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Emancipation Celebration in Portsmouth, Va.

The following letter was read at the celebration of the issuing of the Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln, held in Portsmouth, Virginia, January 2, 1871:

PORTSMOUTH, VA., Dec. 2, 1871.

Mr. President and Fellow Citizens:—Much as I may regret my unavoidable absence among you in celebrating a day which Eternal Wisdom has set apart for the redemption of America from the scourgeful and leprous disease of slavery, I cannot be so forgetful of my duty in this regard as to let the day pass without a word of cheer.

Sir, I hope I am addressing all the people, whether in the capacity of societies or otherwise; for I am solemnly impressed that this day was made for all, whether white or colored, master or slave; and, although reluctant recognition concedes this fact, it will never become matter of general rejoicing until all shall have learned that God is its author, and not merely as the 1st of January, but as a day sacred to freedom throughout the broad domain of these United States. It is a fault of our nature that we cannot seem to rise to a just appreciation of the day we celebrate. To-day our churches and school-houses should be festooned with evergreens, and a portion of the time be devoted to thanksgiving and prayer, to the end that our Heavenly Father may advance our cause while we are tuning Freedom's harp, to be struck by future generations. I rejoice with you that the public feeling is much improved towards us; and so will it continue to increase just in proportion as we respect ourselves and obey the laws of the land. Let us respect everybody's rights, and demand the same of others. This we should do willingly, for whatever is lawful for one is equally so for all. And should we suffer from a partial administering of our laws, to seek a remedy through violence would only double the difficulty, and thus make confusion worse confounded—calling down upon us many of those persecutions through which we have already passed, while crossing the Jordan. Let us know that we are in the right, and then maintain our position with manly firmness.

Happily for us, we are citizens of the inner district, one that has ever proven loyal to the Government of the United States, and for which, other things considered, it should give our section a large patronage on the public works; and, sir, to say nothing of naval or commercial science, common sense would seem to justify such a conclusion. Flooded by the Atlantic, our harbor can give berth to the Great Eastern, while the best timber lands are in abundance, and in easy reach all through the section. Our staunchest built, and best floating batteries, have been framed and fitted here; and in no spot on the map of the globe can there be found a place so well adapted to naval architecture as that of Norfolk harbor. It should be the great naval depot of the United States. The cheapness of labor, moderation and wholesomeness of climate, preservation of ships in ordinary, with Fortress Monroe and the Rip Raps as a protection, are all additional reasons why it should be so. And it is a little singular that we, within gun-shot of the great Atlantic, that sea on whose bosom is borne the commerce of all nations, should be shut out from these great benefits of the floating world. But let us wait patiently, and hope on and hope ever.

But I am writing you in great haste, having this day to be in my seat at Richmond. One or two more considerations and I have done.

Many who manifested a desire, and who seemed determined, to struggle with us to the "last ditch" at the beginning of these celebrations, have, no sooner than our votes and favors had lifted them to office—for which they put us under saddle, plied the whip and drove home the spur, until now, reeling and staggering, we fall at their feet calling for help—dropped us at the very time when their services were needed. They are in office, hence you do not see them here to-day. If we have been deceived in their professions of loyalty the fault is not ours, but will recoil, when least expected, upon their own heads—politically.

But we have a few, and only a few, who are willing to brave the opposition to loyal reconstruction.

The time is upon us when we should take some intelligent action in accommodating or adapting ourselves to the great duties of life. Let us prove to mankind that we are something more than automatons or mere walking machines. Let us give up the dram-shops and gambling hells, and learn to economise for the future, by turning our attention to the schools. Unless this is done our children will be doomed to suffer, and to our graves they will trace their misfortunes with most unpleasant reflections. Do not wait for the public free schools, for I think it will be a long while before we can reap any benefit therefrom. Meantime our white friends keep their children constantly at school under competent teachers.

When we have done our duty thus far, we may then have whereof to boast in all our celebrations.

In speaking of this day, allow me to say that our citizens all are well disposed toward us, and I see nothing preventing us from having a good old Israelitish jubilee. Hoping this may be so, and thanking you most heartily for the tendered invitation, I am, very truly and sincerely, your most obedient servant,

GEORGE TEAMOH.

Letter from Shreveport, La.

SHREVEPORT, LA., Dec. 23, 1870.

To the Editor of the New National Era:

The last time I saw you was in the city of Dayton, Ohio, and the impressions of your last visit to that city I presume you have not forgotten, neither have I.

Since then I have emigrated to the South land, and now reside as indicated by the caption of this article. I came here in August last, and since then I have seen many manifestations of the peculiar modes of Southern life. I was here during the late political compaign, the peculiar features of which I shall reserve for a future article.

I am now at the head of the Freedman's Savings Bank, just established here, and I am increasing my general fund of practical knowledge of human nature very much in my new capacity. There is no place in the South where the bank is more needed than here. Mrs. Stowe was right in making this Red river valley the mythic home of the Legrees.

