

THE JULY MAGAZINES.

"THE ATLANTIC." The contents of the July number of the Atlantic Monthly are as follows:—"The Alarm-Bell of Atli," by Henry W. Longfellow; "A Shadow," by T. W. Higginson; "A Woman's Pulpit," by Elizabeth Stuart Phelps; "Drives from a French Farm," II, by Philip Gilbert Hamerton; "Equal yet Diverse," by Burt G. Wilder; "Joseph and his Friend," VII, by Bayard Taylor; "An Ex-Southerner in South Carolina," by N. S. Shaler; "Oldtown Fireside Stories," by Harriet Beecher Stowe; "Criminal Law at Home and Abroad," by Francis Wharton; "The Shipping of the United States," by E. H. Derby; "The Tour of Europe for \$181 in Currency," by Ralph Keeler; "The Swallow," by Celia Thaxter; "A Day's Pleasure," by W. D. Howells; "Reviews and Literary Notices." From the article entitled "An Ex-Southerner in South Carolina," by N. S. Shaler, we take the following hints with regard to the condition and prospects of the negroes in that State:—

If one would form a good idea of the condition of the black population in the South, he should not limit his observations to the cities. Although he will there find some of the gravest defects of the negro, he sees them at the same time where they are sharpest by the white population. He should go to the Sea Islands and study the negroes, where they are the least under the influence of the whites. The Sea Island belt is on many accounts the most curious part of the South. At the bottom of the Great Bay of the Carolinas—if we may give a name to the nameless bend of the shore which stretches into the land between Cape Hatteras and Florida—the tides, which have only a foot or two of height on these points, have a rise of about eight feet. This tide acting upon the low shore, as it lifted itself above the sea, cut it into the most complicated system of islands and bays which can be found anywhere on our coast, not excepting the fjord region of Maine or Labrador, which it somewhat resembles. Before the war the region was the seat of the most profitable agricultural industry of the South—the Sea Island cotton culture. This variety of cotton requires for its growth an annual manuring of mud from the salt marshes, so that its cultivation is not possible except where all parts of the land can be readily supplied with that material. Before the war nearly every available acre of land here was employed in the cotton culture, and probably at least seventy-five thousand negroes were engaged in it. During the war the few native whites who belonged on the plantations were driven away by our armies, the plantation system quite broken up, and the lands confiscated by the Government. The large native population of negroes was reinforced by all the runaways who could find their way into our lines. The whole body of negroes was, during the occupation of our troops, under an industrious training in all the vices of the camp, diversified, it is true, by a certain amount of ineffectual school teaching. A noble piece of Quixotism sought to counterbalance the evil of the army by the school, and gave to every commander a vexatious body of camp-followers composed of teachers and preachers, who felt quite ready to build a new civilization on the ruins of that his army marched over; but it has left marks of its work little more permanent than the army itself. One sees now and then a school-house which seems to have withstood the elements, moral and material, warring against it. From one, I heard the drowsy hum which is apt to call up a variety of unpleasant recollections to every adult mind, and a certain difference of pitch in that woful inarticulate sound which comes from imprisoned youth struggling on the educational rack, told me that the school was full of negro children. I ought to have gone in and examined the social phenomenon, but one becomes strangely self-important in this dreamy air, which seems always to wrap the Sea Islands, and I could not at that moment have left the sunshine to see the innermost workings of the most wonderful social machine. One finds now and then a negro who can read a little—enough to get an idea of a few chapters in his Testament, or the stanzas of some song-book with which to spoil his wild native airs; more frequently you encounter some correct figure, who gives you a military answer to a question, revealing at once that when the boy was growing to be a man he carried a musket long enough to acquire the spirit of the soldier. But school and army are fading away. There is a steady outflow of the white population of these islands, and their places are supplied ten times over by the blacks of the up country, who come down to the shore with the certainty that the sea will yield them a subsistence of "raccoon" oysters, and with a vague hope that they may find there the Government officer who is to give them the "mule and forty acres of land" which has bequeathed the negro's steps ever since the proclamation.

The intensity of the Africanizing influences at work here can only be conceived by those who know how strong the racial characteristics of the negro really are. Observations made upon the negro where he forms only an inconsiderable element of the population are not calculated to show the features one finds here. It must be remembered that a large part of these blacks are sons or grandsons of slaves from the Guinea coast. It was informed that a number of the negroes brought over by the famous Scotchman, Wanderer are still among the Sea Islands, so that this people is more closely linked in blood with the ancient and unalterable peoples of Africa than are the whites of the same region with their European stock. In this multitude, heir to the ignorance and superstitions of that original chaos of humanity, Africa, there are only a few hundred whites, and these are mostly congregated about a few small trading towns. Some of the islands, with several thousand negroes upon them, are deserted by all the whites, except, may be, the storekeeper, who exchanges his wares for the products of the half-acre patches of cotton cultivated by the more industrious blacks, or the devoted Northern woman who toils her life away under the delusion that she can fight all Africa with a spelling-book and multiplication-table.

