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THE NEW YORK PRESS.

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The Freedmen and the Right to Own Land.

Je and the Times. is is reported on good authority that some of the Legislatures of the lately insurgent States have pasted laws to prevent the freed blacks trom holding real estate. We cannot well concive a measure more claustrous to the future productive interests of those States, or more unjust in itself. All economists agr e that the holding of land has a remarkable moral and, therefore, industrial effect on the peasantry of a country-especially if the land be not too much subdivided, so that each person can secure a fair

I ivelihood to m his little plot.

The hope opossessing land is one of the most ives acting on the human mind. powerful me It is often th | emigrants from Europe. They such crowd. rds the West, with the prospect each of allow portion of a mother-earth. Our Government have wisely ed upon this motive in the free, which has undoubtedly been homesteau uragement to immigration ever the greater ountry. The possession of suffi devned in this

are the Irish tenant, or ever etter, at home with the Irish ca. He is another man here, enough to support him and the small Iri tion. In Ireland he is poor, thriftless, de saving, full of energy, and he is comfor Or compare the French peathe holding, on which he can sponding English peasant or producing and owned by him far above his neighbors sant who has h live, with the o Irish cotter. humself has 1 This motive and its gratifiacross the Cha cation act p race. The br ave found its use, especially on of India. They raised a

securing them in the owner-

liarly affected by it. He is g producer. He sticks to be held on a bad tenure, if especially a k time to be turned out, and t permitted to hope for or to sepecially it he naturally loses his greatest Governor Hincks, of Barba-DWD real esta despatch, once said:-" opinion that the abandonstates by the Creole laborers ment of the sa t India colonies is mainly to in many of the be a tributed the unsound tenure of the estates at the ceping the laborers in a state mistaken idea of dependency "I believe that the proprietors." And again, at the period of emancipation, its had been granted in free-even sold to them at prices ld get land elsewhere, and if, encouragement had been given the small allo hold to labor : at the same timtiem, there ould have been little, if any, the of the createst causes of the distress

nong the Ja alea blacks and of the late riot the tenure of land. on a population of some 450,060, only some

7 per ons elected the forty-seven members of Legislature; that is, the 16,000 whites goval solutely the hundreds of thousands of k , and naturally they passed their own land and made it very difficult for a negro to and or to hold it on a long lease. As a as his countrymen had in the Barbados e and and Windward Islands. He quatting" to the chances of being his little farm every six months; con d the large estates in distrust; he less profitable productions, and un-without hope; he and his employer are indissolubly connected together) er each year, until the richest island ics became like a rabbit-warren, and race in the world not only could not es to wear, but absolutely were too buy enough to fide their nakedness. a not in this forget other causes which gut about such great disasters in especially the distrust which an infe . ignorant race must always have a superior, if kept from all share in the nt, but we believe the most 'efficient the poverty of Jamaica, its distress ate slavery outbreak, has been the land, and the fact that the freedmen been, in general, landswners. We would these warnings to any reasonable man outh, who can possibly rise above the of the hour, and who would provide tuture, that the South can became and powerful and prosperous again. They have the destines of the Southern States heir hands. They can, perhaps, decide nerthey will have a contented, industrious, oving peasantry, owning lands, and equal c the law, making employers rich, and attracting capital by their productive industry, or they can have a discontented, degenerating suspicious, thriftiess, hopeless, and half tille peasantry, who will drag masters and land down to their own state of degradation, and repel in a igration and capital. They can make (pos sibly) a poor Jamasca or a rich Barbados out of the old slave States.

Peonage in Mexico.

