The Democratic Watchman.

"STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION."

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[illegible]
The wheel is dripping and clattering still,
But Jerry, the miller, is dead and gone.

Year after year, early and late, [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]
And whether [illegible]
Nobody [illegible]

'Twas "Little Jerry" [illegible]
And "Little Jerry" [illegible]
[illegible]

'Twas "Little Jerry" [illegible]
[illegible]
For Jerry was born when [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]

Always busy and always merry,
Always doing his very best,
A notable wag was little Jerry,
Who uttered with his standing jest.

"When will you grind my corn, Jerry?"
"Nay," quoth Jerry, "you needn't scold;
Just leave your grist [illegible]
[illegible]

How Jerry lived [illegible]
[illegible]
Our mortal life [illegible]
"The brook, [illegible]"

And then 'twas whispered mournfully
The leech had come and he was dead;
And all the neighbors flocked to see—
"Poor Little Jerry!" was all they said.

They laid him in his earthy bed,
His miller's coat his only shroud—
"Dust to dust" the parson said,
And all the people wept aloud.

For he had shunned the deadly sin,
And not a grain of over-toll
Had ever dropped into his bin,
To weigh upon his parting soul.

Beneath the hill there stands the mill,
Of wasting wood and crumbling stone;
The wheel is dripping and clattering still,
But Jerry, the miller, is dead and gone.

—Exchange.

THE "FREEDMEN'S BUREAU."

General Steedman's Report for the States of Virginia and North Carolina---Unheard of Cruelties Practiced by the [illegible]---Negroes Suspended by the Wrists, [illegible] they are Flogged by the "Philanthropists of Zion."---Officers and Agents of the Bureau as "Slaveowners" and Cotton Producers.

General Steedman and Fullerton, the commissioners appointed by the President to investigate the operations of the Freedmen's Bureau in the Southern States, have presented the following report for the States of Virginia and North Carolina.—The people will bear in mind that this is the institution for which the Rump Congress lately appropriated twelve million dollars of their money, and the same institution which the Rump Congress attempted to enlarge and make perpetual, at an annual expense to the tax-payers of at least seventy-five million dollars a year. Read, tax-payers, read the disgraceful record of Disunion "loyal league" plundering:

WILMINGTON, N. C., May 8, 1866.

Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War:

We have the honor to report that in obedience to instructions of April 7 last, directing us to "inspect and report upon the Freedmen's Bureau in the military departments of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas," that we have performed that duty in the departments of Virginia and North Carolina, and submit the following report of our observations. We deem it proper to communicate the result of our inspection in these States before proceeding further in the performance of the duty assigned to us.

It has been our endeavor to ascertain, by a thorough and impartial investigation, the manner in which the Bureau has been administered and conducted in these departments, and to observe the effect produced by it upon the relations between the white and black races. In pursuing our investigations we have endeavored to arrive to the truth, and we feel that we have succeeded in doing so, by thoroughly examining and conversing with representatives of all classes of people, white and black, as well as officers on duty in the military service and in the Freedmen's Bureau in said States. We have visited all the cities and towns of any importance, and the headquarters of each district of the Bureau in Virginia and North Carolina, and also have taken advantage of every opportunity to converse with and obtain the opinions, with reference to the Bureau of citizens whom we have met on the streets, at the hotels, and while traveling on the cars.

VIRGINIA.

There are on duty in Virginia the following numbers of [illegible] hundred and thirty-three civilian employees, classified and paid as follows:

[illegible]

[illegible] Nine thousand freedmen received rations from the Bureau in the month of December [illegible]

	Men.	Women.	Child'n.	Total.
December	1,620	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
January	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
February	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

WHY THE NEGROES NEED ASSISTANCE.

