

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at, be thy Country's, thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June, 1866.

Consolidated Aug. 2, 1881.

SUMTER, S. C., WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 1896.

New Series—Vol. XV. No 41

The Watchman and Southron.

Published Every Wednesday,

BY
N. G. Osteen,

SUMTER, S. C.

TERMS:

\$1 50 per annum—in advance.

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Every subsequent insertion..... 50
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"A Miserable Position."

The Attitude of the United States Toward Cuba—Let Cleveland Act

Greenville News.

There is wisdom in Maceo's suggestion that if we wish to see the war in Cuba ended we should allow 20,000 improved rifles and 4,000,000 cartridges to be sent over to the Cubans. It is on the line of General Grant's theory of war which was that the most merciful and humane course was to end it as soon as possible regardless of the cost in life or money. He believed it was better to kill a hundred thousand men in two months, and have an end than to protract a contest over three or four years with the same loss of life and vastly more suffering and loss. If there must be butchering, the quicker and more complete it is, and the sooner it is over the better. We doubt if Grant's generalship or statesmanship were admirable, but he deserves unlimited admiration because he had the nerve to apply a remedy demanded by the situation but naturally abhorrent to human feeling, as any desperate surgical operation is, no matter how necessary. The bulldog tenacity with which he continued his "power of attrition" method, swapping three lives of his own men for one of ours, brought the inevitable end with merciful rapidity and saved the south and north years of waste and horror.

The present position of this country toward Cuba is as mean, cowardly, contemptible and unsatisfactory as it could possibly be. We have officially recorded in words our sympathy with the people who are struggling for home rule and liberty, and have officially announced by our actions that we are afraid to help them. We have put ourselves before the world in the shameful attitude of meddling in the affairs of foreigners as far as we dared. We are in the position of a man finding a woman threatened and endangered by a ruffian and contending himself with smooth remonstrance to the assailant and declarations of sympathy to the victim. We have challenged the hatred of Spain and have done nothing to deserve the gratitude or respect of Cuba. It would have been more decent if we had pretended to ignore the war. We have gone just so far that self respect demands that we go further.

Reports from both sides tell us that the conditions in Cuba are horrible. All industry is paralyzed, all property is destroyed. The country has been laid waste with starving, helpless and hopeless people. Non-combatants are being murdered on every side. By our empty declarations of sympathy and holding out hope of recognition we are encouraging the Cubans to hope and continue the war, while we are preventing them from obtaining the means with which they could force an issue and result. We should do one thing or the other—enforce our neutrality laws rigidly, declare that no sympathy or help is to be expected from us and allow the rebellion to collapse, or give such aid as will make it quickly and completely successful. We are urging on the war and helping each side to destroy the other.

The Greenville News has profound respect for President Cleveland's judgment. We have seen it vindicated so many times, have seen the propriety of his motives and the wisdom of his methods illustrated so clearly when appearances indicated otherwise that we have learned to hesitate in criticism of his courses. In this case, however, as in the Armenian matter, it seems that he owes his own country and the cause of humanity a clear, prompt and explicit declaration of his purposes. The emergency is pressing. People are starving and suffering, lives are being taken by scores nearly every day, misery is being accumulated for years and generations to come. Our government is being held in a disgraceful position. Our own honor, humanity, the blood of brave men being constantly shed, the sufferings of women and children, combine to appeal to him for decisive action. His delay is staining his record, destroying Cuba and making the United States the object of the world's derision.

Lodged in the Morro.

The Competitor Gallantly Returned the Spaniards Fire.

Habana, April 29.—The persons who were captured on board the American schooner Competitor, and those who were taken in the water while attempting to swim ashore, have been lodged in Morro Castle. They will be tried by a naval court martial. The naval commander is absent in Manzanillo and Captain General Weyler, who is impatient for the trial of the prisoners, has requested him to delegate his authority to another official in order that the proceedings be not delayed.

Further details of the capture show that a detachment of guerrillas captured 32 boxes of ammunition which had already been landed and took two prisoners, apparently Americans.