It is a pity and a shame to learn of the large sums of money out of which the colored people are constantly being cheated. A certain class of traders here will pull, tease, and beg the colored men into their stores to buy cheap goods, and the ignorant freedmen trade at the losing rate of a $100 bill for $10; $50 for $5. I have known freedmen, after selling their cotton and buying everything they could think of, to throw down a $50 bill and ask what they could get for it. His fear was that some man would cut his throat if he knew he had it. The money is here, and is plentifully made, but it will take labor to save it. The bank is opposed with intense earnestness and bitterness, and will have to endure the sieges of a regular campaign before it will win. I have been greatly encouraged by many examples of industry and sacrifice on the part of the colored people to lift themselves above their evil surroundings. For their encouragement, I wish to publish in the ERA, from time to time, some of these notable cases, doubting not but others may be inspired with such examples of industry and sacrifice.

The lady with whom I am boarding, Mrs. Coursey, (freed by the war,) has by her own unassisted industry and economy bought and paid for a home worth $3,000.

"Uncle Charley" is a noble old hero. He came down the street the other day driving a good team, and when in front of the bank the following conversation ensued: "Gentlemen, mules cost money, and my wood must sell for money. I bought these mules to farm with when I hadn't *bread in the house*." I looked at him, and he repeated it with emphasis, cracked his whip, and drove on.

I thought of the noble spirit of that man, and that to such men we owe a debt of gratitude for their bright examples of the success and enterprise of our race.

Mr. Cole, one of our business men, married three years ago. He gave to his wife a Mexican dollar, and said: "Wife, this is all I have got. Keep this and see what we can add to it." To-day this couple own ten acres of good land, and all the implements and stock with which to farm.

Milly Gaines, a widow, paying house-rent, and supporting five children, is one of our regular depositors.

While others are doubting the bank and wasting money, these are saving their money, and now are decidedly on the winning side of life. Doubtless this will be true to too great an extent till the great disparity between the two classes shall be revealed, as it will be in the course of one, three, or five years. Our best men will gather round the bank as their strongest hope, and the main contest will be at the beginning. Let our people everywhere be encouraged, by these and other examples numerous enough, to be industrious and saving, sacrificing luxury, pride, or anything else that may tempt them to spend a dollar or a dime aside from the actual necessities of life.

Yours truly, SAMUEL PETERS.

"Words and their Uses."

From Richmond Grant White's new volume, bearing the above title, we quote a few paragraphs, showing a nice sense of discrimination, founded on practical views of the subject:

Aggravate: This word should never be employed in reference to persons, as it means merely to add weight to—to make an evil more oppressive; injury is aggravated by insult. It is sometimes improperly used in the sense of *irritate*, as "I was much aggravated by his conduct."

Balance, in the sense of rest, remainder, residue, remnant, is an abomination. Balance is, metaphorically, the difference between two sides of an account—the amount which is necessary to make one equal to the other. * * * Yet we continually hear of the balance of this or that thing, even the balance of a congregation or of an army!

Bountiful is applicable only to persons. A giver may be bountiful, but his gift cannot; it should be called plentiful or large. "A bountiful slice" is absurd.

Fetch expresses a double motion—first from, and then toward, the speaker; it is exactly equivalent to "go and bring," and ought not to be used in the sense of bring alone.

Calculate, besides its sectional misuse for *think* or *suppose*, is sometimes, in the participle form calculated, put for *likely* or *apt*: "That nomination is calculated to injure the party." It is *calculated* (designed) to do no such thing, though it may be likely to.

Citizen should not be used except when the possession of political rights is meant to be implied. Newspaper reporters have a bad habit of bringing it out on all occasions, when "person," "man," or "bystander" would express their meaning much better.

Couple applies to two things which are bound together or united in some way. "A couple of apples" is incorrect—*two* apples is what is meant.

Dirt means filth, and is not synonymous with earth or soil. Yet people sometimes speak of a dirt road, or of packing dirt around the roots of trees they are setting. They mean earth.

Execute: When a murderer is hanged his *sentence* is executed, the *man* is not. A man cannot be executed—that is, followed out or performed.

Expect looks always to the future. You cannot expect that anything has happened or is happening, but only that it will happen.

Get means to obtain, not to possess. "He has *got* all the numbers of the *Country Gentleman*;" "Have you *got* good molasses?" "They have *got* bad manners." Why will people persist in introducing the word in such sentences as these, where it is so evidently superfluous?

Help Meet: An absurd use of these two words, as if they together were the name of one thing—a wife—is too common. The sentence in Genesis is: "I will make him an help meet for him"—*i. e.*, a help *fit* for him. There is no such word as help meet.

Lie—Lay: Persons not grossly ignorant sometimes say they will lay [meaning lie] down, that they have laid [lain] an hour, or that the hammer is laying [lying] by the tacks. *Lie* means to recline; its past tense is lay—"I lay there all that night;" its participles, *lying* and *lain*. *Lay* (used of present time) means to put something down—one lays a carpet; its past is *laid*—"I laid it myself;" its participles, *laying* and *laid*—"I was interrupted while laying it, and it was not all laid till night."

Love rules the heart, not the stomach. You *love* your wife, or ought to; but favorite articles of food you *like*.

Observe should not be used for *say*, as is the oft-heard sentence, "What did you *observe?*"

Sit, often mispronounced *set*, is occasionally written so, but, it is to be hoped, rarely.

WE print a special dispatch from South Carolina concerning the shooting of six men, all colored men, of course. Day by day the spirit of revenge and violence exhibits itself in all parts of the South. These outrages are political in origin, and perpetrated by the secret organization of the Democracy for direct political ends. This plain fact confronts Congress and the President.

