

## THE FREE SOUTH.

BEAUFORT, S. C., JULY 11, 1863.

## Agents for the Free South.

TAYLOR & Co. Hilton Head, and St. Helena Island.  
C. C. LEIGH, No. 1 Mercer street, New York.

Agents wanted in the different Regiments of this Department, for the FREE SOUTH.

## Preaching to Negroes.

Of late years, with the advance of books and newspapers, the relative importance of public speaking as a power over the public mind, has greatly diminished. But there are still left occasions when words, fitly spoken, may be of incalculable service. And rarely ever since the world began has there been an opportunity of this kind presented equal to that which those now have who can address the negroes of the slave states on their transition to freedom. These people cannot read, and if they could, no newspaper fitted to their condition and ideas has as yet been published. Their instruction, as to their duties and position, must therefore be exclusively oral; and of this they need much. They enter on their new state with few ideas of freedom—and these to a great degree wrong and pernicious. They do not at first understand that freedom is a life of struggle, in which a man must work for a living, and if need be, fight for his liberty. They need to be instructed as to the rights of property, as to the duties involved in marriage and paternity, and as to industry, good order, sobriety, cleanliness, and an improved household life. The minister of religion, with such topics and such hearers before him, has a work not less important or sublime than that of St. Paul.

This work, we must sadly confess, is understood by very few preachers who attempt it, or if it is, they are without the skill to perform it aright. They read sometimes old sermons which they have preached in northern churches, or if they do not read, they fall into the same old strain which they can repeat from habit or recall from memory. Their poor hearers sleep through the leaden monotony, not understanding the mysterious harangue. They are treated to disquisitions on theology, natural history and the like, which might have done well enough in divinity schools and quarterly conferences, but are decidedly out of place here. They are longing for the everlasting food by the nourishment of which they shall become good citizens, good Christians, good husbands and fathers, honest men and chaste women—and instead of this they get chips and stones. We have listened to such sermons in this department, and we should have slept under them more soundly than the negroes were it not that our nerves became all excited under the infliction.

Not thus did the Saviour of mankind teach in Judea. He drew his illustrations from the processes of nature and the customs of life which were familiar to his hearers. He talked not about Plato and the Academy. He split no hairs with sophists. He illustrated his teachings by the lilies of the fields, the birds of the air, the stars of Heaven, the exactions of creditors, the lending and the use of money, the labors of the vineyard, and the festivities of marriage.

Let those who now minister in His name follow His example. Let them enter the cabins of the freedmen, and there learn their forms of expression, the tone of their minds, their peculiar thoughts and then they will be able to set before them the appropriate food. Let them illustrate their teachings by the scenes of the cotton and corn field, the catching of fish, the hunting of game, the beauty of the flowers like the jessamines and the yucca, and even the turkey buzzard may sometimes "point a moral and adorn a tale." St. Paul, who was a Christian minister, and a man of the world, too, who knew both Greek and Barbarian, recognized this duty of the bishop, and required that he should be "apt to teach."

The missionaries, who are privileged to preach the gospel to the freedmen, have a mission not less glorious than that of the early fathers of the Christian church. But they will be false to their trust if they give this interesting people the chips of a cold exegesis, or homilies of a technical and partizan theology. It is of little moment whether they are Methodists, Baptists, Episcopalians, or Unitarians, so long as they become brave soldiers, good citizens, Christian men and women.

Two gentlemen of African descent, clergymen by profession, have recently come to the Department, who, from what we can learn, answer well the qualifications which St. Paul requires of the bishop. May their ministrations be blessed to the welfare of souls, and may they be an example to white men engaged in a like service.

A Newbern dispatch says the opposition papers in North Carolina are very severe on the "fire eaters" and original secessionists, who, according to the utterances of the special organ of Gen. Vance, the Raleigh Standard, will never be allowed hereafter to hold an office of honor or trust whatever in North Carolina. From the same source it appears that Jeff Davis has been given to understand by Governor Vance, that the fate of the confederacy must be decided in Virginia; that in no case will the confederate army be allowed to make a stand in North Carolina, and deluge her fields with blood and devastation; but must, when they leave Virginia, retire into the cotton states, and end the conflict where it began.

