

THE PICKENS SENTINEL.

DEVOTED TO POLITICS, MORALITY, EDUCATION AND TO THE GENERAL INTEREST OF THE COUNTRY.

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PICKENS, S. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1875.

NO. 16.

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From the Southern Cultivator. A Very Important Question—What are We Drifting to?

Editor Southern Cultivator:—Being engaged in two occupations, my time is so completely occupied, that I have always to write in a hurry—I shall condense as much as possible.

The negroes were set free and turned loose among us without any preliminary training for freedom. We had contended that the negro left free to direct and control himself, could not live to any advantage in a Temperate Zone, where long winters prevail, and subsistence must necessarily be dug out of the earth by patient, persevering toil, backed by judgement and economy. Of the truth of this proposition, I am now as fully convinced as ever. But he is here with us and free at that. Those who know nothing about Sambo, may prate as much as they please about his excellent qualities; they are at a safe distance from him and know nothing of the subject that they pretend to discuss so sapiently; but one thing is certain—I speak most emphatically—we must control the negroes, or ruin us inevitable, both to them and us. The sooner we understand this, the better it will be for the welfare of our country. I do not mean by this startling declaration, that we should deprive them of a solitary right that legitimately belongs to them as freemen; but the great law of Nature declares in divers ways too clearly to be misunderstood, that "knowledge is power," and that within the grand circle that it sweeps, are to be found wisdom, peace, safety and prosperity. This law also declares just as clearly, that ignorance enthroned, is a power for evil!

Knowledge belongs comparatively to the white race, and must have full sway and scope, in all grand departments of business, or else prosperity and progress will ever be mere phantasm of the brain—a coveted goal that will never be reached. The negroes are the best laborers that we have or can get; but they are liable to undergo great changes in the future, unless we control them and keep them in the right channel. If left to float at will, they will zig zag in every direction along the cross and complex currents of a boundless swamp. As for white laborers, it is nonsense to talk about them where land is cheap and farming very unprofitable. They are only adapted to sections where land is scarce and rich.

For a short time after the negroes were set free, they were hired mostly for wages, and working under the control and direction of the whites, both races bid fair to prosper; but a great change has come over the spirit of our dreams. In the mind of the negro, a great deal of idle time is the "sine qua non" of happiness. He can grasp the present; but all the powers of his intellect combined into one mighty (?) focus, fail to illuminate the dark future one inch in advance of his nose; never did and never will, bating a few. Since being set free, he has taxed his limited intellect to the utmost to discover some plan by which he can give a large portion of his time to fishing, hunting, meetings, visiting, cold weather and general idleness; but how to make money, accumulate property, and secure the solid comforts of life, are questions with him of minor importance.

They settled down finally upon the plan of renting land, and paying said rent in cotton. This is now the negroes plan, originated by themselves, and is fast bringing both races to temporal ruin, as I will clearly show. The white man argues thus: "A half loaf is better than none; the negro is free any how, so if he pays his rent I don't care how he works, or what he does, or how it's done. The negro on his part reasons thus: My rent must be paid in cotton, so I will plant

the most of my crop in that article, that when the rent has been paid, I may have enough left to fill my pockets with greenbacks; then calico, flour, whisky, tobacco, mule and buggy will be mine, and I shall be elevated to the highest plane of my ambitious aspirations. The negroes have no more judgment about the proportion of corn and cotton that they should plant than children. Remember, whites, that the negroes are among us. They must live. If they starve, so will you. Don't flatter yourselves for a moment, that the negro race can starve in your midst without dragging you down in the fall! The course that has been pursued has furnished the world with more cotton than it needs, and has raised the price of all the necessities of life, plunging the whites into bankruptcy and ruin. And has brought the negroes to the brink of starvation. We may toil day and night to make cotton, but the more we make, the lower the price and the higher are provisions; upon this line we may work until we become walking skeletons, and remain all the while miserably poor and half starved!—while all the world outside of us, is laughing at our folly, and growing fat and saucy upon the unremunerated sweat that issues from our every pore!

