

The Charleston Advocate.

"As ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them."

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The Charleston Advocate.

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Letter From Boston.

Boston, Feb. 21, 1867.

To the Editors of the Advocate.

It is gratifying to the friends of impartial freedom at the North, to learn that another newspaper is to be started in the State of South Carolina, which, recognizing neither aristocracy or caste, will keep step to the music of the Union, and, better still, to unfold and the principles of secessionism, the standard of loyal Methodism. My success attend your efforts, and the paper by its close the *Advocate* of those great principles essential to the well-being of human society—a sound national character—a pure morality—a vital Christianity.

But your readers will say "what of Boston?" Let me tell you a little of the gossip hereabouts. The Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society have just held their annual subscription meeting at the Music Hall, and Wendell Phillips, the peerless orator of America, made the principal speech of the evening. Several plates captured at Fort Wagner, in Charleston harbor, were sold at auction for ten dollars a piece. The iron part of them was of English manufacture, after the John Brown pattern, an evidence of British neutrality; while the handles were, mistakenly carved by Southern artisans. The Society held several public sessions, and resolved to continue its organization till slavery in spirit, as well as in letter, shall cease to exist. Of course the President was exhibited in all of his hideous proportions, and the question of impeachment fully discussed.

In the matter of equal and exact justice, Massachusetts comes far short of the standard—modestly so, something. Yet, compared with other States, she certainly takes the lead. Civil and political rights may be considered pretty evenly disbursed at the present time. The visitor to the State House during the Legislature, can now from the gallery of the House of Representatives, look upon two colored members enjoying equal privileges with white members. A few years ago and the colored boy was denied a seat in the common schools. Now the colored man takes his seat unchallenged in the halls of legislation. What history has been made in the last few years.

The social barriers are also fast crumbling away, in Massachusetts. And when South Carolina shall learn the lesson which the results of a rebellion so forcibly teaches,—that slavery is dead; and thus let the devil past bury its dead, not

ling on to civil and political freedom, her ruined cities may be rebuilt, her gas-works covered to the producers of her crime, education generally diffused, and the barrenness of oppression's blighting curse, made fruitful again with fair freedom's happy flowers.

A large meeting in sympathy with the Greeks on the island of Crete has been held here, and several thousands of dollars subscribed in aid of the Greeks, who are struggling for freedom from the domination of Mussulman misrule. The late speech of Queen Victoria to her parliament, although it recommends extension of the elective franchise is rather cold upon the Eastern question. European diplomacy debates some strange things, and notwithstanding the sympathy of the Christianized world is with the Greeks, it would not be surprising if the French and English flags were again hoisted behind the cross, helping Mahomedan Islam crush Christianity. The Queen hopes that improved relations may be brought about between the Porte and his Christian subjects. We hope that his Christian subjects may no longer be subject to the barbarous oppression of the Turks.

The Prohibitory Liquor Law is now being enforced in this State much better than ever before. Rum-sellers are getting frightened, and are using a license law before the legislature. One of the largest dealers, on Washington street, whose windows have heretofore displayed the choice and fancy liquors, now contains himself with an exhibition of pickled jars and sardines. Ever the right comes uppermost, and ever is justice done.

We have had a terrible snow storm, and the oldest inhabitant hardly remembers its like. Railroads were blocked, many out-of-town country people in the city could not get home, and city people in the country were obliged to stay some times a week longer than convenient. There are large drifts of snow yet lingering about the country, though the city has been cleared of it somewhat, so that the horse-cars are now running again on some of the streets.

The labor-reform movement is steadily advancing in this State. Large meetings are frequently held in the large cities, and much enthusiasm prevails. The best and noblest agitators in the anti-slavery ranks readily become allied to this new reform. It contemplates a re-division of the hours of labor, and an equal distribution of the profits of labor between the laborer and the capitalist. Petitions are being signed praying the legislature to make eight hours a legal day's labor, in the absence of any special contract to the contrary. The recent reports of the labor commission (a majority and minority report) show that there are many abuses in the present manufacturing system, and that the State ought to interfere in behalf of the workman and children operatives. Like all great reforms this will advance slowly, but surely. The next great political contest will probably be between capital and labor. We shall change tactics of course, but the same antagonistic elements will be found that have heretofore existed in the issues between freedom and slavery.