Has the Government of the United States the strength and the will to protect its loyal citizens? If not, it is contemptible, deserving neither allegiance nor respect.—*Washington Chronicle.*

Frederick Bailey, son of Dr. Gamaliel Bailey, publisher of the *National Era* in anti-slavery days, and who served in the Union army during the war, has gone to France to volunteer in the republican forces.

Rev. Dr. Thompson, a colored clergyman of Newark, has been appointed to the chair of Biblical Theology and Ancient Languages in the Strait University at New Orleans.

REPORT OF THE Commissioner Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, Etc.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
BUREAU REFUGEES, FREEDMEN AND ABANDONED LANDS,
Washington, October 20, 1870.

SIR: I have the honor to submit for the consideration of his Excellency the President of the United States, the following report, called for by an act of Congress approved March 3, 1865.

Since my last annual report the general organization of the Bureau has not been changed, but its operations have been restricted on account of the limited amount of funds remaining on hand for disbursement. The reduction of force during the year will be seen from the following comparison. One year ago there were on duty in this Bureau 15 commissioned officers, 71 civilian agents, including officers retained under act of July, 1868, and 72 clerks. Now there are 13 commissioned officers, 10 of whom have been ordered before the retiring board, 33 "retained officers" and agents, and 41 clerks. Thus the entire force has been reduced from 158 to 87. With so few agents it has been impossible to respond to all the earnest appeals for aid, and to continue the same general supervision of freedmen's affairs as in former years. But though so much reduced, the operations of the Bureau have been highly important and useful.

The eleemosynary work, though confined to this District, has given shelter and some degree of comfort to a class of people utterly helpless and friendless. The hospital at Richmond, Virginia, which contained one year ago 239 patients, was turned over to the State authorities on the 1st of February, 1870, leaving only the Washington hospital and asylum under the care of this Bureau. In this, and connected with it, not less than 1,500 freedmen have received medical treatment during the year, and there remained June 30, 1870, 438 dependents supported wholly by the bounty of the Government, viz., 257 patients in the hospital, 88 orphans, and 93 old men and women, for whom provision is made outside on account of want of room in the hospital itself. Many of these are very old, and will need but a little more help. Others are maimed and disabled by disease for life. Their condition can be understood only by those who see them from day to day. But it can be imagined from the following facts; 18 of the number are blind: 1 is blind and idiotic; 1 is blind and insane; 3 are deaf and dumb; 13 are maimed: 8 are insane; 22 are idiotic, and 200 are helpless from extreme old age, many being between eighty and one hundred years old, and four over one hundred years. These are the heritage of slavery. After a long life of industry, whose wages have enriched others, they are left, when their hands have no more strength for toil, without means of support, without a place to lay their heads. Nor have they friends to care for them. Many of them drifted to the national capital during the war and there is no home to which they can return, for home they never had. Some have been transported hither from distant States, where the necessary closing of our hospitals would have left them to starve, the local authorities refusing to assume their support, or even give them a place to die in. Thirty-three were brought from Louisville, Kentucky. No provision having been made for continuing the hospital there, and repeated appeals having been made in vain, both to the State and to the municipal authorities, I was forced either to devise some method of putting all the patients out of the way at once, or to place them in the hospital here. I chose the latter, though the most troublesome and expensive alternative. One of those brought from Louisville is a man one hundred and thirteen years old, whose early life was spent within sight of the hills on which this city is built, and who remembers well the first President, though he never was one of the famous "body guard." This venerable man has given more than a century of productive labor to his country. Were his just wages paid him, he would not now be an object of charity. All he asks is the means to live his few remaining days. And equally urgent is the case of nearly every inmate of the asylum. No State nor city recognizes them as citizens; no municipal government allows their claim for aid; unless, therefore, the United States Government continues to feed and clothe and shelter them, they must perish. I believe that Congress and the people will sanction whatever expenditures are necessary to support these national paupers, and to alleviate as far as possible their sufferings.

The collection and payment of bounties and other moneys due colored soldiers, sailors, and marines, in accordance with joint resolution of Congress approved March 29, 1867, have been continued, and this important branch of work has employed a large majority of my agents and clerks. To complete the evidence required in all the cases referred to this Bureau by the Secretary of War and the Auditors of the Treasury; to separate the true from the false, and protect the Government from fraudulent claims; to discover and identify the claimants whose cases have been settled, and place in their own hands the sums awarded; and to keep an exact record of every case, requires a great amount of clerical labor and unceasing vigilance. The number of claims settled during the last year through the agency of this Bureau is 1,087. The number now pending settlement in the different Executive Departments and awaiting completion of evidence is 3,108. The amount of bounty money, back pay, and pensions collected for the freedmen by this Bureau is $130,900 65. All cases intrusted to me directly for collection are settled without cost of attorney's fees. Since the law of March 1867 went into effect 9,622 claims have been filed in the various Departments, and of these 5,108 have already been settled without cost to the claimants, except the necessary notarial expenses. Had these claims been collected through claim agents or attorneys, the amount of legal fees would have been $51,080. This sum has been saved to the freedmen, and, judging from attempts at fraud continually occuring, probably many times this sum in illegal fees would have been extorted but for protection of the Bureau. But, in addition to the gratuitous collection of claims, all certificates and checks issued by the Treasury Department in settlement of the claims of colored soldiers and sailors and their heirs are made payable to my order. Each, when received, is carefully compared with the record, and every precaution is taken to avoid mistake in making the payments. The number of such certificates and checks thus examined and adjusted during the last year is 9,107, whose money value is $1,659,728 36. Nine thousand five hundred and seventy-three claimants have been paid, an average of thirty per working day, and the amount paid is $1,852,100 72. The whole amount paid since the passage of the act (March, 1867) is $7,683,618 61. The unavoidable reduction of the number of agents in the field has greatly increased the labors of those that remain; and when the large extent of territory under the care of a single agent is considered, together with the necessity of discovering and identifying every claimant, and of paying to him in person the amount due, it is very gratifying that so much has been accomplished.