A majority of the freedmen to whom this subsistence has been furnished are undoubtedly [illegible] their accumulation in large numbers in certain places where the land [illegible] and the demand for labor is limited. [illegible] localities [illegible] to provide for the able-bodied, and are unable to care for the [illegible] among them, owing to their great number and the fact [illegible] the localities in which they have congregated during the war. The necessity for the relief extended to these people, both able-bodied and helpless, by the Government will continue as long as they remain in their present [illegible]

In those districts of Virginia where the affairs of the Bureau have been faithfully and impartially administered by men of sound judgement and discretion, there has been no conflict between the agents of the Bureau and the citizens. In all such districts the agents are working in harmony with the civil officers of the State, and are assisted and supported in the performance of their duties by the citizens. But in many places where the Bureau has not men of capacity and integrity a very unsatisfactory condition of things exists. This originates in the arbitrary, unnecessary, and offensive interference of the agents of the Bureau with the relations between the planters and their hired freedmen, causing vexatious delays in the prosecution of labor, and imposing expense and costs in suits before themselves in trivial matters that could readily be adjusted by the friendly advice of a sensible man. The effect produced by the action of this class of agents is bitterness and antagonism between the whites and freedmen that can never be realized. Where there has been no such interference or bad advice given to the freedmen by the agents of the Bureau, there is a growing feeling of kindness between the races, and good order and harmony prevail.

SPECIMEN OF DECISION OF THE BUREAU.

As an evidence of the manner in which this arbitrary power is exercised, we would state that an agent of the Bureau, presiding in a freedmen's court in Accomac county, decided a question of title to land as follows: A colored man, who was freed twenty years ago by his master, and who was permitted through the kindness of this master to make his home on the plantation wherever he chose, set up a claim to ten acres thereof around a cabin in which he had lived for ten years. The agent decided that the colored man had acquired title to the ten acres by adverse possession, and forbade the owners of the plantation from bringing the question again before his court, or any other court, on pain of imprisonment.

A NEGRO DIVORCE CASE.

These agents exert the widest latitude in the exercise of their judicial functions, trying questions involving title to real estate, contracts, crimes and even actions affecting the marital relations. We witnessed the trial of a divorce case before the subagent at Charlottesville. The trial occupied about ten minutes, and resulted in a decree of divorce.

TRANSFERENCE OF THE POWERS TO THE MILITARY.

The Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau for Virginia having turned over to the civil courts all criminal cases in which freedmen are interested, and having made preparations also to turn over civil cases, leaves no other duty for the agents to perform except to supervise contracts or to care for the aged, infirm and helpless. We therefore respectfully recommend that the officers of the Bureau be dispensed with, and that their duties be performed by the officers commanding the troops in the department. Such a change would relieve the Government of a large, and, in our opinion, wholly unnecessary expense of supporting a superfluous number of officers and employees, while the duties can be as efficiently and satisfactorily performed in the manner in which we have suggested.—As long as the Government of the United States exercises any control whatever over the Southern State not exercised in the other States of the Union, so long the presence of military force will be indispensible. The presence of both the Bureau and military force is unnecessary. The officers commanding the troops can discharge the duties now performed by both; but the officers of the Bureau, without the presence of the troops, would be powerless to execute even their own orders.

PAST SERVICES OF THE BUREAU.

At the close of the war, in the chaotic condition in which society was left in the entire absence of all civil authority, the judicious and sensible officers of the Bureau, supported by the military, exercised a good influence, and did much to preserve order and assist in the organization of free labor. The restoration of civil law, and the recognition of the civil rights of the freedmen, as evidenced by the change made by the Legislature in the laws of Virginia, giving them the right to hold property, to sue and be sued, and to testify in the courts in all cases in which they may be interested, (a gratifying proof of the growing feeling of kindness toward them on the part of the whites) render the freedmen, in our opinion, perfectly secure, if left to the care of the law and the protection of the troops.

INFLUENCE ON THE FREEDMEN.

There appears to be [illegible] opinion as to whether the [illegible] of the Bureau [illegible] has been to promote habits of [illegible] or idleness among them. In our judgment the effect produced has depended wholly on the character of the officers. Prudent and industrious freedmen rarely call upon the Bureau for advice or assistance. It is the idle and worthless who look to it for support.—[illegible] The mass of the freedmen have an idea that the Bureau possesses some [illegible] power to [illegible] them, and that [illegible] can fall back upon it [illegible] These ideas [illegible] to support themselves and their families. They also regard the existence of the Bureau as evidence that the Government looks upon the white people of the South as their enemies, which is calculated to excite suspicion and ill-feeling on their part.

GEN. BROWN'S ADMINISTRATION.