In the vicinity of Wilmington and near the borders of South Carolina, a large number of deserters and conscripts are entrenched, and successfully resisting the rebel authority, having had three engagements already.

The rebel Secretary of War has ordered all the North Carolina troops into other states for immediate service, on account of the growing dissatisfaction among them.

Unionism in Nashville has increased since the President's emancipation proclamation. The Nashville Union instances the Union club of that city. Previous to the proclamation the applications for membership averaged about twenty-two per week for four weeks; since that time the applications have numbered forty per week. Slaveholders, who have never been suspected of harboring a thought adverse to the "divine institution," have come forward and avowed their firm conviction that the system was an unmitigated curse, and incompatible with our government.

We are informed that such discharged soldiers as intend to apply for a pension should do so within a year from the date of their discharge, or they will lose a whole year's pension. All applications made after the expiration of a year will only secure the pension from the date of said application, but if made within the year their pension will commence with their discharge.

Prisoners recently returned from Richmond state that the rebel leaders are watching, with intense interest, the negro soldier movement, now in progress in this department, Massachusetts, Louisiana, and in the southwest. In speaking upon this subject the rebels betray great excitement, and do not attempt to disguise their sentiments that it will have an important influence upon the future of the campaign.

The Herald of Progress, a Spiritualist paper in New York, says that Stonewall Jackson has become an Abolitionist since his death, and has joined John Brown's phalanx of philanthropists.

The New York Anti-Slavery Standard acknowledges the receipt of fifty dollars, for the benefit of the freedmen under the care of Mrs. Frances D. Gage, on Paris Island, S. C.

Uncle Sam's postal currency is circulating freely in the confederate capital.

## The Army of the Potomac.

The New York Sun says the prompt action of General Meade, in placing the army of the Potomac at important strategic points, has had the effect of relieving Harrisburg from immediate danger of attack, by forcing General Lee to concentrate his forces for a battle. This event is likely to take place very soon, if, indeed, it has not already commenced. The most momentous consequences depend on the result, which will be anticipated with the most intense interest. All the indications promise a great Union victory. Our soldiers fight on their own soil, and are animated by the powerful incentives of protecting their own homes and saving their country from the impending ruin which is so ostentatiously threatened by the Richmond journals and the rebel leaders in Pennsylvania. The coming battle will be the first contest of the war on free soil; and a stern poetic justice may require that the divine inspiration that is to crush the slaveholders' rebellion should be kindled on a northern battlefield.

The following letter from Vice President Hamblin has been received by Gen. Saxton—it will be read with interest by the colored people in this Department:

BANGOR, Me., June 24, 1863.

My Dear Sir—I have had forwarded to me by the colored women of Victoria, V. I., about six hundred dollars, and have the same in my hands.

My instructions are to send it to Beaufort, S. C., "for the benefit of the contrabands, it being the first place a colored regiment was formed according to law."

If you will have the kindness to see the money expended according to the wishes of the donors, you will much oblige me and all parties concerned—and I desire you will do so. If willing to assume the trust, as I trust you will be, will you inform me at your earliest convenience, and instruct me in what manner I can best remit you the funds.

Yours truly,

H. HAMLIN.

Gen. SAXTON, Beaufort, S. C.

The discharges from Gen. Rosecrans' army for the month of May exhibit the following gratifying results: Whole number discharged, one thousand fifty-nine; of these twenty-four re-enlisted in the regular army, five hundred and sixty-three were discharged from the ranks in order to be promoted, and only four hundred and seventy-two were discharged for disability. These statistics speak volumes for the sanitary condition of his army.

