48
its consumption in New England, .....	49
in England, .....	ib
will present prices sustain the planter ? .....	50
the produce of Texas, .....	ib
lands, where the best, .....	34
Factories, .....	151
Presses, .....	152
Court house, .....	133
Creoles their character, .....	73
Crevasse, in 1816, .....	42
in 1844, at Bonne Carre, .....	ib
Crozat, Antonio, obtains an exclusive privilege, .....	17
Cuba tobacco seed does well in Louisiana, .....	54
Cultivation of sugar, .....	21
of Cotton, .....	47
of madder, .....	51
of silk, .....	53
of hemp, .....	ib
of the vine, .....	55
of tobacco, .....	54
of indigo, .....	55
of orange and fig do, .....	20
Currency, evil of its depreciation, .....	19
Custom house, description of it, .....	89

Custom House, a new one contemplated, .....	90
Cypress Grove Cemetry, .....	105
Death of Iberville, .....	17
de Soto, .....	10
Delta of the Mississippi, .....	37
Deposite of red river, .....	34
Description of United States Barracks, .....	86
Branch Mint, .....	88
Description of the Custom House, .....	89
Post Office, .....	90
State House, .....	91
Cathedral, .....	92
St. Patrick's Church, .....	95
St. Augustine do .....	96
Mortuary Chapel, .....	97
Annunciation Church, .....	100
Chapel of the Ursulines, .....	98
Christ Church, .....	99
St. Pauls do, .....	ib
First Presbyterian do, .....	100
Second do do, .....	101
Methodist Episcopal do, .....	102
Wesleyan Chapel, .....	103
old Ursuline Convent, .....	ib
new do. ....	104
Court House, .....	133
City Hall, .....	134
St. Charles Exchange, .....	137
Verandah, .....	141
City Exchange, (St. Louis,) .....	157
Discovery of the Mississippi, .....	7
Disputed Territory, .....	8
Division of the city in 1836, .....	67
Don Ulloa driven away, .....	22

Don O'Reilly takes possession,.....	23
Duelling punished by disfranchise,.....	78
Education in Louisiana, .....	43
Elliot, Andrew, .....	26
"English Turn," whence derived,.....	16
Exchange Hotel, (St. Charles,).....	137
Merchants',.....	161
(St. Louis,) City,.....	157
Commercial, .....	159
Excursions, .....	191
Extent of the territory of Louisiana,.....	9
New Orleans, in 1810, .....	66
the City Proper,.....	68
Felician, West, parish of .....	32
Female Orphan Asylum,.....	110
Fig trees introduced, .....	20
Fire consumes nine hundred houses in 1778, .....	62
many buildings in 1796,.....	65
Seven blocks of houses in 1844, .....	70
Fire department,.....	149
Firemen's Charitable Association,.....	115
First steamboat arrives at New Orleans, .....	27
First Presbyterian Church, .....	100
Congregational do,.....	101
Florida invaded by Gov. Galvez, in 1779, .....	24
Floating Prairies, a great natural curiosity,.....	35
Flour mill, .....	151
Fort Charlotte taken, .....	24
Fountain of Health, .....	9
Franklin College, .....	43
Infirmary,.....	124
Gas Works, a description of them,.....	144
the city lighted with it in 1834, .....	70
Gayosa de Lemor made governor,.....	26

Gayosa de Lemor succeeded by Casa Calvo, .....	26
German emigrants settle along the coast in 1723, .....	60
supply the city with vegetables, .....	ib.
Grape vines, where to be cultivated, .....	55
Grazing, the very best lands for it, .....	ib.
Gretna, .....	195
Gypsum, valuable beds found, .....	56
Health of New Orleans, .....	77
Hebrew Benevolent Society, .....	116
Hemp suited to the higher grounds, .....	53
an immense article of consumption, .....	ib.
necessary in time of war, .....	54
Hernandez de Soto, first discovery of Louisiana, .....	7
his death, .....	10
Historical Sketch of New Orleans, .....	58
Hospitality of the inhabitants of Opelousas, .....	40
Hospitals, easy access to them, .....	117
the Charity, .....	ib.
Hotel, Exchange, (St. Charles,) .....	137
the Verandah, .....	141
St. Louis Exchange, .....	143
Hewlett's, .....	ib.
Planters', .....	ib.
National, .....	ib.
Hall of Second Municipality, .....	127
Hurricane devastates New Orleans 1723, .....	60
Hunt's Merchants' Magazine, article, .....	48
Iberville enters the Mississippi, .....	16
establishes the first settlement at Biloxi, .....	ib.
founds Natchez, .....	17
his death, .....	ib.
Improvement in New Orleans in 1824, .....	66
Incorporation of New Orleans in 1805, .....	ib.
Indian massacre of the whites at Natchez, .....	19



