

TRUTH ABOUT THE SOUTH.

What a Republican Physician who has lived in Georgia for Twelve Years has seen and knows.

SENATOR HILL'S STORY OF NEGRO THRIFT AND PROSPERITY UNDER DEMOCRATIC RULE FULLY CONFIRMED.

From the N. Y. World.

Dr. William H. White, of Atlanta, Ga., recently visited his birthplace at Cherry Valley, in Onsego county, in this State, and at the published requests of its townsmen in both parties gave them in Union Hall what he called "A Talk About the South and Southern people." Mr. Kenneth G. White, who was the predecessor of Mr. John Davenport as Clerk of the United States Circuit Court, is a brother of Dr. White and has sent to the World a full report of the "talk," from which to select interesting passages. Dr. White soon after his medical education in this State was completed settled in Iowa. There he became a Republican and was the first surgeon appointed from that State for service during the civil war. When peace returned Dr. White determined to remain in the South, with what results and present views he himself now tells:

My FRIENDS: After the close of the civil war a soldier on the Northern side was impelled by considerations of health to seek in the South a home. I entertained the views of the dominant party of the North; I carried with me the ideas, habits and manners of an average, typical Northerner. I went South with strong prejudices, but at the same time with the resolve to judge fairly and to study with critical impartiality the people, to live as I had lived, with respect for law, with courtesy to neighbor, and with independent sincerity and freedom of conviction. I did not intend to play the part of a self-appointed pharisaical reformer or malicious marplot; nor did I go as a political adventurer, seeking on the strife of races and in the chaotic wake of unsuccessful revolution those twin objects of the bummer's desire, pelf and preferment. I went as a simple citizen to make my home there.

After fourteen years of thorough mingling with all classes of Southern society, and experience of every varied phase of Southern life, after an acquaintance with a considerable number of the leading men of the South as well as with the masses of the people, it is my privilege to tell my old friends what I have learned and the judgment at which I have arrived in regard to the misunderstood "Sunny South." The most perplexing problem connected with the Southern polity is the relation of the white and black races.

I went South conceiving that there must be more or less of the spirit of the old masters towards their former slaves that would require the representative hand of power to regulate; that the changed relations of the races had an inspiration of white tyranny that was the inexorable vestige of slave domination. The truth has been a revelation to me, working a revolution of belief that arrays me in contrast with my erroneous suppositions. Underlying all the massive misconceptions growing directly from the persistent perversion of the truth for political purposes is the great dominant reality that the Southern people are warmly devoted to the genuine welfare of the blacks. This is a broad, a sweeping, aye, a startling assertion, but if I fail to prove it by irresistible testimony, then reject and denounce my conclusions. I shall give you the logic of facts to contemplate. My talk will be on the past and present condition of and outlook for the colored people of the South, with thoughts as to the hopes and social and political relations of the whites.

During the first State administration in Georgia after the war, there were 6,654 colored children enrolled on the schools' reports then published, but I regret to have to add that not a dollar of the school fund raised was used for their advantage. The first year after a change in the administration of State affairs, or when the old citizens of the State became its rulers, 19,750 colored children were school'd, and received their pro-rata share of the \$260,000 school fund raised. The number of colored children educated in 1875 was 50,358; in 1876, 59,987; in 1877, 62,377. Last year the number was 72,655. This year the School Commissioner tells me the number will reach 90,000, with a large increased school fund. There were 1,457 colored schools, between 400 and 600 of which were taught by colored teachers—capable men and women. Of our State school fund, \$411,000, the colored and white teachers of colored children received their pro-rata, or \$157,000. As you see, the number of colored children attending the public schools has steadily and rapidly increased. The State has given to the colored college in Atlanta the same as to its white university, \$8,000 per annum, and its successful progress has been fostered, as seen in the several reports made by the visiting committees appointed by the Governors. Its graduates would do honor to many of your best Northern colleges. They

can teach successfully. Still more, I add, the larger cities of Augusta, Savannah, Macon, Columbus and Atlanta have supported and fostered with pride at public expense some eight to ten public colored schools each, out of tax largely gathered from the old masters of the fathers and mothers of the children attending them, and as a rule it has been most willingly paid.

