

## CHAPTER XXVII.

Catholic Cathedral, New Orleans.—French Opera.—Creole Ladies.—Quadroons.—Marriage of Whites with Quadroons.—St. Charles Theater.—English Pronunciation.—Duelist's Grave.—Ladies' Ordinary.—Procession of Fire Companies.—Boasted Salubrity of New Orleans.—Goods selling at Northern Prices.—Mr. Wilde.—Roman Law.—Shifting of Capital to Baton Rouge.—Debates in Houses of Legislature.—Convention and Revision of the Laws.—Policy of Periodical State Conventions.—Judges cashiered.—Limitation of their Term of Office.

*New Orleans, February, 1846.*—WALKING first over the most ancient part of the city, called the First Municipality, we entered the Place d'Armes, and saw on one side of the square the old Spanish Government House, and opposite to it the Cathedral, or principal Catholic church, both in an antique style of architecture, and therefore strikingly unlike any thing we had seen for many months. Entering the church, which is always open, we found persons on their knees, as in Catholic countries, although it was not Sunday, and an extremely handsome quadroon woman coming out.

In the evening we went to the French Opera, and were much pleased with the performance, the orchestra being the best in America. The audience were very quiet and orderly, which is said not to be always the case in some theaters here. The French creole ladies, many of them descended from Norman ancestors, and of pure unmixed blood, are very handsome. They were attired in Parisian fashion, not over dressed, usually not so thin as the generality of American women; their luxuriant hair tastefully arranged, fastened with ornamental pins, and adorned simply with a colored ribbon or a single flower. My wife learnt from one of them afterward, that they usually pay, by the month, a quadroon female hairdresser, a refinement in which the richest ladies in Boston would not think of indulging. The word creole is used in Louisiana to express a native-born American, whether