

N E W O R L E A N S .

New Orleans is one of the important cities of the United States in size and location. It has about 250,000 inhabitants and in this regard is much inferior to a number of other American cities. The area of the city is about a hundred and five square miles with a front of over twelve ^{miles} on the Mississippi, and in this regard is the largest city in the United States. But it is said that there is much of this great area of territory which has never yet been ^{traced} by the foot of a ^{white man} ~~white man~~ ~~of the city~~ ~~near the mouth of the Mississippi~~. The reasons for this will appear later.

The location of the city near the mouth of the Mississippi, the largest river of the continent and the largest of the world with ~~but one exception~~ - the Amazon - renders it of special importance in the commerce with foreign nations, and an ^{an} important strategic point in the event of war with any of the maritime people about us or across the seas. It forms the gate way to the great Mississippi valley which includes more than half the United States. There is ^{however} ~~however~~ another factor of its location that is more important ~~now~~ now than its trade or its battles and that is the peculiar condition of the land upon which it stands which has so influenced the manner of

building and many of the Municipal arrangements, and the people themselves as to render the city unlike any other in the ~~building~~ union. But before speaking of this at length let me call your attention briefly to ~~some~~ certain points ~~to~~ in its history which have also had a tendency to render the city peculiar and ~~and~~ unlike other American towns. It was not originally an American city. It was founded by the French in 1718 and is therefore 171 years old. It was the city of the colony of Louisiana, which at that time included the entire Mississippi valley. ~~One~~ Our own Illinois country was a portion of it.

In 1782, 64 years later, the city and country was ceded to Spain, but its inhabitants were mad about it and plucky withal, and refused to be transferred and it was not until 7 years later, on 1789, that the Spaniards really got possession. It then became a Spanish city with French inhabitants.

The Spanish held it for nearly fifty years without making it truly Spanish, though there was a strong intermingling of Spanish element. Then it was again ceded to France, and became a French city, but in a very short time the whole of Louisiana was ceded to the United States and New Orleans became an American city and has so remained to this day.

American? no not American. The old city ~~city~~ of New Orleans has not become American. An American city has

grown up beside the old French city, for french it was in the beginning, french it was during the spanish rule, and french it remains to-day after 85 years of American ownership.

But an American city has grown up beside and around it the old french city and has to some extent taken on the habits of the french city, while the french city has to a much less degree taken on some of the habits of the American city.

Now about the location of the city or more properly the site, i.e. the nature of the ground on which the city is built. We live in what is called a level country ourselves and one would suppose that any of you would know what I meant if I should say that the city of New Orleans is level but I am afraid you could not take in the full meaning of the expression, for the ordinary meaning of the of the term doesn't adequately express the facts.

At this point the Mississippi river runs ^{east} ~~west~~, but just in front of the city makes a curve like that of a new moon.

Hence the term, "Crescent City". Lake Ponchartrain lies only five or six miles north (4 miles at the nearest point) and from the one to the other the variation of the land, with the exception of the artificial levees, is only 24 inches.

There are hundreds of people in New Orleans who never saw a hill or valley. The little artificial mounds thrown up in

Some of the parks and thin levees are the greatest hills they have ever witnessed. Now add to this the fact that the surface of the water at medium stage of water is a little higher than the land except the immediate river bank - the levee, which has been made artificially and you will get some idea of the crite of the city. Now add to this another fact. When the wind blows from the east the waters of the gulf ~~are~~ ^{are} drawn into Lake Ponchartrain and two feet rise in the lake sends the water ^{up} over the land half way to the river when it is stopped by the Metairie ridge which is 24 inches above the general level at the highest point. and this ^{much} higher than the city proper, which slopes down from the river to this ridge making about one foot fall to the mile so that all of the water of the city runs away from the river toward this ridge. All of the sewers are open gutters and the sewerage runs to the ridge in ditches and is then pumped over the ridge and runs out into Lake Ponchartrain. This ^{is} in brief the peculiarities of the crite of the city. Perhaps the best thing I can ~~do~~ ^{do} is to tell you something of what I ~~was~~ ^{saw} in a visit to the city last spring. Every one going to New Orleans should enter it by the river for by so doing one will get the best impression of it. It is a river town rather a ocean port, and yet it is also an ocean port and the greatest river town in this country on the greatest part of the greatest river. The levee or wharf is one of the principal attractions, therefore, of

