

The Port Royal Commercial

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J. G. THOMPSON, Editor.

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And a certain Man went down into Jericho, and fell among Thieves.

It is not surprising that the northern press should fall into many errors in their discussion of the condition of affairs in the south, especially in South Carolina and Louisiana.

A cloud of calumnies, controversies and errors hangs over the social chaos and veils from the eye of the most patient observer all the details of the scene.

Here and there a writer, catching sight of the ill-defined outline of some portentous evil which casts a black shadow over the field, studies it so far as he can and, impressed by its magnitude, describes it as the main feature of the picture.

Those who best understand the actual condition of society, and are best fitted to give a fair account of its evils and of their causes, who see both the good and the evil of both political parties, and of both races, draw back from the attempt to do justice to so perplexing a question, and leave to correspondents and tourists the task of enlightening the northern public from the results of their necessarily hasty and imperfect observations.

A common mistake is to attribute all the evils which run riot in South Carolina to what is called carpet bag governments; and place on the shoulders of carpet baggers the responsibility for all that is corrupt in public affairs in all departments of the state.

There are two errors in this generally accepted view. First it is a mistake to ascribe to them the control in any part of the government, or even any considerable influence.

They are really insignificant in numbers, as we will presently show, and those who still remain in office are doomed soon to be swept away by the tide of Africanization which seems destined to take complete possession of the state.

Of eleven judges on the bench two are carpet baggers; of eight circuit solicitors, three are carpet baggers; of one hundred and twenty-four members of the house, eight; of thirty-three senators, two; of thirty-two county auditors, three; and of thirty-two county treasurers, five.

Among the principal officers of the state, only the comptroller general and the superintendent of education are of the proscribed class.

Secondly, it is an error to hold that their influence, whatever it may be, is generally or pre-eminently used selfishly or corruptly.

On the contrary, the few who are found in the legislature, on the bench and in the executive departments are, to say the least for them, the most respectable element in a government which is justly a reproach and a shame, and an object of contempt and hatred to the country.

If there are degrees in an infamy which contaminates every man who approaches its seat and centre, the carpet bagger must be allowed to be some shades less black than his associates.

It is not denied that there have been and are among the class in question persons who are justly obnoxious to the most emphatic censure which has been so freely bestowed upon them, both by the southern people and the northern press.

It is not intended to say one word to shield any such from merited condemnation. But it is important to all study of the southern problem to make a correct diagnosis. Any work for the regeneration of the south, that is begun in ignorance of facts will be labor to no purpose.

And finally, from these mistaken views it results, that the element in the southern population, from whose wholesome influence most of good is to be hoped in any effort to rescue the south from complete ruin, is paralyzed for efficient service.

For in South Carolina, "carpet bagger" is a term which, in the mouths of all southern men, and hence in all southern newspapers, and in all extracts and correspondence in the northern papers, includes every white non-republican who has come into this state since the war.

We know that sometimes this is strenuously denied, but the experience of every man from the north who has endeavored to establish himself in any branch of business in this state since the war will prove the fact beyond controversy.

Exception from that term of reproach can be purchased now in the south, only at the price which secured peaceful residence here before the war, and that is, absolute acceptance of the political views native to the soil of slavery.

Non-Abolitionist life, no a tivity in business or devotion to enterprises which may develop and advance the interests of all the people of the state will condone the fault of non-compliance on this point.

Nothing like social recognition or neighboring good offices is to be procured short of an open disavowal of all independence of opinion, and the exhibition of the active zeal of a new convert.

Sometimes a stray tourist, if he be thought a favorable subject for making an impression

upon, is tolerated and humbugged for a day, but practically it is as we say.

To the credit of the carpet bagger it can be said that doughfaces are recognizing them.

The majority of these are engaged in the ordinary pursuits of life, a few comparatively are known in public life; their political opinions are far from the hampering prejudices of the natives, and they are as a class more ready than the latter to enter actively into any effort to purify the atmosphere of the capital.

But they are few in number and scattered all over the state, and equally out of favor with the republican party organizations and with the natives.

They have the little leaven of political common sense that is to be found in the whole mass, and in the fostering and development of their influence and the increase of their numbers is the only hope for the sound regeneration of society and politics.

Speaking then of the carpet bagger as a class, it is much more true and more wise to give him now and then a good word than to make him invariably the object of abuse.

Tired of Hard Fucks.

