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THE LEMINGTON PLANTATION.

Of the principal plantations on this island, the most notable, and perhaps the most noteworthy, is that known as "The Lemington Plantation." The last possessor of this noble estate, prior to the rebellion and the capture of Hilton Head by Admiral Dupont's armada, was a wealthy and skillful planter, familiarly called "Joe Pope." The said Joseph was wise, for his generation, in the culture of the princely plant, and in the selection of the seed would himself pass through his ripened fields and pluck for the purpose the choicest pods. He was the most successful grower of Sea-Island cotton in this region of the country, and by his good management added materially to the already high reputation of "The Lemington Plantation." Mr. Pope was advanced into old age, and had four adult daughters and two sons. One of the latter, young Joe, was corporation lawyer at Beaufort; the other, John, was commander of a horse company at Bluffton, in the rebel service.

A young lady spy in Washington had conveyed to Pope, Sen., information of Dupont's intended attack upon Hilton Head, and two weeks prior to the veteran commodore's capture of this important part of South Carolina, the well-informed and wary planter removed, with his family and negroes, to the mainland, where, we are informed, he has another plantation in successful operation, though with a much diminished force, for 75 out of his 120 slaves deserted him and returned to the Head soon after their master's exodus. Nearly all the men among them are now bearing arms against the slaveocracy, and some 18 or 20 females are now enjoying the blessings of free labor and education under the beneficent direction of the loyal gentleman who now owns the plantation of their fugitive master.

Pope is well spoken of by his late slaves. That is, they do not accuse him of cruelty or wilful unkindness. But he did nothing to improve their condition, and, when not absorbed in politics, bent all his energies to getting as much work out of them as he could without harshness. He was equally kind to his horses, and his carriage to his mules was most exemplary.

"The Lemington Plantation," after passing through several ownerships, has at length become the property of a judicious agriculturist from the neighborhood of Syracuse, N. Y., Dr. E. T. Wright, a gentleman well known for his wealth, intelligence, and enterprise. Upon purchasing the place (for a larger sum than has yet been paid for any confiscated estate in this Department,) Dr.

Wright found two ladies from Massachusetts, Misses Buss and Hill, already earnestly engaged in teaching both the adults and the children to spell and read, a good work which he so warmly approved that he invited the ladies to continue their residence under the roof which had now become his own. And they have done so, to the manifest advantage of their class, which numbers about 30 pupils. Two Sabbaths since the writer of this attended a religious meeting in one of the apartments in the mansion, in which both white and colored people participated. It afforded a good view of quite a number of Dr. Wright's hands, male and female, and satisfied us of their capacity for improvement.

Dr. Wright has two experienced farmers from the North to assist him. Both of these gentlemen are from New Jersey, and well skilled in raising "truck" for market. One of them will give his attention to the cultivation of 50 acres, devoted to peas, beans, potatoes, cabbages, tomatoes, onions, and other esculents. It is his intention to raise 500,000 cabbages. The vegetables will yield a handsome return at the usual market prices, and be a god-send to this community.

Dr. W. is preparing and seeding 100 acres for cotton. The easily worked ground lies very level, and has a soil and locality well adapted to produce, with proper care, a large crop of the long, silken-fibred Sea Island cotton. With good luck the crop will not be worth less than \$10,000 at the close of the present year.

There are twenty-three or four working hands, and they labor only four or five hours per day at their "tasks," and this only five days in the week. An hour or two each afternoon, and more or less on Saturday, they till lots of ground staked off for their own use by their employer, or cultivate for their own benefit, free of ground rent, patches of adjacent public lands.

The Lemington Plantation comprises 7,250 acres, a little more than half of which is woodland, a portion marsh, and 500 acres arable. It is very nearly square, and is bounded on one side by Broad Creek, and on another by a charming beach, washed by the white surf of the Atlantic. This admirable estate is situated about four miles from Hilton Head, and the ride over the beach, on a fine day when the tide is not too high, is one of the finest in the world.

From our Extra of Monday.

IMPORTANT FROM FLORIDA.

Evacuation of Palatka—Dashing Reconnoissance by Major Stevens' Cavalry—Another Torpedo Catastrophe—Destruction of the Steamer Gen. Hunter—One Man and Large Quantities of Stores Lost—Presentation to Col. Henry, &c. &c.

JACKSONVILLE, April 10, 1864.

A portion of Major Stevens' command reached Pilatka Thursday night, having marched across the country from this point, via St. Augustine. They captured a Confederate Lieutenant who was acting as a conscript officer, and secured

over fifty head of cattle, which they drove to the river bank opposite Palatka.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., April 16.

The post of Pilatka was evacuated by our forces on the afternoon of Thursday last, the 14th instant. The movement was accomplished most successfully, the stores of the Quartermaster having been got off without loss, and the steamers coming away without leaving a man behind. The transports Dictator, Delaware, Mary Benton and General Hunter, conveyed by the gunboat Ottawa, and the armed steamer Harriet A. Weed, were employed in the evacuation; and to the officers of these vessels, the greatest credit is due for their efficient management.

