

BOULOGNE-SUB-MER.

Our illustration presents a general view of this agreeable and very accessible watering place on the shore of France. A stay in Boulogne is now rendered more attractive by the Grand Casino, in which Mr. Hirschler, the spirited proprietor, has done more in four years than did the previous administrators in forty. At the Casino will be found a newly arranged hydropathic establishment; swimming baths, continually renewed with fresh sea water, and professors to teach the art of swimming; and several hundred bathing machines, the most commodious and best administered in Europe.

On these sands, free from shingle or rock, families can bathe, and children can paddle the livelong day, while the boats of the Humane Society are constant in their attendance for the prevention of accidents. The bathing here is considered healthy and safe at any time of the tide or day, provided that a couple of hours be allowed for digestion; whereas bathing in England finishes at noon or at one o'clock, after which time it is either contrary to the "by-laws" of the town or declared by the faculty to be injurious to health.

with them the scent of the tropics, making the nights delightfully cool during the long summers.

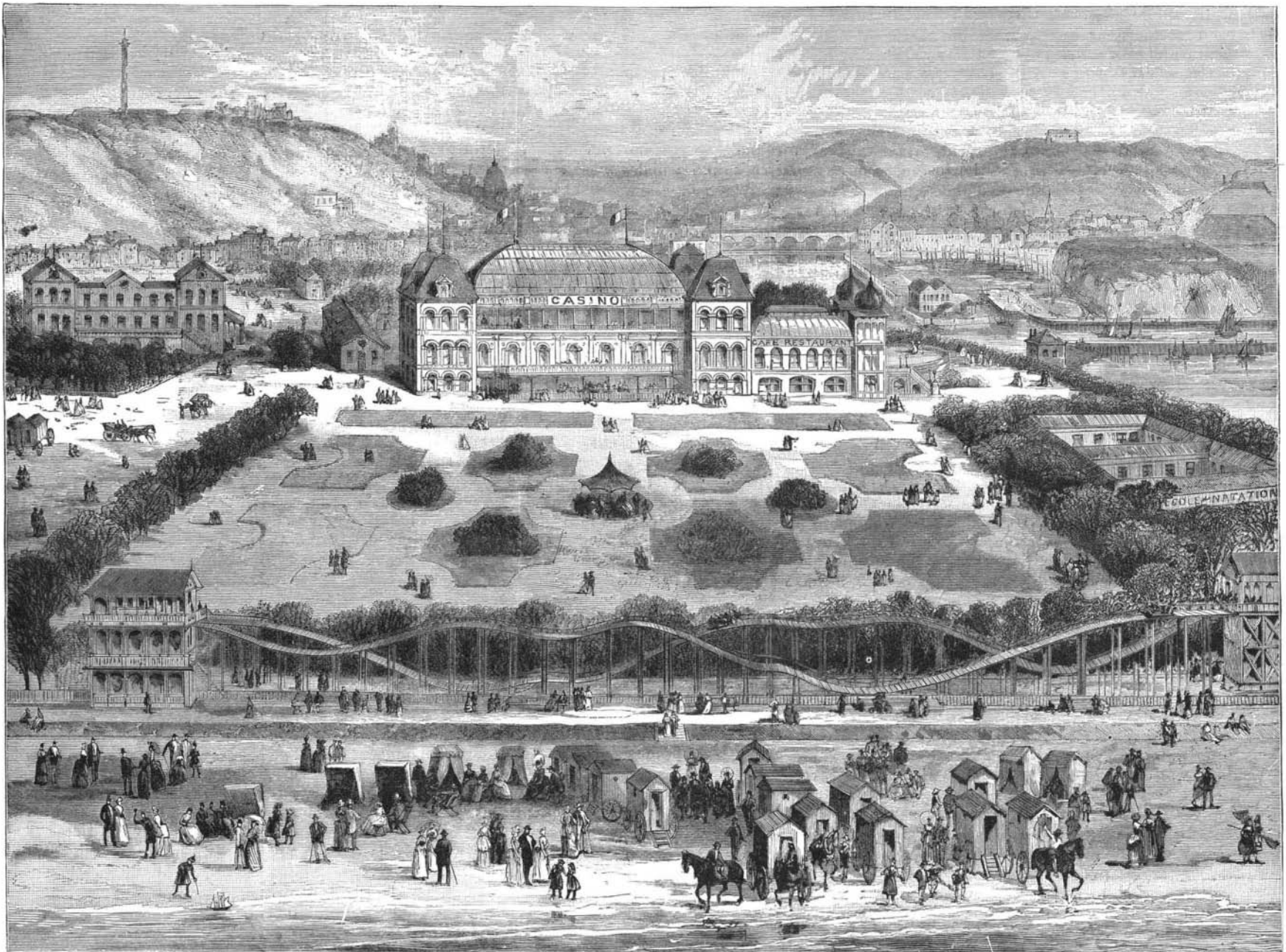
It has an average humidity, 72 per cent, summer and winter, and though to the Northerner the heat at 90° may seem greater than it really is, yet from a personal experience there is not that oppressive heat felt here on the hottest days that is felt in the Northern and interior portions of the United States.

