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MISCELLANY.

THE SOUTH AND THE NEXT COTTON CROP.

The approach of the planting season in the South, and the policy to be pursued with regard to the next crop, are matters of more than local interest.—In fact, the whole community, North and South, everywhere connected with the cotton crop of 1869 is a subject of the highest importance. Nor is this interest confined to our own country. The cotton manufacturers of Europe and the cotton producers of India, Egypt and other places will find their industry seriously affected for good or ill by the prospects and results of the coming season. "King Cotton," for a dethroned monarch, still exercises a decided and positive influence in the world; and this influence seems to be increasing rather than diminishing. At no former period have the prospects of this staple elicited a deeper or more general concern.

The action, therefore, of the South in reference to the new crop is of the first importance. No backward step should be taken, but the same intelligent course which has produced such remarkable results the past year should be continued the coming season. It has abundantly demonstrated the vitality of the South and the possibility of raising cotton more successfully by freed labor than by slave labor. All that is needed now is that the lessons of the past three years be not lost, in order that the South may retain the vintage ground it has gained, and enter upon a new career of social and industrial development and prosperity.

At the close of the civil war the single element of labor was about the only means remaining in the South from the industrial production in which that section was left. But even this resource was sadly deficient. The freedmen were badly demoralized, indolent and pretentious; and, at the same time, the white population was exhausted, angry and jealous. All classes were utterly broken down in spirits, while there was no money or credit anywhere. In this extremity the planters turned to cotton as their only hope. Prices had been high, and it was thought that they would continue so, and on the basis of the then ruling rates contracts were entered into and plans made for the year. It is scarcely necessary to repeat the disasters of that and the succeeding seasons. The result of the policy pursued was, that, during the Winter of 1867, a cry of famine arose from the most fertile districts of the world, and the little remnant the war had left appeared to have been lost. Relief was sent, and the danger passed away, leaving a severe experience, which has resulted however in the greatest good to that section of our country, enabling them, in fact, to raise a crop of cotton at about ten cents per pound, and to sell it at more than twenty cents. Over two hundred and fifty millions of dollars will pass into the South from cotton alone this season, placing the planters in a position of comparative independence.

In tracing the causes of the success of 1868, as contrasted with the disasters of the preceding years, we find the clearest indications of what should be the policy of the South in the immediate future. Failure at first was not the result of deficient crops, but rather of the acts of the freedmen and the planters themselves. Capital to be sure, was shy and distrustful, and could only be obtained with difficulty at high rates of interest or on extremely unfavorable terms. Labor also was demoralized. In very many cases the freedmen, having hewily tasted the sweets of liberty, refused to work, or if they worked, it was with a great lack of energy and efficiency. They could not see the necessity for work, and it required the bitter hardships of the Winter of 1866-67 to bring them to their senses. The planter, too, needed a certain kind of experience.—They had seen cotton at high prices for a long time, and had concluded it was to remain so. Consequently they bid high for labor and put into the ground

nothing but cotton. When, however, they began to market the staple, as prices had fallen to a decidedly lower level, it was found that it did not return them the cost of raising it. Corn and wheat they had neglected, and it was the bitter experience they then passed through as a consequence of this neglect which showed them its folly, and led them to a wiser course the past season. Thus suffering and an identity of interests brought all classes together as they never before had been, showing the freedmen if he would eat he must work, and the planter that he could not depend upon exorbitant figures, but must hire his labor so that he can raise his crop at a reasonable figure, and must give up a portion of his time and land to food products. If this crop of cotton had cost as much as the previous ones, or if the South had raised no food, they would have been compelled to force the staple upon the market to get themselves out of debt to provide the necessities of life, and very little benefit would have resulted to them from the improved rates. On the contrary, the planter now clearing over ten cents per pound, and the South is making millions of dollars, placing them, as we before stated, in a position of great strength for the new year.

We have, then, in the experience of the past, an unmistakable indication of the course that should be pursued by the South, in order that the advantage she now possesses may be maintained. First, then, it is of the highest importance that the planter should not be led by present prices to contract with the freedmen at exorbitant rates. The crop must be raised economically and cheaply, for there is no wisdom in supposing that it can be marketed except at a figure very much below present quotations. It must be remembered that the prices now obtained act as a premium for the cultivation of cotton throughout the whole world. Largely increased supplies are likely, under this stimulus, to be raised in India, Egypt, Brazil, and other places, and although the consumption is steadily increasing, a decided reduction in the rates must be the result of this eager competition in production. We notice that there is some disposition among the freedmen to contract for last year's wages. This is right where it is worth more; but for the planter to agree now to pay an exorbitant rate, just because cotton at the moment is high, would be only to ensure for both parties disappointment and loss—in fact to check the prosperity which the past year has begun to develop throughout the South. Then, again, it is of the greatest importance that as much wheat and corn and provisions be planted as was planted the past year.—It is desirable that cotton should be the leading, but not the only production.—A disregard of this idea was the error of the first years after the war, and short breadstuffs crops in Europe put up the prices of corn and wheat to figures which resulted in the fearful distress of the Winter of 1867-68.