Appropos to this agitation, and in fact a part of it, is an effort to induce the City of Boston to assume control of the gas works, and furnish gas to the citizens at cost, the same as it now supplies water. The Gas Co. having a monopoly, pays large dividends to the stockholders, and the consumer has no remedy for exorbitant charges.

Another effort of equal importance, is a petition to the legislature, headed by Hon. Josiah Quincy, praying that the State may purchase (as it has a right to) the Worcester and Western Railroads, and so conduct them that Western produce may be brought to this market at the lowest minimum price. Great complaint has been made against these roads not doing all the business they might, because all above a certain percentage of profits accrues to the state. Thus Boston as a commercial city could not compete with New-York.

Well Mr. Editor, I have written you some of the things talked about here, and

hope they may be of interest to your readers. I will continue my letters if you think them worthy of place in your columns.

Yours for truth and humanity,

A. G.

Position Of the Colored Citizens of South Carolina.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled.

We, the undersigned, colored citizens of the State of South Carolina, would respectfully represent that, notwithstanding the positive recognition of the validity and justness of our claim, as an integral portion of the American people, to equality before the law, by the Civil Rights Bill, and the very ample provisions made by that, and the Freedman's Bureau, for our protection, still there are many existing wrongs uncorrected, and many injustices inflicted upon us through violence and other means, by the white citizens of the State, who are our law-makers and its exponents.

The Provoost Courts having been suspended, and military supervision curtailed, and the civil law permitted to resume its way, outrages upon our people, especially in the interior of the State, are of common occurrence. They are murdered in various ways, and in many instances, for mere trivial offences, owing to the deep-seated animosity, and the ancient spirit of barbarous slavery, which waxed hot by their acquisition of freedom.

Having no political voice, the Civil Rights Bill fails, redress fails, and the Civil Courts fail to do them justice. These courts do not admit white men that outrage our people, and yet the recipients of wrong and injury, have to submit powerless, to these wicked decisions of the civil tribunal, where justice is mockery, and injustice is clothed in the garb of righteousness, and life itself is imperiled. In many places they dare not even now, assert the liberty secured them by the Emancipation Proclamation; if they do, they are outraged, threatened with death, and driven from their homes, poor, homeless, naked, hungry, and without shelter. Their wives and their children, the old, the feeble and the decrepit, who have been worn out under the cruel taskmaster, and the tender infant at the bosom and side—all, all alike, are now compelled to seek refuge, in temporary huts in the woods or along the public highways. Upon many plantations they are compelled either to contract for wages, by which they could not support their families, or be driven out—flight being their only refuge from tyranny and abuse. Thus our people are nearly ignored, and made outcasts, and their best interests willfully neglected.

Permit us, under these circumstances, to express our deep gratitude for the liberal and gracious provisions of "Homesteads" by the Government—a provision now necessary to our safety, if not our very existence. In addition to the above-mentioned wrongs and abuses, we are taxed to support schools and other public institutions, whose doors are barred against us. Those taxes and burdens are imposed without our consent, for we are allowed no voice in representation. Slavery no longer holds us in its galling clutches, but we have dropped from its cruel shackles into the no less wicked grasp of a powerful prejudice, which would contrive for us a more ruinous fate than brutal slavery.

It would make our liberty a curse instead of a blessing, and its every advocate a dangerous enemy to mankind, the glorious Emancipation Proclamation an edict of ruin and wretchedness, and the great triumph of Federal arms a most inglorious failure. We would state however, that the loyal whites of the State would pray you to make the elective franchise impartial and irrespective of race or color, believing its enjoyment to be our just right, as well as for their safety, the growth and perpetuity of free institutions, of republicanism, and the safe-

ty of the Government.