The assistant commissioner of the Bureau for Virginia, Brevet Brigadier General Brown, is laboring faithfully and zealously to harmonize and protect the interests of both races. We discovered no hostility among the white people of Virginia to the education of the freedmen. In several localities, more especially at Lynchburg and Charlottesville, where we thoroughly examined into this subject, the people were taking much interest in the establishment of [illegible]

[illegible] duct of the officers of the Bureau in Virginia is outside of their official duties.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Having completed our duties in Virginia, we proceeded to the Department of North Carolina, and arrived at Raleigh on the 22d of April. Here we saw the assistant commissioner of the Bureau for said State, Colonel E. Whittlesey, and obtained from him the following information as to the number of military officers and civilians employed, and the number of freedmen to whom rations have been issued since the first of December last in said State:

Commissioned officers in the military service: One colonel, one lieutenant colonel, two majors, seventeen captains, six first lieutenants, eight second lieutenants, one chaplain.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

9 contract surgeons, at per month	$100 00
36 hospital attendants, at average pay each per month	11 25
19 civilian employees, clerks, agents &c, at an average pay per month of	77 20
4 laborers, at an average pay per month of	11 90

In addition to the foregoing, enlisted men are detailed as orderlies, guards, &c., by commanding officers of the different military posts where officers of the Bureau are serving.

Rations have been issued as follows:

	Men.	Women.	Child'n.	Total.
December	516	2,469	2,879	[illegible]
January	553	2,567	3,712	[illegible]
February	369	2,270	3,507	6,146
March	321	2,205	3,406	5,932

The same reason that exists for issuing rations to the freedmen of Virginia, and the necessity for the continuance of this relief, apply to freedmen of North Carolina.

FEELING TOWARDS THE BUREAU.

We found the feeling towards the Bureau much the same as that already stated as prevailing in Virginia, except that there appears to be a more universal desire in this department on the part of all classes to have it removed. This feeling is no doubt attributable to the misconduct of many of the officers of the Bureau, such as working plantations, running saw mills, manufacturing turpentine and tar, &c., operations which bring them, armed with authority of their official positions, into competition with the citizens who are employing freedmen.

CONDUCT OF THE AGENTS.

We have investigated *some of the charges* made against agents of the Bureau, and in pursuing our inquiries on this point commenced with the assistant commissioner of the State, Col. E. Whittlesey, to whom we addressed the interrogatory: "Do you know of any person in the military service now on duty with the Freedmen's Bureau in this department who is, or has has been since entering upon the duties of his office, engaged or interested, either directly or indirectly, in the cultivation of any lands within the department?" He answered "No." Subsequently he addressed us a note hereto appended, in which he stated that, in order to assist the planters in hiring freedmen and trying fairly the experiment of free labor, he and some officers of the Bureau had loaned money, and thus indirectly had an interest in cultivating farms. On receiving this note we addressed Colonel Whittlesey further interrogations, a copy of which is hereto annexed, to which he replied in a communication, also hereto appended, disclosing the fact that he is interested as an equal partner with the Rev. Horace James, of Massachusetts, formerly captain and acting quartermaster Freedmen's Bureau, and with Mr. Winthrop Tappan, of Maine, in the cultivation of a large farm in Pitt county, N. C. He also stated therein that Captain F. A Seeley, superintendent of the Bureau for the Eastern District, N. C., is interested in the cultivation of a plantation in Wayne county, N. C., with a Mr. Potter, and that Captain Isaac Rosekrans, commissary subsistence, is interested with a Mr. Brooks in the cultivation of a plantation in Pitt county, North Carolina.

A [illegible] EXCEPTION.

From Raleigh we proceeded to Salisbury, where we found Major Clinton A. Cilley, superintendent of the Bureau, having charge of the Western District, embracing fifty-one counties of the State. This efficient and competent officer has administered the Bureau within his district with much ability and impartiality. We conferred with the leading white citizens, embracing both those who had formerly been rebels and those who had been Union, and also with a delegation of intelligent colored people representing the freedmen, all of whom agreed in the statement that the freedmen were at work, were perfectly satisfied, and that good feeling and harmony prevailed between the whites and blacks throughout the district. Major Cilley is not interested in the cultivation of any plantation, or in any other business, [illegible] officers serving under him [illegible] from engaging in any enterprise which would enable them to appropriate to their control the labor of freedmen, under their jurisdiction, to advance their private interests. We attribute much of the order and contentment of the freedmen in the Western District to Major Cilley's judicious and honest administration.

