

KEOWEE COURIER.

"—TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE, AND IT MUST FOLLOW, AS THE NIGHT THE DAY, THOU CANST NOT THEN BE FALSE TO ANY MAN."

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WRITTEN FOR THE KEOWEE COURIER.
LIFE.

Life,—what is life? when nobly borne,
The brightest boon the Gods can give,
And though the brave heart may be torn,
It still exulting dares to live.

O then! how mean it is to weep,
When bursting tempest round us rave,
And call on Death to hide us deep,
From Life and Fate within the grave.

Such coward spirits howl to feel,
The lash that whips the Harlot's slave;
But only such to Fortune kneel,
She cannot here subdue the brave.

The youthful brow may wrinkled grow,
And sorrow turns dark hair to gray,
Stout forms may bend with weary woe
And watching, in life's toilsome way.

But spite of Fate and Fortune's brunt,
The loyal bear them nobly still,
Defy the Gorgons front to front
And bravely dare their worst of ill.

Then troubled spirit cheer the up,
Though dark as death thy lot may fall,
If firmly drained the bitter cup
Which Fate presents, shall loose its gall.

ANGUS.

PICKENS C. H., May 21, 1849.

EXTRACT FROM A LECTURE ON THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH.

Delivered before the Young Men's Mercantile Library association of Cincinnati, Ohio, January 16, 1849.

BY ELWOOD FISHER.

Let us first examine the condition of the white people of the two sections.

The State of Massachusetts for instance, is generally regarded as one of the most successful and flourishing of the North; and is constantly referred to by the newspapers as a model for all the others, and very frequently as a taunt to the Southern. If, however, we compare this favorite of the North, with Maryland, a State of similar territorial extent, and one of the Southern States, we shall find the latter to be decidedly superior in wealth in proportion to the number of her citizens. According to the census of 1840, Maryland had a free population of 380,282, and in 1847 her property was assessed at \$222,272,650.* Massachusetts in 1840 had a population of 737,699, and her property now is only \$300,000,000. Taking these two assessments as the basis of comparison, and it appears that the average property of a free person in Maryland was \$531, whilst in Massachusetts it is now, in the palmiest days she has ever seen, only \$406 per head—the freeman of Maryland being about 25 per cent. the richer.

The States of New York and Virginia are both of great territorial extent, and not materially unequal in that respect.—New York is also regarded habitually, as one of the grandest products of free institutions—and the present condition of Virginia is continually referred to, as a striking and melancholy result of slavery. Her poverty, her ignorance, her idleness, her decay, and her misery are the three bare topics of modern political philosophy here and abroad. Let us now consider the facts. Her free population in 1840, according to the census, was 790,810, and her property is now about \$600,000,000.† The population of New York in 1840 was 2,428,921, and in 1847 her property is assessed at \$632,899,993. The average property of a free white person in Virginia is \$758; in New York it is only \$260, or a little more than one-third.

Virginia, instead of being poor and in need of the pity of the much poorer population of the North, is perhaps the richest community in the world. The average wealth of the people of Great Britain may be about the same, but it is not near so productive, and I think it demon-

strable that no people on earth live in a condition of greater comfort and enjoyment than those of Virginia. Nor is there any reason to fear a decline in her wealth. According to the census returns of 1840, Virginia, with a free population of less than one third that of New York, and a capital something less, produced from the various branches of her industry, more than half the product of New York; and as the total population of Virginia, slave and free, is only about half that of New York, it is clear, that after deducting the annual consumption of both, Virginia will have a larger proportional surplus remaining to augment the stock of her permanent property.

If now we examine the relative condition of the new States, the same results are apparent. The States of Kentucky and Ohio lie side by side, and are of similar climate, fertility and extent—the proportion of rich land being, however, less in Kentucky. Their age is also nearly the same, Kentucky having been admitted as a State about eleven years before Ohio. Ohio is considered the most prosperous State in the West, and is continually contrasted with Kentucky for the purpose of illustrating the blighting effects of slavery on the latter. Let us see what reason.

In 1840, Kentucky had a free population of 597,570 and her property amounts, according to her tax assessment of 1848, to about 272,847,096.† Ohio, in 1840, had a population of 1,519,457, and her assessment last year was 421,067,991.† The average value of property belonging to each free person in Kentucky is \$456—in Ohio it is only \$276, or more than one third less; and as the population of Ohio is now still greater in proportion to that of Kentucky than in 1830, the difference in favor of the latter is still more.