As a remedy for these our grievances, your humble servants would most respectfully petition, and humbly pray your honorable bodies, to change the present State Government to a territorial government, or such form that the reorganization of civil authority, in the State, preparatory to its representation in Congress, every man accented a citizen of the United States, and residing in South Carolina, shall be authorized to have an equal voice, whereby the people of the State may be secured a republican form of government. We ask this, because—

I. It is our inalienable right to enjoy every privilege secured by law to any other class of American citizens.

II. We ask it because we are vastly in the majority in South Carolina, consequently we are unwilling to be outbrayed and ruled by the minority, who are our enemies and unfeeling to our interests. Should not the majority rule? If not, may they not be permitted to participate in ruling?

III. We ask it because, when the white citizens of the State rebelled against the government, and attempted its destruction, when the flame that lit the battle's wick, was fanned and fed by the hot rage of a rebellious people, whose furious passions, wicked and mad designs had hurled upon the land a disastrous war, we remained loyal and true, and with heroic patriotism, our brave men suffered, fought, and bled, upon numerous battle fields for Union, Liberty, and the preservation of the government.

IV. We ask it because, we took no part in filling the land with rage and strife, war and blood shed, with the mourning and distress of poor widows and orphans, nor did we burden the nation with its great debt, but we were the ministers of relief and comfort to our oppressors and enemies, even; but more especially, to insulted and barbarously treated Union prisoners, on far safety permitted. Who were our friends in their prison pens, sick, languishing and dying from hunger, thirst and neglect, we divided with them our last morsel.

V. We ask it in accordance with and in the name of the Declaration of American Independence, which declares, "That all men are created Equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

VI. We ask it, that loyalty may become supreme, and be no longer considered a crime. Then will republican liberty be safe, and we ourselves be protected from outrage and wrong.

Finally, we ask it, in the sacred name of justice, of liberty, of suffering humanity, for the sake of social and political harmony, and as being for the best interests of the whole people of South Carolina.

The above Memorial has been signed by several thousands of the colored citizens of South Carolina.

An Incident of the late War.

In a recent Speech made by Gen. Fisk, at our missionary Anniversary in New York he said:

Let us preach the spirit of sacrifice to our people. In enforcing this General Fisk narrated the following touching incident: Let me tell you an incident that came under my observation. It was a strong man who sent his sons to the war. She was a poor widow woman, living in her prairie home in that great State of Illinois. (And whenever I hear the name of that State, I want to take of my hat, She gave to the country the man who broke the shackles from four millions of people, and also the man who choked the life out of the great rebellion before Petersburg.) Out on her prairie home in the spring of 1861, there lived this good old woman. She had but one child in the world—her husband and other children lay mouldering in the grave. She heard the

city for men. (In that Western country, nearly everybody went to the war; you could not all go in New-York, because some of you had to be contractors.)

When soldiers were required, this good woman called her boy from the field, put the musket on his shoulder, and told him to go into the army of the Union and fight, so that the great Mississippi, which flowed by her home, should, in its waters, be the sea, with the shores of but one country. He was a faithful soldier, and for nearly two years he was attached to my headquarters. In one of our engagements in Mississippi he was wounded, and we knew that he would die. He was prepared to die, for he was not only a soldier under his country's flag, but he was a soldier of the cross. His Methodist mother had reared him in the Sunday school, and taught him to love the Saviour. Morning and evening in his tent you could hear the prayers of Charles Morgan; and when he said he wanted to see his mother, but had no money to send for her, his comrades gathered around him, made up a little purse, and sent it off to Illinois that she might come down and see her only boy die.

I remember the morning she came to my head quarters and asked "Where is my boy?" I took her to the hospital. She looked upon his wasting form and bowed at his cot, thinking God that she had been permitted to see his face once more in the flesh. She expressed no sorrow that she had sent him to the war, but said she would send a dozen boys to the war if she had them. I was hastening through the ward, and in a few moments after that I saw that my favorite soldier boy was dying. His eye was gray and dim, his pulse was almost still, the death-damp stood out upon his brow, while his good Christian mother sat singing by his side—

"Jesus can make a dying bed
Feel soft as downy pillows are,
While on his breast I lean my head,
And breathe my life out sweetly there."