A. O. Jones withdrew his name as one of the trustees in the legislative certificate bill. He is tired of standing up to be fired at. He has acted as a figure head in the Republican Printing Company, taking the odium and hard knocks, while his senatorial partners absorbed most of the profits, leaving Jones and Woodruff to bear the brunt of the fight when the day of reckoning comes.

Joe Woodruff has more endurance. He still suffers in silence. We hope he will be driven beyond even his patience and then, some day, we will get that check book.

Who buys the Porcelain Lands.

The Union Herald points out with great effect that it is a mistake to suppose that when the taxes are so heavy as to compel the owners of land to sell, the poorer class can buy.

The middle class may buy, but real poor men can't. When taxes are so high, rent and provisions are high, and yet wages are low. It hits the poor man both ways.

Every poor man should keep this in mind. That is the reason why, although about 250,000 acres of land have been sold for taxes lately, still the State has had to take it all, and the poor man has not been able to buy a tax title. There is no getting round that fact.

In this county hundreds of poor colored men have been sold out of house and home for non-payment of taxes, and there will be many more sold out this spring; but we have yet to hear of an instance where any colored man has bought a piece of land at these tax sales, unless he was an office holder or a member of the legislature.

In proportion to their numbers and the amount of land owned by them, the colored people of this county have suffered more from the operation of the tax net than their white fellow tax payers.

In the two townships of St. Helena and Beaufort, the fifty per cent penalty for non-return of real estate to the auditor has been added upon the property of over one thousand colored landholders.

It is estimated that the sum of five thousand dollars will be collected out of these poor people this year, over and above what would be collected from the same number of persons able to inform themselves of the requirements of the laws.

Those who are so blatant in their appeals to voters to "stand by their own color," have taken little care to instruct them and protect them against the over assessment of their property and the accumulation of penalties.

On several occasions lately, we have called attention to this matter, and we were recently visited by the Comptroller General's office to see if an abatement could not be made for these poor ignorant people.

Mr. Alfred Williams has, we believe, called the attention of our delegation to the facts, and some efforts will probably be made to rectify what ought to have been prevented.

In making up the memorial to Congress the taxpayers might have made it much more pungent by sticking to quotations. There is not a week passes in which some prominent leader of the dominant party, or some committee composed entirely of republicans does not furnish the necessary materials for such a document.

Take the sinking fund report; the lay letter of the attorney general to the chairman of the ways and means committee; the report of Mr. Bowley's special committee on printing; the speech of E. W. Mackey on the penitentiary appropriation; Mr. Jilson's recent report on the school deficiencies; Hurley's statements in regard to the Governor's contingent fund; the report of the joint investigating committee on the state debt; the statement of Cardozo about the unpaid pay certificates and bills payable, etc., etc.

We recommend to the memorial committee a collection of these documents before going to Washington.

For Congress.

Senator Small is, we believe, an announced candidate for the congressional nomination in this district, and now we believe it positively asserted that Mr. Whipper is in the field.

Senator Small will have Beaufort County certain to start with, and Mr. Whipper, we suppose expects to secure Barnwell, Colleton, Edgefield, Aiken and Laurens, are now in the district, and each of them may present a candidate. So things will be lively.

A bill is before the senate which establishes new regulations in regard to the claims growing out of the late war. It does away with the iron-clad oath; transfers all classes of claims to one court of claims; allows all testimony to be taken before commissioners in each judicial district, puts the defence of claims before the U. S. district attorneys; and charges the expenses to the successful litigant.

IN MEMORIAM.

The following are the resolutions adopted at the meeting held last week in the Reading Room, Beaufort, S. C.:

Resolved, That we place the All Wise Father and Ruler of the Universe, to remove from the cares and activities of this mortal life, to the wider sphere and more exalted employments of immortality, our brother and friend Stephen Caldwell Millett.

Resolved, That although stricken and overwhelmed by the severity of the illness which this little warrior has taken from our midst, a valued and valuable member of society, we reverently bow to the Divine dispensation.

Resolved, That by the death of Stephen Caldwell Millett, the social circle has lost one of its brightest and most genial ornaments, systematic benevolence has parted with a generous contributor and almsman, the sad and suffering, the poor and the lonely, so often and so unostentatiously cheered and encouraged by his warm-hearted sympathy and exertions, have buried a friend; and the business community in which, as a man of dauntless energy, indomitable perseverance and ceaseless activity, he had come to be widely and justly recognized, has sustained an irreparable loss; while we, so closely associated with him in so many of the varied and best relations of life, and bound to him by strong cords of mutual esteem and respect, feel sorely chastened and bereaved.

