

THE FELICIANA DEMOCRAT.

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Official Journal of the Parish of East Feliciana.

OFFICE.—OPPOSITE THE POST OFFICE.

CLINTON, LA.

Saturday Morning, May 29, 1858.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO JUDICIAL ADVERTISEMENTS.

Sec. 2.—Be it further enacted, &c. That when there are two or more newspapers published in the parish, the defendant shall have the right of selecting the newspaper in which the advertisement is to be made, if done within three days after the notice of such proceedings or the seizure made under the process. If the defendant neglect to select, then the plaintiff shall have the right to do so.

THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.—We commence, on our fourth page, the publication of the Report of the Committee on the opening of the African slave trade, read by Mr. Spratt, at the Southern Commercial Convention.

We call attention to the proceedings and recommendations of a meeting of States Rights Democrats in another part of to-day's paper. In consequence of the busy season of the year and the want of a more general notice, there were but few in attendance, but we have every assurance that a large majority of the parish are thoroughly and warmly in support of the views of the meeting.

THE MONTHLIES.

GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK.—The June number of this ladies' favorite magazine is now useful, ornamental, and instructive, as could be desired. The illustration, entitled "The First Step," is well worth the price of the number.

THE LADY'S HOME MAGAZINE.—June has not yet arrived, though its harbinger, Arthur's monthly, is before us. It is full of pleasant reading, patterns, receipts, fashion plates, etc., and is a perfect bijou for female ingenuity to work upon.

We notice in Godey that both these magazines will be furnished to subscribers for Three Dollars and a half per year.

WESTMINSTER FOR ARMED.—This reprint has duly come to hand. Contents: The Religion of Positivism; Recollections of Shelley and Byron; China: Past and Present; Party Government; The Escobal Tracts; Our Relation to the Princes of India; Medical Reform; Organization of the War Department; Contemporary Literature.

"When I was down to the fair a good many years ago, there was a prize offered to the one who would come the nearest to making perpetual motion. Well, all sorts of machines, of all shapes and materials, were fetched there and shown, and the makers of them told how long they would run. As I was walking about among them I saw a sign over a tent: 'All who want to see perpetual motion and no mistake, meet here.' So I paid the admission fee and went in. Very soon a queer little man got on a box, that served for a platform, addressed the audience: 'Ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to exhibit to you the most wonderful invention you have ever seen: it's been running for full three years, and if nobody stops it, it'll run forever!' And here he unrolled a strip of paper. 'This is a printer's bill,' and he held it up to the gaze of the people.

We have on hand a number of these "perpetual machines," which we desire the makers thereof to "stop" by promptly paying the several amounts inscribed upon their face.

SUPREME COURT DECISION.—John McGuire, appellee vs. M. W. Hughes, et al., appellant. No. 584. Appeal from the Seventh Judicial District Court of East Feliciana. Judgment affirmed. Merrick, C. J.

SUICIDE OF HENRY WILLIAM HERBERT.—Mr. H. W. Herbert, better known by his writings as "Frank Forester," committed suicide on the 13th inst., at his room in the Stevens House, Broadway, N. Y.

INDIA.—The Calcutta correspondent of the Daily News says that the object of the Oude campaign has failed; that Sir Colin Campbell's conquest was but that of an empty city, and that the real battleground will be the territory of Rohilkund. It also says that nothing further will be attempted yet, owing to the hot weather.

Nana Sahib had been reinforced by Barauli Khan, and proposed to attack the English.

The British had experienced a reverse in the vicinity of Allahabad.

NEWSPAPER CHANGE.—Messrs. O. J. Wise and Nathaniel Tyler have become associate editors and proprietors of the Richmond Enquirer. Mr. Wise was formerly Secretary of the American Legation at Paris, and is understood to have been writing, *beyonc'e*, for the Enquirer, for some time past. He is a son of the Governor. Mr. Tyler is a son of Judge Tyler, of Prince William, and has been connected heretofore with the Warrenton Flag. Both are gentlemen of talent. The proprietors announce that they will soon enlarge the paper, and bring it out in a new dress.

Mr. Glover, an English member of Parliament, has been sentenced to four months imprisonment for having made a false declaration as to his qualification to sit in the House of Commons. It is the first conviction under the law.

