

Free Negroes, or Not?

Poor Cuffee, what is to become of thee, when even Massachusetts slams the door in thy face?—*New York World.*

The newspapers of the United States which come to us across the line, indicate that the abolition government at Washington, are having a perplexing time over the question of the disposition of the thousands of negroes that their hirelings have stolen from the citizens of Virginia, Tennessee, and other States of the Confederacy.

Very recently, as their papers tell us, the abolition government appealed to the abolition governor of Massachusetts, for domicil for five hundred negro families. But the governor is reported to have declined the proffered accession to the black population of that State. He "would none of them." The *New York World*, in an editorial comment upon the incident here alluded to, says:

"Now, what is the government to do with this contraband elephant? The Western States won't have them, the Middle States don't want them, and now Gov. Andrew promptly declares that they shan't set foot upon the soil of the old Bay State."

Reports of indignation meetings, assembled to denounce Mr. Lincoln's policy of sending the kidnapped and escaped negro slaves into the western parts of the United States, come to us in the papers.

Now these things go to prove that the people of Massachusetts and of other parts of the United States, are coming to be convinced that the idea of "free negro" is next thing to a humbug. They are satisfied that free negroes are not a class of citizens to be desired even in their system of white servitude. How much more incompatible are they with our system of negro slavery?

We suggested in a late article what we thought ought to be done with this class of our population. We are aware that some men would not only oppose the adoption of such a measure, but would regard it as an act of injustice to the "free" negro, if the government should remand him into slavery.

But the question seems to resolve itself into this simple form—Has the free negro been benefitted, or not, by the laws which authorized his manumission? If they have been benefitted, then the manumission laws were good things; if not, bad.

Bear in mind, the negro had no hand in this matter. We undertook to legislate for him. He was not a party to it. He had no voice about it. We said to his master, "You may manumit your slave." In doing this, we by implication said; that the condition in which manumission placed the negro, was better for him, than to belong to a master. The presumption is, that the law-making power will not give permission to the citizen to do injury to himself, or to another who might be at his mercy.

The conduct of our hated and hating enemies, so plainly evinced in the matter of the so-called "contrabands," and their unwillingness to have a very few of them settled, even temporarily, in one of their commonwealths, attests the fact that free negroes are worthless. At a time, if ever, when abolitionists, for consciences' sake, ought to tolerate and even desire to have these escaped slaves domiciled about them, we find one of their governors, if report be true, officially shutting the State's door upon them.

But we need not array evidence in proof of the fact, that the free negro, even by the admission of our enemies, is, as a class, a worthless being. And why is he so? And who made him so?

While he was a slave he was not worthless. He was very useful. He was, as a slave, respected by us. We found no inconvenience from his presence as an element of the community. There was mutual benefit.

But when it is proposed to reclaim this part of our Confederate population, gentlemen profess to be shocked at the idea of depriving them of their misnamed "freedom." We grant that this was the tempting bait that the manumission laws held out. But what have they proved in practical effect? Any thing more or less than deception? Than fraud upon the poor negro? Than deeper degradation? Have they not been, with few exceptions,

"Like Dead Sea fruits that tempt the eye,
But turn to ashes on the lips?"

Bear in mind, that the law-making power found the negro in what we claim to be his natural sphere of servitude. In this sphere all experience goes to satisfy us that he is both useful and happy. Laws are entered upon the statute books of the so called slave States, under the operations of which he is removed out of his natural, useful and happy sphere, into a new, unnatural and worthless sphere. Is the master to blame, or the law making power? We call this State our mother, and is it the part of a parent to give her children hurtful privileges? If a son ask of a parent bread, "will he give him a stone, or if he ask a fish will he give him a serpent?"

It will be said that Tennessee, and probably all the States now composing the Confederacy, repealed their manumission laws, so that masters cannot set their negroes free, now, within their limits. But what of those who were separated from their domestic relation under the operations of the old laws, and are now accumulated until they number by the hundred thousand in the limits, (including Maryland,) of the Confederacy?

