Quotations in La. Historical Events Are Still Appropriate

Words Uttered in State's Past Recalled

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History is filled with quotations that appear to be as appropriate in this time as they were when first uttered and recorded.

For instance, take this one: "The instruction of our children in the various branches of science should be accompanied with every effort to instill into their minds principles of morality." That was Gov. W. C. C. Claiborne on Jan. 14, 1836, addressing the Territorial Legislature, and "the civil authority has become so weakened and relaxed, that the laws have lost much of their influence." This was an Aug. 14, 1832 message of Claiborne to the Legislature.

"I could offer many plausible excuses, such as, insufficiency of talents, self-interest, etc., and in so doing I should not act the part of a patriot," said Julien Peyduras of Pointe Coupee in accepting an appointment on the Legislative Council of the Territory from the President of the United States.

COURT JUDGMENT

"The act was committed either in the courthouse or near it, with a pistol; the general lived two hours after he was shot." This report of violence was in October, 1815, on the assassination of Brigadier General Stephen A. Hopkins of Donaldsonville, by a man against whom Hopkins had obtained a court judgment.

"On yesterday, the recurrence of our national birthday was welcomed here with those demonstrations of joy and festivity which evidence hearts truly grateful for the political blessings which they derive from it." This was a newspaper account of the July 4, 1825, celebration in Donaldsonville.

"All the neighborhood is under water, and all exertions to stop it have been unavailing." It did not describe modern flooding conditions but those of June, 1826, in the aftermath of a crevasse.

"No subject requires your attention more than the state of our roads," Gov. Henry Johnson, who adopted Ascension Parish as his home, said in his final message to the Legislature Nov. 17, 1828.

ROADS IMPASSABLE

He added that "On Lafourche particularly, for a considerable extent, the roads have been impassable for years, during the season of high water."

It was reported that "The track is now—in fact, hardly finished," in April, 1840, horse races got under way in this city.

"The caterpillar worms are destroying with great rapidity the cotton crops in the parish of Ascension," was the quote of an August, 1840, report by a plant.