Shortly after discovering the schooner, the gunboat opened fire upon her killing three of her company. Many others of those on board sprang into the water and swam ashore. The fire of the gunboat was returned by the Competitor. Among those who took to the water was the leader La Borde, who was captured, however, before he could reach the shore. The government will reward the commander of the Messenger and his crew for the important service they have rendered by the capture of the schooner and her cargo.

A report has been received here that Jose Maceo with a force of 300 rebels attacked the town of Cristo, near Santiago, but after a sharp encounter were repulsed with the loss of three killed. Three of their number were also taken prisoners.

A party of rebels destroyed by dynamite the culvert at the entry to Guanabana, near Matanzas.

Fort Limones and Matanzas have been attacked by a body of rebels said to have been commanded by Serafin Sanchez. The attacks, however, were unsuccessful, the insurgents being repulsed and compelled to retire. During their retreat they set fire to the cane fields in the vicinity which were destroyed.

A party of 10 Habana volunteers of the garrison upon the estate Las Cañas, near Bolondron, in the Matanzas province, while on a foraging expedition were attacked by a party of rebels and five of them were killed, two were wounded and the rest disappeared.

Another detachment of 17 volunteers were surprised by a large number of rebels who had laid in ambush for them on the Barrada farm, near Colon. The volunteers made a heroic defense, fighting against great odds, until five of their number were killed, when the rest of them retreated to Calimete.

It is said that an expedition commanded by the insurgent leaders Monson and Aguirre has been captured and a number of important documents seized.

Dynamite, Not Gas, Wrecked the Palace.

Habana, April 30.—A dynamite bomb caused the explosion in the captain general's palace yesterday, and not a gas engine as reported. The noise was tremendous, and caused intense excitement in the palace and vicinity. The general's officers rushed about, giving orders. Even Weyler left the room greatly excited. Only one person was hurt slightly. The others escaped miraculously. The whole palace shook by the force of the explosion. Clouds of dust blinded all persons inside, and many glass windows were broken. The bomb destroyed the partition wall of the principal counting room and broke two safes. The bomb was placed in the water closet at the southeast corner of the palace on Mercaderes and Obispo streets. The occurrence is the general topic of conversation. It is believed to be the work of laborers. The government says anarchists did it. The police are making diligent search, but no arrest has been made yet. Strong measures, it is said, will be adopted to prevent a repetition of similar acts. This happened at 11 a. m.

Gomez's advance is confirmed. It is now reported he has entered Matanzas province with a strong force of 10,000 or 12,000 men, five pieces of artillery and plenty of ammunition. It is presumed an attack on the troops, on both sides, in combination with Maceo, will follow, and hot fighting is expected.

News of a bloody battle near Zanja, province of Santiago de Cuba, has been received. Gen. Munoz tried to prevent General Calixto Garcia from crossing the Cauto river. Munoz organized a strong land column, and ordering gunboats to proceed up the river to cooperate, left Manzanillo to intercept Garcia. The latter, with Rabi's column, made a junction with the forces of Maya Rodriguez from Camaguey. The combined insurgent forces attacked Munoz as he was advancing, and defeated him. Munoz lost over 200 killed and 400 wounded. But for the gunboats, Munoz's column would have been destroyed. Munoz retreated to Manzanillo and Garcia is now operating without opposition.

The Factory Labor Problem.

Greenville News.

The State and the News and Courier both object to the recent statement of this newspaper that unless there is some remarkable change in the situation the employment of colored labor in some of the cotton mills in this State will soon be necessary. The News and Courier thinks we are guided in our opinion by "local conditions."

So we are. There are more cotton mills, more spindles, looms and factory hands employed within 50 miles of this city than in the same area anywhere in the South. This city can and does claim to be the centre of the most extensive cotton manufacturing district this side of the Potomac river. By a rough and hurried calculation from memory we find there are within the limits stated about 30 manufacturing plants, including the largest in the South, employing in the neighborhood of 14,000 people.

We know that the labor question is a serious one, although a large percentage of the mill people have been drawn from Western North Carolina and Georgia. One large cotton mill in this section, recently completed, has not yet been able to put all its machinery in use because the hands could not be had. The Pelzer mill brought in 1,000 people from Eastern North Carolina and yet need more and there are four or five new mills now nearing completion, which are already beginning to look about for labor. These are not surmises of opinions. These are facts.