Ought not the power that put them out of their natural sphere to put them back again, since experience and the superior judgment of those who have control of their destiny declare that slavery would be best for their posterity, and for the whole country?

In the old Union some slave States, to free themselves of the parasitic free negro system which their manumission laws grafted upon the body of slavery, afraid to meet the issue of their false legislation boldly, passed half-way laws, which only compelled free negroes to leave under penalty of being remanded to slavery. Free States enacted laws, as we have already intimated, forbidding any more negroes a right of abode within their limits. Thus the matter stood in the old Union. The unhappy free negro was made the foot-ball of a species of legislation which seemed to have no regard whatever either to his future, or present welfare—a purely selfish legislation which seemed to have no eye upon any thing but getting rid of "free negro."

We think that Congress would do well to declare all the so-called free negroes within the limits of the Confederacy, public property, and so abolish this parasitic thing which has been suffered to grow upon the body of our great domestic institution, until it has become already a very great evil.

But the free negro, so called, as a class have acquired certain privileges which the slave laws have not generally accorded to slaves, but which are not necessarily incompatible with the best interests of masters, and these privileges might with propriety, and as a matter of justice ought to be preserved to the remanded slave. We only propose to bring the free-negro back to what we conceive to be a healthy, natural, and enlightened condition of perpetual servitude. We might allow the

proposed class, under the attendant circumstances, and without detriment to anybody, a little higher step in our system of slavery.

The subject will be continued in tomorrow's Bulletin.

The Happy Family.

The following, which comes from the *St. Louis Republican*, indicates that there is a happy state of feeling existing upon the part of north-western people of the old Union, towards the New Englanders. While glorious Vicksburg almost single handed, holds the mighty throat of the North-west in her giant grasp, we think the affections of the two extremes of the abolition republic of the North, will rapidly intensify. And whether the real cause of the failure of efforts heretofore made by the abolitionists to open the Mississippi, are attributable to New England intrigue against the North-west, or to the impregnability of the Confederate fortress of Vicksburg, does not matter much. If the suffering, strangled people of the North-west prefer to give all the credit to New England rascality, why let them.

The *St. Louis Republican* says:

"The mercantile, mechanical, and farming interests of the people in all this section of country, can never recover from a long night of depression, of perfect stagnation, until the Mississippi River is opened to its mouth. But this will not be done so long as New England army contractors, jobbers and railroad capitalists can prevent it. And by the by, no infamous villainies connected with the stupendous speculations the downright stealings that have been the rule, not the exception, in this war, has so deeply injured the people of the North-western States, as the monster fraud practised by Eastern capitalists, contractors, &c., in this matter of keeping the Father of Waters closed. By their infamous maneuverings, their bribery, and their studied misrepresentations of facts to the authorities in Washington, those foul beasts of prey have succeeded in preventing the people of the North-western States from sending their millions of tons of produce down the Mississippi, to feed the Union army at New Orleans and along the Atlantic coast. All these irreparable injuries have been inflicted upon the North-western States by those who have purposely prevented the opening of the Mississippi, as a means of securing immense fortunes for themselves and particular friends or pets. What deep, burning and lasting execrations should not be heaped upon the heads of such traitors to the simple rights of the people in five or six States—such traitors to the best interest of four or five millions of the people, and such double-dyed traitors to the best interests of our common country?"

Soldiering Played out in Cincinnati.—The *Cincinnati Enquirer*, of the 21st ultimo, declares that the fighting material of that city is exhausted. It says:

"So far as obtaining recruits in the city is concerned, those who have offices opened here might as well close them up without further expense or delay. Those who have any military ardor have all gone to the war; those who remain behind will not go under any consideration."

Perryville.—We learn that the Confederate loss at the battle of Perryville Ky., was 500 killed, 1200 wounded, and 700 missing. The enemy's loss was about 6,000, including killed, wounded and missing.