Complaints are often made of delay in the settlement of bounty claims, and often there is just cause for complaint. Letters are daily received from claimants inquiring about their claims, and invoking the aid of the Bureau in effecting their settlement. In all such cases investigation is at once made, and if Treasury certificates have been issued, measures are taken for their immediate payment. If not settled, inquiry is instituted at the proper Department, and in many cases it is found that the claims are on file, and settlement delayed awaiting necessary evidence, which the attorneys of record have failed to supply. A description of the evidence required is then obtained, and the agent of the Bureau in the vicinity where the claimant resides is directed to supply the evidence. By this means the evidence in 1,568 cases, filed by attorneys and claim agents, and suspended by the Second Auditor because the attorneys had failed to furnish the necessary evidence—by reason of death, retirement from business, wilful negligence, or other causes—has been perfected through the agency of this Bureau. In addition to the above, 803 contested cases, referred to me by the Second Auditor, have been taken up for investigation; and legal proceedings have been instituted against parties charged with frauds against the Government.

Prior to the passage of the joint resolution approved March 29, 1867, and before this Bureau had charge of the work, Treasury certificates, issued in settlement of claims for pay, bounty, and prize money or other moneys to colored soldiers, sailors, and marines, were made payable to the order of the claimant, and forwarded to the attorney or agent who had prosecuted the claim. Many such certificates have been paid to attorneys upon forged assignments, and thus the claimants defrauded. In not a few cases of this kind I have succeeded in recovering the amounts fraudulently withheld by attorneys, and the same has been paid to the proper claimants. The law of March, 1867, prohibits the recognition of any transfer or assignment of checks and certificates, and requires that they be drawn "payable to the order of the Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau." Still the certificates, together with the soldiers' "discharges," were sent to the attorneys, many of whom, instead of forwarding them to me for prompt payment, purposely withheld them, to exact a fee for their services in addition to the legal fee. Many such "discharges" and certificates have been recovered, but it is known that a large number are yet in the hands of various claim agents and attorneys.

Since the passage of the joint resolution approved April 10, 1869, all Treasury certificates issued in settlement of claims of colored soldiers have been sent direct to this Bureau. Also all "discharges" filed with claims, whether the claims are allowed or rejected, are sent to me for delivery to the claimants. The effect of this is to preclude almost entirely the possibility of claimants being imposed upon. Claimants are also notified that the legal fees of their attorneys are deducted from the amount of their certificates, and paid by my chief disbursing officer, and are cautioned against paying any additional fee for alleged services, and to report any attempt at such extortion. During the past year this branch of my work has been increased by applications from the Commissary Department and the Pension Bureau. In March last I received notice from the Secretary of War that in consequence of frauds committed by attorneys and claim agents, in connection with claims of colored soldiers for commutation of rations while prisoners of war, and owing to the difficulty of identifying the claimants, and in order to secure to them the full amount of their dues, all such claims would thereafter be referred to this Bureau for the evidence necessary to perfect them, which could be obtained through the officers and agents stationed near the residence of the claimants, and that payments would be made through the same channels, the officer being required to pay the amount due the claimant in person, in legal-tender notes. Under the provisions of the new pension law, approved July 8, 1870, all pension certificates and checks in payment of pensions are required to be forwarded by the pension agents to the post office address of the pensioner. With a view to securing to colored pensioners the full benefit of this act, and preventing their checks from falling into the hands of interested persons who would extort compensation for pretended services, after consultation with the Commissioner of Pensions, and at his request, the officers and agents of this Bureau have been instructed to induce, as far as practicable, colored pensioners, residing in their respective districts and outside of a pension agency, to have their communications and checks from the Pension Office and its agencies sent through agents of this Bureau. Although these arrangements with the Commissary Department and the Pension Bureau have largely increased the labors of my bounty agents, no additional expense has been incurred, while the advantage to the colored soldiers and pensioners has proved to be very great. It is not too much to affirm that through the labors and vigilance of this Bureau, in connection with bounty and other claims and payments, enough has been saved to the Government and to deserving claimants to justify the cost of conducting these operations.