Our State School Commissioner has the universal respect of the colored preachers and teachers all over the State (as they think and act so do the masses of this people), and of the whites everywhere, because of his care of this public charge. Aside from the good feeling entertained, it is the best of policy to educate and elevate the colored race. It is cheaper to pay for schooling than crime caused by ignorance. This is understood and being promulgated. The thinking, reasoning planter as well as others who employ labor realize that intelligent labor is better than ignorant labor. They also realize that they will always have the negroes among them, that it is best for both races that they should stay in the Southern States. I proclaim it to be the teaching of our leading Southern statesmen that this people should be given the same common-school advantages as are given to white children. If this people get into trouble or need advice or are sick, they universally go to their old masters and mistresses feeling they will be helped. Their surplus funds they give to them to take care of; in a word, in every way they trust them, and while sometimes they are met with a coarse rebuff, they are generally pretty apt to get what they want. The truth is, the former links which bound them together are often thought of, and a sympathy aroused which could but gratify you all as it has me. I never saw more patience, more generous kindness, a better appreciation of the wants of those needing assistance than I have seen exhibited by the whites of the South towards the colored people. Northern people do not know how to get along with the blacks of the South; they have not the patience to put up with their thoughtless, inefficient, thriftless ways. I have become convinced they are best off in the hands of their old owners.

No Southern gentleman or lady hesitates to speak to them when they are recognized by them, and generally a kind word is returned. The war left very much of the South a desolate waste. Great armies had marched over the country, plantation fences, gin-houses and cotton-gins, family residences, as well as many of the old slave tenement-houses, were, with villages and cities, left in ruins, and the dependent, truly helpless, ignorant and generally homeless colored race in the first days of their liberty were in a frightful condition. Many for a time followed the Union Army; others fell into the hands of new-comers, designing men, and were scattered like leaves before the fall winds. Those who remained with their old masters, like them were without provisions. Cattle, sheep and hogs had been taken to supply the demands of the armies. They were also without money, and had they had it for a time they could not have procured the common comforts of life. Still they by untold and many laughable but commendable dodges kept their heads above water. It was about the year 1872 that the present system of working this people was generally adopted by the land-owners. Briefly this is done on one of three different plans, viz.: One mule and food for it, with working tools, a small house and a certain number of acres of land are given to a family, with the understanding that one-half of the cotton, one-half of the corn, and whatever else raised, except on the acre garden patch, belongs to the landlord. Where the colored man owns everything save the land, and feeds his own mule, then one-third of everything raised is the landlord's part. Others hire a certain number of hands and supply them weekly with rations of meal, meat, flour and molasses, and pay them on an average \$10 per month. Under these systems the best of feeling has been developed, and it is to the interest of the employer to deal justly, and of the laborer to work faithfully. There certainly has been, and is, a growing feeling of mutual interest. It is very rare that marked injustice is done at this time by either party. When tramps and those who had everything to gain and nothing to lose had possession of leased ground, or a large proportion of the planting lands of the South, I heard of much injustice having been done to the poor ignorant blacks.

On the 1st of last January the colored people owned in Georgia 502,000 acres of land; town and city property, assessed at \$1,110,147; horses, mules, hogs and cattle, at \$1,641,367; mechanical tools and farming implements, at \$520,000; had out at interest, \$76,658; or paid taxes on an aggregate of \$5,124,875 worth of property at its assessed valuation of two-thirds of its real value and which was about 15 per cent. below that of the previous year. I have taken some pains to gather like statistics from other Southern States and the general result has been alike favorable—in some of the States, all things considered, even more favorable. I hold the reports of the Comptroller-General of Georgia and that of the State School Commissioner for 1878 and the facts as above given are just as they reported them to the Governor and

Legislature. I shall be glad to show them to any one who may desire to examine them. Vanderbilt once said he found it harder to make the first \$25,000 of his fortune than the next \$5,000,000. When it is considered that the negroes of Georgia have made this start within the past seven years, and that they had to purchase the implements to work with and supplies on credit at gamblers' prices, what may not be expected of their showing at the end of the next ten years? They have their churches, Masonic lodges and any number of benevolent societies. The latter are composed of both sexes, and when they, with their clean white aprons and badges appear upon the street they attract attention. They are fond of making a display and are extravagant in this respect. We also have in the State several colored military and fire companies in Atlanta, four of the former are splendidly uniformed, the gift mostly of the white citizens. Their fine guns were furnished by the State.

Before entering upon matters in the every-day life of this race as seen by me, I will try, in part, to correct what I grant may have appeared strange as to their political rights and the large dropping off of the colored vote since the five years succeeding the war. This seeming dark cloud has caused a vast amount of food for a certain class of Northern political speakers and writers.

