FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

Treatment of Freedmen—Reconstruction.

From Our Special Correspondent.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Nov. 11, 1865.

The policy of "reconstruction" works admirably in the State of South Carolina. There is a decidedly "healthy" love for the Union, the Constitution and the enforcement of the laws. The "loyalty" of the people of this badly Shermanized State is beyond all question. The profound respect entertained for the Union by the entire community of this once famous commonwealth is so conspicuously displayed as to entitle them to general commendation and praise. Of course the "radicals" of the North, under the lead of such bloodthirsty extremists as Greeley, Beecher, Sumner, Wade, Wilson, and others of that ilk, will never be satisfied, but I am confidently assured by the most respectable citizens that the "conservative masses will not allow the rights of the South to be trampled upon," and the utterances of the loyal *News* with the patriotic *Herald* are freely quoted to sustain this belief.

There is a popular delusion that newspapers are published at the South—more especially in South Carolina, and as such institutions are supposed to be the medium of communicating events of local importance, I have endured a patient reading of several papers with the view of gleaning some items as to the true condition of affairs throughout the State, and more particularly in the rural districts.

I defy the most scrutinizing itemizer of THE TRIBUNE office to detect, by a careful reading of South Carolina journals, the faintest indication of anything but the most peaceful condition of society here, unless, perhaps, he may find occasional accounts of "outrages" perpetrated by the "degraded and lazy negroes." Yet, as I shall show you, by facts gleaned from the records of the military authorities, the most horrible outrages are daily perpetrated upon the helpless blacks, together with occasional murders of United States soldiers, and these by "loyal" citizens of South Carolina, who have yet to learn the South is *not* victorious.

I can give but few of the instances first referred to, with the assurance that these cases are a matter of record, taken only from a very small portion of the State, and where it is claimed a latent Union sentiment prevailed. An authenticated list of similar outrages for the entire of this State would fill a page of THE TRIBUNE.

CASES *reported and examined by the Military Authorities at Columbia for the month of October:*

Dr. L. O. Hobbs, citizen of Newberry District, now being tried by Military Commission for the murder of Melvin, freedman. The defense admit that he shot the man, but claim, as eight days elapsed between the assault and the death of the victim, therefore Dr. Hobbs is not guilty of murder.

Dr. Wm. Thorn, citizen, of Fairfield District, is held on an assault with intent to kill a freedman, Stephen, formerly his slave. This man is maimed for life.

Joseph O'Neil, citizen, Laurens District, is held for the murder of Wesley Coleman, freedman.

W. W. Levister, citizen, of Newberry District, has been tried and sentenced to two years imprisonment at hard labor for assault, with intent to kill, one Sam, freedman.

—— Black, citizen, of Fairfield District, for doing his best to kill a freedman, was tried, convicted and sentenced to 18 months imprisonment at Castle Pinckney. Major-Gen. Ames "approved" the judgment of the Commission, but Gen. Devens has commuted the sentence to 30 days' imprisonment.

The parties last-named are the only two so far convicted. Gen. Devens thinks that thirty days imprisonment a full equivalent for an attempt to kill a freedman, and yet he has approved the judgment and sentence for eighteen months of one of the "poor white trash" who stole a cow to keep life in his wife and children, now literally starving to death. Wm. Jeffcoat and Daniel Jeffcoat, citizens of Lexington District, are held for the murder of a man unknown. The dead body was black and clothed with the United States uniform.

Three dead men were found the other day within a short distance of Columbia, side by side, clothed with the United States uniform. They were black, and that is all the authorities know of them or of the cause of their murder.

On the night of Sunday, Oct. 8, Corporal William C. Corbett and privates Emerr Smith and Mason Brown of Company A, 1st Battalion Maine Volunteers, Lieutenant-Col. Brown commanding, while protecting and guarding some Government property at Brown's Ferry, Anderson District, were brutally murdered and their bodies—frightfully mutilated—thrown into the river. Not less than a dozen of the citizens of that District were engaged in this murder, but as yet only four of the parties suspected, viz., J. C. Keys, Robert Keys, F. G. Stowers and Elisha Byrom have been apprehended and held in custody. Other persons known to be implicated are secreted in the District, but no favorably-disposed persons, white or black, dare give the military authorities such information as will lead to their arrest. The Sheriff and others in civil authority absolutely refuse to render the slightest assistance. Two or three parties are held as witnesses, and from them alone can we gather the partial and timid relation of facts in regard to this fearful murder; and even they dare not tell the truth, admitting, as they do, that their lives would not be safe were they to do so. Numerous anonymous letters have been sent to them for the purpose of intimidation, and no one conversant with the facts doubts but that these threats will accomplish their purpose.

"Don't kill me," exclaimed Corbett, after his comrades had been murdered and he overpowered, "I am only obeying orders."

"You God damn Yankee sons of bitches, we have come to kill you all, and mean to do it; we are going to throw you into the river," yelled his fiendish assassins, as they took his life and fully carried out the threats.