CONTRAST TO PAULDING.—Intelligence was received in Washington, a few days ago, from the United States ship Dale, of the African squadron, to the 11th of February. She was then at St. Paul de Loumou, about starting for Monrovia. The Dale had called at the port of Benguela, and found an American seaman, Jeremiah Sullivan, from the whaler Osceola Third, of New Bedford, who had been imprisoned ten months by the Portuguese authorities, for merely being in company with a sailor who had committed an assault. The Commander of the Dale made a fierce demand upon the Government and threatened to bombard the town and fort, if the American was not granted a trial. His release was then effected, and the Dale took the two men on board, and brought them off.

The Washington Union has the official announcement of the confirmation by the Senate, of the appointment of Edward G. Loring, of Massachusetts, as Judge of the Court of Claims, vice Judge Gilchrist, deceased.

INCREASE OF SLAVE LABOR.

We give below another able number upon this interesting question. The arguments of the pugnacious who have attempted to oppose the measure, fall ignominious before the solid reasoning of these clear and powerful expositions.

The surplus slave population of the older southern states, if the expression be allowed, partially supplying the demand for labor in the newer states, and thereby absorbing a certain amount of capital, will be another and a very material check to a superabundant importation from Africa; and the impossibility of obtaining more than a limited supply, even in Africa, under the circumstances which would follow our revival of the slave trade, would be still another. But whether or not these checks would combine to prevent the great influx which is so much dreaded, it must be remembered that each State Government could for itself prevent importation.

It is the right of every state to decide what description of men shall be allowed to enter her limits. Every act of the Federal Government might be repealed, and still few or no slaves imported into Virginia or the Carolinas, if those states wished to prevent it. Congress can only prohibit—it cannot authorize importation. In contradiction of the state authorities; and even the power to prohibit is susceptible of grave dispute. In the event of a case being made before the courts of the country. Regarding, then, African slaves ever becoming an "incubus upon the country" as a simple impossibility, let us for a moment consider what would be the effect of importing them.

It is with profound deference that I venture an opinion which, though it be the result of my most mature reflection, may be erroneous; yet it does seem that, if as many slaves were imported as would supply the demands of capital not absorbed in the domestic trade, there would be no *sudden* effect produced upon the vested interests of the south. A gradual reduction would probably occur in the price of slave labor, but this would be too slow to occasion inconvenience to parties now interested in mortgages, bonds, settlements, or other obligations; and it is only a sudden change of price that can affect the material interests of the country. Besides the price of land would rise with the same certainty that the price of slaves would fall, because labor imparts value to land. Since the days of Paradise, what is land without labor? The landed interest of the country would surely suffer no detriment. An increase of labor, the only active source of value, would increase our agricultural produce, and, consequently, stimulate commerce, navigation, manufactures, and mechanic arts, and all these interests would be benefited. But in this moneyed age it is startling to hear of a reduction in price. Let us see if we should regret a reduction in the price of slaves.

Since the beginning of this year, the account-sales of over 2,500 negroes have come under my observation in a few newspapers from different sections of the south, and their average price has been \$635, making an aggregate investment of \$1,270,000. Now, in spite of the late money pressure, how many of these two thousand were really mortgaged for the price they sold at, or even *half* the price? How many of them cost their former owners what they lately sold for? If the truth could be known, it would probably be found that nine out of ten sold at an enormous appreciation above cost or liability for debt. The true effect, then, of these high prices, is to add to the assets of the *very few* who sell either to pay debts or speculate; while *the many*, who buy, as a permanent investment, must realize a proportionately diminished profit by having to invest at a higher rate. The effect of the scarcity of slaves, as compared with the demand for them, is to enrich the slave trader, but certainly not to benefit the great mass of slave owners, who have not even the remotest intention of selling even the most worthless of their slaves.

People, in common parlance, are too apt to regard slave property as a sort of *stock in trade*, but this is as general as it is egregious an error. Out of the 4,000,000 of slaves in our possession, or even out of the 2,500,000 that annually change homes, under the impetus of emigration, how many are sold as stock in trade? After the most assiduous investigation, which of course can afford but imperfect information, I believe not 10,000! Now, what company, with a capital stock of \$1,000,000, or even \$200,000, could survive a year on the profits of the sale of only \$10,000 of its stock? But, to come from generalities to particulars, are not the richest and most prosperous planters, and slaveholders generally, those who never sell? How many hundreds of estates are there from which no slave has ever been sold? Yet, what changes take place in the price of those whom their neighbors sell! But do these changes affect their wealth? Do they reduce their crops or the price of their crops?