Until one has had the good fortune to see how thoroughly exotic the negro is, one cannot appreciate the difficulties of making him a part of the social system which fits us. The negro is not easily read; he hides himself, as is the habit of all oppressed races, quite adroitly sometimes. Under his covering of imitated manners or stolidity slumber the passions of a mental organization widely differing from our own. There are some superb qualities in him, and some which make his best friends almost despair. The finest bases for hope we have lie in his strong imitative faculties.

The all-important question is, what should we do to secure to this people the highest cultivation of which they are capable? Should we begin by trying to force upon them the last product of our civilization—intellectual culture—or should we first try and create in them the conditions of this intellectual culture? It needs no argument to convince an average mind that you could not effect any great alteration in a Comanche by teaching him English grammar. He would be a fool, indeed, who expected that the consequences would be the immediate change in the nature and purposes of the Indian. Now the fact is, we have almost as much to do in order to change the average negro into an intelligent citizen in a white society as we should have if we tried to embody the Indian into our Government; and we have begun by teaching him English grammar. The school has its place in civilization, and, as a teacher, I should be the last to belittle its importance; but it is the last step in the development of a race, not the first, and its value consists in the fact that it is the final result of the education of a thousand years of effort; and when we undertake to civilize a race as foreign to us in every trait as the negroes, by imposing upon them this final product of our national growth, we wrong ourselves and them. Those who are clamoring for immediate high-school education for the negro will be the first to condemn him, when it is seen that this will not give him what he needs. And unless he is trained in thrift, unless he is freed from the instincts which the savage life of a hundred generations have planted in his blood, this education can do nothing for him. The training which is to shape the sensitive, enthusiastic, fickle negro into a useful citizen must be the training which a society alone can give. This schooling must come from the combined example of his neighbors of the higher race—men and women studiously working out their careers, starting from the same level of fortune as he does; give him the influence of this example, and you give him a chance which he has not at present, which he cannot have until those who have taken his destiny into their hands get some idea of the magnitude of their task.

To give the negro this chance two things need to be done. First, every effort must be made to bring the best influence of the existing white population to bear upon him, by removing all barriers of hate which the population may have left, and starting that population at once on the road to prosperity. But this population is too small for its work, and it is also in itself in need of teaching in its new condition, so that it is necessary to seek in the immigration of an industrious foreign population the teachers needed for the work. Every German family would be to the negro a school worth more to him, at the present stage of his career, than all the universities in the world. I saw at Beaufort a German of that admirable class well trained in both head and hands, who intended trying to found a colony on one of the islands. God grant him success! His hard-working countrymen may do for this black people what the Incas did for the old Peruvians.

Every move of the Government has been clearly against the negro in this district. Confiscating the property of the whites, it cut him off from what would have been, on the whole, the good influence of his former masters. The whites who supplied their places were, perhaps, the worst specimens which could have been sent among the negroes. The property of the whites, taken under the law for the direct tax of 1861, has been absurdly held by the Government, the negroes remaining upon it as tenants at will. They pay a tax equal to about fifty per cent on the cash value of much of the land, and have no certain future. In place of some practical teachings in the arts of life, the Government has endeavored to civilize them with the alphabet. Besides this, the constant tutelage has fixed in the negro the belief that if he will just sit still and open his mouth, Uncle Sam will see that he is fed.

Experience, which would act in spite of the Government, has taught the negroes something, so that they seem to be slowly gaining in some things. A gentleman of excellent judgment tells me that they are more honest than they were just after emancipation. But there can be no real future until the North learns that she cannot exercise all the evils here with that idol of our modern civilization, a primary school; until they learn that the negro, if he is to be lifted up to the level of ourselves, must be raised by strong hands and active brains, by helpers who, not seeking to ease the hard road he has to travel, toil with him, and give the real aid of example.

The July number of *The Riverside Magazine* opens with one of Hans Christian Andersen's pleasant stories, which is followed by an interesting variety of reading matter in prose and verse that will be appreciated by the young people. The magazine is handsomely illustrated and the number is altogether above the average.

The *Nursery* commences a new volume with its July number, which the little folks will find as usual full of pictures, interesting stories and rhymes such as children love to listen to and learn.

The June number of the *American Exchange and Review* has an excellent series of practical, scientific, literary, commercial, and industrial articles, covering a great variety of subjects.

The *Journal of the Franklin Institute* for June treats of new inventions, new discoveries and scientific investigations and other matters of interest and importance.

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