Nothing is more common than the opinion that the price of land in Kentucky is, in consequence of slavery, much lower than in Ohio. I have examined the Auditor's reports of both States, which present in detail the valuation of all their lands. In Kentucky the average value is about seven dollars per acre, in Ohio it is about eleven, and I am very confident that the quality of Ohio land is to that superior—as in Kentucky there is a large mountain region for which Ohio has nothing equivalent. Thus, then, it is manifest that the free people of the slaveholding States—of those States which are uniformly regarded as the victims of poverty and ruin—are all richer, much richer, than those of the non-slaveholding States which have been usually considered as the most flourishing members of this confederacy, and the most prosperous communities the world ever saw. Such at least is the testimony of official documents on the subject—the highest authority that exists. For I have taken nearly all these statements of the property of the several States alluded to, from the assessments made by public officers, for the collection of taxes. Of the accuracy of the valuations, it is of course impossible to speak from personal knowledge; but those of Ohio and Kentucky are, according to my opportunities of observation, as nearly correct as need be desired. And as to the other States the chances of error are perhaps as great on one side as the other.

In the slaveholding States, slaves are of course included in the property. This is sometimes objected to but I think without reason. The question is, which is the most profitable investment of capital—in land and slaves—as is usual in the slaveholding States—or in land alone, or commerce and manufactures, as in the Northern States? And this question is almost universally decided in favor of the latter. In the South, according to its laws, the slave is as available to his owner for the purposes of property, as any other property. The North has held, however, that this peculiar species of property, instead of being profitable to the owner, has been impoverishing and ruinous. And in contradiction to this I have shown that in every community where it exists there wealth abounds to a far greater extent than in the States from which it is excluded, whatever may be their climate, soil, or territory. But even if the assessed value of all the slaves in Kentucky, Virginia, and Maryland, were left out of their schedule of their property, the white people of those States would remain wealthier, on an average, than those of Ohio, New York, and Massachusetts.

By others again, it is contended, that in estimating the average wealth of individuals in a community, the slaves ought to be included as persons, and left out as property. This, I think, is also an error for the reason before stated. Where it is contended that the white man ought to

†Ky. Auditor's Report, 1848.

abandon slave property because it makes him poor, or prevents him from getting rich, it is absurd to assert that he not only has no property in his slave, but that other property belongs equally to him. But if for any other purpose or view of political economy, the slave be included with the freeman in averaging the property of a State, it will even then appear that in the States I have considered, the Southern are still wealthier than the Northern, counting the slaves as persons and deducting them from the property. So that in no aspect of the question whatever, is there any foundation in fact for the popular delusion, that the Southern States, or any of them, are either now or heretofore, or likely to be hereafter inferior to their Northern neighbors in wealth—but the reverse.

The triumph of Southern enterprise and capital in the accumulation of wealth being established as a fact, demands of us an investigation of its causes—and this, I think will materially elucidate the character of modern civilization, and particularly that which has been developed in the United States.

The original methods of acquiring wealth, adopted by men on their organization into communities, was by conquest or commerce. Hence the almost exclusively military character of one great class of the ancient States, which resulted in the universal empire successively of the Assyrian, Persian, Greek, and Roman governments; and hence the rise of Tyre and Carthage. Hence, also, in the middle ages, the empire of Charlemagne, and the long protracted efforts of France to conquer England, and England to conquer France—and the wealth of Venice, Genoa, and Holland. At a later period when the arts had made more progress, manufactures were included in the means of creating wealth. The policy of England has combined the three—conquest, commerce, and manufactures—and by these she has succeeded in the construction of an empire which, for extent of territory and wealth, has never had a parallel. The policy of England has been dictated by her insular position. This rendered it necessary for her to acquire the empire of the sea to be secure from invasion by great continental powers; and with the dominion of the sea, it was easy to establish a great colonial empire. The growth of such a great power in commerce, was the strongest possible stimulus to progress in the arts and manufactures; hence her success in them. But an extraordinary development of commerce and manufactures has always resulted in the concentration of large masses of people in cities, which causes inequality of condition, great depravity of morals, great increase of want, and of crime; consequences that are fatal in the first place to liberty in governments, and finally to independence in nations. This tendency has been so obvious and universal among the great States of all ages, as to have caused the belief that communities, like individuals, contain within themselves the seeds of dissolution which must ultimately bring them to the dust.