It would be well to remember that the value of labor, in a new country like ours, is not governed by the same laws which control the price of merchandise. Labor is productive, and its price may vary according to the annual demand for its produce, but its value does not. Produce is perishable, and its value as well as its price is controlled by the quantity in the market. In one case the value is that of "use," in the other it is that of "exchange." Labor is not for sale, the produce is. A few large crops may cheapen produce, say 20 per cent; but this fact of itself does not cheapen labor, because the amount of labor employed is still the same—the capital invested and the cost of support is unchanged. And, on the other hand, a few short crops may appreciate produce 20 per cent; but this does not follow that labor appreciates in proportion; after all the fluctuations in the price of produce, the value of the *labor* will be found to be unchanged. Because the farmer loses a crop, does he consider his slaves, his horses, mules, and cattle worthless? Crops are annual affairs; but an investment in lands and negroes is a lifetime business. Besides, produce is made to be sold, and what is not sold is the exception; but lands and negroes are bought to be kept, and what are sold make the exception. It is quite true there is an inseparable connection between the price of produce and the price of labor; all I urge is that their respective values do not vary in the same ratio, because the sale of the one is the rule, and of the other only the exception.

Suppose two million of slaves produce four mil-

lion bags of cotton, and that the price of slaves for that year is \$500, and of the cotton \$10 per bag.—The slaves would be commonly sold to be worth \$1,000,000,000, and the cotton \$100,000,000. Now if this is true saying, the \$1,000,000,000 ought to be forthcoming in case the two million slaves are offered for sale, *with the same certainty* that the \$100,000,000 is paid for the cotton. But we all know that while the cotton would continue to go off to the very last bag at \$10, the appearance of two million slaves in a year on the vendue table would reduce their price from \$500 down to perhaps \$5. Yet these *same slaves* would be just as competent to produce four million more bags of cotton the coming year, which might again sell for the same sum of \$100,000,000, as before. It is unnecessary to point out the reason of this. We annually sell *all* of our market produce, and the rest of the world are cash bidders; but if we offered *all* of our slaves for sale, where would we find a purchaser? A reduction in the *price* of slaves need not alarm us.

A word as to profits. Where there is competition, a reduction in the price of labor is apt to cause a reduction in the price of that labor's produce; but since the latter depends upon the former, it follows that the profit, which is the difference between these two prices, is at least not likely to decrease, unless new competition intervenes, which is almost impossible in our case. So far from the profits of slave labor being diminished by a further importation of slaves, it may be laid down, with as much certainty as any human probability can, that the capital now vested in slaves in the cotton-states, and in all the new states, would be the first benefited. And this is due to the fact, that, in all slave countries, labor is owned conjointly with land. Large slave holders are always large land owners. Being largely possessed of cultivable land, they always have capital which they design for the purchase of labor, particularly if labor is cheap; and hence it may be inferred that whenever the slave trade is opened, *they* will be first in the market and foremost to avail themselves of a reduction in price, and thereby demonstrate the fact that the measure will benefit the great landed and slave interests of the country; and these being the basis of all others, the benefit would extend to them proportionately.

If we would, what a lesson we could learn from the history of our older states! Their agricultural fortunes were built up by native Africans and their immediate descendants, *when slave labor was cheap*. Apply to the western rivers and swamps the same cheapness of labor that subsides the eastern, and a much more rapid improvement will appear. Land now of little value would appreciate beyond precedent. Of all persons, western land speculators might favor the slave trade.

But besides cheapening slave labor, another effect of importing slaves would be to check northern pressure upon the frontier southern states, the consideration of which must be the subject of another letter.

BRITISH OUTRAGES ON AMERICAN VESSELS.

The New York Herald contains the following record of British operations in the Gulf of Mexico, within the three weeks prior to the 18th instant, and hardly a day passes but a new outrage is reported.

Ship Trope Bird, fired into, boarded and searched.

Barque Clara Windsor, fired into, boarded and searched.

Barque Glenburn, overhauled at sea.

Barque W. H. Chandler, board'd and searched.

Ship Whig, fired into, board'd and searched.

Ship W. H. Chandler, board'd and searched.

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