Resolved, That we tender to the widow of our friend the tenderest and warmest sympathies of our hearts; that we sit down beside her as brothers in her speechless and awful sorrow, drinking with her the cup of bitterness which God has commended to her lips, and pointing to the only source from whence consolation can come at such an hour—the hope that looks upward to immortality.

Resolved, That we commend the little ones who are written orphans, to the beneficent care and watchful provision of the Universal Father, relying upon his own promise, "I will be a father to the fatherless."

Resolved, That the rooms of the Beaufort Reading Room Association so appropriately made the repository of the lifeless remains of our friend—his first resting place for the period of three months, draped in mourning for the period of three months, and that the Association be requested to enter these resolutions upon their minutes.

Resolved, That the proprietors of newspapers in Beaufort and Charleston be requested to publish these proceedings, and that copies be furnished to the relatives of the deceased.

Answers to Correspondents.

BLUFFTON.—Our figures are correct and have never been denied. It will take one mill on the dollar of the entire taxable property of the county to pay the claims of the Standard for the last year.

U.—We do not know who is responsible for the appointment of Mr. Mulligan as trial justice. We suppose he was recommended by N. B. Myers or Mr. Bascomb.

SCHOOL TEACHER.—School claims are not to be paid out of the fund raised by special tax to pay past indebtedness.

MATILDA.—Your inquiry as to the proper manner to eat soup, whether from the side of the spoon or from the tip, was handed to a social philosopher whose reflections are as follows:

Do you remember when Dr. Blumber had a party, Mr. Toots came first of the guests. He had arrayed himself in purple and fine linen, and had his cuffs turned up over his coat sleeves.

The next young gentleman came with his cuffs turned down. So Mr. Toots turned his down. The next had his turned up—so Toots turned his up! Toots abandoned it.

The question of how to carry soup to one's mouth is involved in that obscurity which invariably is the result of a dispute where there are many commentaries, and no inspired authority. Amid the perplexities which have involved me while searching for truth on this point, there has been evident—like a star in the sky—like a thread in a labyrinth—like a refrain in the bewilderment of an orchestra—like a duck on a June bug, one great fact, viz: Get your soup to your mouth without spilling it; into your stomach without burning your mouth, and let it quietly digest.

There is no other rule. If you attack the point of the spoon you may choke yourself by contact of the metal with the epiglottis; if you sip it at the side, you produce a sibilant akin to, but different from, the sweet, electric, gushing music so indispensable in osculatory bliss. I give it up.

THE NEWPORT OF THE SOUTH.

BEAUFORT, S. C., Feb. 19, 1874.

To the Editor of the Transcript:

I wish to call the attention of such of your readers as are contemplating a trip to a more genial clime, for the spring months, to a locality not directly on the great routes of southern travel, and, therefore, but little known.

Having spent parts of the last two winters in Beaufort, South Carolina, I would recommend the "Sea Island Hotel" as one of (if not) the best and most comfortable to be found in the South.

M. M. Kingman, the proprietor, is a Northern man, and knows how to make his house a pattern for cleanliness and good order, which cannot be said of the majority of Southern hotels and boarding houses.

Beaufort was formerly the Newport of the South, and the most aristocratic of all places. It used to be the boast that no one could visit there unless by special invitation from a resident; as there was no accommodations for travellers. During and since the war the town has fallen to decay; but a few of the fine residences have been restored by Northern men. Mr. Kingman purchased one of the finest of these residences, and has added to it largely: broad piazzas, a fine river (salt water) view, pleasant drives, good billiard tables, etc., make it very desirable place to visit, for those who are desirous of escape from our cold spring winds.

It is very accessible, daily, by railroad from either Charleston, Savannah or Augusta, and from the two first mentioned places by boat once a week.—Boston Transcript.

The contested congressional election in the Savannah district has been decided in favor of Andrew Sloan, the republican, against Morgan Howls, the sitting member. The grounds of the decision are that the large republican vote of Chatham county was overcome by the abolitionment of all the voting precincts in the county except the one at the court house in the city.

From the N. Y. Commercial Path-Finder.

Shillinger's Artificial Stone.—The Most Perfect in Use.

It has long been a desideratum to obtain some material for the pavement of sidewalks which would be free from the defects inherent in all substances hitherto used. Innumerable have been the attempts to compass this end, but

none have met with more than partial success, until the introduction of "Shillinger's Artificial Stone."