Upon receiving the order to withdraw his forces from their position, Col. Barton sent Major Stevens, with his battalion of Mass. Cavalry, section of James's Battery, and Captain Shaw's company of mounted men from the 115th New York Volunteers, out on the Gainesville road to drive in the enemy's pickets. About six miles out the rebel videttes were encountered, and were slowly pushed to a point between Eight-mile and Nine-mile Hammock (or swamp), when, getting them in a most favorable position, Major Stevens shelled them for half an hour with splendid effect, driving the enemy to their reserve four miles further on. The movement, a bold and hazardous one, required a good deal of prudence in its execution; but the duty was so well performed that we were unmolested in our departure on the following day.

Before embarking, the lofty lookout erected on the Court-house was cut down, the platforms in the batteries were burned, the defensive works were destroyed, and the families of the town, with such of their worldly goods as could be brought off, were placed on board the steamers. The cleaning out was thorough and general. Half a barrel of oats and a bushel of corn in the ear was all that was left to indicate an occupation of Pilatka.

The stores brought off were landed at Picolata, eighteen miles this side of Pilatka. Last evening the steamers Cosmopolitan and General Hunter were sent up after them. This morning the Hunter, on her return trip, encountered another torpedo near Buckle's Bluff, where the Maple Leaf was sunk, and was blown up. Her destruction was complete. One man—the quartermaster at the wheel—and all her cargo, were lost. The explosion occurred soon after daybreak, and in the immediate vicinity of the Maple Leaf's wreck, where, as we have recently learned, the enemy planted eight of their devilish seeds of destruction.

The General Hunter was built for a river steamer, and though a handsome, roomy and commodious craft was not a very staunch one. She was owned by the Government, having been purchased from Mr. Vanderbilt for \$82,000. She was damaged somewhat on her passage to Port Royal a little more than a year ago, and had to put back to Baltimore, where \$10,000 were expended in repairing her. She was sent here, it was said, to be used by Major General Hunter as his flagship on the Charleston expedition; but he selected another and a better vessel.

The men of Major Stevens' battalion of the 4th Massachusetts Cavalry have been doing honor to the commander of the Light Brigade by presenting him with a handsome and valuable horse. The steed was born and reared in camp, as was his present owner.

Important changes are going on in the District of Florida; but I suppose you will learn of them without my touching on the subject.

MILITARY EXECUTION.

TWO SOLDIERS SHOT FOR DESERTION.

[REPORTED FOR THE PALMETTO HERALD.]

Yesterday afternoon occurred the second military execution that has taken place at this post since our occupation of it. It was made the occasion of an imposing military display. All the troops at the Post were ordered to be in attendance, that the example made of these two erring and unfortunate men might have a general influence throughout the command. It is hoped that the painful scene may leave a lasting impression on the minds of all who witnessed it, and that the purpose for which this extreme punishment is designed—the warning of the living—was attained.

THE CULPRITS

Were Private Henry Schumaker, of Co. C, and Private Henry Stark, of Co. E, 6th Regiment Conn. Vols. They were both Germans by birth, and came out in a detachment of conscripts and substitutes forwarded to the Regiment.

THEIR OFFENCE.

Some months since they deserted from the regiment, in company with Private Gustav Hoofan, of Co. B, and, in a stolen boat, started for Nassau. They were picked up in Ossabaw Sound by a Navy boat, and returned to this Post. A Court Martial, of which Capt. Tracy, of the 6th Conn., was President, found them guilty of desertion, and sentenced them to be shot to death with musketry.

TWO ESCAPES FROM THE PROVOST.

During the time of their incarceration in the Provost Guard-house, they have twice succeeded in escaping. Their first escape was in company with Hoofan, on the night of the 16th of March. They succeeded in detaching the balls and chains from their legs, sawing a hole through the floor, and escaping through the guard. But, by the vigilance of the provost officers and the patrol they were re-captured on the 18th ult. They were then very strongly chained, hand and foot, their fetters connected by strong chains with a post in the provost yard. On the night of the 4th inst. Schumaker and Stark again succeeded in escaping in spite of all these precautions, and in stealing a fisherman's boat, left unguarded near the pier. In this they put to sea, but while ashore at Wassaw Sounds, after food, their boat grounded, and they were captured by a picket-boat of the gunboat Patapsco. They were very bold, ingenious men, and their skill and perseverance might have won them honor, if rightly applied.

THE ORDER FOR THEIR EXECUTION.

On Saturday last Col. Redfield Duryee, commanding the Post, issued the following General Order assigning yesterday afternoon for the execution:—

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 7. HEADQUARTERS, HILTON HEAD, HILTON HEAD, S. C., April 16, 1864.—In obedience to General Orders, No. 50, Department of the South, Hilton Head, S. C., April 15th, 1864, the sentence of Private Henry Schumaker, Co. "C," and Private Henry Stark, Co. "E," 6th Regt. Conn Vols., who were tried before a Court Martial assembled at Hilton Head, S. C., March 4, 1864, for the crime of desertion, and were sentenced to be shot to death with musketry, will be carried into execution at this Post on Sunday, the 17th day of April, 1864, at 3 o'clock P. M., on the field beyond the Causeway, and in the presence of all the troops of this command.

All fatigue work within the line of intrenchments will be suspended on that day during the afternoon, and every officer and man not upon the sick list, or

[CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE.]