

Towanda, Thursday, March 1, 1866.

THE CONDUCT OF THE SOUTH TOWARDS THE BLACKS.

It appears to us that the Southern people are extremely unwise in their conduct towards the blacks. We speak of the people of the South in general, for there are, we are glad to say, some noble exceptions to the general rule. It is now a settled fact that slavery is abolished, and it is hardly possible for any contingency to arise that will change the results. The States which combined under the Constitution, to put down the rebellion, will never again allow this fearful danger, and horror evil, to grow up. Whatever aggression may be necessary to arrest its growth—and no matter what is thought of this—the people of the free States will not hesitate to accomplish it; and the sooner the old slave-holders see this clearly, the better for all concerned. So that whatever hopes are indulged, or whatever schemes are adopted for the re-establishment of slavery. Let it be understood, once for all, that these hopes will be disappointed, and the scheme frustrated.

There is an amazing unwillingness manifested by the majority in the late rebellious States, to recognize the freedom of the blacks; and a still greater unwillingness to do justice to them in matters pertaining to their civil rights, and social comforts. Aside from the flagrant injustice of all this, there is an absence of good sense, or practical wisdom about it, that should alarm their statesmen. The more a race, or class of people are oppressed, the more degraded they become; and the more degraded they are, the worse for society. This is reason, and it is the experience of the human family since the world began. What then do the legislators of South Carolina expect to gain from their laws denying to the negro laborer the same rights which the white laborer enjoys? If the former is not allowed to make contracts for work when and where he pleases, he will likely do just as the latter does; and that is, go where he can have these privileges; or else, not work at all, and if they go off, or do not work, they will steal their living or become paupers. So that, in any event, they will inflict injury upon the community. What the Southern States now want is labor. They need this more than all else, to restore their wasted fields, their ruined homes, and their wretched prosperity. Will labor remain, or come there, and exert itself when the laws discriminate against it? Why, the reverse of this invariably holds good; labor will only go where it is wanted, where it is appreciated, and where the remuneration is good. Then, willing hands are more profitable, than unwilling ones. Besides, laws enacted by capital to oppress labor begets antagonism, and this is fatal to the interests of both. Thus: propositions are all plain truths, long since involved by the experience of society. Indeed, the whole totality of facts, and tendencies, on this question, lead but one way, and that is in the opposite direction from the policy of the Southern States; and while we can make full allowance for the prejudices which former conditions, and customs, engendered, it is, nevertheless, marvelous to us, that the Southern people are so short-sighted.

Never has the sun dawned on a section of the globe more abounding in the materials of wealth than the States lately in hostility to the government. All that is necessary for the conversion of these materials into wealth, is the well directed industry of man. The South, too, has laborers of the character required by her climate and productions; and in such numbers as to meet her necessities. All she needs to restore her waste, and make her latter glory greater than the former, is to secure the application of her labor to her material resources. The problem, in its general and specific character, is the simplest problem of social science. Her practical question is, what shall we do to make the negroes a contented, virtuous and industrious peasantry? This is not a question of politics but a social one. And we have a case in hand which aptly enough points the South in the right direction in her present problem of the re-organization of her political system, and her social requirements. We refer to the developments which have been made in the Island of Jamaica, during the last quarter of a century. There, after the blacks were freed, the policy of keeping them down, politically and socially, of forcing them to labor for starvation prices, and of inaugurating generally, a system of tyrannical rule, which had been in existence at least for a year from the present time. He then calls upon them to continue their work.

The Union members of both houses held a caucus last night in Washington. They were in session nearly three hours. It is thought that no business but the appointment of an executive committee was done. The New York bankers, who have been in consultation with Treasurer Spinner on the rule to be adopted in having "deposit returns," have concluded to adopt his recent circular on that subject as the rule of proceeding. Last summer a national bank failed. The outstanding circulation was forty-five thousand dollars. Only a third of this has been presented at the Department for redemption. The bonds deposited as security furnish the means by which such notes are paid. Some curious contrivances for smuggling whisky across the Canadian frontier are notified in our Washington dispatches as have lately been seized by the Treasury agents. A Southern paper says that the greatest Southern victory that has been achieved since the battle of Bull Run was the capture of President Johnson. Nearly four million dollars were received for customs at the four principal Atlantic ports, during the week ending on Saturday last. Philadelphia furnished \$114,347.88. Every thousand sheets of fractional currency costs the Government about twenty-one dollars for their production. From Pittsburg it is reported the steambot Winchester took fire and burned on the Ohio river, near Wheeling, by which about twenty lives were lost.

South, and in order to live, must have labor there. If they live there as small freeholders, they give the best pledge to society of good conduct. This is a fundamental truth, and it is a wonder the South does not see it. It would pay the employer, and the State, ten-fold, to give to each freedman a small patch for a homestead in his vicinage. But if they will not be liberal, let them be just at least, and sell to each black laborer as much land as he can pay for by his work. He will have it, in the end. He will clamor, as did his race in Jamaica, for it, until he gets it. There is no future event more certain than this; and the wisest way is to yield to his just demands at once. His denial was a source of great trouble in Jamaica, and it will be in the South. The negro has found out, some way or other, (it must have been through instinct, for he is not allowed any brains,) that to own in fee a patch of ground with a cabin on it, is well calculated to add to his material comfort; and that the white man does not know that an orderly, docile and laborious peasantry does mitigate to the happiness and prosperity of society, public security and wealth, is because he is blinded by a deep, dark prejudice that could originate in slavery only. Let the rebels take heed that they fall not into the errors which have so long afflicted Jamaica.

