

What of the Future?

We are frequently importuned as to what is to be done with all the fears and anxieties that surround us in the many struggles which are called upon to encounter, who desire to bury the memories of the past, who wish to give the good-byes to by-gones and separate themselves from such acquaintances without a chance of their return.

Nor does the wreck of our misfortunes when suffered to lie about have a tendency to enhance the happiness of our minds or the contentment of our natures. Among all the results of a discordant warfare, none has been more complete, acknowledged and necessary than the disposition of the country and made our people hostile in thought, in word, in act upon the political platform of freedom or in the threatening attitude of armed rebellion against the Nation that had shielded it with its broad and sufficient securities.

Slavery, wounded at Sumter, died at the Appomattox. The institution, which had generated doubt, suspicion, jealousy and fratricidal wrong, that had set the passions of men on fire, and through the arbitrament of arms, been destroyed; not a stone left upon another in its exalted edifice.

With the buried things of the past we will leave it, nor seek to question the manner of its going, the cause of its death, or its premature departure. Like fatality let it moulder; with folly and madness let it make its habitation in the tombs of other days.

No more solicitous appeal is heard while waiting the lapse of time, to the future, than "what is to be done with the freedman"; it comes on every wind, in every tongue, and must be in the many themes of our incoming legislation. It is no abstract theory that we have to deal with; it is a stubborn fact, seated at every door way, and prominent in all our operations.

There is little we can have to guide us in the peculiar relations we are forced to accept more than the determination to make what we may have pronounced "a bad matter," substitute a good end. If the disposition of the former masters is (not as some have it "to make the negro equal in every respect to himself") but equal to the opportunity which is presented through his freedom to make an improvement upon his own circumstances, hopes, and advantages; if the master, in all senses, is willing to recognize the altered condition of the negro, and seeks to find the speediest means to solve the great problem of freedom in all its bearings—moral, physical and mental—we have no doubt but much will be accomplished that will surprise the most skeptical.

What we have hoped to gain we have lost; what they have lost in our predetermined eternity of charism has been their gain, through unaccounted but certain disinheritance. The wages of our rebellion has been the sacrifice of all our former claims upon their lives, limbs and labors. We have been compelled to relinquish possession in human chattels, and to acknowledge their right "to life, to liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

the honorableness of our motives, our acquisitions in the change effected, if we study to make their lives thus transformed, profitable to themselves—to all with whom they are to mingle—their liberty more than a declaration, viz: a blessing, and their pursuit of happiness a success in all its reach when provoked or stimulated by honest, simple and sincere desire.

What will become of the Freedmen in the future, depends not altogether upon their present conceptions of what freedom is, for such a tribute has a vague meaning to them; it is something that inspires them with great anticipations without the power to comprehend the best means of attaining its highest rewards or benefits. Perhaps our own abuse of the liberties entrusted to us; our misinterpretation of sovereign right may have laid the foundation for a wrong understanding in their benighted minds.

Nor would it be strange if the freedmen, "through fancy seeking," had imagined themselves the inheritors of the estates they had so long cultivated. Like children, with the first golden coin they call their own, wealth is already possessed and the future in its wants is compensated. Liberty: a word conveying to them inestimable joys; a change, as it were, from the horrors of the day of doom, to the blissfulness of an age of ransom, must have wrought confusion even in the most sincere mind, and caused each emotion of their jubilant hearts to become delirious and wild.

But we have seen them, though childish and simple in the first outburst of their enthusiasm, after the exuberance of their joy had found vent in unrestrained expressions, exhibit marks of a growing intelligence upon the duties now devolving upon them, that have constrained us to believe in their ability yet to understand what freedom is, what freedmen are, and what they must do to become the full inheritors of the rights of freemen.

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Expression of the Methodist and Episcopal Churches, South, upon Union with the Churches, North.

We have been satisfied, for some time, that a strong disposition exists on the part of the Methodist Church, South, to continue in their divided relations, and the exhortation of the Bishops in the earnest language of their Georgian pastoral to their household of faith, "let us abide in our lot, stand firmly on our platform and discipline—preserve our distinct ecclesiastical organization in all its vigor, doing what we can to spread scriptural holiness through these lands, and to oppose the tide of fanaticism which threatens their overthrow."

"Amy Spain."

We have again laid by much that would have been interesting to our many readers, in the form of editorials, communications, criticisms, testimonials, &c., that we might give room to the refutation of a wholesale slander upon our community which appeared in *Harper's Weekly* of the 29th ult. Not only should truth and justice compel us to deny the unwarrantable attack upon the honor, humanity and fair fame of our people, but we desire to defend the A. in the fact of their innocence as to the persecutions, oppression or execution of AMY SPAIN, which has been thus attached "to the citizens of the town of Darlington."