the city . This is built up along the river bank primarily to keep the water out of the city and later has been fitted for a landing . The steamboats stand as high as the houses so that instead of going up into the town from the river you go down into the town . However , this slope is made very gradual in all of the principal levees so that one might not notice it . Your steamer will probably land somewhere near the head of the ~~Canal~~ Canal street , the principal street of the city . The head of the street is toward the river in New Orleans . In any other river town the foot of the street is toward the river . You go down from the river into town and go from the town up to the river . In finding your landing , going down the river , you will have passed and had a river view of about five miles of the best parts of the river in front of the city and will have passed all manner of vessels etc loading and unloading . River steamers and ocean steamers , Gulf steamers from Mexico , from South America , and from Cuba , from Central America , and possibly from some parts of Europe . The levee is like a hive of bees . men working every where and a little watch of their movements soon reveals the fact these hundreds of men are at work in the form and manner of drilled companies , which is the actual fact . All loading and unloading of vessels is done , not by the vessels crews , but by levee men who live in New Orleans

Certain head men do this work ~~by~~ ^{by} contract hiring their companies to perform the labor, and the officers of the vessels simply see that it is properly done. All along, up and down, hundreds of men are carrying freight in out of the boats, stacking wheat, corn, oats, fruits, meats, furniture, vegetables, every sort of goods insquares on the levee, or from ~~the levee to the boats~~ ^{the levee to the boats} - all is perfect order everywhere. ~~There is a~~ ^{There is a} great bell on a little building one for each section of the levee and at 7 P. M. this rings and in a moment every thing is still - not a man of the former busy crowd is to be seen. Another set of men, only just a few walk, silently ~~among~~ ^{among} the great heaps of goods, perhaps throwing tarpaulins over some of them. These are the night guards who walk among the goods till 6 in the morning to see that nothing is disturbed or injured by rain. At 6 A.M. they leave and the crowd of workmen begin again. These are almost entirely negroes and many picturesque groups are formed by negro women who are among them toward noon time with carts or baskets selling fruit pies, sausages, sandwiches, and everything and anything good to eat. The levee everywhere near Canal street is from three to five hundred feet wide and slopes gently from the river toward the town.

Among the busy ~~throng~~ ^{throng} there are many ~~trays~~ ^{trays} of various pattern carting goods from the business houses to the levee and from the levee to the town.

Now make a start to see the town, but if you are a stranger and have no guide the thing to do is to find a book store and secure a guide book. Armed with this and having spent a couple of hours in its study you will want to inquire for one street, and having found it you may go where you like asking no questions unless you want to. Canal street is the main street of the city and clay status on canal street is the center of the city. Every thing in the city is such a direction from the Clay status. All the street cars, no matter where they go, start from canal street and none of them, except one line ~~line~~ along the river, ever cross that street.

If you want to go from American ^{city} ~~street~~ to the French city you must change cars. These two portions of the city have nothing in common but the taxes and open ditches before their front doors.

I took the Esplanate cars for my first run which ~~leads out~~ ^{leads out} to the city park going through the best of the French quarter of the town. I ~~do~~ think these cars were painted about fifty years ago, but I am not certain.

They are very small and drawn by one mule. The cars are very clean and neat with simple wooden benches along the sides, and the mule unlike the northern animal of that name, has his ribs on the outside. I asked the driver (they have no conductors) about this and he said it was on account of the buzzards, as a kind of protection you know. I warned up to him at once - capital fellow. Very soon I noticed that the

car was filling with women and children and soon ^{was} en-
 tirely full and instead of speaking french we were speaking
 the german tongue. When the car was full the driver whipped
 his mule into a run and refused to stop. But very soon the
 old rickety car left the track and jstched up against a tree.

The fellow took the matter easy, and so did the mule,
 until the the next car came up and the two drivers lifted the
 thing and set it on the rails again and we went on. ^{The}
~~little street was a very pretty one, a very broad one~~
 street was a very pretty one a very broad street
 fully as broad as east state in our city, with the street car

track in the center between two rows of fine trees set about
 eight or nine feet apart with a road for vehicles on either
 side and then came the side-walks, rather narrow and dilap-
 idated. This is one of the finest french residence streets
 and I saw many new and handsome residences - but first for my
 story. We went rapidly and merrily along, the women

and children as happy as larks and in great glee. I very soon
 discovered that they wer e going to a picnic at Central park
 and I determined that I should go also. By this time we
 had gained the open country and all began to unload, We were
 at the end of the line, and at Bayou St. John. We crossed
 this on foot bridge and a short walk brought us to the park.

