J. E. WENK, heir Ontward Customs A Visit to the Creole Shops in New Orleans —Absinthe Saloons.

WEBNESDAY I A correspondent of the New York "elegram, writing from New Orleans, ays: The first object of interest the The Morthman or the wise visitor from the cast asks to be shown is the "French General Gruarter," and a great many have taken living, but hicoms in that antiquated portion of the any hour. Iwill learn French purely by absorption. monster Deadut there are no people more exclusive han the Creoles, even to the lodging-to his own woouse keepers, who let rooms as a regufurther struggar business and never invite you to be come one of the family. They naturally resigned to suppose that you have your own circle comes, It of acquaintances and friends, and that pect from you do not amount to much if you do hero will I

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The visitor only sees the outward customs of Creole life, just as he views the quaint dwellings and curiosity shops of the "native foreigners" who refuse to become Americanized, even to the extent of learning our language. Their lack of industry and enterprise has measurably retarded the growth of the city, but more especially their "section." I am told by a city official that the entire real estate property in the French quarter has decreased in value from fifty to sixty per cent, within the past fifteen years.

Their shops somewhat resemble country stores in the matter of the variety of articles kept. For instance, in a jewelry store the keeper repairs jewelry, sells jewelry, and in addition takes jewelry on pawn and buys old gold and silver. On entering these "jewelry-store-pawnshops" the eye rests upon a large "pla-card, "Ladies' and children's ears punched a specialty." Next door to one of these mixed shops is a waiter-girl saloon, kept by an ex-committing magistrate, where undoubtedly head-punching is a specialty. A notion store admits a portion of the truth in a sign that articles can be bought "dear or cheap." The second-hand bookstores refused purchasing, a few weeks ago, at any price. They all tell the same story-over-sup-Their shelves are actually bending beneath the weight of story volumes and even entire libraries, sold by people of foays. The works are mainly French, of t Pitourse, and were sold at about what

Toshe postage or transportation cost the owner. Being great novel the owner. Being great novel readers, volume after volume of fiction can here he found, as well as the torn and tattered files of the Parisian story papers. The "young blood," though clinging to his ancestry and the traditions of his fathers, is Americanized to the extent that he cares little for the romance or history of a coentry be has never seen, yet which he call his own. So, in a financial strait, he sells the library of his sire to a second-hand dealer, and drops a tear to his memory as he pockets the proceeds and heads for the Royal or St. Charles street to tempt the fickle goddess at his favorite rougeet-noir, or perhaps to play baccarat in the back room of an "absinthe mill."

There are saloons were absinthe is

made a specialty, and which are mainly frequented by absinthe drinkers, who never patronize whisky saloons, as they drink nothing but absinthe, except at meals, when their favorite claret is part of the menu. The sign "Absinthe Saloon" causes the visitor to stop and curiously peer in to see what kind of an establishment it is. But it is to the Frenchman what the "coffee saloon" was to the American years ago when whisky saloons were known by that deceptive title. A few of these landmarks still exist, and coffee and cakes are sold at one end of the rickety counter by a decrepit, veteran-looking woman. On the narrow streets facing the old St. Louis eathedral are little shops resembling an undertaker's, where coffins, wreaths, holy candles, crucifixes from an inch to three feet high, and all imaginery church reliquaries are sold. Holy candles are kept burning as long as the shop remains open, and a quietness prevails which gives the lay place of barter a solemn aspect, in addition to its half weird and mournful appearance and surroundings. The patron is awed into the subjection of removing his hat, bartering is conducted in an undertone and the proper change handed over in a solemn and dignified manner. But the chink of the coin, the high prices paid and occassional misrepresentations no doubt remind the purchaser that, notwithstanding the solemnity of the places, they are of the "earth earthly," and are after the dellar of our daddies. Adjoining the ancient cathedral is the

old state arsenal, where the "flower and pride" of the State were mustered into the Confederate service, many of whom never returned. On the next block is a "blood and thunder" variety theatre, where the chief qualification of an actor is shooting, scalping imaginary Indians and robbing stage banks. As the admission is only ten cents, the place is nightly crowded. A few doors further and the visitor hears, "Eagle bird by chance!" followed by an indistinct w-h-i-r. He knows what it is. But even the roulette man has raised his prices, or rather increased his percentage. Poker rooms are more numerous even than faro banks, and the percentage they take is about on a par with the profit of stopping an express train or the flight of a bank cashier to Canada. In "seven up" each player in the game is charged twenty-five cents an hour. In poker one chip is taken out of each pot when the hand is called. The checks are generally ten centssometimes twenty-five cents. At this rate it is easy to figure how, after a night's sitting, each player would retire loser and the "house" the only winner. These "rooms are chiefly patronized by clerks and young men about town, who play small, or as long as possible, on a little money, and are elated with small winnings. Fare and all banking games are a felony under the State law, but tacitly licensed by the city authorities. A prominent official on being asked by your correspondent how the city officials could override a State law, he said; dent to her mamma. At last she g 'Well, they den't exactly do that. We up, and with childish hesitation says: give the proprietors of these houses to understand if they will pay \$100 or \$200 a menth, according to the 'standing of; their bank,' into the city treasury we will let them run. That money goes to the hospital fund. Might as well do perdu."—San Francisco Chronicle.

that as to let the police blackmail the gamblers," concluded the official, in a matter of fact way.