Indigo cultivated in 1728, .....	20
cultivation now much neglected, .....	55
Infirmary, Circus street, .....	124
Franklin, .....	ib.
Inquisition, its establishment frustrated in 1785, .....	25
Iron foundery, .....	150
Jefferson College, .....	43
Jesuits and Ursuline Nuns arrived in 1727, .....	60
expelled by Clement XIII., in 1763, .....	61
their property confiscated, .....	ib.
their immense wealth, .....	ib.
curious documents of them in archives of first municipality, .....	ib.
La Dames de la Providence, .....	114
Lafayette Square, .....	182
Lafourche, Bayou, .....	32
Lakes, inlets, and sounds, .....	37
La Salle descends the Mississippi to the Gulf, .....	14
builds a fort at the mouth of Little Miami, .	ib.
sails for France, .....	15
goes into the bay of St. Bernard, .....	ib.
ascends the Colorado, .....	ib.
forms a settlement on St. Bernard's bay, ....	ib.
is murdered by Dehault, .....	ib.
his character and enterprise, .....	ib.
Law, John, the Scotch financier, .....	18
Learned professions, divinity, law, and medicine, ...	79
Le Moniteur, first paper published in New Orleans, .	25
Levee, its extent, .....	31
crevasse in 1816 and 1844, .....	42
its appearance in the business season, .....	81
Cotton Press, .....	152
Literary Association, Young Men's, .....	167
Live oak of Attakapas, its abundance, .....	33

Louisiana, territory of, its discovery, .....	7
its boundaries, .....	ib
transferred to Spain, .....	22
retransferred to France in 1803, .....	26
sold to the United States in 1803, .....	ib.
the State of, admitted to the union in 1812, ...	27
its boundaries, surface and soil, .....	28
its vast prairies, .....	30
its improvement in education, .....	43
College of, .....	ib.
mutton unsurpassed, .....	56
the climate of, .....	45
State Bank, .....	153
Medical College, .....	168
Luxuriance of the bottom lands, .....	34
Lyceum, Public School, .....	166
the People's, .....	167
Madder described, how cultivated, .....	51
price, duties, and demand for it, .....	ib.
Maison de Sante, .....	123
Male Orphan Asylum, .....	113
Manufactures, .....	150
Marine Hospital, United States, .....	125
Markets of New Orleans, .....	135
Market, Poydras street, .....	136
the Vegetable, .....	ib.
the Meat, .....	ib.
Market, St. Mary's, .....	137
Marquette descends the Mississippi, .....	13
Marshes, extensive near the ocean, .....	38
Masonic Fraternities, .....	80
Massacre at Natchez, .....	19
Meat Market, .....	136
Mechanics' and Traders' Bank, .....	153

Medical Science, .....	79
Medical College of Louisiana, .....	168
Merchants' Exchange, .....	161
Reading Room, .....	ib
Meteorological Journal, an abstract from the, .....	72
Methodist Episcopal Church, .....	102
Mexican Gulf Rail-road, .....	193
Military strength of New Orleans in 1792, .....	64
Milne Orphan Asylum, .....	116
Minerals of Louisiana, .....	56
Mint, Branch of the United States, .....	88
Miro succeeds Galvez as governor, .....	25
carries the colonial system into effect, .....	ib
Mississippi River discovered by De Soto, .....	10
River made free in 1795, .....	25
Valley, its vast extent, .....	83
boatmen, description of them, .....	74
immensity of its produce, .....	82 84
Delta of, .....	37
Moral character of New Orleans, .....	78
Muscoso's Adventures, .....	10
Mulberry trees prolific in Louisiana, .....	53
Municipal Hall, .....	127
Muskeet grass, excellent for cattle, .....	55
Mutton, .....	56
Natchez massacre of the whites, .....	19
tribe defeated, .....	ib
founded by Iberville, .....	17
National Hotel, .....	143
Gallery of Paintings, .....	169
Natchitoches tobacco, very superior, .....	54
Nature of the soil of Louisiana, .....	29
New Orleans founded by Bienville in 1718, .....	59
a historical sketch of .....	58

