Evening Telegraph

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1869.

"KING COTTON" REGAINING HIS CROWN.

Ansuro as the idea that "Cotton is king," was in some respects, there was a substantial basis for the belief that the Southern portion of the United States possessed an immense natural advantage over any other portion of the world for the culture of this useful product. This belief is no longer a matter of theory, but a demonstrated fact. Great Britain has spent millions of money in testing It. At one time she hoped to gain considerable supplies from points adjacent to the eastern coast of Africa, but though the soil and climate of that region are better adapted to the growth of cotton approximating in quality to that produced in the United States than the other fields of British experiment, it is practically impossible to induce the natives to establish large cotton plantations, or to persuade white colonists to emigrate to a land where certain death awaits them. During the war great pains were taken to encourage cotton culture in South America, and money was liberally advanced to planters willing to embark in this undertaking; but despite these incentives, added to the continuance of high prices, the whole crop of South America and the West Indies for last year is set down at 253,500 bales. Great hopes were also entertained of Egypt, but though the natives of that country were tempted to risk the dangers of starvation by substituting the growth of cotton for their ancient staple, wheat, the whole quantity produced for export to England last year was only 193,000 bales. India, alone, has made important contributions to the British market. But despite the vast expenditures for railways to forward her crops to market, and despite the enforcement of the cruel policy which resulted in the starvation of a million of her inhabitants in a single year through their substitution of the culture of the coveted article of export for their usual crops of food, the largest yield yet attained was 1,840,648 bales of less than 350 pounds each, and the Indian cotton is so inferior that it could scarcely be used by the ordinary cotton-manufacturing machinery, except in combination with a large admixture of the superior American product. In one sense, therefore, American cotton is king, or at all events it can not only command the markets of the world by its superiority, but it is not possible for any other country than the United States to fully and satisfactorily supply the world's demand

Our capacity for production has been amply demonstrated. The whole quantity required is estimated at 6,000,000 bales, and in the year before the war our Southern States produced 4,669,770 bales. Even this enormous yield, however, fell far below the real capacity of our soil, for but a small proportion of the land well adapted to this culture was ever ntilized, and if reliable laborers were abundant, it would not be difficult, in a favorable season, to double the great crop of 1859-60, and thus to ensure a supply largely exceeding the entire demand. It is also now well demonstrated that cotton can be successfully cultivated in this country by free labor. The yield of the present year is estimated at 2,439,039 bales, which at present prices is worth more than double as much money as any Southern cotton crop produced before the war, and which, in quantity, falls but about half a million bales below the average Southern production ten years ago. As compared with the crop of 1867-68, however, there is a decrease of more than a hundred thousand bales, a corresponding increase of price, and a marked deficiency in the supplies required by cottonmanufacturers and consumers of cotton; goods. There is also said to be a growing disposition among the freedmen to prefer the cultivation of food to the culture of cotton; and considering their past experience, this tendency is not at all surprising.

for this great staple.

In view of these circumstances, it is evident that while emigration to the South is desirable and essential to the national prosperity on many grounds, it is especially necessary for the utilization of the indisputable advantages possessed by Southern soil for the culture of one of the most important articles of commerce. Cotton lands which in the South sell for a few dollars per acre would in almost any other part of the world readily command ten or twenty times their present valuation; and if an abundance of laborers is supplied to the reconstructed States, their superior advantages for the growth of this great staple will constitute an endless source of enormous wealth.

TORCHLIGHT PROCESSIONS.

As a matter of course, there are two sides to the story of the disturbance between the Invincibles and the Keystones, which occurred at Fifth and Chesnut streets, late last evening. From one standpoint, the Democratic club was solely to blame; from the other, the entire responsibility rests with the Republican organization. But if there were no such ridiculous performances as torchlight processions there would have been no disturbance, and it would not be necessary to attempt to sift the truth out of such a mass of conflicting rumor. The Legislature has wisely prohibited such processions within ten days preceding an election. At the next session another step should be taken in this direction, and torchlight processions of political clubs or partisan

organizations of any kind whatever should be prohibited altogether. It is absolutely impossible for such demonstrations to accomplish any good, while our past experience shows that they are fruitful sources of mischief and frequently the occasion of bloodshed. It matters not which is the attacking party; the direct source of the trouble is the system itself. The rival clubs are made up for the most part of young men who have not yet attained their majority, and whose judgment is quite as immature as their age. Many of them carry deadly weapons upon their persons, and never start out on a march without anticipating and preparing for just such a disgraceful encounter as we are called upon to record to-day. The sufferers in this case, as in nearly every similar case, are principally unoffending people who happened to be in the neighborhood of the disturbance at the time of its occurrence, and who are thus made to suffer for the folly of others. The strong arm of the law should be outstretched to prevent a recurrence of last night's scene by aiming at the root of

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