Our informant says that this statement is substantially included in General Bragg's report.—*Mont. Mail.*

Death of a Venerable Patriot.—Parker Craig, a distinguished citizen of Kentucky, whose entire property had been confiscated or destroyed by the Federals, died at Knoxville, Tenn., last week. In his last moments he said to his friends:

"If Kentucky should ever come out and join the Confederacy, then place my body by the side of my old, valued friend, Henry Clay. But if it does not, let me remain a refugee in the land of Tennessee."

We clip the following items from the *Petersburg Express* of the 27th ult.:

Col. Wm. G. Davis, of the 1st Regiment Florida Cavalry, has received the appointment of Brigadier General, and been assigned to the command of Knoxville and a portion of East Tennessee, including the Cumberland Mountain Gaps.

Gen. G. W. G. Bickley, the founder of the "K. G. C." order, who is a refugee from Louisville, Ky., is stopping at present at the Lancaster House, in Bristol. The *Advocate* says he speaks in glowing terms of the ultimate success of the "K. G. C's."

The next session of the Confederate Congress will commence at the Capitol in Richmond on the Second Monday in January.

The State Legislature will reassemble on the first Wednesday in January.

The *Irish Times* positively asserts that numerous enlistments are being made for the Federal armies throughout Ireland, the recruit receiving \$40 on his departure for America, and the remainder of the bounty on landing.

Late U. S. Papers.—We are indebted to Dr. Bateman for files of *Cincinnati* and *Louisville* papers of the 26th and 27th ults. They were brought through by his brothers-in-law, Messrs Stevens. We shall make some interesting extracts from them for to-morrow's Bulletin.

A lady in Jackson, Miss., advertises to knit "socks for the million," at twenty cents a yard, for those who furnish yarn.

Funeral.

REV. WM. M. BARTLEY, Rector of Trinity Church, died about 4 o'clock Wednesday morning.

The funeral service will be held in the Methodist Church, at 2 o'clock, p. m., to-day, Dec. 4th.

Friends and acquaintance of the deceased, and the citizens generally, are respectfully invited to attend.

REV. THOS. A. MORRIS will conduct the funeral services.

Obituary Notice to-morrow.

Another soldier has fallen, and he fell on the battle-field, with his face to the foe, as soldiers wish to fall! He sleeps in his uniform with the calm look of his last triumph upon him! He fell in to the arms of his GREAT CAPTAIN, who hid him in His own bosom and bore him from the field! What an honor this for this young soldier whose death we chronicle!

He was a soldier of the cross. His Captain is the PRINCE OF PEACE.

FOR SALE OR RENT.

I DESIRE TO SELL MY HOTEL. I will take Confederate money, or sell on a credit of one and two years.

If not sold by the 15th inst. at private sale, I will on that day Rent it publicly for twelve months, and at the same time sell all my Household and Kitchen Furniture.

M. G. SIMS.
Winchester, Dec. 1st 1862—1w.

Dr. J. C. Shapard.

WINCHESTER, TENNESSEE.
Office at residence. House formerly occupied by Wm. Reeves.
dec2-dlm.

Splendid Chewing Tobacco.
TO BE HAD AT DANIEL BRAZELTON'S Store in Winchester.
Nov. 25—tf.

ATTENTION.

For all debts due the firms, of P. & M. Turney, or Turney & Shook, or Turney & Syler, we will receive Confederate money at ten per cent premium. For settlement call on Miller Turney, or J. F. Syler, at their office in Winchester Tenn.
Winchester, Nov. 16th. dlm

Notice Volunteers.

Being authorized to raise and muster into the service of the Confederate States, 10 companies of Infantry to form a Regiment, of any age, and will teach him to be a good pressman, which business when learned will make him bring two or three times as much hire as he otherwise would. Wanted immediately.
W. J. SLATTER.
Proprietor Daily Bulletin.

NEGRO MAN WANTED.

I WANT TO HIRE BY THE MONTH, or year, a sprightly negro boy, over 18 years of age, and will teach him to be a good pressman, which business when learned will make him bring two or three times as much hire as he otherwise would. Wanted immediately.
W. J. SLATTER.
Proprietor Daily Bulletin.