If there is an abundance of white labor in the lower part of the State, as The News and Courier and The State seem to think there is, those contemporaries will earn for themselves the earnest thanks of manufacturers in this section by starting twelve or fifteen hundred men, women and children this way in the next three months. We think we know where to put four or five hundred of them to-morrow.

Our contemporaries will find, we think, if they will make some practical experiments, that the supply of white labor available for factories is not so great as they think it is. The small land owners and tenants who are doing well on the farms hesitate to leave for the factory towns. As farmers and land owners find their laborers and tenants being drawn away they will meet the competition because they will be forced to do it. There is only a certain percentage of the people who go to the factories who stick, for some of them find discipline, the labor every day in the year, and the habits of regularity irksome. There is also a proportion of factory laborers who go to the factories for the purpose of accumulating cash enough to pay for tracts of land that they may resume farming as independent owners. This constitutes a small but steady drain on the supply of factory labor.

Of course the Greenville News would prefer to see every loom and spindle in the South under white hands, but there is no power which can make white people go to the factories if they do not wish to do so, and if they do not go somebody must keep the machinery going. On the other hand, there is the power of the landlord and the farmer holding back the white labor and as the demand for it becomes stronger that same power will be ready to put impediments in the way of the labor going to the mills.

The short and long of it, so far as this part of the country is concerned, is that one of three things must happen—

We must have a very large and early increase of our white population, or

The white working people must all go into the mills, leaving all the farm labor to be done by negroes, or

Some of the factories must be run by negro labor.

Consul General Lee.

Richmond, Va., April 29.—Gen. Fitzhugh Lee took the oath of office and executed his bond as consul general to Cuba here to-day. He expects to get his final instructions from President Cleveland either Friday or Saturday, and it is probable that he will go to Habana next week.

General Lee seems to be in excellent health. He says he does not feel any uneasiness on account of the climate of the island. He thinks that if he takes care of himself he will be as well there as he would be at home.

The report that Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan has submitted bids for \$9,000,000 of bonds of the Cuban Republic is of the highest and most encouraging significance. If it is correct, it means not only that Cuban independence is near at hand, but also that Mr. Morgan has again penetrated the inner consciousness of the administration and learned its future policy after the people themselves have failed.—N. Y. Mail and Express.

Business Outlook Bright.

Baltimore, April 30.—Special reports of the Manufacturer's Record from various parts of the South, especially from the Birmingham region, show a very decided revival in business interests. In addition to the steel mill projected recently by the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad company, the Birmingham Rolling Mill company has definitely decided to build a steel mill with a capacity of about 200 tons a day. At the same place a \$100,000 cotton seed oil mill company, a \$100,000 tobacco factory and a large powder mill have been organized during the week, and negotiations are pending looking to the building there of a \$600,000 cotton mill by northern people.

The development of grain facilities at Southern ports continues to attract attention, and contracts have been made for the expenditure of \$500,000, to include two new cotton compresses, warehouses and other interests near New Orleans, while work has commenced at Pensacola on transportation improvements by the Louisville and Nashville railroad, including a grain elevator, the aggregate expenditure being about \$150,000. One of the most extensive water powers in the South has been capitalized at \$2,000,000, with the reported intention of large electrical development and the transmission of electric power in connection with cotton mill enterprises. Gold mining matters continue to attract attention, and in Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia considerable capital is being invested in the purchase and development of gold properties.

Among other industrial enterprises reported for the week were the enlargement of several cotton mills and one or two new mills projected, a \$25,000 lumber company in Mississippi, a 40-ton cotton seed oil mill in Texas, a \$50,000 flour mill and a \$30,000 compress in the same State.

Williams to Investigate.

Habana, April 30.—United States Consul General Williams is not officially aware that any American citizens were arrested by the Spanish authorities in the capture of the expedition on board the American schooner Competitor yesterday. He will, personally visit Captain General Weyler, however, and investigate the facts and take whatever action in the matter that the circumstances demand in the event of his ascertaining that an American citizen has been illegally taken into custody.

A force of rebels fired on the Spanish gunboat Alvaro as she was passing Segua. The forts near Baracoa answered the fire and the gunboat continued on her way to Baracoa.

