

NO LONGER ASLEEP.

New Orleans Beginning to Recognize Her Own Importance.

Customs and Conditions Existing for Centuries Giving Way to Modern Ideas and Up to Date Improvements.

[Special New Orleans (La.) Letter.] New Orleans has been the Rip Van Winkle of American cities. For years she has slept and allowed great opportunities to pass her door unheeded.

The death rate of New Orleans now is about 29 per 1,000. Improved drainage conditions will lower it easily to 18; and the completion of the sewerage and paving systems and an abundant supply of pure water would, speaking from scientific experience, reduce it to ten or even nine per 1,000.

Preparatory to these far-reaching innovations the city council has caused the telegraph, telephone and electric light companies to place their wires underground, so that in the space of half a decade New Orleans will have evolved from the slowest to the most progressive city in America.

The public buildings, many of them old and uncomfortable, are about to give place to modern and architecturally perfect structures, and the parks, unequalled in point of natural beauty, are being improved at a rapid rate.

Audubon park and City park, by the way, are famous for possessing the most exquisite oaks in America, some of the trees being 300 years old.

That the commercial development will more than go hand in hand with the city's sanitary improvement cannot for an instant be doubted. New Orleans has always been the great cotton trade center of America, and has handled immense quantities of sugar and rice in addition.

Moreover, it is the second largest grain exporting point in the United States. But its trade in manufactured goods and its manufacturing interests are in want of development.



SIDNEY STORY, ONE OF NEW ORLEANS' PROGRESSIVE LEADERS.

The construction of a drainage system which will take care of all the storm water and drain every inch of soil between the Mississippi river and the lake and reduce the moisture in the soil fully six feet.

The drainage canal proper is 30 feet wide and 25 feet deep, built of brick and cement on a concrete foundation, and covered over with asphalt.

Manufacturing enterprises are naturally attracted by sanitary surroundings and shipping facilities, and the New Orleans of the nineteenth century, a town of sentiment and tradition, will evolve itself into a mighty mart, where sordid competition will be tempered by art and letters and the high breeding of its social leaders.

The writer has dwelled at some length upon the material aspect of the present condition of the city of New Orleans, because higher development depends upon material surroundings.

Hard Lines. First Boy (gloomily)—I've got to cut kindlings and empty three buckets of ashes and build two fires and go to the store on an errand and then fill the coal box.

THE LAND OF OPHIR.

There Is Evidence That It Was What Is Now Called Monomotapa, Africa.

The Monomotapa region, in Rhodesia, is the ancient land of Ophir. The gold mines of the ancients are now rediscovered and the gold ingot molds rediscovered in Rhodesia are identical with the tin ingot molds used by the Phoenicians in Cornwall.

ADDS PI TO HIS LUNCH.

The Tardy Suburbanite's Mortifying Struggle with the Rest of the Paper Parcel.

The man in the suburbs had his lunch neatly tied in a square paper parcel which did not look its function. He started from the house in orderly precision, says the Chicago Chronicle, but had barely turned the corner when he stubbed his toe and dropped the unsuspecting bundle to the sidewalk.

COL. WILLIAM CHRISTIE JOHNSON.



The executive council of the Grand Army of the Republic having failed to elect a successor to the late Col. Sexton, who at the time of his death was commander-in-chief of the organization, Col. Johnson, of Cincinnati, will act as commander until the annual encampment which is to meet at Philadelphia in September.

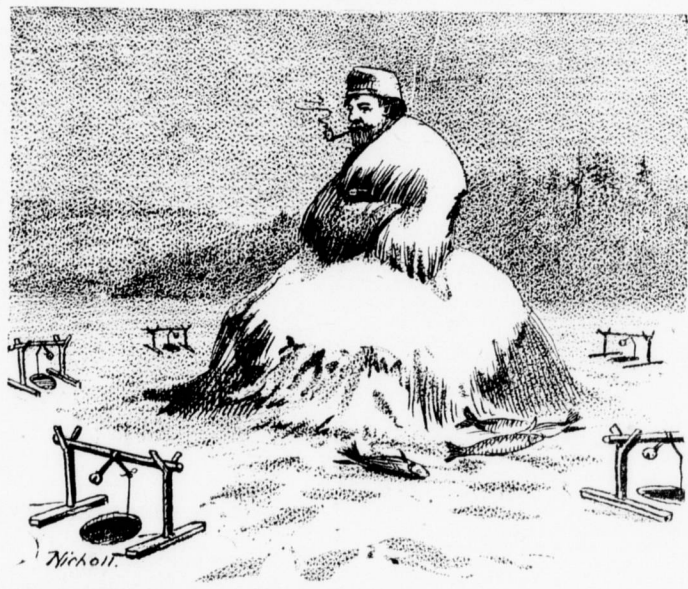
"slaves" nor the "apes" of Bible history came from India, for Africa, as is well known, has ever been credited in history as the ivory, slave and ape-producing country.

The Length of Human Life. According to M. L. Holl Schooling, of Brussels, says Cosmos, there is an old rule for finding the length of a man's

one pocket, but tugging deep into the other for his handkerchief to wipe his heated brow, out flew crumby bread and stringy ham and cake that looked as if the frosting had been nibbled by mice.

Sea Water for Street Sprinkling. The Merchants' association of San Francisco, says the Popular Science Monthly, has been trying the experiment of sprinkling a street with sea water, and finds that such water binds the dirt together between the paving stones.

WINTER FISHING IN HUNGARY.