Anonymous letters are being received by the military authorities to the effect that if the parties held are not released, the troops will not be permitted to remain in the State, and the whole community sustains this view of the case.

When these murdered soldiers were taken to their graves at Anderson Court-House, it was with the utmost difficulty that a clergyman could be found who was willing to officiate. Only Col. Orr (Governor elect) and his lady, of all the "loyal citizens" at that place, were present at the grave.

The parties engaged in this brutal murder are to be sent to Charleston, in irons, and stand their trial before a Military Commission.

Only a few days before the horrible occurrence I have just related, a dead black man was found upon the public square at this same Anderson Court-House, in the early morning, with a placard upon his breast conveying the suggestive notice: "This is a warning to all damn niggah's in this vicinity." The "notice" also gave the names of two other freedmen who were to be similarly treated.

A few days previous to this last episode of Southern civilization a dead black boy was found upon the streets. He had been whipped to death.

Gov. Orr is my authority for stating that notwithstanding his earnest efforts to detect the murderers not the slightest clue has been discovered which could lead to their identification.

The record for Anderson is not yet complete.

Less than two months have passed since a United States officer, with the rank of Captain, whose name I cannot just now ascertain, had been called out at night to repress an incipient riot among some "loyal" whisky-loving citizens. Having accomplished his mission by restoring peace, he started to return to his quarters. The next morning his dead body was found upon the streets. No clue has ever been found to the perpetrators of this murder—and none ever will be so long as an entire community can rejoice at the death of a "Yankee." The horrible deeds which are enacted in this State are almost enough to make one question the wisdom of Providence in terminating the war until their own boastful threat of extermination had been fully realized.

In Union District, the military authorities sought to arrest certain white citizens for committing depredations upon private property, and received information of their places of concealment from one or more negroes. Upon last Saturday, a freedman came to Col. Houghton, 25th Ohio, commandant at Chester, himself nearly dead from the effects of a terrific whipping—his entire back being one mass of raw flesh, the most horrible sight the eye ever witnessed. His shirt had to be soaked before it could be removed from his body. Listen to his tale: "They took me to the woods and said that I knew who had informed on them to the Yankees. I said, 'No, sir, massa;' but they whipped me until I was almost dead. They shot Bill through the head, and cut Jack's throat from ear to ear, because they had been in the army and must have told on them." The names of the alleged murderers are in the possession of the military authorities at Chester, but their apprehension is more than doubtful.

GREENVILLE DISTRICT.

This district is the home of Gov. Perry, U. S. Senator elect.

I make the following extract from the letter of a prominent citizen of that district—only suppressing the name for prudential reasons:

GREENVILLE C. H., Oct. 26, 1865.

* * * * "I write to inform you somewhat of the state of affairs in this district.* * * There is a band of men organized in the lower part of the district whose purpose seems to be to take the law in their own hands with regard to freedmen. One of them, a desperado, formerly in the Confederate service, openly boasts that he has killed 38 negroes recently.

"On Monday night last a negro was killed eight miles below this place, and it seems impossible—though the civil authorities—even to obtain a 'jury of inquest.'"

The gentleman writing the above letter assurred me personally that nothing but the presence of United States soldiers prevented an almost indiscriminate slaughter of the freedmen. The moment they left the State such work would begin.

I give entire, simply omitting the name of the author—a Brigadier-General in service—of a letter referring to *additional atrocities*, those not included in the above numeration:

———, S. C., Nov. 9, 1865.

* * * * *

In regard to murders and outrages committed on Freedmen I have to state the following as having been reported to me, and of the truth of which ample evidence is presented.

In the vicinity of Columbia there have been three cases of murder reported since Nov. 1, and numerous outrages have been perpetrated by whipping and tying up by the thumbs.

In the upper districts, particularly in Greenville and Union, trustworthy reports in regard to murders committed have come to my knowledge. There have been at least three cases of murder of freedmen within the last month within 12 or 15 miles of Greenville. In one case the man was found hanging by the neck, and had probably been hanging there two weeks, the buzzards having eaten him partly up. A brother of this freedman was found dead by the side of the road. There is one case reported of fifteen hundred lashes having been given a freedman.

In Union district there are regularly organized bands who go about the country committing outrages upon poor whites and freedmen.

Several other cases have been reported in Newberry and Edgefield districts. There have been innumerable instances of whipping and tying up by the thumbs practiced upon the freedmen.

It has not been deemed advisable to give names and define localities, as in several cases the outrages are undergoing investigation, and the ends of justice might thereby be delayed or hindered. Very truly yours,

* * * * Brig.-Gen. &c.

Such is the concurrent testimony on every side. I have seen men and women, black to be sure, almost dead from the effects of inhuman treatment at the hands of these friends—their former owners. The club, whip, bar, iron and thumb-screw are more freely applied today than in the worst days of Slavery. They hate the black man because he was true to the Union.

THE OTHER SIDE.

You may ask: Is there no punishment for any crime, and are there no provocations which might possibly mollify the enormity of this record of horrors?