The educational work among the freedmen has been continued with unabated interest on their part. But the limited amount of funds at my disposal has forbidden any great extension of the work, and has compelled me to refuse many earnest applications for aid. The schools heretofore established have improved in character, and the teaching has been of a higher grade than in any previous year. The aggregate of schools, teachers, and pupils remains nearly the same as at the date of my last annual report. The returns, on account of the discharge of many agents and school superintendents, are not entirely complete, but they include all the schools that have been aided to any extent by this Bureau. The number of schools regularly reported is 2,039; adding those from which occasional returns have been made, the number is 2,677. The number of teachers employed in all these schools has been 3,300; and the number of pupils is 149,581—about 45 pupils to each teacher. The average attendance has been greater than before, being nearly 80 per cent. of the total number enrolled. In this respect there has been a gradual improvement from the first. The teachers, as in former years, have been appointed and paid by local boards or by benevolent associations. The aid granted by this Bureau has been furnished in the construction, repairs, and rental of school buildings, in general oversight of the whole work, and in correspondence with the other agencies co-operating with it. Appropriations have been made for the construction or partial construction of 334, for repairs of 198, and for the rental of 598 school buildings. Before any building is constructed it is required that the school lot be deeded to trustees, who bind themselves and their successors to hold and use the same and the buildings thereon for educational purposes forever, and that pupils shall never be excluded therefrom, or from the benefits arising from the rental or sale thereof, on account of race or previous condition of servitude.

The number of high or normal schools and of industrial shools has largely increased. Of the former 74, with an attendance of 8,147, and of the latter 61, with 1,750 pupils, have been in active operation. The wisdom of establishing early these institutions of high grade for the training of teachers is already proved. They have so far succeeded that a majority of the teachers now employed in the schools above reported are colored men and women, 1,312 being colored and 1,251 white. The freedmen have also contributed a larger amount for educational purposes than in any former year, having sustained wholly or in part 1,324 schools. These facts indicate that they are advancing as rapidly as could be reasonably hoped toward self support and independence. The appropriations being nearly exhausted, I have been compelled to announce that no further aid can be granted in support of schools, and to discharge all the superintendents of education in the several States, and to close their offices. The General Superintendent of Education, Mr. J. W. Alvord, who, from the organization of the Bureau, has had charge of this work, has also resigned, and the unfinished business of this division has been assigned to my Assistant Adjutant General. As the vacation season closes and the time arrives for the reopening of the schools, appeals are coming in from all parts of the South for further help. Many school buildings, it is reported, must remain closed on account of the withdrawal of Goverment assistance; but I am obliged to reply to all these appeals: "My funds are expended; there is nothing more to give." All I can do is to counsel the freedmen to make every effort and sacrifice necessary to keep their schools open, and to agitate the subject of free schools until they secure their establishment. A very great work remains to be done before that result can be attained. The people of the Southern States have been too much occupied with material interests, the restoration of industrial order and political reconstruction, to give to the subject of education the attention which its importance demands. In two or three States a good beginning has been made; but no Southern State is fully prepared with buildings, teachers, funds, and intelligent officers to set in operation and sustain an efficient free-school system. Even for the white children no adequate provision is made. The colored people are yet poor; the most of them are still ignorant; they know very little about the organization and management of schools; they cannot judge of the qualifications of teachers. Hence they need advice and supervision from without, and will need at least this kind of help, if not material aid, for years to come. How such aid can be most wisely given must be decided by the people of the country and their representatives. Last year, in a special report, I recommended that this branch of my work, with the balance of funds then on hand, should be transferred to the Bureau of Education, with the hope that new appropriations might be made, and a new impulse given to national education. Now there is nothing to transfer, but the importance of continuing and extending the educational work among the freedmen and among all classes at the South becomes more and more apparent, and I again recommend that the whole subject of national education be carefully reviewed and considered by Congress, and that measures be devised, through co-operation with State authorities, to furnish instruction to all children of suitable age.

The expenditures for educational purposes during the last year have been $976,853.89. This includes $25,000 transferred to Wilberforce University, Ohio, and $12,000 to Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, by act of Congress.

The expenditures of the Bureau for all purposes during the last year have been $1,579,129.55, and the balance on hand August 31, 1870, was $200,146.52. This sum will not be sufficient to settle outstanding claims, and will be no more than is needed to support the hospital and asylum in this city, and meet other current expenses until the next session of Congress. In order, therefore, to fulfill all contracts and to continue the collection and payment of bounties, and other duties required of me, I have forwarded an estimate for a special appropriation for the current fiscal year.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

O. O. HOWARD,
Maj. Gen. U. S. Army, Commissioner.

Official: E. WHITTLESEY,
Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

North Carolina.

There is an Oriental flavor about the address of the negro Representatives in the North Carolina Legislature to their constituents on the impeachment of Gov. Holden which makes the document one of the curiosities of modern political literature. We print herewith its full text:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
RALEIGH, December 19, 1870.

To the colored people throughout the State:

The undersigned Representatives send greeting:

Know ye, that since the time that Haman conspired to destroy all the Jews who dwelt in the Persian dominions, because he hated Mordecai, no wickedness hath been devised that will bear any comparison with some of the measures proposed by the dominant party in the present General Assembly. Indeed there is some analogy between our case and that of the Jews at that time. In Gov. Holden we have the despised Mordecai. His enemy stands forth as the exact counterpart of Haman. The poor people, especially the colored people, are the great body of victims appointed for the slaughter; and we, as representatives occupying the place of power, as did Esther, feel it to be our duty to warn you of the impending danger, and arouse you to such action as may tend to avert, if possible, the threatened evil.

The only offense of Gov. Holden, and that which has brought down the wrath of the dominant party upon him, is that he thwarted the designs of a band of assassins, who had prepared to saturate this State in the blood of the poor people on the night before the last election on account of their political sentiments, and to prevent them from voting. Because he dispersed this murderous host, organized by the so-called Conservative party, they propose to destroy him. First they propose to suspend him, than to go through with a mock trial before the Senate, as they have already done before the House, where a true bill has been found without taking testimony.