And here were about a thousand children at play among great
 live oaks trees- Some of these trees are immense - I tried
 in English to find out something about these people but failed

, everybody was busy , so I called for a mug of beer and sat down to an empty table to watch the children play. Soon an elderly man gentleman seated himself opposite me, and to him I spoke in german and learned that this was a picnic given to the germanprotestant school children of the city. Nearly all of them live in the french quarter , at least those represented at this picnic and do not acquire the english language rapidly .

A visit to the cemeteries.

The cemeteries of New Orleans are one of the greatest curiosities of this very curious ~~old~~ old city made so by the nature of the site on which the city is built. The custom of burying the dead in what is called Ovens seems to be as old as the city itself and so far as I know it is peculiar ^{to} New Orleans , and the new city ~~is~~ has adopted the custom of the old. This people found themselves practically debarred from burying in the ground for the reason that two feet is the deepest they can dig without striking water , therefore they were compelled to build tombs above ground . We must suppose that in the earlier time the people were not able to build expensive tombs and hence fell into the custom of building little brick tombs just large enough and long enough to slip a coffin into it endways . At least this is the form of about all of those I found dated more than a century ago. These

inscriptions were in either latin or french, only occasionally I came across onto a spanish. The german inscriptions were all within this century and mostly within the last fifty years. I was a little surprised to find inscriptions in french so far back, supposing that in the purely Catholic times of the city only latin would be used for this purpose.

But the form of the tomb ^{grew} as the people prospered, but without much change of design for they simply built them higher, making two or more burial places in one structure and later the favorite form for families seemed to be a three story form with a place for two coffins with an opening below for bones. This for the middle classes is the family tomb, and when it is necessary to bury a third member of the family the bones of the first is removed to the lower vault and the third takes its place. This kind of change is made indefinitely so that ordinarily one tomb with two burial places is enough for a large family. I was told that a law was in effect prohibiting such changes being made under one year after interment and that in the public places (tombs for rent) two years was the earliest limit at which bones could be removed to make room for others. Strangers visiting New Orleans ^{MS} should visit the old cemeteries first. They are now right in the heart of the city only a short walk from Canal

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street , each of them occupying a block and surrounded by solid brick walls from eight to fifteen feet high. All that can be seen from the outside is the tops of the more imposing monuments . The old St. Louis Cemetery is perhaps the best one to visit for two reasons. It has the oldest tombs and it has the finest specimen of the purely New Orleans form of tombs . ~~The~~ monument of the Italian society of New Orleans . This is a most beautiful work of art of recent structure . As a burial place it strikes me as being the finest monument in New Orleans (I do not compare it with the Jackson or Lee monuments or the Clay or Franklin statues . These are statuary , not tombs , and take their interest largely from the men represented and the artist who accomplished their work)

The Italian monument is properly a burial place or mausoleum for the members of the Italian society intended for future use and is not in any sense a monument to past greatness of any individual man. It interested me as a piece of architecture - I lingered around it for several hours and then went back the next day . It is built of Italian marble , is octagonal with burial places entering on four sides or better has four fronts in the form of a maltese cross , and the tomb proper is about eighteen feet high . This is surmounted by a structure of magnificent design on the top of which is a statue of religion leaning on a cross and in

By four niches there are life size statues of Italia and her children- the workmanship throughout is very fine. It has burial places or ovens for about one hundred persons .

Unfortunately it stands thick among the tombs so that a good view of it on all sides is difficult to get .

Another peculiar feature of the New Orleans Cemeteries is the building of Burial places for rent . In most if not all of them you will find the walls of the ovens from four to six or eight in height one above the other that are for rent to those who may want them temporarily or permanently at a comparatively small rate. These are intended to serve two purposes . First they may be used as receiving vaults until the family mausoleum can be built, whether this be two or three months or as many years - second they may serve as the last resting place i.e. until such time as the bones may be removed to the bone pit below . About this matter I, in my ignorance committed a most egregious blunder and was laughed at by the sexton of Metairie ridge cemetery . Seeing these long rows of ovens along which reminded me in a very ludicrous way of the horse and cattle stables along the inclosure of our northern fair grounds , I laughingly asked if they were for rent . He looked at me for a moment with a quizzical air and replied * Yes sir , how many will you have and what location would you prefer * Not to be out done I told him that I thought I would cook done enough in any of the upper ones when

the sun came full on top all day. In the communication which followed I became better acquainted with the customs of the Crescent city and I cannot but think their arrangements are good and benificent, though I should think that crenation would be a good thing for the city. How However the ovens seen to be carefully built of brick plastered inside and out or of marble so that but little of discomfort meets the nose. I must say that I found noathing .