The slaughter of the negro troops by the rebels in the battle of Milliken's Bend has induced Gen. Grant to issue an order, declaring that hereafter, should any soldier, whether white or black, wearing the uniform of a United States soldier, be captured and executed, retaliatory measures will be adopted by him, and rebel soldiers in his hands will be treated in like manner.

The Senate of Connecticut, by a vote of twelve to eight, has refused to restore to the Senate hall the portraits of ex-Governor Toucy and Seymour, as evidence of their loyalty was not produced, which, according to the resolution banishing the pictures, must be forthcoming before a restoration is in order.

The government agent reports the sale of five-twentieths on the 1st to the amount of \$1,700,000, by the various agents throughout the loyal states. The Secretary of the Treasury has authorized the continuance of the agency system for the sale of government loans.

Lady Leconfield, the mother of the gallant English officer, Col. Sir Percy Wyndham, wounded in the cavalry battle on the Rappahannock, died lately in London under sudden and painful circumstances.

The Richmond Inquirer says that Gen. Grierson is again "canvassing" Mississippi.

## The War Carried into Africa by her OWN SONS.

On the 27th ult., five colored men from St. Helena and one from Beaufort, who acted as guide, crossed over to the Main, for the purpose of rescuing their relatives and friends from the hands of their cruel masters. Having successfully passed the enemy's pickets, they landed without difficulty, and found the prospects better almost than they had hoped. They saw their friends, told their plans, and soon had a larger party to bring off than their boat would hold. In order to make a good job of it another boat was necessary. They returned to St. Helena, and immediately went back with a larger boat, embarking twenty-eight people, large and small, and last night the entire party landed safely on this shore among their old friends and former fellow servants. It was a scene of rejoicing and of thanksgiving to God. Parents met children and husbands met wives.

Ishmael, the former driver of these refugees, says he has left on the Main sixty acres of corn, five acres of potatoes and twenty-one acres of cotton, which he had this year put in with the aid of eight hands. He has arrived here with his people in season to plant peas and slip potatoes, and will at once put in enough to furnish them with provisions for the coming winter.

The above facts, and similar ones now frequently occurring, is more forcible than any argument in favor of the courage, enterprise and the desire for liberty, possessed by the freedmen. D.F.T.

St. Helena, July 3, 1863.

Fire Arms, Ammunition, etc.  
GENERAL ORDERS, NO. 3.OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL,  
Department of the South,  
Port Royal, S. C., July 4th, 1863.

The Provost Marshals of the several posts of this Department will forthwith take possession of all fire arms and the ammunition and equipments for the same in the hands of any person not in the military service of the United States, and will turn the same over to the Ordinance Officer of their respective posts.

Any sutler found trading in such article will subject his entire stock to seizure, and all persons found with them in their possession, except by special order from the Commanding General of the Department or Post, will be at once arrested and dealt with as the commanding officer may direct.

By command of Brig. General Q. A. Gillmore, Commanding Department of the South.

JAMES F. HALL,  
Lieut. Colonel and Provost Marshal General.

TAKE THE NUMBERS.—Holbrook's Mail says that it is very essential that parties enclosing bank notes in letters, for transmission in the mail, should be particular in retaining the number, letter and date of each bill. If lost or stolen, this will aid essentially in tracing out the robbery and in the return of the property to the rightful owner, provided it is recovered in whole or in part. It is not enough to be able to say that the notes posted were of particular denominations, and on certain banks. Such identification is not sufficient to authorize the restoration, if found. The practice of retaining a pretty full description would, if generally followed, tend greatly to prevent deceptions, and aid materially in convictions where robberies are committed and detected.

Governor Yates has prorogued the Illinois legislature according to law, though extremely against the wishes of the copperheads, who threaten all sorts of vengeance.

The Union State Convention of Maine assembled at Bangor on the 1st, and nominated Samuel Coney for Governor by a large vote.

Major General Franklin has been ordered to a command in Louisiana, under Major General Banks.