BACK TO RALEIGH.

After completing our inspection of the operations of the Bureau in Major Cilley's district, we returned to Raleigh, where we [illegible] for the purpose of [illegible] an interview with Col. Whittlesey [illegible] we were obliged to address him certain interrogatories in writing, to which he afterwards replied as before stated.

AFFAIRS AT NEWBERN.

On the [illegible] we left Raleigh for Newbern, the headquarters of Capt. F. A. Seeley, superintendent of the Bureau of the Eastern District of North Carolina. We at once proceeded to investigate the affairs of the Bureau and the conduct of its officers in this district. Captain Seeley was interrogated as to whether he was interested in any manner, directly or indirectly, in the cultivation of lands, or in any other private business requiring the labor of freedmen. He answered that he was not, except indirectly in manufacturing lumber, having purchased or being about to purchase, with two of his clerks, a saw-mill, about forty miles [illegible]

[illegible] men's Bureau for the district, entered into partnership with them, about December last, in a contract to cultivate the farm of Mr. Geo. Collier, a citizen of North Carolina, near Goldsborough. They commenced operations by planting seven hundred acres of cotton, and some corn, this work necessarily requiring the labor of a large number of freedmen. Dr. Rush stated that some two weeks since he had conditionally purchased the interest of Capt. Seeley in this plantation, but had not yet consummated the contract. Mr. Potter stated that about a fortnight ago Dr. Rush, he himself, and others had conditionally purchased a *part* of the interest of Captain Seeley, and that Captain Seeley still owned an interest in the plantation. Without being able to determine from the testimony how far Captain Seeley is interested in this plantation, it is perfectly evident that he prevaricated in his answer to our interrogatory.

MISSING RATIONS.

In one of our interviews with the freedmen at Newbern some of them, who were employed in the Commissary Department of the Bureau, stated that rations in bulk had been frequently taken from the supply warehouse at unusual hours, before the doors were opened for the transaction of business, and hauled off in carts and wagons, and that on one occasion they had followed a cart containing four barrels of pork, to see if it went to the freedmen's ration house. They ascertained that it did not. We investigated this particular case. Captain Rosekrans stated that he knew nothing about it. His brother, a citizen, whom he has employed to act as commissary sergeant, stated that the four barrels of pork alluded to were ordered by himself to be taken from the store-house to the building from which rations are issued to the freedmen, but that the driver of the cart *had made a mistake and took the pork to the wrong place*, a provision store kept by Mr. P. Merwin, and that immediately on discovering the mistake he had it rectified and the pork returned to the store-house. Afterwards we called upon Mr. Merwin, who stated that at about the time Mr. Rosekrans said the pork had been sent by mistake to his store he *borrowed* four barrels of pork from Captain Rosekrans, which he had not yet returned. He also stated that Captain Rosekrans on that day, and after his examination before us, called at his store and requested him to return the four barrels of pork immediately. Mr. Merwin further stated that he had exchanged with Captain Rosekrans two barrels of brown sugar for two barrels of white sugar, and paid Captain Rosekrans *five cents per pound* for making the exchange.

THE CRUELTIES OF REV. MR. FITZ.