From the Tribune. In the diplomatic correspondence which Mr. Seward has furnished, in obedience to a resolution of Congress inquiring into the system of slavery decreed by Maximilian, we have a few exact details of the system in the letter of the Mexican Minister, Senor Romero, The "patron," it seems, is master, and the workingman virtually a slave. The patron is bound to feed, clothe, and lodge his workmen, support them in sickness, and, on certain stringent conditions, pay them a sum of money, the fourth part of which, says Senor Romero, "will be lost to the workingman almost, because he can neither dispose of it nor the interest while the contract lasts." The workingman engages for five years at least, ten years at most; and the patron must maintain the children of the laborer. Says Sepor Romero:-

"This slavery is hereditary, because, according to article three of the regulation, in case of the death of the father (work) gman, the patron shall consider himself tutor of the children, and they shall contime in his service until majority on the same condi-tions as was the father.' The heirs of the patron will hold in their turn these workingmen in conformity with article five. To complete the odious practices of the holders of slaves, the regulation referred to contains (article six) an article against faritive alayes, by which, in case of desertion, the workman, when caught, shall be a signed, without wages at all, to the public works until his patron comes to reclaim him. To consummate this work of iniquity, artic's fifteen provides that in case of death 'an in-testate.' or without heirs, the peculium of the work-ingman shall pass into the control of the public

The features of this code do not essentially vary from the old slave laws and new apprenticeship forms of the South, or the notorious to conserve all the despotisms of slavery white rendering its legal aspect more plausible. Peonage gives its victims only the liberty to doom themselves to slavery, which is quite like a few of the laws which the worst men of the South are willing to enact against a majority of their fellow-citizens-citizens of the Republic-just as the Mexican peons appear to be citizens of the "Empire." The present spirit of our institutions cannot, we are officially assured, tolerate peon-age either here or there; and Mr. Seward has dope well in advising the Government of France, in clear and comprehensive terms, that "the perfect equality of men of the African race with men of other races throughout the whole conti." is as complaisant at was the Roman Senator's valet, nor have we any suspicion that this voyage in search of health was prompted or suggested by President Johnson, who is a straightforward

nent is a policy which the United States may hereafter be expected to cultivate with con-stancy and assiduity. The so-called Emperor, viewing the full prespect which this policy undisguisedly opens, may, if he chooses, resolve to sent his empire on a volcano, and in close neighborhood to such a dangerous magazine as republican freedom.

We cannot escape the curious coincidence of the faw nationalizing peonage in Mexico, after slavery has been destroyed in the United States, the establishment of Maximilian's Bureau of Emigration, and the Sonora enterprise of the ex-Senator and mock-Duke, Dr. Gwin. All the interests of colonization and emigration in the new "Empire" are now in the hands of exiled Rebels from the United States, Gwin was the first agent employed by Maximilian. Maury, Magruder, Shelby, Price, a handful of ex-Gover-nors from Louisiana and Texas, and a host of smaller Robels, have succeeded him, and en-larged the imperial tavor. Stolen land and cheated labor are the inducements offered to such Rebels as are unable to find freedom and "cheap niggers" enough in their own countrya policy which chimes harmoniously with Mr. Isham G. Harris' opinion of the Mexicans—"the most worthless population on earth"—which is another good reason why bad Southerners should go and make money out of them. Thus it singularly appears that our whipped exiles are anxious to obtain the whip-hand over somebody else, even if they have to go upon their knees to an Emperor to take the bribe. Six hundred acres of land and so many Mexican peons constrtute the barter for new-found loyalty, and are the conditions and prospec's of the transfer of slavery from the United States to Mexico. Finally, Maximilian, who has stolen a throne, builds up a great wrong against the Mexicau people in order to give the most comfortable asylum to our own wrong-doors.

The Independence of Canada.

From the Herald. The old colonial system of England has been greatly modified in later times. The successful revolt of the United Colonies, which became the United States, gave it the first great shock. Still the old fogy politicians, who imagined the colonies gave strength to the mother country, and the placemen of the aristocracy clung tenaciously to the Downing street government of these distant possessions. But the progress of more liberal ideas, caused chiefly by the wonderful success of this country after it became independent of England, overcame in a measure the prejudices of British statesmen and the influence of interested place-hunters. The consequence has been that the colonies of late years have enjoyed a much greater degree of seit-

government than formerly.