Thunderstorms are not a rarity in this section, but there are fewer than further inland. The electrical displays are a marvel during a heavy thunderstorm, resembling more the presence of a body of artillery than anything else; the bolts flashing past trees and house tops in a manner to put to fright a person of but average courage, and a wonder that such a zigzag of fire can keep up for hours without apparent damage fills the thoughts of the beholder. Of rain in such heavy storms the heaviest that I have seen was four inches in about two hours.

The average annual rainfall is about fifty-six inches, equally divided between the months, making the monthly average four and two-thirds inches, and

From three to five tons of catfish are shipped annually to the West from this point, and are caught by line in the surrounding lakes. The hunting and trapping is a sure means of livelihood in this section, also alligator, otter, seagull, and other skins, and the plumage of white cranes, the latter now nearly as scarce as the buffalo on the great Western plains. The feathers of the white crane of particular value will not number more than fifteen or twenty on each bird! They are a slenderly delicate aigrette plume, so white and airy that if held to the sun they are scarcely visible. These feathers are worth \$400 per pound in the city market, and I am informed that one man shipped two hundred pounds to France during last year.

A ride in the bayou boats is a novelty to the stranger unlike that experienced elsewhere. They have a distinct motion peculiar to themselves, more like the rocking of a cradle than anything else. Slipping through the drawbridge on one of these boats, lake after lake and bayou after bayou presents itself in this lovely island country, the parish (St. Mary's) being scarcely more than a continuation of these wooded islands;



THE CASINO, BOULOGNE-SUR-MER, WITH SWITCHBACK RAILWAY, THE TOWN, QUAY, FLOATING DOCK, AND SWIMMING BATHS.

There is no lack of social and intellectual amusement at Boulogne. At the Casino there is a band of sixty musicians, performing twice daily, in the delightful garden. The theatrical entertainments are either comedy, vaudeville, or opera comique by some of the leading Paris artists. There are children's balls and balls for adults at frequent intervals. The ball rooms, theater, and drawing and reading rooms, the restaurant, cafe, and billiard rooms are lighted by electricity, and thousands of fete and illumination lamps in the gardens are furnished in like manner.

A new feature has been added to the Casino; the old skating rink and lawn tennis grounds have been abolished, and in their place have sprung up flower beds, parterres, and shrubberies. A music kiosk has been erected, with a fountain, tents, lounging seats, and tables, and an outdoor cafe service. A continual source of amusement is the switchback railway. It was erected by Mr. L. A. Thompson, of Philadelphia, Pa.

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Notes on Southern Louisiana.

There are few, if any, portions of the United States wonderfully made as Southern Louisiana from the Gulf coast to latitude 30° 30'. It is a section of country where the highest temperature has never exceeded 97°, and the lowest rarely falling below 20° Fah. Warm southerly breezes prevail almost during the entire year, carrying

proving that the heavy rains are not a frequent occurrence.

The clear days, entirely free from clouds, will not average a third; but the fair days are in excess. The heavy cumulus clouds are seen in magnificence nearly every evening, and are dispelled toward dusk by the winds blowing from the Gulf.

Of the prominent lakes, Pontchartrain, Maurepas, Borgne, Washa, Grand, White, Calcasieu, and Sabine, the former and Calcasieu are probably those most used by residents as resorts. From New Orleans to Pontchartrain is six miles by rail, where the population of the city go by the thousands each evening and listen to the music of a superb band, and go bathing or sailing. The waters of this lake are connected with the Gulf by the narrow Rigoletts at the eastern end of the lake.

Probably the most beautiful spot in Southern Louisiana is in the vicinity of Morgan City. This city is situated on Tiger Island, and is surrounded by Grand Lake, Flat Lake, Lake Poularde, Bayou Bœuf, and the Atchafalaya River.

Morgan City is beautifully laid out, with wide streets, hard and white, that shed water rapidly. The streets are planted with oak and myrtle trees and the rich umbrella china tree. The railroad cuts the town in two parts. A great deal of lumber is shipped from this city to Texas, and the shipment of opened oysters in cans to the same State last year amounted to 21,000,000 oysters.

passing pontoon bridges (each plantation has one), which seem to float like cobwebs across the stream. A planter owns both sides of these streams. Consequently the necessity of having a bridge for his cattle and teams to cross to cultivate the land on either side.

The trees on the Teche are the cypress and oak, moss covered and aged. Plantation after plantation was passed; rich fields of cane, orchards of melons and oranges, and the shading fig trees; arbors heavy with the finest of wine-producing grapes; pomegranates, plum, and peach trees furnished the shade. Out on the flat lands mushrooms grow plentifully, and water-cress is tangled over the clear streams. In the gardens are all kinds of vegetables, and about the houses the fragrance of the rarest of flowers, blooming in wild profusion. In the magnolia trees mocking birds were singing, and in the timber, the home of the deer and the haunt of the delicate bird, the hunter was seen ready for his next shot. R. E. KERKAM.

THE new battle ship Sans Pareil, 15, 10,470 tons, 12,000 horse power, has been built by the Thames Iron Works Company. The Sans Pareil will be completed for sea at Chatham Dockyard. She will carry two 110 ton guns, one 10 in. gun, twelve 6 in. guns, twenty-one 3 pounder and 6 pounder quick-firing guns, a number of machine guns, and 18 Whitehead torpedoes.