Opposite Newbern, on the south bank of the Trent river, there is a settlement composed exclusively of freedmen, and containing a population of about four thousand, whose condition is *truly deplorable*. These unfortunate people came within our lines and were located there during the war. They are living in small huts, built by themselves of lumber manufactured by hand; these huts, generally containing but a single room, each of which is occupied, in most cases, by large families. The appearance of this settlement, recently scourged with the small-pox, is well calculated to excite the deepest sympathy for the helpless condition of its inhabitants. The decrepit and *helpless among them are supported* by the Government of the United States, and the remainder procure an uncertain and scanty living from little jobs about Newbern—from fishing from small boats, huckstering, &c. The Rev. Mr. Fitz, formerly an army chaplain, presides over this colony as assistant superintendent of the bureau for the Trent river settlement. This agent has exercised the most arbitrary and despotic power, *and practiced revolting and unheard-of cruelties on the helpless freedmen under his charge*. The outrageous conduct *of this man was brought to our attention* by a delegation of freedmen from the settlement, who called upon us and made statements in relation to his oppressions and outrages which we could scarcely credit. After hearing their statements we visited the settlement, convened the freedmen, investigating the charges against this man, and ascertaining that he had been guilty of even greater wrongs and oppressions than had been complained of. In addition to the testimony of the freedmen, we took the statements of four intelligent ladies from the North, who are teaching school in the settlement. Among the many acts of cruelty committed by Superintendent Fitz, we *found that he had in two instances suspended freedmen with cords around their wrists, their feet not touching the floor, and kept them in this position, in one case four, in the other case six hours*; that he sentenced a freedman to an imprisonment of three months for a trivial offense, that of wrangling with his wife. He kept another man, who was arrested for debt, shut up in the black house—the prison—for months, while his wife and children, reduced to abject destitution, died with the small-pox, [illegible] On another occasion, when one of his guards reported to him that a colored woman had spoken disrespectfully of him, without even inquiring what the woman had said, he ordered her to be imprisoned until the next morning at nine o'clock, when she should be brought before him to answer for the indignity. In one instance he imprisoned [illegible] *for playing in the streets on the Sabbath day.* He imposed a fine of sixty dollars upon an aged freedman for having told another freedman that he was about to be arrested by Mr. Fitz. This poor old man not having the money to pay the fine, was imprisoned until the next day, when his son paid the fine, with three dollars additional as jail fees.

[illegible] AS TAXES.

The land upon which the huts in this settlement are built is owned by certain heirs in North Carolina, and is held by the Freedmen's Bureau as abandoned property. A tax, which Superintendent Fitz says goes to the support of the Bureau, is imposed upon the owner of each hut for ground rent. If the occupants fail to pay this tax promptly, they are either turned out into the streets or imprisoned; [illegible] the Superintendent for the payment of the tax. All business [illegible] is taxed for the same [illegible]

five dollars on each horse and cart, &c. The failure to pay these taxes when due at once subjects the property taxed to confiscation. We were unable to ascertain what amount of money had been collected by Superintendent Fitz, or what disposition has been made of it. The imperfect manner in which the books were kept would have rendered a lengthy and detailed examination necessary to arrive at even an approximate idea of the amount of money collected. In answer to the question as to what justification there was for the oppressive burdens he had imposed upon upon these people, Superintendent Fitz replied that Captain Seeley told him, "I must have a thousand dollars a month from that settlement." He also furnished us with a sworn statement, herewith forwarded, marked "E," in which he attempts to defend his conduct by stating that he acted in obedience to the orders of his superior officers in the Bureau.

CAPTAIN SEELY SCREENING HIS SUBORDINATES.

In an interview we had with Captain Seely, that officer evinced a desire to shield Superintendent Fitz by stating that a great deal of what was said against him resulted from prejudice, notwithstanding he had the sworn testimony before him that the charges *against Fitz were true*.

BUREAU OFFICERS SHOOTING DOWN A FREEDMAN.

While at Newbern investigating the conduct of the officers of the Bureau, and the reported oppressions of the freedmen by this *class of persons, our attention was called to* the alleged killing of a freedman by a white employee of Colonel Whittlesey, assistant commissioner of the Bureau for North Carolina, and the Rev. Horace James, formerly assistant quartermaster, on their plantation in Pitt county. Mr. James, while in the United States service, was superintendent of the Bureau for the district now under charge of Captain Seely, and is now an agent of the Bureau, without pay, for the county in which he is planting. The circumstances under which this freedman was *killed, as stated by Mr. James himself*, were as follows: The freedman was accused of stealing provisions from the store of Mr. James and Colonel Whittlesey, was arrested, tried, and convicted by Mr. James as agent of the Bureau, and was sentenced to dig ditches on their plantation. While working out this sentence he ran away, and was pursued by James and his clerk, Boyden, who arrived at the bank of a river while the freedman was attempting to cross in a canoe. Boyden ordered him to return, telling him if he did not he would shoot, and the freedman disregarding this order, Boyden fired. Boyden states himself that he thinks he hit him; and as nothing has ever been heard of the freedman since, it is generally believed in the neighborhood that he was killed and fell from the canoe into the river. These facts were stated in a letter forwarded to Colonel Whittlesey, who returned it to Captain Seely with the following endorsement:

RALEIGH, March 28, 1866.

