

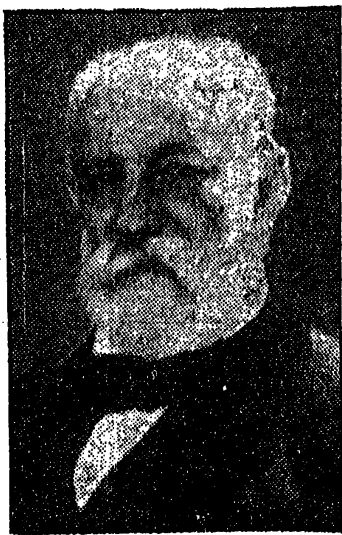
VIGNAUD NOT COMING

Distinguished Louisiana Diplomat
and Author, Although Retiring,

Writes to Relatives Here That He
Will Spend His Last Days
in France.

Henri Vignaud, Secretary of the American Embassy in Paris, whose resignation on account of age was cabled yesterday, is well known in this city, being a native of New Orleans, and allied to some of the most prominent families here. His retirement on nearing his eightieth year, was self-prompted, as he desired to retire from active life and spend his declining year in his beautiful villa at Bagneux. In letters to his brother-in-law, General John Glynn, Jr., and to Prof. Alcee Fortier, an intimate friend, Mr. Vignaud, recently said that he was leaving his diplomatic field of labor, in which he had earnestly worked for thirty-four years, and he intended to live at ease and quietly on his property at Bagneux, in company with intimate friends and his cherished books. "I regret," he said in one of those intimate communications, "that I cannot come to my dear native State of Louisiana, but I have lived so long in France, that I care not to leave it. I will always remember my dear birthplace, and will ever have a vivid recollection of its balmy climate, its perennial flowers, its pecan trees and magnolias."

Mr. Vignaud's father was Lucien Vignaud, and his mother, Clemence



HENRI VIGNAUD.

Godfroi. They were esteemed among the best people in the State.

After having received a brilliant education in schools and universities here and abroad, Mr. Vignaud entered the diplomatic service and went to Europe, in the early 60's as Secretary to the Mason and Sillidell Commission, and was Secretary of the Confederate Diplomatic Commission in Paris in 1863. When the American Embassy to France was first created thirty-four years ago, Mr. Vignaud was named Secretary, and since that time he has been acting in that capacity giving the best of his time, talents and intelligence to the fulfillment of his duties, always bearing in mind, with true Southern chivalry and courtesy to render service to all Americans visiting Paris and having to transact business with the Embassy.

Prof. Alcee Fortier last evening spoke in terms of the highest praise of Mr. Vignaud. He said that the distinguished diplomat was specially courteous to Louisianians who came to Paris. It was through the kind offices of Mr. Vignaud that many important books and documents relating to colonial days, in Louisiana, copied from the archives of the Minister of Colonies, were promptly

transmitted to the Louisiana Historical Society, which now treasures them as precious records of the early days of Louisiana. Before leaving this country for France Mr. Vignaud was prominently connected with French journalism in New Orleans. He founded the "Renaissance Louisianaise" and was editor in chief of the "Memorial Diplomatique" and of "L'Echo," publications that had a great vogue in their time.

Mr. Vignaud was an author of world-wide reputation. His most famous work was a book on Christopher Columbus, with letters and criticisms of Toscanelli, relative to doubt as to the Genoese's discovery of America. This work raised numerous controversies in the literary world, and Europe and America were flooded with pamphlets pro and con. Mr. Vignaud recently published a life of Christopher Columbus, which he dedicated to Prof. Alcee Fortier, whom he called his friend and compatriot, and the eminent historian of his dear Louisiana.

General Glynn, Jr., said last evening that Mr. Vignaud will not return to Louisiana, but will remain in France. The General and the many relatives and friends of Mr. Vignaud exceedingly regret that the venerable and esteemed diplomat will not come back to his native land. They extend to him their best wishes for complete enjoyment in his merited surcease from active duties; and will entertain the hope that some day a yearning will come over him to once more quaff the waters of the Mississippi, and again inhale the fragrance of roses and magnolias, and enjoy a quiet seat in an easy chair under his favorite pecan tree.