But whether we consider a State as a moral being, whose essence consists in the principles on which it is constructed, and therefore not necessarily mortal, or whether we regard it as a mere creature of the race or persons that founded or inhabit it, and therefore transient, there can be no doubt that its prosperity is seriously impaired by the evils referred to, that generally attend the progress of civilization.

Rural life has always been celebrated by the poets for its innocence.

"God made the country and man made the town."

But it is a kind of life that has seldom been thought favorable to the accumulation of wealth—the first want of civilization. It is also usually associated with rudeness of manners. Hence the votaries of fortune and society preferred the city, and if to these we add the vast multitude who seek the immediately gratification of their appetites and passions, which cities afford, at the hazard of future want, we have a clear solution of the undue tendency to city at the expense of country life. This great evil, sufficient of itself to cast a stigma on civilization and even ultimately to destroy it was for the first time successfully encountered and conquered by the institutions of the South; and in the great achievement Virginia led the way. Amongst the early white settlers of Virginia were many of the Cavaliers who had been driven into exile by the triumphs of the Roundheads and of Cromwell. The Cavaliers were of the country party in England, the cities and towns were more generally devoted to the Roundheads. The Cavaliers of Virginia seem to have brought over with them from England a hostility even to the modes of life of the enemies they left

behind them, as the settlers of New England, on the other hand, from the Roundheads, became highly commercial. These peculiarities were exhibited in a striking manner in the progress of the two colonies. Bancroft tells us:

"But the greatest safeguard of liberty in Virginia was the individual freedom of mind, which formed of necessity, the character of independent land holders living apart on their plantations. In the age of commercial monopoly, Virginia had not one market town, not one place of trade. As to all outward appearance it looked all like a wild desert, and the mercantile world, founding its judgment on the absence of cities, regarded it as 'one of the poorest, miserablest, and worst countries in America.' It did not seek to share actively in the profits of commerce; it had little of the precious metals, and still less of credit—it was satisfied with agriculture. Taxes were paid in tobacco; remittances to Europe were made in tobacco; the revenue of the clergy, and the magistrates of the colony, were collected in the same currency; the colonial tradesman received his pay in stragling parcels of it; and ships from abroad were obliged to be whole months in the rivers, before boats visiting the several plantations on their banks could pick up a cargo.—In the season of a commercial revolution, the commercial element did not enter into the character of the colony. Its inhabitants 'daily grew more and more averse to cohabitation.'"

Such was the character of Virginia in 1700—ninety-two years after the colony was founded, and seventy-six before her Independence—such she has remained. I have seen a law passed by her Legislature during the revolutionary war, prohibiting merchants from serving as Representatives in the Continental Congress.

But this primitive character of Virginia could not have been preserved to the extent we now behold, but for peculiar circumstances. The soil of Virginia was found to be adapted to the cultivation of tobacco, and African slave labor to its cultivation; and tobacco soon became an article of commerce. The introduction of this sort of labor had the effect of excluding, in a great measure, emigration from Europe—the emigration which subverted the ascendancy of the Quakers of Pennsylvania—which has materially modified the original character of New England, and still more of the new free States of the West. And it has been through negro slavery that agriculture has been made, for the first time in the history of the world, so profitable and attractive as to render rural life the favorite of wealth as well as of the mass of the people—to make the country instead of the towns the abode of elegant manners and refined taste. And this system of Society has prevailed throughout the other States of the South, owing to the similarity of their primitive character to that of Virginia—to her example—to emigration into them of many Virginians, the warmth of the climate, and to the culture of cotton, which is more favorable to the employment of slave labor than that of tobacco.

Thus, then, we have fifteen Southern States—one half of the number belonging to the Union, occupying half our territory—who present the extraordinary, and, so far as my researches extend, the unparalleled result of a population which has acquired greater wealth by agriculture than any other people in any other manner; and who have consequently given ascendancy within their borders to country life over city, in social and political power. In Great Britain, the only country which can be compared in civilization with ours, the land holders are indeed a very wealthy class, perhaps the most so, but they have dwellings in London, and pass a large part of the year there. The land holders of Great Britain also constitute but a small portion of the population.

[TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.]