Respectfully returned, as the affair seems to have occured last night, and, as the body of the negro has not been discovered, it does not appear certain that the shot took effect. No further action in the case seems to be called for.—By order of COL. WHITTLESEY, Assistant Commissioner.

BEECHER, Assist. Adj. Gen.

A number of the freedmen at Newbern expressed dissatisfaction at the manner in which this case has been passed over without investigation: but as the plantation is quite remote from any public line of communication, we were unable, owing to want of time to inquire into the matter.

AFFAIRS AT KINSTON.

On the 2nd instant we left Newbern for Goldsborough, and on the way stopped at Kinston long enough to learn that Captain Wheeler, agent for the Bureau at that point, is engaged in working a large plantation on his own account, and employs thereon quite a number of freedmen.

MORE FARMING.

At Goldsborough, the superintendent, G. O. Glavis, chaplain United States army, is cultivating one farm on Government account, and is interested in cultivating two farms on his own account. This officer stated in his examination before us that he was not interested in the cultivation of plantations, except indirectly in loaning money to a Mr. Brooks, a friend of his from the North, who was engaged in planting; but we ascertained from Mr. Carr and Mr. Lane, citizens of the vicinity of Goldsborough, that he is interested and joined with them in the cultivation of their plantations. He and his friend, Mr. Brooks, entered into a contract to furnish rations and pay for forty laborers, and to provide eight good mules. Mr. Lane offered to furnish the land, *to superintend in person* the cultivation thereof, the crops to be equally divided, one-half to Mr. Lane and the other half to Mr. Brooks and Glavis. Mr. Lane states that the enterprise failed after the freedmen had worked over two months; they then left, Brooks and Glavis having failed to pay them according to contract. The freedmen received for their labor a little clothing, such as coats, pants, shoes, &c., furnished by Captain Glavis, and but little or no money. A similar contract was made by Glavis and Brooks with Mr. Carr, who stated to us that *Captain Glavis is paying the hands* in a little of everything, but chiefly in clothing."

SELLING FREEDMEN'S CLOTHES.

We ascertained by the testimony of Messrs. Barnham & Ballard, auctioneers at Goldsborough, that they had sold at auction, for Chaplain Glavis forty blankets marked "U. S.," and a quantity of clothing that had been sent to Goldsborough for gratuitous distribution to the needy by a Freedmen's Aid Society, [illegible] in the vicinity of Rochester, N. Y. We learned also that he had disposed of a large quantity of such clothing at private sale. The Chaplain stated himself that he had received from such sales two hundred and sixty dollars ($260), though subsequently he asserted that the total cash receipts of his office, from all sources, amounted to one hundred and twenty-six dollars and fifty cents ($126.50). He kept no books or even memoranda of moneys received or expended.

[illegible]

[illegible] the operations of the Bureau in his district. He was so unwell that he was obliged to retire while we were engaged in examining his office, and we have not since conferred with him.

Major J. C. Mann, assistant quartermaster and financial agent of the Southern District, is engaged in the cultivation of a rice plantation, a short distance from Wilmington, on which are employed forty-five freedmen. The Major stated that while he did not object to making money, he engaged in this business to convince the Southern people that the negro would work.

ONE WAY OF INDUCING INDUSTRY.

Major Charles I. Wickersham, sub-agent of the Bureau, whose head quarters are at Wilmington, is also interested in the cultivation of a rice plantation within his sub-district, and he is to receive one-fourth of the crops from the same for compelling the freedmen employed on said plantation to work faithfully. He explained the manner in which he compelled freedmen to comply with their contracts, by stating that he put them to work with ball and chain on the streets of Wilmington.

EVILS OF THE SYSTEM.

Without attempting to discuss the propriety of officers of the Bureau in the military service of the United States, who are paid by the Government for the performances of their duties, engaging in private business, and employing freedmen for such purposes while controlling through their official positions that class of labor, we deem it our duty to state some of the effects produced, both upon the officers themselves and upon the planters with whom they come in competition, by such conduct. Major Wickersham, in contracting to furnish forty laborers to work on a rice plantation, becomes at once interested against the laborers, whom he compels to labor, perhaps unjustly, when unfairly dealt with by the person working on the plantation; and, on their refusing to work, he inflicts upon them unlawful, and, for a breach of contract, unheard of punishments, putting them on chain *gangs as if they* were convicted criminals. Colonel Whittlesey, or any other officer of less rank and influence in the Bureau who is engaged in working plantations rented for cash or on shares, becomes interested in securing a low rate of wages and in making the most stringent labor regulations, to the great detriment of the freedmen. They thereby give the sanction of the Government to the establishment of labor far below what the labor is really worth. Officers of the quarter-master's and commissary departments who are thus engaged are subject *to the temptation of appropriating to their* own use quarter-master's stores and rations to pay their own laborers. Complaints have been made to me by the planters that these agents of the Bureau use the power of their positions to obtain and control the best labor in the State. There is no doubt that some of the ill-feeling manifested toward the Bureau on the part of the planters is attributable to this fact.