Listen! A regiment of United States colored troops having been ordered to Charleston for mustering out passed through Newberry District on their way home. One of the men spied a watermelon patch upon a plantation, and courteously asked the owner to sell him one or more. Not satisfied with giving a decided refusal, the "loyal citizen" coupled the refusal with most indignant and degrading epithets. This provoked a quarrel, and the unarmed soldier was shot—the ball barely escaping a vital part.

A few hours only passed before the houses of this "citizen" were consigned to the flames, and he tried, sentenced and executed, in accordance with the judgment of a drum-head court-martial.

Lieut.-Col. Trowbridge, in command of this regiment, is now under arrest, and will be tried upon the charge of murder, it being alleged that he sanctioned these summary proceedings.

I will answer for it that every Copperhead journal of the North, as does every Rebel—reconstructed or otherwise—of South Carolina, finds in this case new reason to deplore the radicalism which placed a musket in the hands of the black man, and which even now intends to reward his loyalty and protect his manhood. Every Southern journal, every loyal and "reconstructed" South Carolinian, gives the greatest publicity to this affair, but have no word for the scores of murdered freedmen and Union soldiers whose cowardly assassinations call for retribution.

CHURCHES.

Two weeks since I attended the Episcopal Church at Chesterville, Chester District. During the "reading" I observed an almost unanimous movement among the congregation, which seemed to be well understood by the Minister, and while the prayer for those in authority, the President of the United States &c., was being hastily read, only three persons in the entire church remained in an attitude of devotion—the three exceptions being Northern men. I afterward learned that a large portion of this congregation refuse to attend church because this particular prayer is read at all.

Chester was always claimed as being nominally "Union," and is the home of ex-Senator McIlhaley, the only member of the Legislature of 1861 who voted against the Secession movement.

Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?

THE STATE LEGISLATURE.

This body is now in session at Columbia. The Speaker of their House of Representatives, the Hon. A. P. Aldrich, was a member of the Constitutional Convention, and voted *against* the ordinance repealing the Act of Secession, also *against* the amendment to the State Constitution abolishing Slavery. When about casting his vote on both occasions he delivered a most outspoken Secession speech, which was heartily applauded by the members of the Convention and a large audience of spectators. Although his views were not seconded by his associates on those occasions, a unanimous election as Speaker tells its own story of their sympathies. There are not ten members of both branches of the Legislature who are not, to-day, thoroughly disloyal—as much so as when the Rebel flag waved over their State House. Do you doubt it? Come and see.

WHO SHALL VOTE.

No freedman will ever cast a vote in this State through any act of the "loyal" white citizens thereof. During the sitting of the Constitutional Convention a proposition was made by Mr. Thompson of St. Helena District, that, "no white citizen should be permitted to vote who was unable to read the Constitution of the United States and that of the State of South Carolina." This proposition was decided negatively by an almost unanimous vote. One of the most earnest opponents of this motion, Mr. Moses (now Senator and President of the Senate), asserted that it would disqualify a very large proportion of the voters of this State; that he had known juries to be composed entirely of men who could neither read nor write; that in one instance (which he cited) the foreman of a Grand Jury was unable to sign his name to the presentation." That the Convention entertained a high appreciation of *white* ignorance was fully evinced by the emphatic vote which followed.

THE NATIONAL AND REBEL DEBT.

Save for the interposition of the military authorities in very many districts of this State, "greenbacks" would be utterly refused as a circulating medium. Leading men seek to encourage the belief that they are "worthless trash," and will never be redeemed, thus fostering the natural hatred and prejudices of the least intelligent (and they are many) of the masses.

The State debt incurred during the war was not repudiated by the Convention, and will be paid, sooner or later, by action of the Legislature, and of this fact there is not the slightest doubt. The most credulous upon this point may become fully satisfied by consulting with the leading men of the State now congregated here.

These "gentlemen" (my application of this term is purely local) have no idea of assisting to pay the national debt, and still nurse the pleasant delusion that they are yet to receive compensation for their emancipated slaves. I can give the names of individuals who are now engaged in purchasing bills of sale of negroes under this belief. The idea is strangely prevalent among the masses that such compensation is certain to be made "when we (the South) get our rights again."

Four years of war with its bitter experience and untold suffering, have taught these people but little. Humbled, poverty-stricken and prostrate as they are, the memory of past triumphs in political conventions and Congressional debates encourages the belief that those good old times are not far off with the promised sympathy of the "conservative masses" of the North.