It has been assumed that all this people would have voted a Republican ticket if they could and dared. As well might it be said of all white men in the North. For a time, I grant, they believed nothing of a political nature save it was told them by white Republicans; but it is not so now. They learned these practical lessons—that the pomp and display inside and outside of loyal leagues meant office and power to worthless men and no good to them.

Our elective franchise laws as I see their operation are made to fall equally upon both races. Three years ago all male citizens in Georgia were required to pay their poll and other taxes before they could use this privilege. Its justice has been questioned, but a glance will show that the delinquent white tax-payer is at least as five to one of the blacks. People South see the advantage they now hold in this colored citizenship, and they will not lose the large increased Congressional representation it gives them. They also believe in an intelligent use of the ballot, and thus favor the educating of the colored children. The intimidation of colored men at the polls is only in the imagination and the preaching of interested politicians. We have read of how they have been shot, deliberately murdered and otherwise outrageously maltreated.

Yes, I know you have. I admit there are some barbarians in the South, some drunkards and some thoughtless, reckless men, as well as in your State, the world over. I lately picked up a newspaper and counted five murders, three burglaries and other crimes committed in this good State of New York, and a few days afterwards called and examined the exchanges of a certain newspaper. I found no savage comments as to the barbarous, terrible condition of your society, but nearly all of the papers examined raged and waxed wild over the condition of things in the South, of the poor blacks, thus magnifying and turning the unfortunate private fights, murders and acts of desperadoes here and there in that section into a general lawlessness, a propensity to bloodshed, and insisting that there is a lack of proper administration of the laws. I pronounce unqualifiedly such a general arraignment of the Southern people as undeserved and ungenerous. It evinces to me a want of magnanimity not in accordance with my notions of the intelligence and candor of Northern men and women.

This altered relationship between the whites and negroes has resulted in material advancement to both, as is conclusively shown by the fact that in the great Southern staple of cotton there has been raised during the last ten years largely more bales than during the ten years just preceding the war. I think I am right in giving the number in excess to be 11,342,000 bales, which at the present prices would be worth \$567,000,000. The increase of grains, the grasses and fruits has been equally as great. At the same time both races are more independent, while in a business point of view both feel dependent, and stand ready as a whole to do right, to work for the interests of each other.

I grant that when this people largely forsook their old masters for a time after the closing of the war the unexpected treatment caused with many whites unpleasant feelings, but it is forgotten. In the last Legislature of Georgia, a Democratic body, an issue arose as to which of two parties, a colored Republican or a white Democrat (a nephew of a former Governor of the State), McDonald, was entitled to a seat. The vote was close, and the white applicant had the certificate, but it was decided that the colored man was elected, and the white man was unseated and the colored man given his place.

My friends, I close with a word as to the social relations of the Southern people? This relation is a delicate matter for regulation by arbitrary law, even where the natural distinctions are less marked than they are between the whites and blacks of the

South. In no part of the country would such an attempt by government, either Federal or State, be sooner resented than in your own section. I repeat I know the people of the whole South are heartily willing to abide by and respect the political rights conferred on the colored race by the amendments to the Constitution. Yet, while this is true, they felt and still feel that much of the "reconstruction" legislation of Congress was an attempt to interfere with their social customs and needlessly to humble their pride; that the legislation aimed, or seemingly so, to give advantage to the colored people in the struggle for political power; to exalt the ignorant classes of that section above the intelligent; to confer special immunities and protection upon the late slave. Now I ask, could any sensitive, brave, high-minded people, no matter how sadly crushed by the adversities of war and the general derangement of their industries, no matter how great mistakes or wrongs they might have made, do otherwise than regard this as an indignity and humiliation? I did not fight them nearly four years for the pleasure of mortifying them and then continually trampling them under foot, but to keep our Government intact and to bring them back into the Union. Great injustice is done them when it is imputed to disloyalty or a continued spirit of rebellion. My best information and observation, obtained by listening to conversation in cars, hotels, reception-rooms, in private and public places where I was unknown, has convinced me that the earnest, anxious desire of that people at the close of the war was to resume quietly and dignifiedly their political relations in the Union. They accepted in good faith the results imposed upon them by the constitutional amendments and strove by accommodating themselves to the changed condition of labor to build up again their waste places and regain their lost prosperity. The solid South would soon thaw and party crust crumble if they were left to manage their domestic affairs un molested. I feel that that people will not be correctly understood and a general, liberal, generous sentiment established over the North until Southern statesmen come here and meet the people on the stump, face to face, and make known their many feelings and hopes of a grand future for our great and blessed Government.

life which sanctioned a resort to violence. Randolph, I believe, was not prosecuted for the assault. His friends said that his object was merely to pull the Presidential nose, which, they further declared, he did.