ARBITRARY POWER OF THE BUREAU.

The arbitrary power exercised by some of the officers and agents of the Bureau in making arrests, imposing fines, and inflicting punishments, disregarding the local laws and especially the statute of limitations, creates prejudice against the Government. If the officers were all honest and intelligent, with even limited legal information, *it might be safe to trust them with this* extraordinary power; but in many instances the officers do not possess the slightest knowledge of law. At Goldsborough, the agent, Captain Glavis, imposed a fine of twenty-five dollars on one freedman for stabbing another so severely as to endanger his life, and when interrogated by us relative to this case, he did not know enough about law to distinguish a civil from a criminal case.

THE RECOMMENDATION.

We are satisfied that that the recommendation which we made in reference to the withdrawal of the officers of the Bureau in Virginia, and the transference to the officers commanding the troops of such duties as it may still be necessary to perform in connection with the freedmen, is equally applicable to North Carolina.

Very respectfully, your obedient servants,

JAMES B. STEEDMAN, Maj. Gen. Vol.
J. S. FULLERTON, Brig. Gen. Vol.

SMART DOG.—The town of Astoria, Oregon, can boast of the smartest dog that has been heard from lately, if Van Dusen tells the truth in relation to the doings of his canine. While visiting Tillamook Beach this summer, the dog was troubled very much with fleas, and had become tired of scratching. He was discovered one day hunting around the house for something, and finally picked up a piece of loose cotton batting, and started off for the beach with the cotton sticking out of his mouth. He went to the water, [illegible] into it, and holding his head up so as to keep the cotton dry [illegible] the water, and finally there was but the cotton out of the water, when suddenly cotton disappeared, and the dog [illegible] minus cotton and fleas. The cotton was picked out of the water, and was found actually alive with fleas. Van says he saw the dog do it—so it must be so.

[illegible] Wednesday night broke into the house of Mrs. [illegible] Palmer, near Broad Creek Church, Prince George's county, Maryland, and going to the bed of Mrs. Palmer, held her by the throat, threatening to shoot any of the family if they attempted to get up. They then robbed the premises of a lot of silver, all the money in the house, including over $50 in gold, and the best clothes. They also carried off a wagon and horses from the place, and two horses from the adjoining place. They have not yet been apprehended.—*Alexandria (Va.) Gazette.*

An old gentleman remarked the other day that in 1776, we went to war on account of the stamp act, and got the nigger. While in 1861, we went to war about the nigger [illegible] formerly it was half a pound.

TWO PATHS.

BY [illegible]

Let him whose soul is quick with thought,
Who walks aloof with high desire,
And glimpses through the [illegible] has caught
Of the ethereal [illegible],
Still keep the elevated way,
Where he discerns the burst of day.

Let him whose soul is dull and blind,
Who plods the plains of grosser sense,
And pierces not the earthly rind
To the sublimer recompense,
Still keep the lower path, no sigh
To grope his way along the high.

For unto him of vision keen,
The lower path is base and void,
And all its broidery of green
As mould, of dust and damp alloyed;
And all the flowers of praise that blow
Exhale but odors vile and low.

And unto him of vision weak,
The upper path is bare and cold,
No interests to his nature speak,
No radiant [illegible] unfold;
Nor does he hear the dulcet voice
That bids the lofty soul rejoice.

To each the other's gold is dross,
Insane to each the other's greed;
Each counts the other's gain as loss,
And wise in each in his own creed;
Nor both are false, nor both are true,
And will come to bane and rue.

—Exchange.

THIS, THAT AND THE OTHER.

—All lawyers may be said to belong to the *Fee*-nian brotherhood.