We cannot trust these people. *Facta, non verba probant*—"Deeds, *not* words prove." Commit to their keeping the destinies of these States, intrust them with the control of these black, but Union-loving Unionists, who saved the Nation in its hour of darkest peril, and these years of bloodshed are to be fought over again before another generation have gone to their graves. The streets of their cities and villages; the roads and bypaths of these districts; the swamps and woods of the plantation, are strewn with dead bodies of black men who have worn the blue uniform of the Union or have assisted by word or act its noble defenders. When the last United States soldier shall have passed the borders of this State, a wail of agony and despair will ascend to high Heaven from the poor freedman. Starved, beaten, homeless, murdered, the "Black Code" of South Carolina (a copy of which as reported to the Legislature I inclose) will be their only protection. Heaven save the mark! The heart weeps for these poor, persecuted, man-forsaken creatures, and the sufferings they must endure, lest Rebel "rights" shall be transgressed and Rebel "Constitutional privileges" invaded. The President or Congress which consigns these millions of loyal, faithful blacks to the cruel mercies of their late Rebel masters, and without the ballot to defend their integrity and rights will have perpetrated the darkest and most inhuman act known to Christian civilization. God grant that wisdom may be vouchsafed to our rulers, and that justice and humanity may prevail in all their counsels.

LEO.

VIRGINIA.

The Ex-Rebel Capital—Opinion There—Ancient Negroes—Order—The Freedmen's Bureau—Can it be Maintained—Free Labor—Advice to the Abolitionists—What is Coming In Virginia—Colored Farmers—The Negro in the Courts.

From Our Special Correspondent.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Oct. 30, 1865.

Richmond has not suffered so severely from the war as its elder sister in treason, Charleston. There is far more life amid its ruins, which are neither so extensive nor so destructive as those of the Palmetto City. Charleston is a bankrupt, Richmond is "hard-up" only. Very few buildings are in course of erection in Charleston, but in Richmond they are rising rapidly. The new buildings are of a better class than those that they replace. Dr. Patton of Syracuse, New-York, called my attention to the fact, that two thirds of the bricklayers and builders, and nearly all the best of them, are colored men.

LOYALTY IN VIRGINIA.

I hope I may record this observation without subjecting either myself or you to the suspicion of obstructing a conciliatory policy; especially as every number of *The Richmond Times* and *Bulletin* contains the most infamous falsehoods respecting our Southern friends, the only true loyalists, the freedmen; especially, as, although the keen eye and strong arm of our noble ferry are right nigh the editorial rooms of these papers to be felt and dreaded, they are "still sufficiently disgusting," as one gentleman remarked, to satisfy every intelligent observer that there has been no change whatever in the ideas or the spirit of their editors or readers.

GEN. LEE.

I heard one gentleman remark that he had recently met Gen. Lee and had asked him whether, in his opinion, there had any change come over the minds of his soldiers.

"I can't answer for my soldiers," said the Professor; "I can answer for myself only. I have not changed my opinions. I thought that I was right; I think so still."

I have asked civil and military officers of various grades, whose duties bring them into constant intercourse with the people, whether, in their opinion, there is any true loyalty among the white population? The answer is uniformly: *No.* At the same time, my own inquiries in Virginia, and similar testimony, leads me to believe, and justice prompts me to affirm, that there is nowhere any desire or intention to have another contest with the power of the United States. They are perfectly satisfied that they did their very best, and—were "overpowered." They feel no shame at the result, as, indeed, we ought to expect none, after their gallant and stubborn resistance to our arms. If they believe that their cause was right, certainly they have no reason to be ashamed at the manner in which they upheld it in the field. Rather the reverse. It is ours to hang down our heads in shame, that so large a proportion of our countrymen had reached a moral degradation so profound that they honestly believed that that cause was just which sought to perpetuate the most revolting oppression—the robbery of a weaker by a stronger race; the sale of mothers and of babes; the foulness of the negro auction room; the infamies, nameless and innumerable, of the cotton and rice field and the quadroon's bed chamber.

SOME OF THE COLORED PAUPERS.

Only 200 colored people are receiving any aid from the Government, and they are all infirm and helpless persons. Not one able-bodied person of color is receiving any assistance whatever from us. This is the official statement of the Assistant Commissioner of Freedmen, Col. Brown.

I passed the house where the decrepid beneficiaries assemble. I saw one colored man who looked so extremely old that he excited my curiosity. I stopped and talked with him.

"How old are you, Uncle?" I asked.

"Hundred-fourteen, Mass'r!" he replied.

I tried to find out what data he had for this statement (for it is seldom that old slaves know their true age), but, while I had no doubt that he was up among the nineties at least, I could not determine whether his answer was strictly accurate, or an approximation only.

"Why are you here?" I asked; "were you not a slave?"

"Yes, Mass'r; all my days."

"Who owned you last?"

"Dr. ——."

"How long did you work for him?"

"Thirty-five years, Mass'r. I se worked for him all de time."

"Why don't he support you, then?"

"Well, Mass'r, he say to me when de Yankees come in, 'de Yankees has freed you and dey kin take keer of you now'—and he turned me away."

This man is one of the 200 colored ration-drawers.

CHIVALRY.

I met a negro woman near the capitol, and advised her to go to the night schools. She said she meant to go soon, but had to work pretty hard now, as she had left her old mistress, and hadn't made enough yet to buy her a good suit of clothes.