After impeachmont, his enemies will not be satisfied until he is hanged, unless happily their own gallows should overtake them. When Governor Holden is disposed of those whom he protected will be the next victims. For the blood of one man will not satiate their thirst. They are mad because their slave property is lost. They are mad because the reconstruction measures have triumphed, and we are permitted to represent you in this body. They are mad because we refuse to bow the knee to them.

Like Haman, who, after speaking of his riches, the multitude of his children, and his preferment both by the king and queen, yet declared it availed nothing so long as Mordecai sat at the king's gate—so with our enemies. It avails nothing that they got control of the General Assembly by deception, fraud, and intimidation, so long as the friend of the poor, and the protector of the innocent and defenceless, occupies the chair of State, and you have the right to go the polls unmolested. They have, therefore, commenced a system of disfranchisement by amending the charters of towns, by allowing but one day for voting, by allowing voters to be challenged at the polls, and by requiring each to vote in the township in which he resides. They have thereby already disfranchised thousands. But progress in this way is too slow for their purpose. They, therefore, proposed to call a convention. Having repealed the militia law, they propose to let loose their murderous band upon us and thus secure a majority of the delegates to this convention. When this is done our liberties are at an end.

To avert the impending evil we see no power in the arm of flesh. We feel that we have too long neglected to seek aid at that source that never fails. The laws of righteous retribution have not been repealed, but are in force upon the statutes of the Almighty. Justice will not sleep forever. If we call upon God He will hear and answer us.

We, therefore, propose a day of fasting and prayer throughout the State. Let us ask God to bring our good friend the Governor triumphantly through this ordeal, and to avert the evils that are hanging over us.

Let Friday, the 13th day of January, be set apart as a day of fasting and prayer throughout our habitations. Let no strong drink or other luxuries be used for three days preceding. Let the people assemble in their places of worship and cry mightily unto the Lord. Let the maid-servants whose employment will not permit them to worship during the forenoon ask their employers to allow them the afternoon, that they may spend it in fasting and prayer on behalf of the Governor and our suffering people.

Let the Ministers of the Gospel proclaim this fast and see that it is observed. If this call is heartily responded to God will deliver us. Very respectfully, George L. Mabson, Rep. from New Hanover county; Edward R. Dudley, Rep. from Craven county; Robert Fletcher, Rep. from Richmond county; George B. Willis, Richard Tucker, Reps. from Craven county; Stewart Ellison, Rep. from Wake county; R. Faulkner, Rep. from Warren county; W. H. Revis, Rep. from Granville county; Augustus Robbins, Rep. from Bertle county; Wm. D. Newsom, Rep. from Hertford county; B. H. Jones, Rep. from Northampton county; Willis Bunn, Rep. from Edgecombe county; John Bryant, Rep. from Halifax county; W. W. Morgan, Rep. from Wake county; Charles Smith, Rep. from Halifax county; J. R. Page, Rep. from Chowan county; R. M. Johnson, Rep. from Edgecombe county.

Mrs. Laura Giddings Julian, in a letter from Washington, writing of Howard University, referring to the characteristic eagerness of the colored students of that institution in the pursuit of knowledge hitherto denied to them, says: "I never heard such recitations in any *white* school as I have listened to there. It seems as though they were *hungry*, and had been for generations, and are for the first time able to get the intellectual food they have so long craved."

San Domingo.

Letter from Gerrit Smith to Hon. Mr. Churchill.

PETERBORO, December 22, 1870.

HON. J. C. CHURCHILL, M. C.:

My Dear Sir: Since I am one of your constituents, I feel at liberty to write you a letter on a subject which is now pending in Congress.

It is not easy to dissent from President Grant, whose strong sense, patriotic services, and impartial benevolence toward all men, black, red, and white, command so great respect for his conclusions. We acknowledge the force of his arguments for annexing San Domingo to our country. Nevertheless, we feel sure that there is an objection to the measure, which no arguments can overcome, and which all the advantages of the measure cannot overbalance. This objection is that to take from one zone to add to another, and especially from the torrid to add to a temperate zone, is to war upon nature.

The tropics belong to the sable races of men. Only allow the laws of nature free and full play, and there would be a black belt—a belt of black humanity—all around the earth; and this belt would substantially coincide with the tropics. So, too, are the temperate zones the natural dwelling places of the pale races of men. I do not deny that blacks are at liberty to seek homes among the whites, nor that whites are at liberty to seek homes among the blacks. But I do deny that the one should take steps, which whether so intended or not, shall result in robbing the other of their God-granted allotments—their nature-designated homes. There may be circumstances to justify white Americans in domiciling themselves in San Domingo. In doing so they may benefit both it and themselves. But to annex the island to our nation—in other words, to annex this portion of the tropics to a temperate zone—would be a robbery great in itself and leading to a far greater. I say the island—for, I see that the President goes for annexing the whole of it.