But the negro again. We do not control him—he controls us. He idles away one third of every year, counting from Christmas, to Christmas; and his sorry farming is equivalent to the other third. He makes no manure and but little more than half a crop upon the land that he pretends to cultivate. Soon the land will be so poor that he cannot support himself and pay rent—what then? You will take the land away from him and let it rest, or sow it in grain. But what will become of the negro? He will be compelled to emigrate to Africa or the West; or they will go about in gangs like prowling wolves, plundering the country and killing the whites! You may call all this sensational, or the mere phantasm of a sensitive brain; but consider, if you please, the signs of the times, and the cause now in full operation, in connection with their legitimate effects. The seasons in this section, for the last two or three years preceding this, were almost perfect; yet starvation is now at our doors! I have seen nearly all the renters in a neighborhood gathered around one small farmer, that happened to be so fortunate as to have a little money, corn and meat, offering to gather his whole crop in one day for a little something to keep soul and body together! When we see a dozen buzzards gathered around one dead snake or as many crows pecking away at a stray nubbin of corn, or hear the blackbirds chattering in the cracks of your corn crib know ye, that starvation is not far off!

And what is the cause of all this? Various reasons have been assigned; but the real cause is, the negroes have the agriculture of the South pretty much in their own hands, and they are just about as well qualified to manage it, as so many children. If we give them a farm upon their own hook, they can't run it, unless we advance to them; if we do that they cannot pay back, unless we unsettle them, and leave them right where we found them. Many a white man has brought himself to grief, on account of allowing the negro the pleasure of running a farm at his—white man's—expense; vainly supposing that Sambo could support himself, pay rent and debts, and do it all by skinning only a half crop out of the land.

Well, what is the remedy? It is to be found in sowing more grain, or planting more corn, or making less cotton? All these are generally

pointed out by the servants of the South as constituting an effectual remedy, but they are not the remedy only, they would be effects of a proper remedy applied. The true remedy is—and there is no other—for the whites to take the great business of agriculture into their own hands; then the reins will be held strong and steady, and the "world's backbone" kept in the proper position. A course will be pursued, adapted to secure the permanent welfare of both races for the present and future. It is generally admitted that the whites must have "political supremacy," or the country is ruined. But be not deceived; it is just as necessary that the whites should have agricultural supremacy, to save the country from ruin.

Finally, all sorry hands must be hired for wages. Renters must be able to support themselves; must be directed in pitching their crops and working them, must be compelled to make manure and keep up fences. The land they work must not be allowed, at least, to become any poorer. The law against vagrancy must be rigidly enforced against both black and whites; drones must be kicked out of the hive and put on the chain gang, under an overseer. Right economy must be the order of the day. Living upon the credit system must stop; it is bad, very bad policy to allow the present to seal both principle and interest from the future. More grain must be made and less cotton. Barnyard manures must receive more attention, and guano less.

The low price of cotton and high price of provisions furnish an argument that will convince farmers by and by, that they have been pursuing a wrong course. The tyrant necessity, is the only argument Southern farmers will listen to. This tyrant is now marching everywhere through the South; and I discern a growing disposition in our people to pull off their hats and make him a bow. I now hear much talk about sowing more grain, planting more corn and less cotton, and making more manure, &c., &c. Many of the whites have a little farm of their own that they are trying to make rich, but out side of this, they rent the balance of their land to the helter skelter negro, who is fast wearing it out! I again ask the question, if this course is pursued much longer, what will become of Sambo? I am not his enemy, but a better friend to him than he is practically to himself. He must be compelled in some way to improve the land he tills; or else after awhile we shall be compelled to slip him or do worse. When the black man shall have worn out the land allotted to him, he will not be allowed to fall back upon the white man's few "bales acres," that he has nursed as carefully as his own children.

Let a wise course be pursued in due time, and soon our country will resemble a garden; provisions will be cheap and cotton bring a remunerative price; our wives will be happy and our children merry; Sambo will again look sleek and oily, and will whistle and sing, as he was wont to do, in the good old days of yore; but in order to reach this happy state, the white man must hold the reins, both political and agricultural—and not the negro.

JAS. H. OLIPHANT.
Stellaville, Ga., Sept. 1875.

The Jackson Times, the leading Republican organ in Mississippi, says:—From the character of those who have controlled the caucuses of the party, and thence the leadership and policy and destiny of the Republican organization, defeat was only a question of time. It has come at last, and though by means we do not approve, yet it has overtaken us, and the party is at the bottom of the hill.

Political Precedents—A Warning.

Some of our contemporaries seem to think that the Democrats will certainly elect the next President, because they elected a large majority of the House of Representatives last fall. They tell us that from the days of John Quincy Adams down to the present time the party which has carried the House in the middle of a Presidential term has always been successful in the ensuing Presidential contest.

The facts on this subject are no doubt curious and suggestive, but they will not quite warrant such a sweeping conclusion. The House which met in December, 1839, contained a larger number of Democrats than Whigs; but because of a feud in the Democratic party the Whigs elected Harrison as President the next year. The like results happened sixteen years later when the opponents of the Democracy succeeded in making Banks Speaker of the House in February, 1856, but, owing to divisions in the ranks of the opposition, the Democrats were able to elect Buchanan to the Presidency in the subsequent November.