So great has been the change that some of the most liberal-minded English statesmen begin to regard them as nurseries of future independent States. They are aware that the United States have been of much more value not only to the world, but to British commerce in particular, than as colonies they could ever have this has made the pride of imperial dominion give way, to some extent, before commercial or individual interests. These ideas, together with a sense of the folly of attempting to coerce colonics which desire to be independent, have made rapid strides within a few years, and particularly with regard to the North American

colonies since our war. Every great revolutionary event produces a remarkable change in the sentiments of man-kind, and the action which is the focus of the revolution impresses its views upon the rest of the world. It is the spark which electrifies the whole lump. Such a nation becomes the pro-pagandist of new ideas, which make an epoch in history. Our own position at the present time is something like that of France during the revolution at the close of the last century. That event upheaved society from the very centre; it was a social and political earthquake. The old order of society resisted it; all the nations of Europe combined against it; but they could not prevent the progress of its influence. The mighty events of the last five years in this country have produced an extraordinary effect in the world, and the leaven is still working. The results may not be fully foreseen at present, but they will surely appear. The laws of nature are as inflexible in the moral as in the physical world. The greatest and earliest effect will be seen undoubtedly in those countries which are near to us. The colonies and States of the American continent feel more immediately this influence, though it has reashed Europe and will continue

to act there. Canada is now in a state of political fermenta-tion and change. The British Government, with that conservative monarchical instinct and foresight for which it is remarkable, essayed to hold in check the republican revolutionary influence to which the events in this country gave a new impulse. In fact, there was a general movement of European monarchies for this purpose. The confederation scheme of England to unite all the American colonies and create a vice royalty, or, probably, in the end, a kingdom, was a part of the general plan. The whole programme is a failure; and it is surprising that the statesmen of Europe had not sagneity enough to perceive that t would be so. The breaking down of the English confederation scheme and the events that are now taking place in Canada are only the first symptoms of that leaven which is to change the destiny of that country.

The desire to be annexed to the United Stales

is growing rapidly. The more far-seeing portion of the British press perceives this, and begins to discuss freely the question of independence or annexation. An astonishing change has come over England in a short time. It is now admitted by the leading organs of public opinion that if the Canadas really wish to be independent, or to be annexed to the United States, England should not attempt to prevent them becoming so. So far as we are concerned we should be picased to see the Canadians indepen-dent, for we consider it is the proper destiny of the American continent to become entirely emancipated from European control or influence, and we might not object to their annexation when they become thoroughly purged of their silly monarchical and aristocratic notions and airs. But we have no great desire to possess

their cold, semi arctic, and inhospitable country We have an immense domain in a temperate and genial climate, with the richest soil, and every variety of production, sufficient for a population of several hundred millions. What, then, do we want with Canada, except to have it freed from institutions antagonistic to our own If the Canadians will be independent—and it is better for them than to be as they are—we may take their case into consideration. But the best thing for them to do is to pack up their little effects and cross the border. Let them leave their shivering country, and emigrate to the teeming Western States or to the sunny South. The lands are rich, cheap, and in the greatest abundance. In a lew years the arctic frosts would be melted out of them, they would become would be mered out of them, they would become happy and prosperous, and they would wonder why they remained so long in their present iso-lated and desolate condition. This is the best advice we can give to lour Canadian neighbors.

Secretary Seward's Southern Voyage.

Although Mr. Seward is in no high sense statesman, he is a politician of consummate cun, ning. His voyage through the West Indies into the South Atlantic is a master-stroke of craft, He has caused it to be trumpeted to the four winds that this voyage has no political significance, and we are bound to believe him on grounds as unquestionable as those alleged by Cicero (who was as great a wit as orator), when calling at the door of a Senator and being told by the servant that his master was not at home, replied, with great apparent naivele, "That is certainly true, for I just overheard him tell you so," It is given out that this voyage is underteken for purely recuperative reasons, Mr. Sew-ard's physician having advised it. We do not doubt that the American Secretary's physician

statesman, not addicted to refined artifice. But persons who reflect on Mr. Seward's political relations will easily discover that his health is

