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An Incident of Fort Wagner.

BY PHOENIX GARY.
Fort Wagner! that is a place for us
To remember well, my lad!
For us, who were under the guns, and knew
The bloody work we had.

That was the spot where our gallant Shaw
Was left among the dead;
"Boried under his niggers, so"
The foul-mouthed traitors said.
I should not speak to one so young,
Perhaps, as I do to you;
But you are a soldier's son, my boy,
And you know what soldiers do.
And when peace comes to our land again,
And your father sits in his home,
You will hear such tales of war as this
For many a year to come.

We were repulsed from the fort, you know,
And saw our heroes fall,
Till the dead were piled in bloody heaps
Under the frowning wall.
Yet crushed as we were, and beaten back,
Our spirits never bowed;
And gallant deeds that day were done
To make a soldier proud.

Brave men were there, for their country's sake
To spend their latest breath;
But the bravest was one who gave his life
And his body to death.
No greater words than his dying ones
Have been spoken under the sun;
Not even his who brought the news
On the field at Rattlesburg.

I was pressing up, to try if yet
Our men might take the place,
And my feet had slipped in his oozing blood
Before I saw his face.
His face! it was black as the skies overhead
With the smoke of the angry guns;
And a gash in his bosom showed the work
Of our country's traitor sons.

"Your pardon, my poor boy!" I said,
"I did not see you here;
But I will not hurt you as I pass,
I'll have a care; no fear!"
He smiled; he had only strength to say
Three words, and that was all:
"I'm done, give Massa; step on me,
And you can scale the wall!"

THE FREEDMEN QUESTION.

"Veteran Observer," Correspondent of the New York Times, thus discusses this question, which is now assuming considerable importance in the minds of the people. We give his views for what they are worth:

The thinking mind of this country has been and is very much exercised on the question of "what shall be done with the negroes, for their good and for the welfare of the country?" Every honest man acknowledges that as we have caused their emancipation we must do our part in fitting them for freedom. Can they be made fit for citizenship? Can they be made as industrious and valuable as other members of society? It is not to be denied that a large number of intelligent people think that they are rather inferior, or, at any rate, from their degraded position, can never be made valuable citizens, except in a state of recognized subordination to the whites. There is another large class of people who think that, if they can be raised up, in any event, be a slow process; and probably the very apostles of negro elevation will admit in their inner mind that the problem of fitting negroes for a valuable and intelligent citizenship is a hard one. In my opinion the problem will be solved much more easily than many suppose; because God will solve it, as He has solved the war, by natural laws applied in His Providence to the case. I do not agree with either of the ultra schools of negro philosophy. The school of Wendell Phillips, and of many who did not hold his extreme views, hold in substance that the negro can be put upon an equality with the whites. Legally he may be, but socially he never will be. It is simply an impossibility. The Ethiopian cannot change his skin, nor the leopard his spots. It is entirely true that a black man may be elevated morally, intellectually, and politically, so that we shall readily and cheerfully admit his equality in these particulars. A Christian and a Republican will deny no rights, before the law, to any man. But it will not change the natural facts. The negro carries with him ear-marks to all, and he must remain a negro. But there is another fact which, in my opinion, works the same way. A race of degraded, dark-minded cannot be elevated in one generation. They must not only be free-

not only educated—but there are other things wanting. They must have the habit of elevation; they must lose the memory of the scourge; they must feel that no superior race looks down upon them. This they cannot do (if ever) in at least half a century. We must solve the problem of the freedmen by three very simple rules: 1st, to observe the laws of nature in regard to their condition; 2d, to organize negro industry on the principles of justice; and 3d, to observe the laws of Christian duty toward them, exactly as toward other men. To know exactly what these laws are, we have some aids of great importance in the recent census statistics. They throw great light on this whole question. We can do nothing right without first getting the precise state of facts. I have before me the volume of Cunn's statistics on "Agriculture," prepared by Mr. Kennedy, which contains the number of slaveholders and the number of slaves; and this very statement solves some of the difficulties of the question. As a fair sample of the whole, I will give the main facts as to the condition of slavery in Virginia, (including West Virginia, which, having very few slaves, will not materially vary the facts), which will show how easily the freedmen question can be settled as to two material points—property and industry. The following are the main facts, viz:

Number of slaveholders.....52,128
Number who own over 500..... 1
Number who own 100 and under 500..... 118
Number who own 50 and under 100..... 746
Number who own 10 and under 50..... 13,691
Number who own less than 10..... 37,775

Nearly half the whole number of slaveholders own less than five each. The idea commonly held of great plantations cultivated by slaves is entirely gone in regard to Virginia; and the number of such in the entire South is comparatively few. In Virginia there are not over a thousand such plantations. There are not more than 30,000 persons in Virginia who own farm laborers, and there are 80,000 farms of over ten acres. It is, therefore, evident that the great body of farms in Virginia are cultivated now by free labor. In the large County of Augusta, for example, there are about 558 farmers who own more than two slaves, and there are 1,500 farmers. It is perfectly clear that two-thirds the farms are cultivated by free labor. Now, these are most instructive facts. They show that in the largest slave States in the Union, (Yes, by the grace of God, the Union now,) the change from slave to free institutions will be attended by no practical difficulty whatever. One half the slaves are nothing more than house servants. Now suppose Jno. Jones owns four—a man, (waiter,) a woman, (cook,) and two children—and that the aggregate value is \$3,000. This is a fictitious wealth, for he has to pay all their cost of food, shelter, raiment, and medicine. Today, the law puts a fictitious value on them; to-morrow, it puts no value on them. What is the difference to him? He retains their services, pays them fifty cents a day, lets them go to school, and gets rid of all obligation to support them. Is he not better off in every respect? He certainly is. If they do not serve him well, he at once dismisses them, and they give him no further trouble.

In this changed condition of things, no real value has disappeared whatever. Virginia is worth every dollar she was before. She has lost nothing but a mere fiction. The property question is, therefore, absolutely nothing; and if it were, not more than one-fourth the white people of Virginia have any interest in slave property. Supposing the 52,000 slaveholders to be heads of families, (though many are not,) they represent but 800,000 persons, while Virginia has 1,250,000 white people. This ends once the whole humbug of the South dependent upon slave property. *Nominally there were three thousands of millions of dollars in slaves, but really there was nothing at all. The whole value of the slaves was in their labor, and their labor remains. And here I come to what I remarked that we must first observe the laws of nature. If we do not, nature will ride over us, whether we choose or not. The first element in the condition of the freedmen is that they should remain where they are until education and self-support has fitted them to seek an independent existence where they may choose to go. They who wish the freedmen well, and wish to restore this country to peace and harmony, will never encourage the negroes to remove while they can have human rights where they are.

Where could they go? Only into the Northern States; and that would at once excite all the old prejudices against them. At present the popular feeling is to aid the negro in any way likely to do him good. This feeling, however, is only the result of the war of the rebellion. It is not a permanent thing. It has removed no natural prejudices; and they can be removed only by time and education. The Black Laws, as they are called, in the Northern States, were enacted by the Democratic party, in subservience to the South. They are now repealed by their opponents, in opposition to the rebellion. Neither action tests the popular feeling toward negroes. There is a strong desire to do perfect justice to them; but there is also a fixed purpose never to allow them to come there in great numbers. Neither is it the purpose of nature. The negro is a native of tropical climates, and his natural tendency is toward the tropics. This is shown by his whole history in this country. Hence, whoever would do him good would never induce him to come to the North. Eventually, the negro will drift into or near the tropics. That is his destiny and his mission, and no one need trouble himself about it. There is very little of the territory of the present United States which cannot be cultivated by white labor; and the immigration from Europe will hereafter go into the South as well as the North, and build up new branches of industry. A large part of the negroes will be employed as house-servants, and as common laborers, till their intelligence, cultivated by education, enables them to become mechanics and manufacturers, and in that business they will be very successful. They cannot be land-owners to any considerable extent. That requires capital, and the whites will, for ages to come, retain the lands in their own hands. Do justice to the negro in regard to national laws and rights, and oppose no laws of nature, and the whole problem of the condition of the negro freedmen will be solved easily and readily. In regard to the negroes, I must speak at another time.