FOREIGN NEWS.—Queen Victoria opened the English Parliament in person on Feb. 6. The speech expressed joy at the successful close of the American war, and at the abolition of Slavery. It announces that the slave-trade on the African coast is greatly reduced; that the correspondence relative to the deprivations of the Rebel cruisers will be laid before Parliament; and that Spain, in her difficulty with Chili had accepted the good offices of England and France. The French Senate, in reply to the Emperor's speech, expresses satisfaction that the mission of the French troops in Mexico approaches completion, and that the "firm communication" from the Emperor to the United States has shown that "menacing language will not cause France to withdraw."

The Spanish Minister in London has telegraphed to the Spanish Governor of Cadiz that two vessels, under Peruvian flags had left England for privateering purposes and that two more vessels were being fitted out with a similar object. A letter from Admiral Parca, written shortly before his death, is published, in which he deeply regrets having misjudged his Government, and advises Spain to make peace at the earliest moment. Austria and Prussia are again quarreling about the duchies, Austria having once more "firmly refused" the demands of Prussia. The Prussian Chamber of Deputies, by an immense majority, have declared the annexation of Lauenburg to Prussia illegal until sanctioned by the Chamber. Gen. Clay and his Secretary of Legation had received with immense enthusiasm in Moscow. The most ardent wishes were generally expressed for continued friendly relations and increased commerce between Russia and the United States. A rupture has taken place between the Government of Montevideo and the Chilean Minister. The former had resolved on prohibiting the entry of Chilean privateers into Montevideo ports, and the latter, after an angry protest, returned the Government note, whereupon Gov. Vidal canceled the Chilean envoy's credentials.

FROM WASHINGTON. WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 21, 1866. The Halls of Congress for the past two days have been the scene of most intense excitement. It came generally known on Monday morning last, that the President had vetoed the bill to amend "An act to establish a Bureau for the relief of freedmen and refugees, and for other purposes," and that the veto message would be presented to the Senate during the session of that afternoon. In anticipation of a direct conflict of opinion between the President and the friends of the measure in the Senate, the galleries became densely crowded by an eager throng, packed only in the day, as tight as sardines in a box. The message was received and read at three o'clock p. m., when a motion was made by Mr. Lane of Kansas, that further consideration be postponed until 1 o'clock p. m., next day, (Tuesday), and after some filibustering, the Senate, on motion of Mr. Sherman, adjourned to meet on next day, when the bill came up in regular order, the question being: Shall the bill pass notwithstanding the veto? After a speech by Garret Davis, of Kentucky, (Dean,) sustaining the veto, and by Mr. Trumbull, of Illinois, (Rep.), in favor of the passage of the bill, the vote was taken, resulting in yeas 30, nays 18. Messrs. Dixon, Morgan, Newton, Stewart and VanWinkle, Republicans, who had voted originally in favor of the bill in its passage, now voted to sustain the veto, and the bill is therefore lost, there not being the requisite two-thirds voting in its favor. The galleries were densely crowded, and demonstrations of applause, as is by concert, came from one section, on the failure of the bill, when the vice-President immediately directed the Sergeant-at-Arms to clear that section of the galleries, which was promptly carried into effect. During Tuesday, while these scenes were being enacted in the Senate, the popular "march of Congress at the other end of the Capitol, was the scene of a still more exciting struggle over a resolution offered early in the day by Thaddeus Stevens, of Pa., intended as a clincher, against the doctrine laid down by President Johnson, in his veto. The resolution is concurrent, requiring the action of both Houses, and goes upon the journals as the sense of the majority when passed, yet does not partake of the nature of a joint resolution, because it does not require the signature of the President. It is merely declaratory, and intended to commit its friends to a certain line of policy. It is as follows: "Resolved, by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That in order to close agitation upon a question which seems likely to disturb the action of the Government, as well as to quiet the uncertainty which is agitating the minds of the people of the eleven States which have been declared to be in insurrection, no Senator or Representative, shall be admitted into either branch of Congress from any said States until Congress shall have declared such States entitled to such representation." The resolution being before the House, the Democrats, determined to state off action upon it as long as possible, and to effect this, resorted to all sorts of dilatory motions, and every possible pretext within the rules, for delay, and the majority steadily refusing to adjourn until the final vote should be taken, the House was kept in session from noon until eight o'clock, evening, when the minority were

forced to come to a vote, and the resolution was passed by 109 yeas to 40 nays, and sent to the Senate, but has not yet been acted upon there. When a vote is reached upon it in the Senate, it will be about the same as upon sustaining the veto. Thus we have in the outset of the administration, a direct and bitter political conflict, between the President and the party to whom he owes his election. This has animated the enemies of the President with a new enthusiasm, and any mind it presents the most melancholy prospect in political affairs we have yet witnessed. Having experienced the Tyring of Harrison's administration, and the treachery to his party of Filmore after the death of Taylor, I cannot contemplate the result of the present rupture, in view of the critical condition of the country, without forebodings of evil to the cause of justice and humanity. 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