The Hungarian fisherman does not let snow and ice interfere with his business. He cuts holes in the ice in the river, as shown in the illustration, rigs up a hook and line on a frame over the hole, builds up a hay stack to sit on while he waits for the fish to catch themselves, and smokes, comfortably indifferent to the weather.

life if the present age lies between 12 and 86 years. This is the rule: Subtract the present age from 86 and divide the remainder by 2; the result will give the number of years you have yet to live.

First Boy (gloomily)—I've got to cut kindlings and empty three buckets of ashes and build two fires and go to the store on an errand and then fill the coal box.

that sea water does not dry so quickly as fresh water, so that it has been claimed when salt water has been used that one load of it is equal to three loads of fresh water.

Gave Up the Job. The Swedish company which was going to raise the sunken Spanish warships at Santiago has given up the task.

A Young Executive. Karl Beachamp is one of the youngest men who have in recent years been appointed to a colonial governorship. He is not quite 27 years of age.

THE HOUSE CHAPLAIN

Rev. Henry N. Couden and His Stirring Public Career.

Lost His Sight While Serving as a Defender of the Union—Afterward Studied for the Ministry and Won Success.

Five or six years ago the relations between England and the United States were strained over the Venezuelan affair, and it seemed as if only a spark were needed to ignite the flames of war.

One morning Dr. Couden entered the chamber just on the stroke of the clock and was taken to his station below the desk of the speaker. He was nervous, for he had not been long in the house, and he was not quite certain of his ground.

He prayed for God's blessing upon the congress and the speaker of the house of representatives. Then, as he neared the end of the prayer, he raised his voice so that it could be heard in every corner of the vast hall.

"Heavenly Father," he said, "let peace reign throughout our borders, yet may we be quick to resent an insult to our nation!"

To-day Dr. Couden's home life, says the Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post, is as full of quiet and sweetness as his younger days were of hardship and vicissitude.

His reading is done by Mrs. Couden, who keeps him in touch with the doings of the world, and reads aloud the books which he uses in preparing his sermons and other writings. She is his lost sense regained.

At the outbreak of the civil war Dr. Couden was a boy of 17, overflowing with life and spirits, and ardent in his patriotism. So, when President Lin-



REV. HENRY N. COUDEN. (The Blind Chaplain of the House of Representatives.)

coln issued his call for 75,000 men for three months, young Couden was among the first to present himself for enlistment.

Before the three months had expired he had enlisted again in the Sixth Ohio infantry for a period of three years. He fought in the battles of Laurel Hill and in the skirmishes at Carrick's Ford and Green Brier.

When young Couden went back to his home in Cincinnati he began the manufacture of brooms, and afterward the selling of confectionery.

When young Couden went back to his home in Cincinnati he began the manufacture of brooms, and afterward the selling of confectionery. But he soon determined to study for the ministry.

Negroes in Porto Rico. Dr. H. K. Carroll, of Plainfield, N. J., the president's special commissioner to examine into the political and social conditions in Porto Rico, was much impressed by the high character of the negro population there.

Commercial Plants in Europe. It is interesting to know that 4,200 species of plants are gathered and used for commercial purposes in Europe. Of these 420 have a perfume that is pleasing, and enter largely into the manufacture of soaps and perfumes.

Mushrooms as a Medicine. Mushroom juice is a sure cure against snake poison, according to an eminent scientist. He has found that all mushrooms possess a substance which acts as an antitoxin against serpents.

How He Won Her. Hawkesley—Here's a pretty girl eloped with a dentist!

DIAMOND FIELDS OF BRAZIL.

Once of Considerable Importance But Now Comparatively Neglected.

It is not generally remembered that Brazil was at one time the most important diamond-producing country in the world. We are reminded of this fact by the second secretary of the British legation at Rio, who has just sent home a report on a journey to that part of the country, Minas Geraes, whence this mineral has been obtained in great quantity.

Mr. Beaumont's journey was undertaken partly through curiosity to visit a little-known country and partly in the hope of learning something of the methods and prospects in vogue, especially those of the new company, from which such great things are expected.

For 16 years at the beginning of the present century the banking houses of Hope in Holland and of Baring in London controlled the mines, the output of which was assigned to them in repayment of a loan of 12,000,000 florins.

Then the government took hold of the administration, and continued to do so until 1845. In that year it was decided by decree that the lands should be put up at auction every four years, the reserve price being 20 reis (2d.) a "braca," but its provisions were never carried out, being modified by the law of 1852, which recognized the rights of all those who already effectively occupied mining lots on payment of one real per "braca quadrada."

STREET CAR EPISODE.

Little Willie Got Something from His Indolent Ma That He Didn't Ask For.

"I meet a good many strange people," said the street car conductor, as he stopped the car to let him get the fare off, "but yesterday I think I capped the climax."

"An overdressed woman and a small boy got on my car, and as I rang up their fares the small boy became interested in my bell-punch and insisted on ringing the little bell just like I did."

"I couldn't see my way clear to amusing children at five cents a ring, and said as much."

"Then the woman flared up and said she thought that I might let little Willie ring the bell if he wanted to."

"I kept my temper and explained to her that the street car company collected five cents from me for every time that the bell was pulled."

"She put her fat hand into her pocket-book, and, extracting 25 cents, handed it to me, and said, laughingly: 'You may let little Willie ring five times.'"

"Now, one of the company's rules says that we must be polite and obliging at all times, so I submitted."

"Little Willie, while I stood there like a fool; the mother beamed, and a roar went up from the passengers."

"As I escaped to the other end of the car the woman said, with a toss of her head: 'Little Willie always gets what he asks for.'"