Major SPAIN, the former owner of the "martyr" Amy has given the facts in the case, which will change the romance and heroism of the scene in question, while the testimonials of the most respectable gentlemen in our midst will corroborate his statements as to the fidelity of the sensation story in all things, save the execution. We are not the defenders of those who tried AMY, executed or executed her. We have no doubt, of her satisfaction and joy over the coming of her deliverer, her exuberant feelings when she saw the ending of her hope-dream and the day star of freedom arise. We are among the number who would have shared with her in her restrained expressions of delight for "liberty is sweet to all."

Massachusetts Republican State Convention. Assembled at Worcester, on the 14th ult.—Hon. CHARLES SUMNER was elected President and about fifty Vice-Presidents, including Gen. B. F. BUTLER.

He maintains that the South are not yet sincere in their protestations, that they still bear malice, and are full of vindictiveness towards the Government, and that men so lately in hostile array, armed in full proof against the Republic, could not have so soon been converted to a sound regard for the flag, the constitution or the perpetuity of the Union.

Carriages. We were recently shown some cuts of the latest improved carriages manufactured by the celebrated firm of KIMBALL & BROTHERS, Portland, Maine, and we thought if the enterprising concern could only exhibit their patents among our planters who have suffered so much in the loss and "wear out" of their carriages during the war, a ready sale would be effected.

Oldest Paper in America. Among our exchanges this week came the venerable New Hampshire Gazette in its One Hundred and Tenth year. Which made it founded in 1756, a time when the aborigines of our country started the forests that covered the area of our present opulent and populous cities with their yells and the wild beasts in their lairs howled upon the trade marts of the now crowded and steeped metropolis.

Election in Maine. The election in Maine was all one way, the present incumbent, SAMUEL CORTY, was re-elected Governor by over 23,000 majority, says the New Hampshire Gazette.

Political On Dita.

Hon. B. F. PRATT is to be a candidate for United States Senator. Hon. JAMES L. OHN has accepted the nomination of a large number of the members of the Constitutional Convention for Governor.

Mr. HAYNETHWORTH was appointed temporary Postmaster at Sumter. Capt. J. W. STECKEY and A. G. GIBBERT, of the Sumter Watchmen, are candidates for the next Legislature for Sumter District.

Superior Fugitive Courts. In the Superior Court at Columbia, S. C. A. Goss (citizen) was arraigned and charged with "Larceny": Guilty: Court doctored, twenty days confinement at jail.

Proclamation by the Provisional Governor. EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, SO. CAR., Sept. 25, 1865.

Whereas, it is represented that in many portions of the State there is a great disturbance and apprehension from lawless persons, who are thieving, marauding and committing acts of violence remote from the military garrisons stationed at the Court-Houses; and whereas, Brigadier Gen. AMES, commanding the Northern portion of the State, has suggested the organization of a militia police force in each District of his command; to act in concert with his forces in preserving order and peace in the community;

And whereas, it is supposed that the other military commanders will have no objection to the aid and assistance of the citizens in suppressing crime and maintaining order; and whereas, also, it appears that President JOHNSON has sanctioned and authorized the Provisional Governor of Mississippi to organize a similar force in that State, and has forbidden the military authorities to interfere with such organization;

Now, therefore, I, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PERRY, Provisional Governor of the State of South Carolina, do proclaim, order and declare, that there shall be formed and organized in each Judicial District one or more militia companies for a home police, to act under and be auxiliary to the military garrison of such District in preventing crimes and preserving the peace of the District. The companies will consist of a Captain and three Lieutenants and eighty men, scattered over the District, so as to be easily accessible from all points where any disturbance may occur.

Proceedings of the Convention.

The President took the Chair and the proceedings were opened with prayer. Messrs. Butler, Dudley and others presented reports from study Committees.

Mr. Mellen introduced an Ordinance, to provide for the first ensuing election of Governor and Lieutenant-Governor, and for members of the first General Assembly of the State of South Carolina; which was ordered to be printed.

Mr. Jones introduced the following Resolution: which was referred to the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution.

REDUCTION IN THE NAVY.—By the close of the year the navy will only have as many vessels in commission as are necessary for the service of the war.

THE DEATH OF SIR W. HAMILTON, the astronomer royal of Ireland, is announced.

THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH and the King and Queen of Spain were about to exchange visits at San Sebastian and Biarritz.

Mrs. Moore, widow of Thomas Moore, the poet, died on the 4th inst., at Sloperton cottage, aged fifty-eight years.