"I stayed wid her three months after de Yankees come, and den I axed her for some clo's, and she say she won't give no mo'e since de Yankees make me free, and telled me to go to de Yankees. So I leaves her."

"Have you been starving yet?"

"O, bless you, no, chile; I'se been fast rate."

The meanness of the "so-called" chivalry are beyond belief.

OUR TROOPS.

The troops in Richmond have no sympathy with the colored people as a general rule, but they all know that Gen. Turner, who garrisons the city, and the General in command of the Department, will suffer no outrages to pass unpunished, and therefore there is perfect order in Richmond—not the church-yard or Warsaw order of the old times, nor the true order of a Northern State (the peace of a civilized people—offspring of a sense of justice and an enlightened self-interest), but the best substitute possible for Virginia in her present transition state—the quiet resulting from contentment on the part of the working classes, and of a knowledge on that of the employés that retribution, more or less exact, will surely follow violence or fraud.

THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU.

These general observations (the fruits of long conversations with many prominent officers, with colored men, Northern settlers and civilians in Government employment) are true, strictly speaking, of Richmond only. In many of the rural districts the rights of the negro are as yet but imperfectly recognized, and unless the Freedmen's Bureau shall be entirely reorganized, there are gloomy times ahead for the dusky loyalists of Virginia; that is to say, unless we shall insist that our Southern friends are first recognized as the equals of our recent enemies before we readmit the Southern States.

Those most familiar with the operations of the Bureau agree in affirming that it is wholly inadequate to the duties expected of it. There ought to be two or three officers in every county, selected with special reference to their qualifications for justly adjudicating the innumerable difficulties that arise between the freedmen themselves and between their employers and late slaves. The privates and subordinate military officers, now by necessity detailed for those positions, are often unfit, both by lack of acquirements and sympathy with the people, for the proper discharge of their duties. It has been suggested that a regiment should be raised for each State, to be under the exclusive charge of the assistant Commissioner, whose officers and men would be detailed as military magistrates throughout the State. This plan for Virginia would give one captain for every ten counties, and a non-commissioned officer and two or three privates for each one.

SHALL WE SAVE IT?

But it is very doubtful whether it is worth while to try to save the Bureau. Its continuance will postpone, at the best, an issue which will inevitably come, sooner or later—when all the Federal forces and officials must be withdrawn, and the two races must make their own bargains, and find out, by experience, that the workers and employers are equally dependent on each other. If it were insisted on that every State should make no distinction in its code of laws on account of color, and the right of negro suffrage were recognized (even if its application were limited, *as it ought to be limited, for the good of all parties, to the colored people who can read and write*), there would be no necessity whatever for the machinery of the Bureau. But, on the other hand, if civil power is to be fully restored, the military withdrawn, and equality for all before the laws is not insisted on, we will assuredly, in Virginia and South Carolina, have a war of races or a hegira of the negroes. It is saddening to a friend of all the South to see how profound and universal is the want of faith which the whites show to the blacks and the negroes reciprocate. In Virginia I had talks with many of the planters on steamers and elsewhere. They all talked freely and sensibly of the War, the situation, and their position, but they were all of one accord that the negroes would not work, save at odd jobs, excepting under compulsion. I met men of large landed estates from different parts of the Commonwealth, and they said that their neighbors all shared their opinions, without exception. Most of them said that they were ready to sell their lands at a reasonable rate, and would not attempt to cultivate them under the present system.

FREE LABOR.

One planter stated that his people (somewhere in South-Western Virginia) were organizing to introduce white labor; that one of them had already about 50 Germans engaged at $150 a year and board, and was doing well. The only case of contentment that he heard of on the part of the old planters with the new system as an economical arrangement, was that of Mr. Hawley, owner of the farm on the James River, where the celebrated Hawley Battery was stationed. It is said that he has employed either his old hands or a large force of others, and professes to be satisfied that it is the best system for making money. Those best informed as to the opinions of the landed proprietors say that there is a respectable minority who are open to conviction, who are willing to give the free labor system a fair trial; not perhaps up to our Northern notions of fairness, but honestly up to theirs, and with no intention of dealing unjustly to the laborers. But they add, also, that the good-will of this class is thwarted by the prejudices of that far larger and less enlightened number who are at once the victims and vicious partisans of the ancient rule.

WILL THE NEGROES WORK?

The statement constantly made that the negroes won't work in Virginia is emphatically denied by men whose names, if I were at liberty to give them, would be regarded as conclusive authority. They are unwilling, it is true, to make long contracts which promise payment at the end of a year, because they expect to be cheated and have no faith in the promises of the white folks. Northern men with Northern principles in Tennessee, Alabama, and the Sea Islands, have never had any difficulty with their black laborers, simply for the reason that the negroes believe them, and that they are honestly paid. Unlucky for the new experiment, the South is short of funds and cannot try our system of frequent payments.

ABOLITIONISTS TO THE RESCUE.