T H E F R E N C H M A R K E T

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The French market is one of the attractions of New Orleans . I hardly know what to say about it , where to begin and where to end . We haven't any thing like it in any of our cities in this part of the country . Here the merchant intervenes between the producer and the consumer , except that occasionally a farmer may sell from his wagon on our streets .

Now suppose that all of these , instead of selling to the stores as they do here should congregate under a shed or in spacious buildings erected for the purpose and unload their produce on tables or benches and sell them themselves during the hours from early morning to eleven o'clock . Then we would have what they have in New Orleans only it would be on a much smaller scale . for our city is not so large nor have we such a variety of produce . The market occupies five triangular blocks next the river and may be said to represent all nationalities , both in speech , goods and the manner of handling them . You can buy anything from a river scrimp to a ship anchor - things to eat , things to wear , things to cook , and things to cook them in and fuel to cook them with in short people who have things to sell take them to the market

The general idea of the market is the supply of the table and this is really the rich portion of it , but in fact very many other things are taken there and sold because it is a place where people go

place where people do congregate . Especially is this true of house utensils and the more common forms of dry goods , nick-nacks , toilet articles , and notions generally . This portion of the market occupies a large triangular building about one third as large as our public square . The fruit market occupies another and here will be found all kinds of tropical fruits and among them many that we never see here while most of our northern fruits are also found . The meat market is not what ours would be if all our butchers were gathered under one roof for generally I found that this man or that with other butchers upon him had only one kind of meat . Perhaps a dozen had the same kind but in the aggregate everything under the sun was on sale . Each man occupies but a small table . The vegetable market is a very large department and well represented both in variety and quality and especially in the number of persons handling them .

People come with baskets of this and that from their gardens , such things as they can spare from their own tables

Then there are the stalls of the truck farmer of all styles and kinds with their own productions and their odd ways of handling them each using his best endeavors to please his customers both in the quality and the preparation of his goods for sale and in his manner toward them . It is said of the wife of Sir John Herschel that in the rail ways of Europe she used to ride second class in order that she could

make the acquaintance of and talk with the common people, which was denied her in society, so that she could bring herself more in rapport with humanity. I could but make a note of this while rambling through these markets. How few of even our city people know anything from personal contact of the people who raise the vegetable they eat. In the New Orleans market the people buy directly from the men who raise the produce and are mutually acquainted and in sympathy with each other. I cannot help but deprecate the growing custom of our people into what may be termed tacit class caste growing in an ever increasing degree out of the want of mutual contact through the more national ties of trade which have been cut off by the great class of middle-men or traders.

Necessary as this division of labor seems to be to our civilization especially in the light of recent advances in the shipment of perishable vegetables and fruits long distances for the daily supply of our tables, it is working great change in the habits and customs of our people that will lead to hurtful results in the, not very distant future, would it be possible for the people of a great nation to advance in refinement, social culture, learning, art and science without this social ostracism of the hewers of the wood and the drawers of the water? Must working people be debared from even a business association with professional men? This is certainly the tendency of our times and the drift

If tendency of our times and the drift of business custom is in that direction . The fish market is not to be missed for it is one of the wonders of the city . The location of the city is especially suited for the concentration of great varieties of fish . It is on the largest river,, save one, in the world and at a point very near many bayous and ofshoots that are especially favorable for feeding grounds for great varieties of fresh water fish - she is also practically on the gulf for lake Ponchartrain is only an arm of the sea with bayous and canals leading from it into the very heart of the town so that the salt sea water fish boats are at home there with their salt sea products . Hence the salt waters and the fresh waters yield to her their combined products . Added to this the latitude is practically that of the tropics , where the varieties of the fish world are the greatest . All of these forces are centered in the New Orleans market . As a large proportion of the inhabitants are Catholics I was particular to be on hand early Friday morning at the fish market to see the display before it had been broken by sales . Now what shall I say of it? Go thou and do likewise . Whenever you have the opportunity and you will be richly repaid .