Making Them Look Natural,

"Have you ever heard of glead men's faces being painted to make them look natural?" asked a Broad by barber of a reportorial customer who had dropped into a chair.

'No," was the answer. "Well, I have done several jobs of that kind so artistically that the friends of the deceased complimented me and paid me big money. Drop your chin a little -there. I was called by an undertaker a while ago to paint the face of a wealthy man who had accidentally shot himself through the temple so that the wound discolored both sides of the face. Razor pull, chi No? I'took water color paints and fine brushes along, and after applying collodion to the discolored parts of the face, I painted it as near the natural complexion of the deceased could. Close shave, All right. Of course, alone with the corpse and the un dertaker's assistant, and none of the relatives of the dead man saw me do the job. Sit up a little higher, please. When I got through the face looked so natural that it surprised me. The relatives of the deceased were called in and pronounced the face very natural and true to life. But I took care to find out when the corpse was going to be buried, for I knew that the discoloration would return again after the paint got dry; so I finished up my work a couple of hours before the lid was put on the casket. I

got a big price for that job. Have a sea-fosm? No? Bay rum? No? "I got another job; it was to paint the face of a man who had died in California, and while the remains were being brought here they became greatly discolored. The relatives wanted to have the corpse look nice and the undertaker sent for me. I struck a bargain, as an artist in such work would, and secured a bigger price than I expected. Part your hair on the left side? O. K! Well, I worked like a beaver over that blackened face, and got it to look quite natural; but I knew it wouldn't last long, so I got the undertaker to hurry up the funeral, which he did. Everybody who saw the face said

it was natural. "Oh, I can do such jobs to the queen's tarte, but I haven't had a call for some time. I have frequent calls from uptown swells, who have accidentally, you know, got their eyes blackened, and for a dollar or two I rub andodion over them and touch them per with flesh colored water color paint. I can make dead faces look like live ones. Fifteen cents, Thanks. Brush?"-New York

Big Pay on the Stage. "Mr. R. B. Mantell, who receives \$400 a week, stands at the head of the list of high-priced actors, if we except Mr. James O'Neill, who not only receives the same salary, but has an interest in the profits of the Monte Christo company," says a writer in the Philadelphia Press. Current rumor credits Miss Rose Coghlan, whom Mr. Wallack considers the best leading lady that we have had in America for some years, with a salary of \$350 a week for a season of about thirtyfive weeks. But it must be remembered that the expense of dresses will call for fully twenty per cent, of this salary. Next on the list put Mr. James H. Barnes, of the Union Square, who gets \$250 a week, and at the close of the current season will probably return to England. Miss Jewett left the Union Square, where she had a salary of \$150, upon a promise of \$300, which she received, I believe, for one or two consecutive weeks. Then she waited until Mr. Stetson gave her a place, but, I think, she now draws \$250 from the Union Square treasury. I am told, but I doubt it very much, that there are at least two people who receive the same sum at the Madison Square. Mr. Osmond Tearle receives probably \$225, and he might possibly be continued at the same salary for the coming season at Wallack's, but he has not yet decided whether to go starring or to return to England. There may be one or two others getting \$200, but, when you come to \$150, there are quite a number at that price, among them Mr. Herbert Kelcey, Mr. Parselle and Mr. J. H. Stoddart, and possibly Mr. John Gilbert, but I think the latter gets more. There are a host of people who command from \$70 to \$125, but more than one who asked \$75 at the beginning of the season has offered his services at \$25 since, and one actor who had \$70 last year offered to go out for \$10 and traveling expenses.

A Great Russian Gambler.

Prince Demidoff's gambling exploits have furnished the matter of more than one paragraph to the Parisian chroniqueurs during the last few days. He once played a match at ccarte with Khalil Bey, another inveterate gamester, the stake being £2,000 cach game; and it was agreed between the parties that they were to go on playing till one of them had lost a "million" to the other, They played all night in a private room at the Cafe Anglais, Khalil Bey winning £20,000 in the first hour or two; but his luck then turned, and at 9 o'clock next morning the prince had won £6,000. Fatigued with so long a struggle, the players lay down on the sofas in the room for a siesta, and slept till midday, when, after a light breakfast, they sat down to the card table again. They broke off for an hour in the evening for dinner, resumed their game, played through the whole of the second night, and at 111 next morning Khalil Bey, who was favored by a second run of luck, won the match and pocketed the prince's check for £40,000.—St. James's Gazette.