These facts show that it will not do to push precedents too far, and that all general rules have their exceptions.

Other political precedents or maxims which at one time or another have seemed too strong to yield to any amount of pressure, have finally broken down. It was for many years treated as an axiom that as Pennsylvania went at the October elections, so New York would go in the following November. But in the convulsions of 1856 this axiom, on which aspirants to office, and those who staked money on elections had so long relied, was exploded; for while Pennsylvania was then carried for the Democrats by a decisive majority in October, New York went overwhelmingly for the Republicans in November. Another time honored precedent shared a similar fate in the famous political conflicts of 1836. It had long been regarded as a firmly grounded truth, that if either two of the great States of New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio cast their electoral votes for the same candidate for President, but he was sure to be chosen. But in that year New York and Ohio voted for Fremont by heavy majorities, yet Buchanan was elected nevertheless.

We might cite two or three other general rules of this character upon which politicians have been wont to rely, but which have finally encountered exceptions and then ceased to be trusted; but those who have referred to will suffice to warn the Democrats that they cannot safely count upon success in next year's election, merely because a large body of disgusted Republicans in all parts of the country stayed away from the polls last fall, and thus enabled the Democrats to elect a handsome majority of the House of Representatives. So far as the House is concerned, the result of the Presidential campaign will depend far more upon how the Democratic majority act during the coming session, than upon the fact that they obtained that majority in the elections of the past year. Indeed, should the Democrats in the House fail to meet the public expectations on the subject of reform, the people will be likely to seize the opportunity of the approaching national contests to set aside in a very marked manner a precedent which has heretofore exerted a good deal of influence upon party leaders.—N. Y. Sun.

SOME ladies of Chicago have been poisoned by wearing the striped or zebra stockings. The arsenic used in the coloring did it.

SINCERITY.—Give us sincere friendship or none. This hollow glitter of smiles and words—compliments that mean nothing—protestations of affection as solid as the froth from champagne—invitations that are pretty sentences, uttered because such things are customary are all worthless. There is no need of them. It is proper to be civil and courteous to the most indifferent stranger; but why assume friendship's outward show when no reality underlies it? When one feels friendship, the object of that sentiment cannot suffer, and leave our hearts untroubled—cannot be slandered leaving us unharmed.

PARDONED.—The Governor has pardoned Charles Sims, convicted of burglary and larceny at the October, 1875, term of the Court of Sessions for Union County and sentenced to six months in the penitentiary. The Solicitor and Judge recommend the pardon, and state that the evidence did not warrant a conviction.

Zoroaster says: "When you doubt, abstain." Hoyle says: "Trump and take the trick."

One of the sons of Queen Victoria has placed himself at the head of the temperance movement in England.

The Columbia Union-Herald, the Republican organ in this State, admits that the last election in this State for members of Congress was illegal, because of the want of "contiguity" of the counties composing the Third District.

Hon. Fernando Wood declines the further use of his name as a candidate for the speakership of the next House of Representatives. He says he is not a candidate and will not be a party to the contest now going on for that office.

A three year old boy asked his mother to let him have his building bricks to play with, but she told her darling that it was Sunday, and therefore not proper for him to have them. "But, mamma," said the hopeful, "I'll build a church." He got the bricks.

A little boy carrying some eggs home from the shop dropped them. "Did you break any?" asked his mother, when he told her of it. "No," said the little fellow, "but the shells came off some of 'em."

J. A. Tolly, of Anderson, killed an eagle recently.

The young men of Hodges and Cokesbury speak of forming a rifle club.

Nine prisoners were recently placed in the penitentiary from Marion county.

"Jim," inquired a schoolboy of one of his mates "what is the meaning of 'relies'?" "Don't you know the master licked me in school yesterday?" "Yes." "Well, he wasn't satisfied with that, but kept me after school and licked me again. That is what I call 'relick'."

Capt. Sanford and Prof. Thomas Archer, of London, have been appointed on 4th instant as executive commissioners to the Philadelphia Centennial exposition.

The Prince of Wales has an income annually of £115,000.

Mr. Kerr, candidate for the Speakership, is for hard money. Hard money is very good, if a man can get enough of it.

An Irish tablecloth peddler, named Drennan, was found dead in Anderson county recently.

Mr. E. C. McCullough has been appointed agent of the Southern Express Company at Greenville.

Attempts have been made to throw the cars off the track near Greenwood. The New Era advises lynch law.