This composition is based upon the well known qualities of Portland cement, which, however, have never before been so completely and satisfactorily utilized.

This stone is composed of Portland cement, sand and gravel, in certain proportions, and experience demonstrates its adoption to every purpose for which stone is appropriated, and many where in the use of natural stone would be impracticable.

Sidewalks, which are to be subject to the incessant tread of hurrying multitudes in a great city, and without the thorough usage occasioned by the handling of heavy machines, should clearly be possessed of the essentials of strength, durability and economy.

These pertain in an eminent degree to the Shillinger Stone, as amply proven by the result of a series of experiments, carefully conducted by able engineers of Europe and America, including among others of acknowledged skill Maj. Gen. Q. A. Gilmore, U. S. A.

These experiments were chiefly directed towards the exhibition of the following qualities in this artificial product:

1st. Its tensile strength or ultimate power of resistance. 2d. Its power to withstand compression. 3d. Its increase in duration. 4th. Its value compared with other combinations. 5th. The relative cost of modern sidewalks.

The power required to read under one square inch of Portland cement, 320 days old, is found to be 1,152 pounds. The superiority of Portland cement for a building material, as compared with bricks, is shown by the fact, that the former yields only to the crushing pressure of 120 tons, while Stafford blue brick pulverized at 50 tons, fire clay at 65, and Medway pressed brick at 43 tons.

Another remarkable property of the cement is the certainty with which it hardens; a mixture of equal parts of cement and sand, withstand a pressure of 160 pounds to the square inch at the expiration of one week. 244 pounds in three months, 318 pounds in twelve months, and 351 pounds in two years, showing increase of duration in two years of a fraction of 119 per cent.

The following table showing the relative value of various building materials, is the result of experiments conducted by Maj. Gen. Gilmore, U. S. A.:

Table with 3 columns: Material, Pure Cement, Cement and Sand 1.

Material. Pure Cement. Cement and Sand 1.

Portland Cement. 1.000. 1.000.

Brick. 0.500. 0.500.

Stone. 0.300. 0.300.

Timber. 0.200. 0.200.

Plaster. 0.100. 0.100.

Concrete. 0.050. 0.050.

Iron. 0.020. 0.020.

Steel. 0.010. 0.010.

Aluminum. 0.005. 0.005.

Copper. 0.002. 0.002.

Gold. 0.001. 0.001.

Platinum. 0.0005. 0.0005.

Diamond. 0.0001. 0.0001.

Emerald. 0.00005. 0.00005.

Ruby. 0.00002. 0.00002.

Sapphire. 0.00001. 0.00001.

Amethyst. 0.000005. 0.000005.

Garnet. 0.000002. 0.000002.

Topaz. 0.000001. 0.000001.

Quartz. 0.0000005. 0.0000005.

Flint. 0.0000002. 0.0000002.

Obsidian. 0.0000001. 0.0000001.

Opal. 0.00000005. 0.00000005.

Amber. 0.00000002. 0.00000002.

Jet. 0.00000001. 0.00000001.

Onyx. 0.000000005. 0.000000005.

Malachite. 0.000000002. 0.000000002.

Jasper. 0.000000001. 0.000000001.

Maltese. 0.0000000005. 0.0000000005.

Carneolite. 0.0000000002. 0.0000000002.

Chalcedony. 0.0000000001. 0.0000000001.

Agate. 0.00000000005. 0.00000000005.

Flint. 0.00000000002. 0.00000000002.

Opal. 0.00000000001. 0.00000000001.

Amethyst. 0.000000000005. 0.000000000005.

Ruby. 0.000000000002. 0.000000000002.

Sapphire. 0.000000000001. 0.000000000001.

Emerald. 0.0000000000005. 0.0000000000005.

Diamond. 0.0000000000002. 0.0000000000002.

Platinum. 0.0000000000001. 0.0000000000001.

Gold. 0.00000000000005. 0.00000000000005.

Copper. 0.00000000000002. 0.00000000000002.

Aluminum. 0.00000000000001. 0.00000000000001.

Steel. 0.000000000000005. 0.000000000000005.

Iron. 0.000000000000002. 0.000000000000002.

Concrete. 0.000000000000001. 0.000000000000001.

Timber. 0.0000000000000005. 0.0000000000000005.

Plaster. 0.0000000000000002. 0.0000000000000002.

Brick. 0.0000000000000001. 0.0000000000000001.

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