Another unhappy circumstance is, that the thorough-going Abolitionists who can easily influence the colored people for their good, are kept aloof by old prejudices from the old slaveholders and the advocates of the system that has been destroyed, and therefore can do but little in bringing about a good understanding between the two classes—a conciliation founded on fair play all round. The "respectable" and "presentable Conservatives," whom the average prejudice of the Government would assign to positions of trust and influence with the freedmen, are precisely the class whom the negroes listen to with cool respect, but who never touch their hearts, and therefore make no enduring impression on them. I tell you the time is nigh at hand when the choice will be for the planter to choose between calling on his old "enemies," as he termed us, to save him from the poor-house or accepting the alternative of leaving his ancestral estates to avoid going there. The Government of the United States is strong, but it dare not breast the moral sentiment of the North and the world by establishing any form of compulsory labor, or permitting it, and it cannot influence the negro unless it satisfies his sense of justice. We will see.

COSMOS AFTER CHAOS.

The stubborn prejudices of the negroes to make long contracts with their old masters is likely to produce temporary distress, an appearance of wide spread ruin, but it will inaugurate a new South whose prosperity will amaze the most sanguine of its friends. Let us suppose that the planters were all animated by a spirit of good-will toward the negro what would be the result? The present system of vast estates would be perpetuated for a century. Vast estates employ a landless peasantry and a race of poor whites—the existence of a class which, I notice, the old hardihood of the Southern press has been revived to deny; but it will hardly be as successful now as before our armies marched through the South and found these miserable creatures everywhere in the rural districts. Would such a social structure, even if labeled "free," be in harmony with Northern institutions? Would we have a uniform civilization? And will hostile civilizations work harmoniously together in the same political system? I trow, no! Thus, the hardness of men's hearts, as much or more to-day, as away back there before Moses, is working out what the Hebrews always called God's will, and we a higher civilization, a more perfect democracy. Great Pan is dying in the South, but he will have to give up his last breath before a Christ comes to save it, or a Moses to deliver its hewers of wood and drawers of water. I advise the friends of the negro not to lose their sleep o' nights by reason of the upheaval of labor in the South, or even at the distress thereby occasioned; for these things must needs be before a true civilization is deeply rooted in their Southern soil. Negroes are being driven from their old homes by thousands daily throughout the South. Great suffering results from these doings. But they are only the bitter pangs of a new and regenerated society; and, while we may pity the negro, and ought to do all in our power to relieve him, we should not fail to recognize in these his sufferings, the beginning of a new life for his race. As for the misery brought by the planters on themselves, it reminds one of the old time axiom that the devil in leaving a man rends him. But even these pains are for his good.

NEGRO FARMERS.

A distinguished officer gave as his opinion that the best method which the Northern friends of the negro could adopt to elevate the race would be to form landed companies, to purchase immense tracts of abandoned estates, to subdivide them into farms of ten or twenty acres, and sell them on time to the freedmen. By advancing to the deserving negroes, stock and a few tools, such an enterprise could be made perfectly successful, and eminently profitable to the buyers and sellers equally. It is Eli Thayer's "organized emigration" plan, with the emigration movement left out—for they are already on the ground. By settling them in communities, not continuous but sufficiently large to insure protection, education and a mutual assistance, the freedmen would rapidly become owners in their own right and wholly self-supported. They have frequently offered to support all their own poor, their preachers and their teachers, if they could have homesteads of their own. It seems to me that this plan is the only practicable method that can be adopted under existing prejudices to prevent the negroes from relapsing into an utter dependence on the large plantation owners or of emigrating to the Northern States.

NEGRO TESTIMONY.

I heard it stated on good authority (although I do not give it as official) that Gov. Peirpoint has admitted in a correspondence that may be published that there is no likelihood in the present state of feeling, that justice would be done to the negro in Virginia Courts. I am astonished to see Northern papers congratulating themselves that there is a likelihood that negro testimony will be admitted in Southern Courts. Without the ballot, such a victory would be a McClellan triumph—just so much and nothing more, barren of results, an apple of Sodom, pleasant to the eye, but full of ashes.

PAUPERS.

About 15,000 negroes, *not an able-bodied man among them*, are now supported in Virginia. Why should not the State be forced to foot this bill? In Richmond alone about $200 a day are expended to support the whites.

BERWICK.

THE FINANCES.—*The Washington Republican* of Monday evening says: "There is no foundation for the statement that the Secretary of the Treasury will put forward a new loan. The bonds on the last loan of $50,000,000 have not yet been all delivered, and we are authorized to say that further loans will not be asked for by the Secretary until after the meeting of Congress, to which body the whole subject will be submitted."

By the explosion of the boiler of a portable saw-mill near Shelby, Ill., on Nov. 8, the mill was entirely demolished; two men were instantly killed, while a third only survived about 20 minutes, and several other persons were scalded, bruised, or otherwise hurt. Fragments of the boiler and mill were projected to a distance almost fabulous.

Ho! for Tennessee!

