

seemed absolute, and so, in too many cases, this work-a-day, idle-a-day policy has left its impress on these districts, from which they are only slowly emerging.

Concurrent with the progress of material affairs large families grew up in the adjoining neighborhood. A school there was not. The education of the grown-up youth, who pre-lived the advantage, was such, that perhaps their individual interests or dispositions led them to acquire the prejudices, superstitions, fallacies and conceits of the hour. As to where and how they spent their school-age term of life I have not a thorough knowledge; even, if I had it would be somewhat extraneous to my subject to relate it, but the generation to which the writer belongs spent more time, than due home^l vigilance would seemingly justify, on the sand-flats—that wide waste stretching between the present settlement of Point du Roche and the shore—where opportunities for wild sport offered themselves in the way of catching horses and riding them bridleless until exhausted, with often as many as five of us clinging on, some even by the mane the others astride; by driving into the pond, which lies along its southern border, a number of young cattle which, like the horses, were usually allowed to go free over this common, and thus keep them from returning back to the shore; and the one amongst us, who did not show sufficient cleverness in stampeding the number which fell to our lot, did not escape without lasting censure and instant imprecations. Our time was spent in other ways by scouring everywhere for whatever wild fruits the confines of this territory afforded, and which was never allowed to ripen unless by the unusual accident of our not having observed them; in gathering, during the early summer months, the eggs laid by the gulls on the hot sand which serves them as an incubator; by destroying the nests of the sand-martins, and whatever other sport that rudeness of spirit cherished or general incivility promoted.