It may be said that the President's plan is one of protection to the people of San Domingo—for he speaks of them as weak and incapable of maintaining themselves. But, however kindly he may feel toward that people, it is evident that the object of his plan is the enriching and aggrandizement of his own country. This plan is the first step toward our getting possession of all the West India islands—the first step on our part toward dispossessing the blacks of those portions of the earth which it is their right to govern. We admit that should the plan go into effect, there would, no doubt, remain, for ages, more or less blacks upon these islands—but they would have sunk into nothing better than "hewers of wood and drawers of water" for the governing white race—a race, by the way, that would not fail to suffer greatly in its own character from the degradation of the governed race. The President may be right in his anticipation that the proposed annexation would accelerate the disappearance of the remaining literal slavery in the West Indies. But it is not enough for the blacks that they all be disenthralled. Their right to rule everywhere within the God-appointed "bounds of their habitation" must be allowed and defended. Nor would it be enough to justify the President's scheme to have the people of San Domingo give their assent to it. Too ignorant to take a wide survey of their interests, and too eager for their present relief to care properly for their future, their assent to the scheme is not to be taken as an argument for it, nor as dividing with us the heavy, not to say guilty, responsibility of its adoption.

We should bear in mind that the besetting sin of our people is greed of territory and grandeur. But our boundaries are already wide enough—or, at least, they will be when they shall include the British Provinces on our North. This acquisition, so obviously dictated by nature, should, we admit, be welcomed by us so soon as they who possess and govern them cordially assent to it. To round out our country by annexing to it Alaska and these Provinces; and thus to relieve it of more or less annoying and even perilous contact with foreign, and, perhaps, eventually hostile, nations; and thus to bring like peoples with their like interests under the same Government, is to fall in with nature and reason, and adopt a wise measure for preserving the peace and prosperity of our home. But to go after the West India islands is to go away from that home, and to jeopard its safety in punishment for our invasion of the home of others. The President evidently anticipates a scramble of white nations for the West India islands. Let not our country be in the scramble, but let her do what she properly can to save these islands to their natural and rightful rulers. Let her, for instance, do what she properly can to relieve Cuba of her intruders—of her cruel Spanish tyrants. The races to whom belong the temperate zones should deal very generously and tenderly with the races who are so inferior to them in territory, numbers, and strength.

The President looks to this annexation as an important, and even indispensable, means for paying our national debt. But under his wise and honest administration we are paying it fast enough, and growing in wealth fast enough. We do not need to make ourselves richer by grasping at the lands of others.

In contending for the right of every race to its natural place upon the earth—the place for which nature has fitted it—let it not be inferred that I object to the blending of the races. Such blending may be proper, and to a far greater extent than it has hitherto been practiced. But to this end, which, if reached at all, is of course to be reached very gradually. It is not necessary that some nations should supplant others, and deprive them of their natural allotments. The sable and pale races are intermingled, and to a considerable extent blended, in our own country. So long as they shall dwell together, let it be in the mutual and cordial recognition of the equal rights of each other. But a day may come when our and other blacks shall aspire to the building up of black nations in the tropics; and they should not, in that day, find themselves forestalled and shut out by our whites, who, not content with a temperate zone, had extended the border of their nation into the torrid zone.

The weakness of peoples, and their alleged incapacity to govern themselves, have ever been the pleas of the strong for extending their protection to them—too generally "such protection as vultures give to lambs, covering and devouring them." President Grant intends no ill to the people of San Domingo. Nevertheless, from the day when his scheme shall begin to go into effect, that people will be sinking and withering away before the ambitious and greedy Anglo-Saxon. Under this plea of governing and protecting them because they are incapable of taking care of themselves, the unhappy children of Africa have, for centuries, been the prey of Christendom—and this, too, though of all God's children they have the gentlest and loveliest traits of character. What less should Christendom henceforth do than protect the right of the children of Africa to their Heaven-allotted portion of the earth, and to leave them free to build up nations possessing those children's characteristics of gentleness, affectionateness, long suffering, and patience—nations of "celestial people," as Swedenborg calls Africans? Such nations there will yet be in the torrid zone, if the temperate zones shall deal with it in that fraternal spirit which should glow in every human race towards every other human race. The world needs the example of such nations. It needs their softening influence on the harsh spirit of sterner and stronger nations.

Surely, surely, our country, which has surpassed every other country in wronging Africa, should be especially careful to take no step that can result in further injury to her children.

I am not surprised that many are in favor of the annexation of San Domingo. At one time, I was myself in favor of annexing Cuba to our country; and went so far as to believe that the annexation of Mexico was the way to lift Mexico up into the type of our own civilization. But I was wrong. She must be left to elevate herself; and, whilst there are many ways in which our nation can and should assist her, to absorb her is not one of those ways.

It is conceded that President Grant would have our nation good as well as great. Nevertheless, he attaches disproportionate importance to its material prosperity, and for this reason he is liable to overrate his favorite means of swelling that prosperity. He sees in our annexation of San Domingo a foothold for getting command of the West Indies and for getting a controlling influence over the world's chief currents of commercial traffic. He sees amongst the results of this annexation our ability, in consequence of our increased domestic productions, to dispense annually with a hundred millions of our imports, and largely to increase our exports. Then, what is more, he sees amongst these results the means, and, as he believes, the only sufficient means, to pay our great national debt. But there are others, who take a very different view of the consequences of the adoption of this cherished scheme of the President. They see, in this bringing of so strange and discordant an element as San Domingo into our political system, appalling "breakers ahead." Among the dangers that rise to their view is the not improbable union of other nations to resist our insatiable appetite for territory and power. Another danger is the not impossible loss of much we now have, in our grasping for more. Another is that, though there might be no foreign hostility for us to encounter, we might, nevertheless, merely from our excessively wide dimensions and great weight, fall in pieces, as did ancient Rome. But what they most deplore in the President's scheme is that its robbing the sable races of an important portion of their soil will serve to throw them back for centuries in their work of becoming their own rulers and building up nations and cities and a commerce of their own. Oh, how much better than this scheme of the President would be our nation's proclamation, if sacredly observed by herself, that to these races belong the tropics—given to them by God, and not to be taken from them by man!