I took this boy by the hand and said to him, "Oh father, how is it with you this morning?" His eye brightened for a moment, and his face grew light, as if from the gates of pearl there fell upon him a beam from heaven. "Ah, General," said he, "I feel that I am going to the front." The soldier boy was dying. We hid him out in the swamp, and his good old mother knelt over his grave, thanking God that she had had the courage and the faith to give her last child in the great struggle for nationality and for liberty. And the country is full of just such graves, stark and still from a lashed battle field.

"They fell down, yet nothing,
The weary soldier's arms are stinging,
The weary mother with her arms,
The water-nymph of their names,
The sweetest still, the noblest river,
Rolls on high with their name forever."

Silently, yet eloquently, they plead with us that they may not have died in vain. They ask us that "this government of the people and by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth." Let us respond to their appeal, and resolve as Christian patriots, that it shall not. Let us take courage in the future for our mission work; let us set up light in the name of God our banners, his scribbling on them, "marching on" until the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ.

American Methodism.

Wm. McArthur, Esq. in a letter to the London *Watchman*, thus speaks of the peculiar features of American Methodism which contributed to its success: "The social element is more cultivated than in this country. Many of the churches have what they term the church parlor—a large room furnished with carpet, sofas, chairs, and generally a piano-forte or harmonium. Here the members of the church hold reunions, where they become acquainted with each other. The evening is devoted to singing, short addresses, and friendly intercourse. Such meetings are eminently calculated to promote a spirit of brotherly love, while their influence, especially upon young converts, is most salutary.

"Another secret of the great success of Methodism in America consists in its admirable adaptation. This is as it should be: Methodism was never intended by God for any one country or generation. While, therefore, holding fast its glorious doctrines, and even its peculiarities, it ought at the same time to be able to take advantage of the ever-varying circumstances in which it may be placed.

This is peculiarly exemplified in carrying out the itinerancy. In the West, for instance, the ride, the axe, and the saddle always go together, and it is this continuous pioneer movement which gives Methodism in such immense advantages. In some districts it far outnumbered all the other denominations put together, I travelled with a Presbyterian minister from St. Louis to Cincinnati. He remarked, "You are becoming the great dominant Church of the land; the truth is, we must either give up the west or adopt your system."

"While this is the case, however, in remote and sparsely-populated parts of the country, in the large cities and towns every church has its own pastor, who has the entire charge for two or three years, when he is transferred to another. This is found to be good admirably. It is good for the pastor—there is no divided responsibility; his undivided attention is given to one charge. He is obliged to study closely, having to prepare at least two sermons a week. He becomes acquainted with the families of the congregation, and is able from time to time to bring before them the practical duties of Christianity, as well as its doctrinal truths. It is a good people—that is, that for the most part, they are good people."

When it is so increased in number as to be too large, a mission is established; a site is taken a short distance off, on which a school chapel is erected. A number of the members volunteer to form the nucleus of a new church; a Sunday-school is immediately commenced, a missionary is sent, and who is expected to confine his labors altogether to the new locality—the parent church contributing to his support, until a suitable building is erected, and the society able to maintain it without assistance.

Abridges the Colored Actor

The dramatic critic of *Whisker Spirit of the Times* has the following account of Da Abbridge, the celebrated colored actor.

"About thirty years ago, being a youth of twenty, Abbridge went to England with the actor Wallack, in the humble capacity of body servant; but so great was his aptitude for the dramatic art, that, without any instruction, by mere association and contact with that great actor, he inhaled and absorbed sufficient skill to come out as an actor himself, in Othello, in the slave, and in several other parts with which he was identified by his color. For many years he struggled on in England in the arduous endeavor to win fame and fortune upon the stage. At times he was in the greatest poverty and distress; but he held on bravely, and at last his reward came. But he did not reap his greatest success till he went upon the continent in 1852. There his victory was complete and overwhelming.

In Austria, Germany, France and pre-eminently in Russia, he has ever since had the most stupendous triumphs. In Moscow and St. Petersburg, so great is his popularity that the students have often unchained the horses of his chariot and drawn him home from the theatre as a conqueror. An extraordinary fact about his success, is, that he does not know the continental languages well enough to employ them upon the stage; and that from the very outset, he has spoken his own parts in English. It is highly evidence of his ability, that in a language utterly strange to his audiences, by sheer force of acting, by look, tone,