You will probably see many things never seen before and some that you will not want to see again , especially if you have much feeling for the lower orders of animal life . Of all the human family, fishermen are the most heartless in the treatment of those living things with which they deal . Indeed the

human family seem not to know that fish^h* or anything that lives in the water feels, suffers and dies. If any butcher in Christendom should be guilty of any such cruelty to his animals as the fisherman daily commit toward their fish an outrage community would hang him to the nearest tree. Only think of a man taking a great scoop shovel and shoveling a ton of living fish in to a narrow boat where they are piled over one another four or five feet deep struggling and wiggling among each other until their lives go out while he raises his sails and goes merrily away to the market humming the refrain of a Sunday school song. But the fish market is grand though ^{it is} ~~lets~~ cruel to the last degree. The varieties of fish seem to have no end and any attempt to enumerate them would be futile.

Among them we will find a large proportion of our northern varieties with a much larger species that we never see. Fish of all imaginable shapes and sizes and colors - round fish flat fish, and fish that are flat the wrong way, as the flounder tribe which form a queer part of the show - then there are shell fish without end - shrimps from the river, little fellows by the bucket ^{full} wriggling and crawling among each other - shrimp shrimps from the gulf, larger and stronger both of muscle and of taste - crabs, softshell and ^{hard} ~~hard~~ looking like a tangled mass of great spiders. Turtles from the river, turtle from the sea, hard and soft shells - of more varieties than I

had dreamed and as if not yet satisfied with the tribe of Saurians there was cage after cage of land terapens of several varieties and all of these seemed to be in demand too.

I imagine it would make some of our northern girls shudder to see a fair young Creole miss rumage through a cage of live terapins, larger but not unlike our prairie terapins, and pick out a nice fat one as you would a chicken, and instead of having it sent home, which seems to be the custom there, she pins it up in a cloth to keep it from getting away and tucks it in her basket with her other things for dinner, or carries home a living turtle. Or again to see another marking out with her finger and watching that the fishmonger cuts aright her favorite piece from the living wiggling turtle - verily custom has a great deal to do with our feelings. And then the frogs - what frogs they have. Alone and dressed I measured one that was 17 inches from nose to toes. But I cannot even try to tell what I saw in the fish market. I have been to many fish shows but this is the most wonderful of all, both in variety and in the profusion of fish.

The buildings in New Orleans are not very remarkable in the architectural way . There are many fine buildings however but as a whole the town has rather a shabby out look . A few localities look well . The best business part is Canal street . Here are many very handsome stores and shops but nothing remarkable . In the American residence portion Carrollton is the best , but even here the good houses are in the minority even on the best street , StCharles Ave .

The architecture partakes of the southern climate and much more is made of the veranda than with us . These are generally very simple but withal tasteful and pleasant . The cistern is a feature in the architectural way that I was not prepared for and t at first I had some trouble to make out its meaning

New Orleans has no municipal provision for water for drinking and wells are out of the question . The inhabitants use rain water exclusively . No cisterns can be made in the ground as with us , indeed the inhabitants of the crescent city cannot go into the ground for anything whatever .

Therefore they build cisterns above ground and build them large - many of the more pretentious dwellings have the cisterns woven into the architectural design and make it a thing of beauty . -some where on the front , at one corner

, maybe there is a round tower on a base formed of the foundation, stone, brick or stucco, raised three or four feet higher than the other rest. On this is placed a round tower like structure which rises to the eaves of the second or even the third story and is then finished perhaps with a pointed roof or spire which rises higher than any other part of the house. Many of these cisterns will be seen and in all positions and styles of finish. Indeed every dwelling has one in some form, and all of the better houses are so arranged that the water is drawn from pipes to where wanted in the rooms as in other cities from their hydrants. In the Creole quarters many of the houses seem poor and mean, generally they seem to take no care of the appearance of the outside of the house. The streets are narrow, mean and unwholesome ~~and~~ and the people evidently live much indoors notwithstanding the mildness of the climate. However on some portions of the Esplanade and other of the better streets the French are building residences that are fair and handsome. In New Orleans there are many buildings that have interesting histories and others that are beautiful in their antiquated shabbiness but I cannot go into these matters now, it would be a fit subject for a book.