No doubt there are many readers of the Times who have thought me sanguine about the war; but they see today that I have held no views of the war which are not now accomplished. The nation has not only triumphed over the rebellion, but it has triumphed by the destruction of negro slavery, and it has triumphed by the destruction of every element, whether political or military, which was arrayed against the government; and nothing saves the remainder of the rebel power from annihilation but submission. Yes, disguise it not, the whole rebel Confederacy (which silly blockheads said could not be conquered) has come to plain, honest submission. Now, I say that the country is not only saved, (saved by the grace of God,) but that its negro freedmen, (from which so many have imaged evil,) will give it no real trouble. The troubles will disappear and a cloudless sky look down upon a happy people.

PROPER USE OF EXERCISE.—Those who are able can scarcely take too much exercise of any kind, so that it is kept within the bounds of fatigue. Walking, riding, rowing, fencing, and various games, as fives, tennis, cricket, &c., are to be recommended to those who are able to enjoy them. Horse exercise is particularly beneficial, when it can be borne, partly from the exhilarating effect of rapid motion, but principally by the gentle exercise of voluntary inspiration it induces. Reading aloud, and singing, when not carried to excess, are most beneficial exercises, and can be practiced by the most infirm. They tend to produce deep inspiration, equal expansion of the lungs, and give free access of air to the smaller divisions of the air passages, thereby decarbonizing the blood more rapidly. The lungs, diaphragm, and walls of the chest are gently but freely exercised, and the air tubes are free from obstruction. Like all other organs, those of respiration acquire power by exercise, and that which at first produces breathlessness is soon performed almost unconsciously and without fatigue. In all these cases, and in all gymnastic exercises, care must be taken not to hurry the circulation so as to produce either breathlessness or muscular fatigue.

You can easily keep yourself throughout the winter from freezing, by getting continually into hot water with your neighbors.

Sherman's "Bummers"—Their Services, Exploits, and Peculiarities.

Sherman's "bummers" have not received full justice at the hands of the historians of the campaign through the Carolinas. They have generally been spoken of as having rendered more service to themselves than to the army—as having been actuated solely by a desire to plunder, in all operations. Whatever may have been their object on starting out in the morning, they frequently proved themselves of great value to the cause before they went into camp at night, and the confessions of many an officer of rank go to prove that the army would have gone to bed hungry a great many times, but for these identical men, to whom a rather contemptuous name has been applied.

The title of "bummers" was given at a very early stage of the campaign, to such men as were in the habit of foraging on their own account, independent of the regular details made for foraging on every day's march. They generally lagged behind in camps until commands got started on the road, when they would go off to the right and left, taking by-ways and cow-paths, and leaving the main road to the main army. They generally managed to "concentrate" before going very far, and by the time the detachments were up, there was frequently a very respectable regiment of them. Their first object was to get "transportation" for their plunder, and the first half dozen farm houses they came to, were laid under contribution for rolling stock and motive power. Not disposed to stand on ceremony in such matters, they would willingly compromise on a buggy or a four-horse carriage, if there was no draught wagon at hand; and would accept of oxen if more fleet-footed quadrupeds were not attainable. They generally managed to load their vehicles in a very short time, with a miscellaneous cargo of looking-glasses, silver-spoons, china cups, live pigs and chickens, bacon, corn, butter, and eggs. It must be admitted that they seldom stopped to "forage" for man and beast, and too often appropriated what they could not use and did not want.

On several occasions the "bummers" found grist mills in their march, and ran them for a whole day, making corn meal and flour, for want of which the army would otherwise have suffered. It was no uncommon thing for a brigade or division commander to receive an "official dispatch" from a "bummer," to the effect that if he would send wagons to such and such a mill, he would receive so many hundred weight of corn meal or flour; and this, too, at a time when prospects of a dearth of the article so generously proffered were looming up. The "bummers" utterly refuted, by their conduct, the oft-repeated maxim that soldiers who steal won't fight. Very often after wandering fifteen or twenty miles from the main column, they found themselves confronted by a rebel force more than their equal in strength. Instead of beating a hasty retreat as is commonly supposed such men would do under such circumstances, they would immediately choose one of their number as their commander, and "go for the Johnnies" to the best of their abilities. If unable to defeat them, they would erect rude fortifications of rails and logs, and behind these hold the enemy in check until they were "reinforced" by Gen. Sherman. Not a few of the towns along the march were captured by the "bummers" and formally surrendered to them. On one occasion Gen. Howard actually received a dispatch from the "bummers," stating that they had captured a town, (the name of which I have forgotten,) and requesting that a division be sent to occupy it, that they (the "bummers") might press on! Rather cool, to be sure, for the "bummers" to call for "a division" to take the place of a few hundred scalawags like themselves, in order to allow them to go on conquering and to conquer.