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: There is among us a large number of persons whose income just enables them to make the ends of the year meet; who struggle on from year to year, with the hopeless wish of improving their condition pecuniarily; who have wives and children, for whose future welfare they anxiously, but unavailingly, strive to provide. There is another class, and by no means inconsiderable in number, afflicted with disease, who have spent upon physicians sums of money which perhaps they could not afford to spare, which brought no adequate present relief and promised no hope of future benefit; many among both these classes need only to be informed and convinced of a way by which they are to secure great benefit, to avail themselves gladly of the knowledge. With the laudable hope of being instrumental of good to both these classes, I present the following statement of facts concerning the "table lands" of Tennessee, which are peculiarly adapted to secure the object in view, as I now propose to show.

Early in the Spring of 1860, being at the time in the State of Ohio, having heard most encouraging reports respecting these table lands, and suffering from greatly impaired health, I determined to visit them, and learn from personal observation if the reports which came to me were true. I carried out that resolution, arriving there the 9th of May.

The Cumberland mountains of Tennessee are not to be spoken of in the same sense as we speak of the mountains of New England, New York, or Pennsylvania, for they are a great plateau, much of them like the prairies of the West. Parts of them, however, particularly as they approach the streams, are somewhat rugged; but in the main they are by no means difficult to ascend or travel over. The ascent to them, either from the east or west, is comparatively easy; indeed, one would scarcely be conscious that he was ascending a mountain, most certainly not if he had any experience in climbing the mountains of the eastern portion of our country. When once their summit is attained, the traveler, perhaps, wonders that he has met with so slight obstacles in making their ascent, and inquires why they are called mountains, for he finds them mainly a great plain, some three thousand feet above the ocean, about forty miles wide, and extending from Kentucky, on the north, through the entire State into Georgia and Alabama, on the south. I will now speak of them in detail, commencing with their minerals.

I do not know that gold has been found anywhere upon the table, but have seen fine specimens of silver, found in Morgan County, and been told of recent discoveries of it near Post Oak Springs, in Roane County. We also find copper and iron, rich, superior in quality, and exceedingly abundant; lead, gypsum, saltpeter, epsom salts, alum, salt, &c.

The stone of the table, proper, is almost uniformly sandstone; generally flat, and usually lying in quarries—out of the way if not wanted, but easily accessible if wanted; also burr stone, marble, &c.

The table lands are also said to contain glass-making sand, marl and potter's clay, and do contain clay and sand suitable for the manufacture of brick in quantities sufficient for the present and future wants of the country.

Bituminous coal is found in great abundance, is almost entirely free from sulphur, and acknowledged to be superior to the best bituminous coal of Virginia or Pennsylvania. For mechanical uses it is perhaps nearly equal to charcoal, and much less expensive. It has no tendency to harden iron.

The sand stone is easily broken and endures the action of fire almost equal to fire brick, and is excellent for fire places and chimneys, for which purpose it is very generally used.

Limestone of excellent quality is found in great abundance, upon the eastern and western slopes of the table, and may become a source of wealth, used as a fertilizer by the skilful husbandmen who will in great numbers ere long inhabit that region.

For petroleum these table lands will doubtless stand pre-eminent. Already rich developments have been made, and the mineralogists now surveying all parts of the table will unquestionably make important discoveries.

The soil is, generally, a sandy loam easily tilled, not lacking manure, standing drouth well, and with fair cultivation being very fertile.

The whole table is abundantly supplied with streams and springs of clear, soft water, sweet and delicious to the taste. Besides the ordinary water, there are many chalybeate springs, which are wonderfully efficacious in their curative properties, particularly when applied to those diseases which are peculiar to women, as well as many common to both sexes.

Upon these table lands are found several varieties of the oak; also the chestnut, maple, soft and sugar, hickory, poplar, pine, found in the valleys, yellow locust, black walnut, and beach. The timber is not so heavy as is found in the forests of Ohio, and some other parts of the West, but a large proportion is beautiful—not excelled for building or fencing purposes. The most beautiful timber which I have ever seen is upon the eastern and western slopes of the table.

For the productions of all kinds of fruit which belong to a temperate climate, no portion of our country can exceed these table lands. The apple, peach, pear, plum, quince apricot nectarine, grape, blackberry, raspberry and strawberry cannot be excelled in amount or quality, having a deliciousness of flavor not found in a colder climate. If orchards are planted upon high grounds they rarely fail of a crop; if upon the low lands, near streams, they sometimes fail. Fruit trees commence bearing fruit much younger than at the North, East or West, and live and thrive to a great age. I have seen peach trees there, said to be fifty years old, thrifty and largely loaded with fine fair fruit. The plum tree is not there as with us, damaged with black and gummy knots, but the bark is smooth and clean, and the tree produces annually and largely. The grape is indigenous to the soil, an abundant bearer, delicious in flavor, produces a fine wine, probably equal to anything known in this country. Blackberries grow spontaneously in great profusion, as large as the Lawton, and superior to them in flavor.

Figs will thrive there and produce one crop annually.

