

[Original.]

Song of Captivity.

PSALM CXXCVII.

We sat down by Babylon's waters,
And, thinking of Zion alone,
We hung our sad harps on the willows,
In the midst of them making our moan;
For they who had carried us captive,
Asked for Zion's sweet song at our hands;
As if we could sing, in our sorrow,
The song of our God in strange lands!

Yes, when I forget thee, my country,
Let my right hand its cunning forget—
When I fail to prefer thee to pleasure,
Hush the tongue that can honor thee yet;
Jerusalem still be the treasure
Most precious that earth can bestow;
And thy vengeance, O God! upon Edom,
That cried, "Lay her low, lay her low!"

Remember, O Lord! in the season
When Zion shall come to her own,
The children of merciless Edom,
And teach them the griefs we have known;
Thrice happy be he, who, pursuing
The daughter of Babylon still,
Shall devote her young babes to the ruin,
And, deaf to all pleading, shall kill.

England's Responsibility for African Slavery in America.

Lord John Russell having thought proper, in a speech recently made in Parliament, to denounce the institution of slavery, as it exists in this country, as disgraceful to the Confederate States, it would be well, if the following historical facts could be brought to his attention; proving that whatever of criminality and infamy may be attached to slavery as it exists here, rests upon the British Government and people, by whom it was forced upon us:

Four companies were chartered by the British Government, to carry on the African slave trade. See Brit. Encyclop., under the head of companies, vol. 5, page 226. Of one of these companies Queen Elizabeth, and probably all her ministers, were members, and derived heavy profits from the traffic.

The Royal African Trading Company erected a large building in Thread Needle street, London, then called the 'South Sea House,' for the purpose of an exclusive trade to the South Sea, and for supplying America with negroes. See Brit. Encyclop., vol. 20, page 250, in account of the great buildings of London.

In 1751, an expedition was sent from England to capture Lewistown and the Island of Goree, in the Senegal river, to secure to England the traffic in slaves and gum, from that part of Africa. See 12th volume of History of England, by Hume, Smollet, &c., page 279.

In 1713, Queen Anne boasted in a speech to Parliament that she had by the treaty of Utrecht, obtained for her subjects the asciento or contract for furnishing the Spanish West India Islands for thirty years, as it had been enjoyed by the French. See volume 10, page 230, Hume's England. The asciento contract stipulated that from the 1st of May, 1713, to the 1st of May, 1743, the company should transport into the West Indies 144,000 negroes,

at the rate of 4,000 negroes a year, and pay for each negro thirty-three pieces of eight and one third, in full for all royal duties. See page 267, volume 10, Hume's England.

When the American revolution broke out, 3,000 sailors, most of whom had been engaged in the African slave trade, were, by that event, thrown out of employment, at the single port of Liverpool. Page 230, volume 15, History of England.

In 1778, the Duke of Richmond stated in Parliament that the number of ships that had been annually engaged in the African trade, previous to the American war, was 200, of the value of £9,000 each; that the number had been reduced to 40, causing an annual loss to Britain of £1,440,000. See page 497, of the 15th volume of the History of England.

The ratification of the Treaty of Peace, made at Paris on the 10th of February, 1763, between France and England, was objected to in England, on the ground that one of its provisions would prevent the English from enjoying the whole profits of the trade in African slaves. See 14th volume, page 76, History of England.

Before the American revolution, Acts were passed by the Colonial Legislatures of New York, New Jersey, South Carolina, and no less than 23 by that of Virginia, to suppress the slave trade; all of which were vetoed by the British Government, on the ground that they would diminish the profits of their subjects from this traffic.

In the enumeration of the misdeeds of the King, the preamble of the Constitution of Virginia, adopted by the Convention of Virginia in 1776, are the following words: 'By prompting our negroes to rise in arms among us, those very negroes, whom by an inhuman use of his negative, he had refused us permission to exclude by law.'

The British people and Government are therefore responsible before God and man for the existence of slavery here, and whatever odium may be attached to it must rest on them.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK IN RICHMOND.—Every bank, banking-house and exchange office in Richmond having been swept away by the late conflagration, great embarrassment is felt by the business community, not only by reason of the absence of a secure depository for cash and valuable paper securities, but from the want of the usual banking facilities and the impossibilities of making the ordinary exchanges.

In this connection it affords us great pleasure to be able to announce that a number of prominent capitalists, seeing the extreme public need, have met and organized the First National Bank of Richmond, to be conducted under and in conformity with the National Currency Law. A number of our oldest and most substantial residents have already taken stock.

The bank will be opened for business with as little delay as practicable.

[Richmond Whig.]

TOMATOES.—The *Working Farmer* says of the tomato plant that it bears eighty per cent. of its fruit within eighteen inches of the ground, while more than half of the plant is above that part. When the branches are cut they do not bleed, and they may, therefore, be shortened in immediately above the large or early setting fruit. The removal of the small fruits on the ends of the branches is no loss, for the lower fruit will be the consequence, besides obtaining a larger portion, five to fifteen days earlier. The trimming should be so done as to leave a few leaves beyond the fruit to insure perfect ripening. The importance of early maturing is too evident to need comment. The burying of the removed leaves immediately around the plants is a good practice, both by insuring full disturbance of the soil, and by the presenting a fertilizer progressed precisely to the point of fruit making. The portions buried decay rapidly, and are readily assimilated.

JAMESTOWN.—This first settlement of Virginia—one of the most celebrated spots in American history—is now an abandoned plantation, about half-way between City Point and Fortress Monroe, on the North side of the river. Only two or three old brick chimneys and the ruins of a little old brick church mark the spot where the ancient village once stood. The brick constituting these ruins were imported from England at a very early day, and are yet in a good state of preservation. Many of them have been taken away as relics, since the commencement of the war, and not a few of them even now enter into the constitution of the comfortable winter quarters in the armies of the Potomac and the James, and at general headquarters at City Point.

A printer seeing a bailiff closely pursuing an unfortunate author, remarked that it was a new edition of the "Pursuits of Literature," unbound and hot pressed.

State of South Carolina.



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

COLUMBIA, May 8, 1865.

To the Officers of the Civil Government of the State:

THE cessation of hostilities renders it proper that the Civil Government of the State should be restored without delay, and that the functions of the several departments should be at once resumed. To that end, all officers of the State, whose offices have been kept in Columbia, will with all convenient promptitude return to that place, re-open their offices and resume their proper duties.

By the Governor, A. G. MAGRATH.

Official: W. S. MULLINS, Lt. Col. and A. D. C.

South Carolina newspapers will copy once. may 8