the handmard of his hopes.
As an aspirant for the Presidency, Mr. Seward will be either a competitor with Chlef Justice Chase for the nomination of the Republican resident Johnson for the support of the whole country. In the present unsettled state of politics, he does not clearly see whether a Radical or Conservative role will be most for his advantage, and as he could not be in Washington, during the present month, without committing himself to one side or the other, it opportunely happens that his physician discovers that a voyage to the South Atlantic is needed for the benefit of his health. When Congress comes together after the holiday vacation, then will be the tug of war. the ensuing two or three weeks, the lines will be drawn which are to determine the future complexion of politics. Were Mr. Seward to remain in Washington, the necessities of his position would compel him to take rides.

He would naturally be looked to as the oracle and prompter of the Conservative Republicans. In such a contest as is close at hand, he could not be neutral; and his position in the Cabinet would compel him to support the President. But to act this part would effectually estrange him from the Republican party—a party which he nursed into strength, and which he has constantly felt owed him its nomination for the Presidency. It has been his destiny to beat the bush for others to catch the bird. If the Republican party were capable of gratitude, Mr. Seward would still be its leader; he is naturally unwilling to raise a hand for the destruction of his own offspring; especially as he has stronger claims on that party than he is ever likely to have on any other.

When Mr. Seward returns, the fog in which the politics of the country are wrapped will have cleared away, and he will be better prepared to choose his side. If he then sees that he must leave the Cabinet, he will identify himself with the Republican party and go into retirement as the professed martyr of his principles. But it, on the other hand, he judges that he has nothing to hope from that party, be expects to turn no voyage to account in another way.

Mr. Seward understood perfectly well that a voyage in which he would skirt along the Mexi-can coast, and probably have an interview at St. Thomas with Santa Anna, would occasion a great deal of vague speculation respecting its possible connection with the empire of Maximilian. The very disclaimers of any political pur-pose, which he has caused to be put forth, are calculated to suggest the idea. They prove his ready perception of the interpretation which the quidnunes would put upon his voyage, He knows that he has betrayed the Monroe doctrine. he is aware of President Johnson's fixed deter mination to support it; and seeing that the policy of the Government is certain to be changed on this subject, he wishes it to be inferred (if on his return, he should take sides against the Radicals) that the change was a consequence of his mysterious mission. If, in the struggle o the next three or four weeks, the President triumphs over the Radicals, he will be ready to take bold ground in delense of the Monroe doc trine; and if such an announcement is made just on the heels of Mr. Seward's return, he furtively supposes that he will be regarded as the instru-ment of the change, and that by this means he

may retain his place in the Cabinet.

If Mr. Seward, on his return, shall judge it expedient to identify himself with the radicals, he will claim no share in President Johnson's anti-Maximilian podey, and will stand on his past record. His Mexican views, in that case, will take their coloring from those of the Whig party at the time of our Mexican war; which was op posed because it would extend our frontiers south ward, and give the South a greater proportionate weight in the national councils. If Mr. Saward keeps to his old relations, he will defend his subservient truckling to Napoleon on the ground that the success of the Empire would bar the door to our further extension southwards, and thus preserve the ascendancy of the North in Federal politics.

This voyage of Mr. Seward is one of the most characteristic and artful things he has ever done. It takes him away from Washington at a time when he could not remain there and retain his present office, without using his influence actively against the radicals in the fight the President has determined to make with them, and thus destroying the bridge he has alway been careful to preserve for a retreat to his old associations. If the President triumphs, the great question next in order is the Monroe doctrine, and on this Mr. Seward hopes to cast his ugly record into the shade, by causing it to be supposed that his Southern voyage and secret influence inaugurated a change of policy. But a subtle, two-sided stratagem of this sort is not very likely to succeed.

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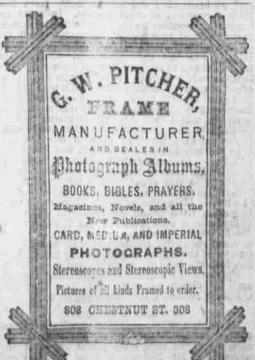
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