The Spanish gunboat Relampago has repulsed a force of rebels who attacked a government convoy in the Cauto river.

A big fight is reported near Manzanillo, in the province of Santiago de Cuba. No details have been received.

Fifty-one political prisoners were deported to-day by the Spanish mail steamer. They are to be sent to the convict establishment at Ceuta, Africa.

Tell-Tale Telegrams.

Pretoria, April 30.—A great sensation has been caused here by the publication of a series of telegrams that were entered as evidence at the trial of the members of the reform committee. These telegrams, it is claimed here, show beyond any doubt whatever, that the raid of Dr. Jameson was not the result of a desire to protect the women and children of Johannesburg in the event of a rising there, as has been so sedulously argued by certain English newspapers, but was the outcome of a carefully prearranged plan on the part of certain individuals of the South African company to seize a portion of the Transvaal, a portion well-known to be the right gold reef of Witwatersrand, on which Johannesburg is located.

Some of the telegrams were in cipher and on their face were apparently harmless business messages that had passed between different men connected with the Johannesburg and South Africa company. At the time Dr. Jameson and his companions were captured by the Boers, the latter found in the doctors bag a key for code messages. This was taken in possession by the authorities, who later obtained the message containing words corresponding with those in the key. In certain cases the words in the original messages could not be deciphered by use of the key, and in these cases the code words were read as of the dispatches. The dates of the dispatches ranged from December 7 to December 29.

Gen. R. N. Richbourg, of Columbia, who on short notice developed two years ago into a most blooming Reformer, is again a candidate for adjutant general. It begins to look as if Bro. Richbourg had a chronic case.—Johnston Monitor.

Gen. Greely's Washington.

In two articles contributed to the Ladies' Home Journal, Gen. A. W. Greely has undertaken to rescue the personality of George Washington from the fast-deepening mist of legend. No previous biographer has made so careful and candid a study of original documents, including especially the innumerable letters penned by the subject himself. The effect of Gen. Greely's studies, while they reveal many things which have been mistakenly suppressed, is to enhance the respect and the affection with which the most illustrious American is regarded by his countrymen.

The aim of these researches is frankly avowed to be to depict Washington as a son, brother, guardian, neighbor, slave-master, and citizen, rather than in the aspect of soldier and statesman. The necessity for such a portrait is demonstrated by the fact that when American youths are questioned as to their relative interest in Napoleon and Washington, many are apt to prefer the former, on the ground that the latter, as he is described by his biographers, is, although great and good, devoid of the minor human defects that would throw into relief his virile and estimable traits. Rightly to appreciate Washington, it is indispensable to mark how he advanced from the environment of the first half of the eighteenth century toward the higher standards of the present age. In a word, as we ultimately know him, he is a product, not of birth or accident, but of growth.

To lose sight of Washington's early environment is to overlook the force of character which enabled him to become a great and good man in spite of it. Gen. Greely recalls all that is meant by the fact that his youth and early manhood were passed in tidewater Virginia, the population of which had for its substrata the debasing labor systems of indentured white servants and African slaves. At the other extreme of colonial social was the ruling aristocracy, composed of royal officials, formalist clergymen, and plutocrats possessed of great estates. Washington was born midway between these extremes—higher than Patrick Henry, much lower than the Randolphs and the Lees. While his progenitors did not rank among the great land owners, they were not poor whites; they might be classed among the minor gentry. It was by marriage that Washington became what was for eighteen centuries a Virginia plutocrat.

From his boyhood Washington was fond of woman, but every authentic letter of his shows that he placed them on the highest plane. He was barely 17 when he first suffered the pangs of unrequited love; he was but 19 when he courted Miss Betsy Fauntleroy and was rejected by her; the passion of his life came a little later, and was inspired by a married woman, Sally Cary, the wife of his friend, George William Fairfax. The lady must have rebuked him, yet his last letter to her was penned only four months before he became engaged to the Widow Custis, the richest woman in the colony. His marriage, which took place three months later, gave him absolute control of one-third of the Curtis patrimony, and the remainder of the estate came into his hands as guardian. Washington, in other words, was one of the very few Americans who have never inherited nor made money, but who have married it.