Grain of all kinds known North, East or West, flourishes there. There is probably no portion of our country where skill, labor and capital, used for agricultural purposes, will meet with more satisfactory results, taking into consideration the advantage of continued health which may there be enjoyed, for the inhabitant of the table finds a climate exceedingly favorable to the production of all kinds of farm crops, such as corn, wheat, rye, buckwheat, barley, oats, Irish and sweet potatoes. Potatoes bear abundantly, and are of excellent quality; it is easy to raise from three hundred to eight hundred bushels to the acre with good cultivation. They are of a quality superior to any produced on other than high lands, and in a cool climate, and are much sought after by the inhabitants of the valleys, where they command a high price.

Grasses of all kinds known and valued among us, will yield there as abundant crops as in the most favored portions of our country.

The dairy farmer will find there all the advantages he desires. Fertile lands, a plenty of pure, soft spring water, facilities for having cellars as capacious and convenient as he could reasonably wish for, pastures and meadows very productive, short and mild winters, with scarcely a necessity for foddering at all, and most remunerative prices for his butter and cheese.

The stock farmer will also find what he needs; rich pastures and meadows, short and mild winters and the advantage of a home market for all surplus stock, purchasers coming to his door from Kentucky, Georgia, and Alabama.

The wool grower will there find advantages not found elsewhere in our country, for he may keep his sheep the entire year with very little, if any, foddering. I did not learn while I was there, over six months, that sheep were liable to any disease whatever, and saw flocks which had taken care of themselves throughout the entire year. He will find a great difference in his favor between producing wool from land costing five dollars per acre, in a climate where he is not liable to lose his sheep from disease, where he has no need of foddering them at all, or at most but very little, and from land costing fifty to one hundred and fifty dollars per acre, in a climate fertile in disease among his sheep, and to such an extent, as often to seriously affect his profits—where he must fodder four or five months in the year, with the liability of losing many of his lambs in a cold and backward Spring. If it is profitable to grow wool on expensive and, with expensive wintering, in a climate where his annual losses from disease and cold form an item worthy of consideration, where himself and family are almost sure of being sick more or less, every year, and where sickness produced by a harsh climate like ours is continually making inroads upon the constitution, I appeal to the common sense of every man if it is not greatly to his advantage to grow his wool where his sheep are healthy—the cost of his land merely nominal—the cost of their keeping but a trifle, comparatively—where he need not expect to have doctor's bills to pay, and where he may reasonably suppose that he will attain a ripe old age and enjoy life. Imaginary as this comparison may appear to some, it is simply true.

The woods furnish so large an amount of nuts, most, of different kinds, that the farmer may reasonably expect to make his pork with but little feeding of corn, peas, or other products of his labor. The forest tree, like the cultivated fruit tree, produces in great profusion, by which the farmer is enabled to make his pork at small cost. The wild grasses of the table are very nutritious, which will appear true from the fact that cattle turned out to them in the Spring, in low condition of flesh, become by August, most excellent beef, and are then gathered up by the drovers to be taken to market, or to be stall fed for larger growth and greater fatness.

From these statements it will readily appear that the farmer has no need of large barns, filled with hay and other fodder—that he need not labor incessantly during Spring and Summer to enable himself and stock to get through the Winter, for the Winter is very short and mild. It is an uncommon circumstance for ice to form strong enough to bear a man, or for snow, which falls in small quantities, to lie upon the ground for forty-eight hours.

The Summers are pleasant beyond anything known here, the mercury rarely rising above 85 degrees, and a breeze coming up every morning, from eight to nine o'clock, and blowing mildly and steadily through the day until well toward night, when it dies away. The nights are cool and delightful, enabling one to sleep under some covering with great comfort to himself, and with entire freedom from the pest of this climate—the musketo.

The atmosphere is clear and exhilarating, imparting to one a degree of health and enjoyment not experienced in this climate. Hence people are active and strong there at an age which lays them aside, or carries them to their grave here. Consumption and bronchial affections soon vanish when brought in contact with the purenes of that atmosphere. I went there suffering acutely with chronic bronchitis, I came thence after a little over six months residence so nearly cured that I have not suffered from that cause since in the least degree. I went there much debilitated, but in less than three months became active and vigorous, and feel greater buoyancy and strength than since boyhood.

The use of the chalybeate water, in connection with the pure and bracing atmosphere, rapidly cures those diseases which are peculiar to women as well as dropsy, kidney complaints, &c.

Jaundice and liver complaints are also soon cured there without the aid of medicine. I would advise no physician to go there for the practice of his profession, for if he depended upon it he would surely starve. I do not know where else a man can, with the same amount of capital, and labor, make money as easily and rapidly, and at the same time secure so large a measure of physical strength and enjoyment as there.

Such being the facts connected with the table lands of Tennessee, why should not the two classes allded to in the commencement of this article, and others as well, take advantage of them. Why remain here and continue to be poor in money, health, and hope? why remain here and struggle hopelessly, when they may go there and enjoy a measure of health, wealth and happiness