New Orleans, view of,.....	58
inundated and abandoned in 1719,.....	59
again occupied in 1722, .....	ib
visited by a hurricane in 1723, .....	60
by yellow fever in 1769, .....	62
divided into wards and lighted in 1792, .....	64
fortified by Carondelet, .....	ib
its military strength, .....	ib
opened to the United States in 1795, ...	65
a port of entry and delivery in 1804, ...	66
incorporated in 1805, .....	ib
its extent in 1810, .....	ib
its appearance from various points, ...	69
lighted with gas in 1834, .....	70
state of its morals, .....	78
its commercial advantages, .....	81
its anticipated greatness, .....,.....	84
Reading Rooms, .....	161-2
Police, .....	78
travelling routes, .....	201
Newspaper Press, .....	173
first published in 1794, .....	25
Olden Time, .....	184
Old Ursuline Convent, .....	103
Opelousas Prairie, .....	39
hospitality of the inhabitants, .....	40
Opposition to founding New Orleans, .....	59
Orange trees introduced, .....	20
destroyed by frost in 1748, .....	ib
O'Reilly, the Spanish governor, .....	23
his tyrannical conduct, .....	ib
succeeded by Unzoga, .....	24
Orleans Cotton Press, .....	152
Theatre, .....	176

Orphan Asylums, their excellence, .....	110
Paintings, National Gallery of, .....	169
individual collections of, .....	170
Paving of streets first began, .....	67
Pensacola taken by the French, .....	19
People's Lyceum, .....	167
Physic, Law and Divinity, their progress, .....	79
Pine woodlands, .....	30
Place d'Armes, .....	182
Planing Mill, steam, .....	151
Plaquemine, .....	32
Planters' Hotel, .....	143
Ponce de Leon, .....	9
Pontchartrain Rail-road, .....	192
Population in 1732, .....	20
in 1788, .....	25
in 1803, .....	26
of New Orleans in 1723, .....	59
in 1785, .....	62
in 1803, .....	70
in 1810, .....	66
in 1844, .....	71
comparative, .....	ib
Police of New Orleans, .....	78
Post Office, .....	90
Pottery may be made of Louisiana clay, .....	57
Poydras Female Orphan Asylum, .....	113
street Market, .....	136
Prairies of the State, .....	30
particularly described, .....	ib
Prairie, Attakapas, .....	33 38
Opelousas, .....	39
Bellevue, .....	40
Prairie, Calcasieu, .....	40

Prairie, Sabine, .....	40
Press of New Orleans, .....	173
Presbyterian Church, First, .....	100
Second, .....	101
Project of supplying wholesome water, .....	148
Prospects of New Orleans, .....	82
Prosperity of trade in 1810, .....	66
Protestant Cemetery, .....	108
Public buildings, .....	86
libraries much wanted, .....	79
property transferred to the United States, .....	65
Public School system, .....	163
how introduced, .....	ib
Public School Lyceum, .....	166
Squares, .....	181
Race Courses, .....	195
Raft in Red River, .....	36
Rail-road, Pontchartrain, .....	192
Carrolton, .....	191
Mexican Gulf, .....	193
Reading Room, Merchants', .....	161
New Orleans, .....	162
Red River deposite, its nature, .....	34
raft, .....	36
Residence of Governor Bienville, .....	189
Road of Bayou St. John, .....	194
Rope Walks, .....	151
Sabine Prairies, .....	40
Salvado, last Spanish governor, .....	26
Samaritan Charitable Association, .....	114
Sauville, the Governor, dies, .....	17
Saw Mills, steam, .....	151
School, Convent, .....	44
Sisters of Charity, .....	ib