THE PILLAR OF SALT.—LOT'S WIFE. We recently announced the appearance from the press of Cary & Hart, of this city, "A Narrative of the Late Expedition to the Dead Sea," from a diary of one of the party, edited by Edward P. Montague. Among other matters of striking interest which pervade the work, are the following description and reflections of and upon a landmark of Bible History, which cannot but possess a deep interest to every reader.—*American Courier.*

"Wednesday, April 26, 1848.—This morning we are examining the hills of Usdom, and seeking with a good deal of curiosity the ever famous 'Pillar of Salt,' which marks the judgment of God upon Lot's wife. On pulling round the shores of the sea we saw an immense column, rounded and turret-shaped, facing towards, the south-east. This, we are told

by our Arabs, was the Pillar of Salt in which Lot's wife was encased at the overthrow of Sodom. With some difficulty we landed here, and our esteemed commander and Dr. Anderson obtained specimens from, and Mr. Dale took a sketch of it. Our boat's crew landed also, and their curiosity was gratified by their gathering specimens, some from its summit and others from its base. It was measured, and found to be sixty feet in height, and forty feet in circumference. We cannot suppose that Lot's wife was a person so large that her dimensions equalled those of this column. Many think the statue of Lot's wife was equal to the pillar of salt which the Bible speaks of. Let that pillar be where it may, and whatever be its size, they will not probably credit that this is the pillar. Their preconceived notions having much to do with the matter, they would have every body think that she was at once transformed into a column of very fine grained beautifully white salt, about five feet or a few inches more in height, and in circumference that of a common-sized person of the nineteenth century. Be that as it may, no two minds have, perhaps, formed exactly the same opinion on this matter who have not visited this spot. But here we are, around this immense column, and we find that it is really of solid rock salt—one mass of crystallization. It is in the vicinity which is pointed out in the Bible in relation to the matter in question, and it appears to be the only one of its kind here. And the Arabs of the district to whom this pillar is pointed out, declare it to be that of Lot's wife—the identical pillar of salt to which the Bible has reference—the tradition having been handed down from each succeeding generation to their children, as the Americans will hand down to succeeding generation the tradition of Bunker's Hill Monument, in Boston. My own opinion of the matter is, that Lot's wife having lingered behind, in disobedience to the express command of God—given in order to insure her safety—that while so lingering she became overwhelmed in the descending fluid, and formed the model or foundation of this extraordinary column.—If it had been produced by common, by natural causes, it is but right to suppose that others might be found of a similar description. One is scarcely able to abandon the idea that it stands here as a lasting memorial of God's punishment of a most deliberate act of disobedience, committed at a time when he was about to show a distinguishing regard for the very person.

Too GOOD TO BE LOST.—The Philadelphia correspondent of the Boston Age and News, in a late letter, tells the following story. "We hope Thornley won't blame us for printing it: I heard a case of extreme modesty the other day, so extreme that it couldn't be understood. A lady went into Thornley's India rubber store, and enquired of the fascinating Mr. T.—'Have you any India rubber elegy encirclers?' "What did you say, ma'am?" said the storekeeper, slightly confounded. "Elegy encirclers," repeated the lady with a blush. Thornley looked around the store, first at the great piles of India rubber, then at gutta percha, then India rubber cloth, and so on, but without seeing anything corresponding to the name. "You're sure its made out of India rubber," said Mr. T., inwardly declaring that there was nothing made of that article which he had not seen. "Oh, yes," replied the lady. "Do you see anything like it?" at length replied the bewildered fellow. The lady looked around the well-filled store, and at length her eye rested upon a box, which she blushing pointed to. What do you suppose it contained? Garters. She was soon helped to a pair, and as she took her leave, it all at once occurred to Mr. Thornley, that garters were *L-e-g encirclers.*

A new married couple went to house keeping not long since in Boston, in Poplar street. At breakfast next morning after their entrance, the gentleman said to his lady, "My dear, this is Poplar street, and by putting u (you) in it, it becomes popular."

"And by putting us in it," promptly replied the lady, "it will become *populous.*"

A MIGHTY CONSTITUTION.—"Hiram my boy," said a tender father to his son "you must be more careful of yourself than you are. You have not the Constitution of some."

"Don't b'lieve it, dad—don't believe a word on't—I've got the constitution of a horse. There aint no break up or down on me. Dang it, if I don't b'lieve I've got the Constitution of the United States!"

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*American Almanac.

†Ohio Auditor's Report.