We think a little caution now on those points would be of inestimable value to the South for years to come. Not that we desire a small crop of cotton to be raised—for we believe the true interests of the cotton States demand a large crop and low prices, which will drive out competition—but simply that the greatest economy of production be used to contract for labor based on present rates of cotton be made, and a sufficient supply of food products be put in to make that section independent of others for their daily bread. The observance of these precautions will ensure a prosperous year for the South, and do much toward imparting activity to the industrious of the whole country. *Merchants Magazine for February.*

THE CUBAN REBELLION.

Private letters from Cuba reveal a most unhappy state of affairs in that island. Many outrages are committed by the Spanish volunteers. Arrests are very numerous, and a wide-spread alarm prevails among the people, hundreds of whom are fleeing from the island to places of safety, many of them seeking

refuge in the United States. A letter from an American in Cardenas says:

"The revolution is progressing, notwithstanding all the efforts of the Spaniards to stop it. The treasury is bankrupt, and appeals are made in the papers for subscriptions to support the volunteers in the field, but I think it will be in vain. In a few months the yellow fever and cholera will find abundant food in the ranks of the unacclimated Peninsulars that are coming or are already here. They are afraid here that the insurgents will make a raid upon them and destroy the crops, though they try to put a bold face upon the matter. Hundreds are being arrested all the time. The Moro Castle is said to be full of prisoners."

From a letter written at Manzanill by a native Cuban, we make the following extract:

Affairs here are growing worse and worse every day. The insurgents are rapidly increasing in number, and extending themselves all over the island. They have taken away all the slaves from all the estates in this neighborhood, and have armed all the able-bodied negroes. The Captain-General granted a general amnesty for all the insurgents who would lay down their arms, but they have not taken the least notice of it. On the contrary, their hatred towards the Spanish Government seems to increase daily, and they all appear determined to throw off the Spanish yoke. The City of Bayamo, which was the focus of the insurrection, was completely destroyed on the approach of the Spanish troops, and now thousands of families are wandering about the country homeless and in the most deplorable state imaginable. The Government forces are acting shockingly, stealing and assassinating in every direction. Here we see nothing but soldiers and Spanish volunteers, for all the Cuban young men have joined the insurgents.

The following is an extract from a letter by a young lady in Havana to her father in Troy, written a fortnight since: Havana is becoming deserted of Cubans. The castles and prisons are full, and most of the prisoners are innocent people. The volunteers guard them, and are in subordination to Dulce. He commanded some of the prisoners sent to Spain, and the volunteers refused to give them up. They treat them unmercifully, and yesterday took eight, and were about to shoot them, when Dulce's second in command arrived in time to prevent them. Gen. Dulce's officers say they are the worst "canaille" that ever was seen. When they are on guard they pass the residences of those who have relatives prisoners, and tell them their friends have just been or are to be shot. But of one, and only one, brutal thing that occurred during the three days turmoil will I tell you. In a street near here they caught a little child only five years old, and absolutely tore it in two before the father's eyes. The father has since become insane.—They have threatened Dulce's life, and also his wife's, for she is a Cuban, and many of her nephews are in prison.—One of them was killed by a brute with a club, and the family are now in mourning for him. At one time they left their prisoners two whole days without food.

WARNING TO TRAVELLERS.—Day before yesterday, as the Augusta train started, a colored boy was detected in the act of practicing sleight of hand on a bundle of one of the passengers. He fled as soon as he was detected after receiving a box on his ears from a bystander. There are a parcel of idle vagrants who hang on the skirts of the incoming and outgoing trains, and rob the passengers of their small parcels. Not many days ago two young ladies had their fine cloaks stolen by some one of these railroad thieves. Passengers must be on their guard.

Charleston News.

THE FLORIDA ORANGE CROP.—The Palatka Herald, of the 17th instant, says:—"We are gratified to learn that the Orange Groves in this latitude have not been injured by the severity of the winter. The groves here and further South promise an average crop.

THE POLICY.