School, Ursuline Nuns', .....	44
Schools, the Public, .....	ib
Second Presbyterian Church, .....	101
Municipality Work House, .....	130
Hall, .....	127
Sheep of Louisiana, very superior, .....	56
Lafourche, .....	ib
Shell Road, .....	192
Silk may be produced in abundance, .....	53
Society in New Orleans, .....	73
Soil of Louisiana, .....	29
State of Louisiana described, .....	28
State Legislature to be removed, .....	92
House, .....	91
Steamboat first arrives from Pittsburg, .....	27
Steamboats, early, their trips, .....	80
extent of present navigation, .....	83
Steam Planing Mill, .....	151
Saw Mills, .....	ib
Streets and sidewalks first paved, .....	67
St. Augustine Church, .....	96
St. Patrick's      do, .....	95
Cemetery, .....	109
St. Paul's Church, .....	99
St. Antoine's, or Mortuary Chapel, .....	97
St. Charles Exchange Hotel, .....	137
St. Louis Exchange Hotel, .....	143
St. Mary's Market, .....	137
(St. Louis,) City Exchange, .....	157
St. Charles Theatre, .....	178
St. Lorenzo, treaty of, .....	25
St. Bernard bay occupied by La Salle, .....	15
Sugar introduced by the Jesuits in 1751, .....	21
crops their present average, .....	ib

Sugar lands, .....	46
refinery, .....	151
Suggestion to sugar planters, .....	46
Surface of Louisiana, .....	29
Tax upon chimneys to light New Orleans, .....	64
Teche, excellent lands upon its borders, .....	33
Territory of Louisiana, its boundaries, .....	7
its discovery by de Soto, .....	10
its immense extent, .....	8
transferred to Spain in 1763, .....	22
Theatre American 1823, .....	67
Orleans, .....	176
St. Charles, .....	178
"The Coast," its extent and luxuriance, .....	31
Third Municipality Work house, .....	133
Tobacco Cuba, cultivated, .....	54
from Cuba, fine specimens of seed, .....	ib
raised at Natchitoches, .....	ib
worm how to prevent it, .....	55
Transfer of Louisiana to Spain, .....	22
Transfer of Louisiana to the United States in 1803, .	26
Travelling Routes, .....	201
Tyrannical conduct of O' Reilly, .....	23
United States Marine Hospital, .....	125
Barracks, .....	86
Branch Bank, established in 1805, .....	66
Mint, .....	88
University of Louisiana, see note, .....	43
Unzoga succeeds O'Reilly as governor, .....	24
succeeded by Galvez, .....	ib
Ursuline Convent, the old, .....	103
Ursuline Chapel, .....	98
nuns arrived in 1730, .....	60
erect a new convent in 1824, .....	104



Vaudreuil marquis de, .....	20
Variety of the population of New Orleans, .....	73
Vegetable Market, .....	136
Verandah, .....	141
View of New Orleans from various points, .....	69
Vine, cultivation of the, .....	55
War between France and Spain, .....	19
England and France, in 1756, .....	21
do and Spain, in 1779, .....	24
do and the United States, .....	27
Watchmen first established in 1792, .....	64
Water, a project to supply it without charge, .....	148
Water Works, supply water from the Mississippi, .....	70
a description of them, .....	146
Washington Square, .....	181
Wesleyan Chapel, .....	103
Western Company, chartered in 1717, .....	17
fail, in 1732, .....	20
West Feliciana, its excellent soil, .....	32
Wilkinson, Gen., .....	26
Woods, Col. crosses the Mississippi, .....	13
Workhouse of the Second Municipality, .....	130
Third do, .....	133
Yellow fever first introduced in 1769, .....	62
Yellow Fever, opinions of its transmissibility, .....	121
No. of cases in Hospital from 1822, to 1844, ..	120
Young Men's, Howard Association, .....	115
Literary do, .....	167



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