—Justice weighs atoms in the same scales that it weighs the world.

—The American cattle plague—the infamous high-price of beeves.

—To bring up a child in the way he should go—Travel that way yourself.

—Peoria, Illinois, has gone Democratic by over five hundred majority. This is a large Democratic gain.

An exchange gives an account of a child being born with three tongues. We'll bet our pile that it's a gal baby.

—"I never was ruined but twice," said a wit: "once when I lost a lawsuit, and once when I gained one."

—The President has pardoned Brigadier General W. R. Cox, of North Carolina, and D. H. Cooper, of Arkansas.

—The Miners' *Journal* says that coal is selling at Pottsville, Pa., as low as it did in the first year of the late war.

—Some men keep very savage dogs around their house, so that the hungry who stop to get a bite may get it outside the door.

—A person asked an Irishman why he wore his stockings wrong-side outward. "Because," said he, "there's a hole on the other side."

—When Sheridan was asked why he had built for himself so small a house, he replied, "Small as it is, I wish I could fill it with friends."

—The first institution vouchsafed to our race was the Sabbath; the next, marriage to give your first thought to Heaven, the next to your wife.

—"Who is that grim female in a low-neck dress there among the wall-flowers?" asked A. of B. at a ball. "That! oh, she must the night-blooming serious."

—Secretary McCulloch, who visited Fortress Monroe on Saturday, was closeted with Jeff Davis on Sunday last. The nature of the interview is unknown.

—When Lord Erskine heard that somebody had died worth two hundred thousand pounds, he observed, "well that's a pretty sum to begin the next world with."

—"Ah, doctor, does the [illegible] the highest [illegible]?" "No," replied the doctor to the exquisite, "but it's death to fools, and you'd better leave the city at once."

—The following definition of the rights of woman, is given in a Vermont paper. "To love her lord with all her heart, and her baby as herself—and to make good bread."

—A Cincinnati negro sued an election judge for refusing his vote—valuing his damaged "manhood" at ten thousand dollars. The jury gave him one cent. Valuable darkey, that!

—The Senate has confirmed Richard Rousseau, of Kentucky, to be Minister to Honduras. The Senate has also confirmed the nomination of A. B. Sloanaker, as Collector of the First District of Pennsylvania.

—The Washington correspondent of the Detroit *Free Press* says that Ingersoll, Disunionist, of Illinois, was drunk when he made his abusive speech on President Johnson. What an immensity of blackguardism poor whisky has to father!

—*Senator Creswell, of Maryland*, one of the violent Disunion maligners of the President, was the author of the resolutions of secession passed at Elkton in 1861. It seems he still manages to accommodate his [illegible] with his Past.

—A man named Houseman, of [illegible] City was murdered by his own wife and her paramour [illegible]

[illegible]

—A casemate in Fortress Monroe has been assigned for the use of Mrs. Davis during her visit. She intends making an application for [illegible] There are no positive indications of his speedy trial.

—A Washington letter writer tells a droll story of the President, by which it would appear that he was shaved the other day, when the barber accidentally tweaked the nose a little too hard. "Pardon me," said the barber, very naturally. "Put your hand in my coat pocket and pull out one," rejoined the Chief Magistrate, "and I'll fill it out for you when you're done."

—The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia *Press*, who pays special attention to the colored people of the District of Columbia, states that a deputation of wenches presented a boquet to each Senator who voted for the Negro Rights bill. The Secretary of the Senate, Forney, was similarly honored! The wenches must have carried up several clothes baskets full. We presume they meant to insure the washing of the Radical Senators, and want Forney to gather up the dirty clothes.

—A negro paper called the *Leader*, published at Charleston, [illegible]

[illegible] that calls itself a Congress [illegible] the "Freedmen's Bureau," to [illegible] high schools and support [illegible] paupers in the South! Just think [illegible] the South produced something [illegible] millions of surplus [illegible] wealth [illegible] people of the North, who built their [illegible] palaces and voluminous churches on this result of "slavery," and in 1860 there was not a single pauper among all these four millions of negroes. Now this labor and all this mighty production of wealth is abolished, for the time being, as [illegible] stricken out of existence, and the Northern laboring classes are loaded down with a debt of three thousand millions to accomplish the stupendous crime. Counting in [illegible] of the South [illegible]

[illegible]