**AT REST.**  
From the Presbyterian.  
"How I long to be at rest," wrote an aged Christian lady to a Scottish relative. "I'm weary, faint, and worn; life's a dreary burden; all my early friends have left me; I'm standing almost upon the threshold of eternity; and if it were not for the fear I might prove a castaway, my prayer would be, O' Father, bid me rest!"  
The letter was duly received, and read to Dr. Guthrie, who was on a visit to the family at that time. The next morning he gave them the following lines, which he said the letter had suggested to his mind during the night. They were sent to America to the old lady, and highly prized by her during her life. The prayer was soon afterward answered, and her weary body is resting, "life's duty done," in the Presbyterian church-yard of Wicomico, Md.; and Dr. Guthrie, with the tears of a nation following him, hath entered the golden portals, and though strangers on earth, they have now met in their eternal home, "where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest."

**LINES BY DR. GUTHRIE.**  
I'm kneeling at the threshold, weary, faint and sore,  
Waiting till the Master shall bid me rise and come  
To the glory of His presence, to the gladness of His home.  
A weary path I've travelled, 'mid darkness, storm and strife,  
Bearing many a burden, struggling for my life;  
But now the morn is breaking, my toil will soon be o'er,  
I'm kneeling at the threshold, my hand is on the door.  
Methinks I hear the voices of the blessed as they stand  
Lingering in the sunshine of that far-off sinless land!  
O! would that I were with them, amidst the shining throng,  
Mingling in their worship, joining in their song!

The friends that started with me have entered long ago—  
One by one they left me, struggling with the foe;  
Their pilgrimages was shorter, their triumph sooner won—  
How lovingly they'll hail me when all my toil is done!  
With them the blessed angels, that know no grief nor sin,  
I see them by the portals, prepared to let me in!  
O! Lord, I wait thy pleasure—Thy time and way are best—  
But I'm weary, worn and weary, O! Father, bid me rest!

**A Railway Holiday Scene.**  
HOW THE PRAYERS OF TWO LITTLE EMIGRANTS WHO HUNG THEIR STOCKINGS ON THE CAR WINDOW WERE ANSWERED.  
From the Bradford (Pa.) Era.  
On Christmas eve as the night express on the Erie Railroad left New York City there were seated in the car a poor woman and her two little children, aged about four and five years, going to the far West. A conversation between the mother and children in which Santa Claus was talked of was listened to by the passengers. The mother told her little blue-eyed girl that as they were in the cars Santa Claus could not give them any presents because the train was running too fast for him to get on. This statement cast a shade of gloom over the bright-faced children. They sat for some time in meditative silence. It was soon observed that the little travelers were growing sleepy. Tears gathered in many eyes as the little ones kneeled on the car cushions to lip their evening prayers. The little girl said, "Please tell good Santa Claus that we are on this train going to see papa, and if he can, to put some presents in little Joey and Maggie's stockings hanging up on the car window. Amen." The children then hung up their stockings by the car window. In a few minutes more they were soon asleep in the arms of their mother. After a pause a gentleman in front of them spoke to the passengers as follows: "You have heard the prayers of these two little children. Now I will give one dollar towards making them happy when they wake up in the morning." He then passed his hat around the car and collected \$5.75. He next bought some candy, oranges and figs and a picture book for each, which with two more silver dollars he placed in the little stockings. When they awakened in the morning and saw their stockings full the little girl exclaimed, "Oh, mamma, see what Santa Claus has found us because we prayed."

**His First Offence.**  
An affecting scene occurred in the New York Tombs Police Court recently. Charles B. Sheridan, aged eighteen years, was arraigned for stealing a valise, the property of Mr. McVeigh, of Pennsylvania. The prisoner freely admitted his guilt, and conducted the detectives to pawnshops where the stolen property was recovered. The detectives agreed that it was Sheridan's first offense. After the formal complaint had been made, Justice Morgan asked Sheridan what he had to say in his own behalf. The boy burst into tears and said: "I never stole anything before. I had not eaten anything for two days and I wanted to bring some food into the house." Justice Morgan said: "Your story may be true or not, but with that I have nothing to do. You are held for trial in the Court of Special Sessions." As Sheridan was being taken away, his mother, a respectable-looking but poor-looking woman, advanced to the railing before the bench and begged the detectives, with tears in her eyes, to be allowed to speak to her son. The officers could not resist the appeal, and granted the interview.