Respectfully your friend,

GERRIT SMITH.

The Chinese Method of Discovering Hidden Treasure.

A resident at Ningpo writes to *Once a Week:* "The credulity and superstition of the Chinese know no bounds; a striking instance of the former having just been the main cause of the terrible Tien-Tsin tragedy, and the universal disquietude that pervades every part of China—ninety-nine out of every hundred Chinamen firmly believing that foreigners in general, but the Roman Catholics in particular, kidnap children for the sake of their eyes, hearts, and other parts, to be used in compounding a potent drug. The following horrible story has been related to me as a solemn fact by a Chinaman, who declares that he was an eye-witness of the latter part of what is here written: "Some years ago, when the Tai Ping rebels were devastating the most fruitful provinces of China, a novel plan was invented for discovering the money and other treasure concealed by the terrified merchants and people on the first warning of the approach of the rebels. Some ingenious Tai Ping thought within himself that, as men are all devout worshippers of gold and silver, something composed from man would, in all probability, be more efficacious than anything else in discovering hidden treasure, without putting men to the pains of pulling down each separate brick of any suspected place to get at the coveted hoard.

He therefore seized the first prisoner he could lay hands on, and quietly proceeded to cut him up and put him into a large cauldron, wherein he was allowed to simmer until a sufficient coating of oil had collected on the surface; this was carefully skimmed off, and then a roll of cloth was spread out and soaked in the human oil, after which it was tightly rolled up and converted into a torch. The rebel then lit his torch, and, in a fever of expectation, started in quest of a likely house. Having found one to his taste, he entered, and slowly waved the torch in all directions, intently watching the flame, which shortly commenced flickering, like a man's fingers clutching at gold! The rebel was overjoyed at this sight, and felt sure that this was a sign that treasure was concealed exactly where the torch flickered; he accordingly set to work and pulled down that part of the wall, and sure enough there discovered a goodly hoard of silver. This plan was afterward universally adopted in the Tai Ping camp, and became so notorious that on an imperial officer—in whose suit was my informant—taking one of the rebels prisoner, he questioned him as to the truth of the report, remarking at the same time, that he could not possibly believe it. The prisoner declared that such was their method of discovering hidden treasure. Whereupon the officer replied that as the prisoner persisted in vouching for the truth of the report, he would do himself the pleasure of testing its truth or falsehood on his person. The prisoner was immediately killed, cooked, and converted into a torch, and used with the greatest success!"

Soldiers and the Public Lands.

As some inquiry has been made of us respecting the terms of the Act of Congress of July last, giving soldiers the right to acquire homesteads in the public lands under certain conditions—to which act we recently referred—we will copy the provision (being the 25th section of the army appropriation bill, approved July 15, 1870,) as follows:

And be it further enacted, That every private soldier and officer who has served in the army of the United States during the rebellion for ninety days, and remained loyal to the Government, and every seaman, marine and officer, or other person, who has served in the navy of the United States, or in the marine corps or revenue marine, during the rebellion, for ninety days, and remained loyal to the Government, shall, on paying of the fee or commission to any register or receiver of any land office required by law, be entitled to enter one quarter-section of land, not mineral, of the alternate reserved sections of public lands along the lines of any one of the railroads or other public works in the United States, wherever public lands have been or may be granted by acts of Congress, and to receive a patent therefor under and by virtue of the provisions of the act to secure homesteads to actual setlers on the public domain, and the acts amendatory thereof, and on the terms and conditions therein prescribed; and all the provisions of said acts, except as herein modified, shall extend and be applicable to entries under this act, and the Commissioner of the General Land Office is hereby authorized to prescribe the necessary rules and regulations to carry this section into effect, and determine all facts necessary therefor.

Lee's Surrender.

A Washington correspondent of the Boston *Advertiser* relates these incidents, which, though not new, as to the material facts, will serve as a good sample of condensed history:

Mr. Clark Mills visited General Grant lately for the purpose of getting from him an authentic account of the particulars attending the surrender of General Lee, to aid him in his proposed work of representation of the event in bas-relief for his monument. On this point the President said: "Lee came in with a flag of truce to see on what terms I would receive his surrender. I stated the terms, and Lee said: 'Please produce that in writing.' I took some manifold paper and made several copies, and handed one to him, saying: 'There; I believe that is about as I talked.' Lee read it, signed it, and then passed it back to me, and I signed it. The manifold copies were then distributed to the several generals. The transaction took place in front of my tent, under the tree, and with a little pine table between us." To the remark of Mr. Mills that he had seen a picture representing the surrender as having taken place in a room with a carpeted floor, and in the midst of the staff officers of both armies, General Grant replied that "that picture was got up to show off the aids." The real surrender took place as above stated.