It is important to the interests of every people, as well of individuals, that agriculture should be fostered and encouraged. Politics may be very good, in their way, but a surfeit of them is rather dangerous and hurtful. We can have too much of them; but we cannot take too much agriculture. We cannot make too much to eat and to wear. For food and clothing we shall find purchasers and consumers. Hence, it were well to let politics alone, when they can do us no good, and devote ourselves to industrial pursuits, which can always do us good. This is particularly the case now with the South. We have settled our political status and affairs, as far as we are able to do at present; and the less we have to do with them the better. Let us, therefore, turn to the cultivation of crops, the production of bread, and the development of our resources generally. In these pursuits there is enough to employ our people constantly and profitably. Cotton to clothe, bread to feed, must and will find patronage, if not at home, at least abroad; and the surplus, after feeding our own people, can very profitably be sold abroad.

We believe that our people are beginning to awake to the importance of this subject, and to see the necessity of labor in the right direction; and will, we hope, persist in the good work. If we must have a policy this is it, and all should be actuated by it. The planter, the farmer, the market gardener, and all the various branches of industry should unite in its adoption and furtherance; and our section will soon be abundantly blessed with prosperity and wealth.—*Augusta Chronicle.*

THE COTTON TAX.—Do our planters know that the tax on cotton has not been repealed? Are they making their calculations on a basis which allows two and a half cents per pound for the Government? The law levying the tax was not repealed—the crop of 1868 was specially exempted from its operation. If there be no further legislation on the question, the tax will be collected on the present crop.

Would it not be well for our Boards of Trade in the cotton States to make application to Congress for a repeal, or at least a further suspension of the law. Public meetings of the planters might be held, and memorials gotten up for the same purpose.—*Id.*

FEARFUL FIGHT WITH A DOG.—Mr. Patrick Flinn, a butcher of this city, a few days since, had a desperate conflict with a savage dog, in which he came near losing his life. The circumstances were as follows:

A Bull Terrier, weighing about one hundred and sixty pounds, had been kept to guard the slaughter house. It was known that he was savage, and therefore he was usually kept chained and muzzled. At this time, however, the dog was not chained nor muzzle on him. Mr. Flinn was in his stocking feet, just preparing to kill, when he observed the dog come sneakingly towards him. Not thinking anything of it, however, he allowed the dog to approach him, when the brute suddenly seized him by the thigh.

Mr. Flinn endeavored to pat and coax him, but the animal meant mischief.—Coaxing did no good, and he at once commenced a terrible attack upon Mr. Flinn; and releasing his bite on his thigh endeavored to seize him by the throat. Mr. Flinn, however, prevented the dog from doing this, and a terrible struggle commenced between them, Mr. Flinn fighting for his life and the dog to tear him to pieces. They were fastened in a small slaughter house, so that Mr. Flinn had no chance of escape.

There was another man in the slaughter house, but he took a panic, and ran up a ladder into a loft. Mr. Flinn finally succeeded in getting his hand down the dog's throat, and seized him by the tongue, which he endeavored to tear out. Sometimes the dog, whose weight was equal to Mr. Flinn's, would almost overcome him, when he would again succeed in getting him upon his back. Both became nearly exhausted. He called in vain for the craven up

the ladder to come to his assistance; to hand him a knife or anything to dispatch the brute; but every time he came down a few steps, the dog, who apparently understood all, would become more enraged, and his snarls would again seize him, and he would run up the ladder. A crowd of women and children had got around the door, all of whom heard the fight and cries, and not one thought of running to the morocco factory, which was a short distance off, and where several men were at work, for assistance, but stood there horror-stricken.

Finally, when Mr. Flinn was nearly exhausted, he managed to break away from the dog, and by some means to get up in a window, where the savage brute was too much exhausted to follow him. Assistance finally arrived; Mr. Flinn was rescued, but the animal, appearing to know he had done wrong, at once made his escape. He was followed by a crowd, who shot him. Mr. Flinn, when liberated, had all his clothes torn off him, and was covered with blood, being bit all over by the animal.

Wilmington (Del.) Republican.

BILL TO STRENGTHEN THE PUBLIC CREDIT.—Washington, March 18.—The bill to strengthen the public credit has become a law, and is as follows:

Be it enacted, &c., That in order to remove any doubt as to the purpose of the Government to discharge all just obligations to the public creditors, and to settle conflicting and interpretations of the laws by virtue of which such obligations have been contracted, it is hereby provided and declared that the faith of the United States is solemnly pledged to the payment in coin, or its equivalent, of all the obligations of the United States not bearing interest known as United States notes, and of all the interest-bearing obligations of the United States, except in cases where the law authorizing the issue of any such obligations has expressly provided that the same may be paid in lawful money, or other currency than gold and silver. But none of said interest-bearing obligations not already due shall be redeemed or paid before maturity, unless at such time United States notes shall be convertible into coin at the option of the holder, or unless at such time bonds of the United States bearing a lower rate of interest than the bonds to be redeemed can be sold at par in coin. And the United States also solemnly pledges its faith to make provisions for the redemption of the United States notes in coin.