**Cicero's Character.**  
AS DRAWN BY DR. LORD IN HIS LECTURE ON THE GREAT ROMAN.  
At noon yesterday Dr. John Lord opened his course of historical lectures in Association Hall to a large and intellectual audience, mainly composed of ladies. The subject was "Cicero, and His Influence on Civilization." The character of the illustrious Roman was fully considered, his faults as well as his virtues being handled with much fairness. In closing his lecture, the speaker said: "Thus did he live a shining light in a corrupt and godless age, in spite of all the faults that modern critics have raked out in their ambitious desire of novelties, or in their thoughtless desire to show up human frailties. He was a patriot taking the side of his country's highest interest; a statesman seeking to conserve the wisdom of his ancestors; an orator exposing vices and defending the innocent; a philosopher unfolding the wisdom of the Greeks; a moralist laying down the principles of immutable practice—a sage pondering on the mysteries of life, ever active, studious, the charm and fascination of cultivated circles, as courteous and polished as the ornaments of modern society, revered by friends, feared by enemies, and admired by all good people; a kind father, an indulgent husband, a generous friend, hospitable, witty, magnificent—a most accomplished gentleman."

**Coming Events for 1880.**  
The present new year, 1880, will have 366 days, the extra day being tacked on to February. On January 11 there will be a total eclipse of the sun, visible in the western part of North America and the Pacific ocean. Washington's birthday will come on Sunday, February 22; Good Friday, March 26; Easter Sunday, March 28; Decoration day, May 30, will fall on Sunday; the Fourth of July will also come on Sunday; Thanksgiving day will be Thursday, November 25, and Christmas will fall due on Saturday. There will be a total eclipse of the moon June 22, invisible here; an annular eclipse of the sun, July 7, visible in South America and Southern Atlantic ocean; December 1, partial eclipse of the sun, visible in Southern Atlantic ocean; Dec. 16, total eclipse of the moon, invisible here; Sunday, December 31, partial eclipse of the sun, partly visible here. Sun rises eclipsed. Venus will be the morning star until July 13; Mars after October 25; Jupiter, after March 15, until July 12; Saturn, after April 8 until July 9. Venus will be evening star after July 13; Mars, until October 25; Jupiter, until March 15, after July 12; Saturn, until April 8, after July 9.—Ex.

**A Slave Saved by a Bank Note.**  
A Paris curiosity-collector has in his possession a bank note with a strange history. Sixty-one years ago a Liverpool cashier, while holding the note to the light to test its genuineness, noticed some faint red marks upon it, which on closer examination proved to be semi-effaced words scrawled in blood between the printed lines and upon the blank margin of the note. With a good deal of trouble the following sentence was made out: "If this note should fall into the hands of John Dean, of Long Hill, near Carlisle, he will learn hereby that his brother is languishing a prisoner in Algiers." Mr. Dean was promptly communicated with by the holder of the note, and he appealed to the Government of the Dey for assistance in his endeavor to obtain his brother's release from captivity. The prisoner, who, as it subsequently appeared, had traced the above sentence upon the note with a splinter of wood dipped in his own blood, had been a slave to the Dey of Algiers for eleven years when his writing first attracted attention. His family and friends had long believed him dead. Eventually his brother, with the aid of the British authorities in the Mediterranean, succeeded in ransoming him from the Dey and brought him home to England.

**Traveling Stones.**  
The Virginia City Enterprise publishes the following: Many of our readers have doubtless heard of the famous traveling stones of Australia. Similar curiosities have recently been found in Nevada, which are described as being almost perfectly round, the majority of them as large as a walnut, and of an iron nature. When distributed about upon a table, or other level surface, they immediately begin traveling toward a common centre, and there lie huddled up in a bunch like a lot of eggs in a nest. A single stone removed to a distance of three and a half feet, upon being released, started off with wonderful and somewhat comical celerity, to join its fellows; taken away four or five feet it remained motionless. The cause of these stones rolling together is doubtless found in the material of which they are composed, which appears to be loadstone or magnetic iron ore.