The "bummers" proved themselves more valuable in finding out the enemy than any scouts or cavalry ever used for that purpose. They covered both flanks of the army, sometimes for a distance of twenty-five miles, and between what they found out by actual observation and what they learned from citizens, very few facts connected with the strength or position of the enemy escaped their knowledge. The results of "bumming" are apparent in every regiment, brigade, division, and corps of the army. I was

first impressed with this fact yesterday in a visit to some of the boys, in their improvised dwelling behind the fortifications. At one comfortable little "shanty," occupied by ten or twelve privates, I asked for a drink of water, and the aqueous fluid was poured from a silver pitcher into as fine a wine goblet as ever we need wish to use, and which, a few weeks since, was considered good enough to grace the lips of South Carolina aristocrats. In another tent I found a corporal scanning the pages of "Shakspeare's Heroines," a costly volume, full of beautiful portraits of the eminent female characters of English drama. He didn't exactly like the appearance of Cleopatra, and was, as he thought, improving it by the addition of a moustache from a lead pencil. Anna Bolleyn, Titania, Mistress Page, and Ophelia, also received artistic emendations from his Faber, which he felt assured would add greatly to their value as historic personages. A third tent I found richly adorned with oil paintings, somewhat damaged by having been carried on the points of bayonets for a long distance. There is scarcely a regiment in the whole army that has not got horses and buggies enough to accommodate a goodly portion of its members, and most of the division and corps head quarters spot barouches and carriages fine enough to elicit admiration in front of A. T. Stewart's, on Broadway. As for fine saddle horses, the Colonel or General who rides an animal without historical pedigree and a name intimately connected with southern race courses, must be regarded as unpopular, and under the ban of "bummers," who would scorn to see one of their favorites on a common government steed. Gen. Logan rides a horse that has won its weight in gold on the Charleston track. Gen. Blair rides a horse that has carried off the first premium at half a dozen trotting matches, and so of nearly every other commanding officer here. A people less disloyal than the citizens of Goldsboro would have prepared a race track for the accommodation of all the "bummers" as they arrived here.—Cincinnati Commercial.

"GALLILEAN, thou hast conquered." Such was the dying exclamation of Julian, the Roman Emperor. Though once a professed christian, he apostatized from the faith, and employed all his energies for the overthrow of the religion of Jesus and the establishment of idolatry. He shut up christian sanctuaries, re-opened and patronized heathen temples, and in face of the positive assertion of Christ that the Jewish temple in Jerusalem should remain in ruins, impudently attempted to re-build it. But he contended with one far mightier than himself, and was forced to submit. Wounded in battle by a Persian lance, he took a handful of his blood, and casting it up toward Heaven, cried, "Oh, Galilean, thou hast conquered!" Omnipotence was too much for him. And thus will all the enemies of Christ be subdued at last, for he must reign till he hath put all his enemies under his feet.

YOUNG MEN, PAY ATTENTION!—Don't be a loafer, don't keep the loafer's company, don't hang about the losing places. You had better work for nothing and board yourself, than to sit around day after day, or stand around corners with your hands in your pockets. Better for your own mind, better for your own respect. Bustle about, if you mean to have anything, if you mean to be a man. Many a poor physician has obtained a real patient by reading hard to attend to an imaginary one. A quire of old paper tied with red tape, carried under a lawyer's arm, may procure him his first case and make his fortune. Such is the world; to him that hath shall be given. Quit loafing, droaning, complaining; keep busy and mind your chances.

AGES of days have trodden their way over the highway of time, yet when, after a stormy winter, they chance along bright and balmy with the heralding of summer sunshine and winds, flood the fields with wondrous beauty, nestle in the sheltered nooks and on the southern slopes, creep over the steaming roofs and smile through the windows, we feel like saying—"Were the days ever so beautiful?"

A CAPTAIN of a rifle company was guilty of an unheard-of barbarity on a cold day last winter. He actually marched his men to the very brink of the canal, and then coolly commanded them to "fall in."