LIVELY TALK AT THE WHITE HOUSE.—The Washington correspondent of the New York World says:

There are spicy reports of there having been, on Tuesday, some very lively talk between Mr. Grant, of the White House, and Mr. Edmunds, of Vermont, the leader of the civil tenure suspenders in the Senate. Mr. Grant is understood to have declared with the directness of a soldier that the Tenure-of-Office law ought not to be repealed at once, and if it was not, that not a single appointment, except to actual vacancies, should be made. Mr. Edmunds, in view of this depressing announcement, had the heart to come back to the Senate and do all he could to precipitate the death-lock which threatens to keep the old law just as it was.

EXTRAORDINARY AND FATAL EPIDEMIC AMONG CHILDREN.—The Augusta Chronicle and Sentinel learns from a gentleman, who lives near the village, that a fatal epidemic is now prevailing in Sandersville, and which has, so far, baffled the skill of the medical fraternity there. From Sunday morning to Tuesday evening, it says, we learn that there were seven deaths in the village, all children. The doctors say that the disease is an inflammation of the membrane covering the brain, the symptoms resembling very much those observed in congestive chills. The attack usually begins with a feeling of dull pain or numbness in the arms and lower limbs, and in a few hours the disease runs its course. In nearly every case death has ensued rapidly.

VARIETY.

THE ALMIGHTY DOLLAR.—The New York Democrat chronicles as follows the latest instances of Yankee cruelty and greed of gain:

Five months since a Dr. Ridley, of Boston, amputated the leg of a five year old son of his, who had been injured by being run over by an omnibus. For this damage to his son he collected \$6,000. It now turns out that the boy's great and next to great toe were alone injured, and this is not sufficient to require more than two splints, bandages and a little care. But, to recover damages, the Christian father gave the child chloroform, amputated the leg below the knee, and recovered pay for damages he alone had caused. It is not long since the inhuman monster was making speeches against the Southern people for whipping negro servants. What a regular loyal Yankee will not do for the almighty dollar, God only knows.

Of all the agonies of life, that which is most poignant and harrowing is the conviction that we have been deceived where we placed all the trust of life.

Boggs likes a warm bed. One morning an agent for a patent fire-extinguisher tried to sell him a recipe. "Look here," said Boggs, "if you've got anything that'll save me from getting out of bed in the cold every morning to build a fire for my wife to get breakfast by, I'll buy it; but don't come round here trying to sell stuff to put 'em out it's too much trouble to start them!"

It is estimated that the snow in Tuckerman's ravine, in the White mountains is at least thousand feet deep. Hopes are entertained of a magnificent snow arch there next August.

A young lady in a San Francisco theatre created a sensation by taking a turn with a male partner in one of the private boxes when the orchestra played a waltz between the acts.

Let no man be too proud to work.—Let no man be too proud of a hard fat or a sunburnt countenance. Let him be ashamed only of ignorance and sloth. Let no man be ashamed of poverty.—Let him only be ashamed of dishonesty and idleness.

A noble egotism is the sublimest of virtues; a false one, the weakest of all vanities and the most flagrant of crimes.

We are always complaining that our days are few, but acting as though there would be no end to them.

Trust not him who seems more anxious to give credit than to receive cash.

Refrain from bitter words; there is only one letter between them and swords.

Prayer is ever profitable; at night it is our covering; in the morning it is our armor.

Ye avaricious, remember that shrouds have no pockets.

He that can render a reason is worthy of an answer.

Quiet consciences never produce unquiet conversations.

How the Chinese manage their duties: After a long period of wet weather, when they have prayed vainly for relief, they put their gods out in the rain to see how they like it.

The Appleton (Wis.) Post says that salt mixed with a little butter sells there readily at thirty-five cents a pound.

Gen. Jordan, formerly chief of Beauregard's staff who is reported to have gone to Cuba to take an important position in the command of the Rebel army is a very thorough soldier and a man of scholarly acquirements.—He is a graduate of West Point, and served for many years in our old regular army mainly on the Pacific coast.

An irrepressible boy of five years, who was compelled to keep quiet on Sunday, having grown weary toward the close of a Sabbath day, frankly and honestly approached his excellent but rather strict father, and gravely said:—"Pa, let's have a little spiritual fun." This was too much, not only for the gravity but for the strictness of the father, and for once he "let water caper" till bedtime.