At the time of his union to Mrs. Custis Washington was an imposing example of physical manhood, but he was by no means ideally perfect even from this point of view. His feet were abnormally large; his face bore the disfiguring traces of small-pox, and his teeth were defective, owing apparently to a fondness for sweets. The lack of expression which was noticed in his face during the later part of his career was doubtless due to his false teeth. It is well known that he smiled rarely, but when he did, his smile gave an uncommon beauty to his countenance.

Drinking, gambling and swearing were as General Greely reminds us, the vices of eighteenth century Virginia, and the wonder is, not that Washington was sometimes chargeable with these vices, but that he to a large extent outgrew them. To the last he had wine on his table, when in command of the Continental army, he applied a hundred lashes to every man found drunk, and in advising his nephew he says: "Refrain from drink, which is a source of all evil and the ruin of half the workmen of this country." In the purchase of lottery tickets Washington indulged during the Revolutionary war, and as late as the arrangements made for the foundation of the city which bears his name, Ga. 'ling in general, however, he denounced in a letter to Bushrod Wash-

ington, as "a vice productive of every possible ill." That Lee was rebuked with an oath at Monmouth is unquestionable, and a few other lapses of that kind may be found in Washington's early letters, but General Greely assures us that in his later writings it is very seldom that any stronger phrase "than would to God" drops from his pen.

Washington was like many other men in finding it difficult to live under the same roof with a mother-in-law. At one time he invited his wife's mother to make Mount Vernon her home, but in a subsequent letter, quoted by Gen. Greely, he says: "I will never again have two women in my house, when I am there myself." His own mother also, was a trial to him in more than one particular. It will be remembered that Washington would accept no salary for his services to his country during the Revolutionary war. His mother, however, insisted that the colony of Virginia should settle a pension upon her for her son's services, and it required Washington's direct interposition to thwart the unseemly move. To make good the deficiencies in her current accounts, she continually drew on him, until he was obliged to counsel her to leave her estate and live with one of her children, adding that she might stay at Mount Vernon, provided she would dress for dinner.

If love of one's fellow-men constitutes Christianity, Washington had it, but Gen. Greely can find no evidence that he ever took communion in his own church, the Episcopal, or any other. He did not hesitate to travel on Sunday, and on that day made at least one contract. During four months that he spent in Philadelphia, in 1787, he attended church but six times; once at a Catholic mass; once at a Quaker meeting house; once with the Presbyterians, and thrice with the Episcopals. Gen. Greely vouches for the fact that in several thousand letters penned by Washington the name of Jesus Christ never appears, and it is absent from his last will. Nevertheless, in his farewell address we read: "Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion." One word more. Washington was a slaveholder; yet he never exported but one slave, and by his will freed every one that belonged to him, providing at the same time for the helpless.

Gen. Greely well says that such imperfections as should be brought to light in any honest biography of Washington are mainly ascribable to the influences of his environment, and that the man's life, viewed as a whole, inculcates the sovereign importance of will power and right aspirations to the development of the individual. George Washington, if his life be inspected from end to end, has nothing to fear from the microscope.

Why I Oppose Free Silver.

Mr. Chris H. Essig is a salesman for Eisenman & Weil. He is one of the best known young men in the city and, like all thoughtful salaried men, is opposed to the unlimited coinage of silver.

"I have no objection," said Mr. Essig, "to the coinage of silver if the legal ratio matches the commercial ratio—that is, if 100 cents worth of silver is put in the silver dollar, but I am altogether opposed to the unlimited coinage of a dollar that is only worth 50 cents, and in which I, in common with all other salaried men, should be paid, if the free silver men should succeed. I have studied the question as far as possible and find that the frankest silver men admit that the workman would be paid the same number of dollars, but each dollar having only one-half of its present purchasing power."—Atlanta Journal.

We have written a good deal about walnut trees in these columns. We do not know the man referred to in the following, but he seems to be making a pretty good thing out of the walnut, even allowing for some exaggeration. We clip from the Manchester (N. H.) Union, which says: "There is a man in Virginia who has an income of \$15,000 a year from a farm of 1,200 acres, which he bought twenty five years ago for \$1,200, and planted it with walnuts. Every year he sells the biggest trees, and the lumber brings him \$100 a 1,000-foot."—Wilmington Star.

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