Childish Diplomacy.

The ten-year-old daughter has been wearing one of her mother's rings. It disappears and she cannot find it. She is surely disturbed and puzzles a long time as to how she will break the accident to her mamma. At last she goes "Mamma, please tell me what is the French for lost?"

"Lost, my darling? The French for lost

is perdu."
Well, the little ring you gave me is

SELECT SIFTINGS.

At a carnival in Denver, Col., all the guests appeared in costumes made entirely of paper.

A single pumpkin patch extended last summer for six miles along the line of the South Pacific Coast railroad,

In the days of chivalry the champions arms were ceremoniously blessed, each taking an oath that he used no charmed weapon.

A Hungarian Hebrew sent to a Vienna paper a grain of wheat on which he had written 309 words taken from Tissot's book on Vienna.

It seems to have been the fashion, as far back as the thirteenth century, to ornament the tombs of eminent persons with figures and inscriptions on plates of bruss.

It was supposed in ancient times that all mines of gold were guarded by evil spirits. This superstition still prevails, and has been made the subject of many a legend.

An old carpet was taken up from San Francisco room the other day and burned. The ashes of the carpet yielded more than \$2,500 in gold-dust. The room from which it was taken was in the United States mint.

There is in New Granada a curious vegetable product, known under the name of the ink plant. Its juice can be used in writing without any previous preparation. The letters traced with it are of a reddish color at first, but turn a deep black in a few hours. This juice also spoils steel pens less than the common ink.

In the plains of India at the commence ment of the monsoon, sterms occur in which the lightning runs like snakes all over the sky at the rate of three or four flashes in a second, and the thunder roars without a break for frequently one or two hours at a time. Yet it is very rare that any tree or animal is struck by the electric current.

The private buildings of ancient Egypt were unimportant compared with its re-ligious architecture. The is explained by the excessive subjection of the peo-ple to a monastic situal, and to the fa-vorable character of the Egyptian clim-ate. It is uccessive that prompts inven-tion, and Egypt, with its ever-cloudless no protection against the inclemency of the weather; the climate did not force man to spend his days within doors, nor did it destroy the lightest shelter.

Original Use of Steeples.

In speaking of the usefulness of church steeples, we would not have it understood that their only use has been in connection with the bells. Along the coast there can be no doubt that they were often used as beacons before the introduction of light houses. At Happisburgh, in Norfolk, a lofty steeple-alas! too near the ever-grasping waves-has had its steps well nigh worn away by the continual traffic to its summit. all know, too, how "broad and fierce the star came forth on Ely's stately fane," when the country became alarmed at the approach of the Spanish Armada. Nowadays our steeples are made to serve more utilitarian purposes in carrying vanes, weathercocks and flagstaffs. though very rarely indeed met with in the churches themselves, ancient fireplaces are by no means uncommon in steeples. They are usually on the first floor, and have flues going to the top in the thickness of the walt. It has never been satisfactorily proved for whose use they could have been intended. Some have supposed that such towers as have been watch-towers; but in remote inland districts it seems more reasonable to suppose that recluses dwelt in such places. With bare walls and narrow loopholes, they must have been at all times wretched habitations; but picture, if you can, such an abode on a windy night. The gloomy surroundings, the howl of the blast, the perpetual whistling in the turret-staircase, the creaking of the tree-tops, a sense of loneliness in all this uproar. Can any situation be more conducive to madness? But nowadays we mount our steeples only to repair the bell-gear or to hoist the flag .- Quiver.

A Tattooed Tramp.

The singular practice of marking the skin indelibly with pictures and designs is very common among savages, but it has largely died out among civilized human beings—except sailors. It is not altogether foolish recklessness which leads the sailor to submit to such marking, for, traveling all about the world as he does his tattoo marks serve to identify him inland.

Not long ago a London tramp was arrested for drunkenness. He was found by a policeman "climbing a lamp-post to get a drink"—certainly a singular place to find it. He was found when searched to be tattooed from his shoulders to his feet. The police thus described his marks:

Letter D and ship on breast, together with a house, pigeons, anchor and chain, haystack, fishes and trees, a mandrinking, a sheep, a pig, the Union Jack, the Prince of Wales' feathers, an anchor, two inscriptions, "Love me and leave me not" (Shakespeare), and a gravestone to "The memory of all 1 love," a Highland girl dancing, and Highland soldier and another soldier wearing a red coat, cross flags and bayonet, drum and sticks, a pile of shot, W. F., a gun, another gun and crossed flags, crossed pipes, and a jug and glass; on the right arm an ensign, sailors, a ship, a cross and a large fish, a sailor with crossed flags, and 'Charlotte" in capital letters; on the left arm a policeman taking a man into custody, and Faith, Hope and Charity; on the left leg a man; on the right leg a woman and a flag.

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