

THE LEADER.

GEN. WASHINGTON AND THE NEGRO.

Many old persons in Boston and its vicinity can remember a colored man of the name of Primus Hall. He had a good deal of natural intelligence, and possessed a comfortable property by his industry, and was always active in his efforts to promote education among the colored people of that city.

During the war of the Revolution, he was the servant of Col. Pickering, who was the intimate and confidential friend of Gen. Washington. This circumstance brought Primus Hall into frequent relations with the Commander-in-Chief. He had a great fund of anecdote concerning him, which he was fond of relating. One of them conveys a lesson, which may not be without usefulness at the present time. Gen. Washington often held conversations concerning military matters with Col. Pickering. His headquarters were at considerable distances from his friends' tents, and one evening, finding they were likely to be occupied till a late hour, he proposed to remain all night with the Colonel, provided there was a spare blanket and straw. Primus was appealed to, and, being eager to oblige the Commander-in-Chief, stretched the truth by replying, "Plenty of straw and blankets; plenty."

Two humble beds were prepared, side by side and when the long conference was ended, the two officers lay down to rest. Primus pretended to be busy until they were asleep, and then he seated himself on a box leaning his head on his hands, to take as comfortable a nap as his inconvenient position would allow. In the night, Washington awoke, and saw his humble friend nodding on the box. He called out, "Primus! The servant started to his feet, and rubbing his eyes, exclaimed, "What do you wish for, General?"

"You told me you had plenty of straw and blankets," replied Washington; "but I see you are sitting up all night for the sake of giving me your bed."

"Don't trouble yourself about me, General," replied the negro, "No matter about me."

"But it is matter," said Washington. "This will never do, Primus. If either of us must sit up, I will take my turn." But there is no need of that. The blanket is wide enough for two. Come and lie down with me."

Primus, who remained the commander-in-Chief as he did no other mortal, protested against such an arrangement. But Washington threw open the blanket, and said in a very decided tone, "Come and lie down, I tell you! There is room enough for both, and I insist upon it."

This tone was too resolute to admit of further parley, and the General and his colored friend slept comfortably under the same blanket till morning.

This anecdote was originally published by the Rev. Henry F. Harrington, in Godley's Lady's Book, June, 1849. In 1855 it was republished in a book entitled "The Colored Patriots of the American Revolution," an interesting volume, compiled by Wm. C. Nell, of Boston, who deserves great credit for the intelligence and earnestness he has manifested in vindicating the slandered race. Mrs. Stowe wrote a brief preface to this volume, in which she says, "The services of these colored patriots of the Revolution were far more magnanimous, because they did not fight for their own land, but for a land which had enslaved them, and whose laws, even in freedom, often oppressed than protected. Bravery under such circumstances has a peculiar beauty and merit. Their white brothers, in reading these sketches, may remember that generosity and distinguished courage are of no particular race or complexion, and that the image of the Heavenly Father may be reflected alike by all."

"SLAVERY IN CUBA.—Allusion has already been had to the movement for the abolition of slavery in Cuba. The New Orleans Bee, referring to a Havana letter in the Paris Monitor says:

"A meeting of wealthy slave-owners, capitalists and well-known merchants, Creoles and Europeans, was held at the house of Mr. O. Farrill to take into consideration various projects for the abolition of slavery. Col. Montas suggested a plan based on the purchase of their freedom by the labor of the slaves. It was also proposed to effect a loan of \$180,000,000, in order to indemnify the proprietors at the rate of \$600 for each emancipated slave. Mr. Sorin, on behalf of a number of planters, among them one hundred thousand slaves, advocated the policy of immediate emancipation and the conversion of the slaves into plantation apprentices, bound to labor ten years for their old masters, and to receive wages during that period at the rate of four dollars a month. At the end of the ten years, the emancipated would have the option of changing their places of labor or renewing their former contracts."

The number of slaves at Havana is estimated at 378,000.

MAXIMILIAN AND SLAVERY.—Not satisfied with offending the United States by overthrowing the republicanism of Mexico and establishing therein Imperialism, Maximilian has added to his impertinence by leg-islating slavery. To persuade persons whom he calls "emigrants" to settle in the country, he, in a recent order, holds out inducements for them to introduce "laborers in considerable numbers." The employers are to be patrons; the laborers are to serve for a term of years; their children are to be held to service until they are of age, and both are inheritable, like other property. This is slavery under the name of emigration. Mexico is open for an invasion of barbarians from Africa, China, and Malacca, disciplined by the "middle passage." This method of reconstruction will make Maximilian's State more of a bondage to the United States than has been. This continent is not the place wherein the Spanish emperor may try his theories. The time will come for the service of a writ of *habeas corpus*—Washington.

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