For the "Surf, Field & Farm"

New Orleans, Feb. 17th, 1872.

Mr. Editor:

Allow an old hunter of fifty years standing to say a word of commendation of your excellent journal. I read it with pleasure and profit, and in common with numerous other lovers of field sports in this section of the country, esteem it to be one of the most valuable and interesting sporting papers ever issued in the United States. I would gladly furnish you with some items of information concerning hunting and cognate subjects but am sorry to say that there is little worth communicating. Deer have been very numerous this season in Louisiana, and thousands of the antlered monarchs of the forest have fallen; but small game have been unprecedentedly scarce in the Southern portion of the State. Usually our markets in the winter are glutted with ducks, snipes, woodcock, partridges, etc.; this year there are comparatively few to be found and they are held at such exorbitant prices as to be considered luxuries at the poor man's table. The truth is, that the prairies contiguous to the Mississippi, Bayou Barataria, Lake Kashka, Lake Manfesa, the upper Lafouche, which formerly were so noted for being the favorite haunts of innumerable Canvas-backs, Mallards, Teal, & English Snipe, are now almost deserted by these descriptions of birds, much to the sorrow of City amateurs, and the large companies of professional hunters who usually hibernated in those regions. This fact is ascribed by some of our old
Hunters to the frequent crevasses which have occurred during the past few years, admitting the muddy waters of the Mississippi to the Bayous & Lakes, submerging the Prairies and thereby destroying the food upon which the ducks and Snipe were wont to luxuriate. On the river Teche, however, where I recently had a fortnights hunt, game of all kinds were very abundant, and sportsmen were having a glorious time in that garden spot of Louisiana. En passant, let me urge you, Mr. Editor, should you ever visit this State, to extend your travels to the Teche Country, its wild and picturesque scenery will greatly please you and you will find it to be the abode of ample and refinement and hospitality and the very paradise of hunters.

Noticing that you devote considerable space in your columns to descriptions of improvements in the manufacture of breech-loaders, I hope you will not deem it out of place for me to make brief mention of one which I recently received from the maker well-known to Mr. C. Scott, London, imported through the house of Mr. Read & Sons, Boston. It weighs 8 1/2 lbs, has bands 30 inches in length and of 12 bore, first class lift snap, side-bar lock with the late improvements of indicator joint-stock or adjuster, central fire and the pistol grip. This gun is finished in the highest style of art, every part is adjusted with the utmost nicety, the whole forming one of the most perfect specimens of workmanship I ever saw, reflecting great credit upon the skill and taste of the manufacturer. For many
years I have spared no pains or expense to pro-
mvide myself with the best class of guns of the
most noted manufacturers of Europe and America,
was always very particular to have guns of pow-
T concentration in shooting; but never have had
one so remarkable for these qualities and which
was so completely satisfactory in every particular
as this one of Scott's. Though rich in ornamentation,
the indispensible requisites of strength and solidity
have been closely observed in its fabrication
and for convenience of handling it is unsurpassed.
In a word, Sir Editor, I pronounce the it the best
gun I ever saw or used and confidently re-
ommend it to The American Sporting Public.