

THE SOUTHERN FREEDMEN.

The colored "wards" of the nation are far from being prosperous or useful in their present transition state. It was scarcely to be expected that a people, most of whom were kept in the densest ignorance, should be able to comprehend the meaning of their sudden emancipation, or should be able to adapt themselves instantly to their change of circumstances. But the Southern whites, who persistently kept them in ignorance, and who made their emancipation an unavoidable necessity, are themselves responsible for the mischief that may arise from it.

An address to Congress, from the representatives of the Society of Friends in various States, appears in to-day's paper, which sets forth, in moderate but impressive language, the condition of the freedmen. We have had, also, a brief report from Lieutenant-General Grant, of his observations of the temper of the Southern people during a rapid tour he made among them. General Carl Schurz's report, after a longer investigation, is also before Congress. These and other documents vary considerably. But even putting the most liberal construction upon those that most favor the Southern whites, it is plain that the difficulties attending the establishment of real freedom and prosperity among the blacks are very great. In many parts of the South where the negroes are most willing to work, the whites will not give them such wages as will enable them to live and support their families. They will give white laborers two dollars a day, but refuse to the blacks, for an equal amount of labor, more than from six to ten dollars a month.

With every disposition to be liberal to the defeated people of the South, we would have it impressed upon them that they must cease to be tyrannical and unjust towards the emancipated blacks. Even if they should refuse to recognize their right to vote, they should be made to recognize their right to labor and to receive for their labor fair wages. If they will not do this, they will bring upon themselves trouble that the whole power of the federal government will not be able to avert. They revolted against protracted oppression, and thus set an example which the sufferers under real oppression may be disposed to follow. Whenever the blacks are decently treated, they show themselves docile and industrious. But where they are treated with harshness and injustice, they are likely to fancy that their newly-acquired freedom gives them the right to take by force what they cannot obtain by peaceful measures. If this should go on, the result may be frightful; bad enough for the blacks themselves, but far worse for the whites. The Southern people should not be encouraged to think that the President's liberal treatment of them gives them the right still to oppress the blacks. They can by kindness, and by affording to the poor creatures opportunities of industry and improvement, avert the danger that seems to be threatening the whole Southern country.

MR. SEWARD'S FOREIGN DESPATCH.

Mr. Seward's circular despatch in reply to the numerous expressions of condolence and sympathy received from Europe on the occasion of Mr. Lincoln's assassination is a model document. Concise and feeling in its references to the terrible event to which it refers, and singularly modest in regard to his own participation in that bloody drama, it has naturally commended itself to those to whom it was addressed, and we find the English press speaking of it in terms more flattering than we have been accustomed to hear from such quarters. The London Times, in an admirably written leader, uses language so strong and so gratifying that it should not pass unnoticed on this side of the Atlantic. The hostility of the "Thunderer" towards this country was bitter and persistent throughout the war. Mr. Lincoln was to it nothing better than a rude, unlettered backwoodsman, tossed to the surface by the accident of our political upheavals, and struggling helplessly and hopelessly with the billows of civil war. Mr. Seward was a politician, cunning and insincere, and chiefly given to pretentious and verbose despatches, with which he wearied the diplomatists of Europe and deceived his own countrymen. The assassination of Mr. Lincoln and the attempted murder of Mr. Seward fell like a thunderbolt in the midst of these oracular leaders of foreign public opinion. Saul of Tarsus was not struck to the earth more suddenly, nor was his conversion more instantaneous and complete.

The leader of the Times to which we have referred is a striking illustration of the change of opinion upon American men and affairs which has been brought about by the stern logic of events. It speaks of the assassination of Mr. Lincoln as "a crime which grows in magnitude and in horror as we drift away from it down the swift stream of time." The frightful tragedy which only in the spring of this year threw into the background every lesser or older misery, and might atone for any numbers of errors.

Allowing for that unconquerable British prejudice, which will always reserve some margin of self-supremacy, it thus refers to the position which Mr. Lincoln had won in British esteem at the time of his death: "It so happened that Abraham Lincoln, by the progress of either amendment or truth, had righted himself in English esteem, and then stood as well in our regards

as any foreign potentate could ever hope to stand. We admired the man, and were beginning to like him, seeing in him the able and kind-hearted administrator of the greatest work of social peacemaking the world had yet seen. So we felt his murder as we should have done that of a leading British statesman at the hands of a political fanatic. There was, more, indeed, in his case than there would ever be in this country, unless we could suppose half the realm making head against the other half for several years. There was the grand ceremony of a national reconciliation to be performed, and, as Heaven would have it, there lay bleeding before us the victim to consecrate it."

But this article is chiefly note-worthy on account of the high tribute paid to Mr. Seward, and the extraordinary contrast which it forms to the contemptuous tone so often indulged in abroad towards American statesmen in general and Mr. Seward in particular. It says:

"Other victims were intended, and the assassins so far succeeded, that one, the foremost statesman on the Federal side, and the man with whom we had most to do, had to endure for months a living martyrdom. The strong will, the active intellect, and the ready tongue lay trembling between life and death when the most difficult stage of his great task had only just begun. We could not but be deeply impressed with a catastrophe that appealed to the chief qualities of our race, and the national sympathy burst out at a thousand openings, wherever many or few had been wont to come together and make a common utterance."

The compliment paid to Mr. Seward's despatch is a just and proper one. He is commended for his good taste and judgment in not attempting a separate reply to every address of condolence received by his Department, which "would have been a ridiculous effort of literary clerks." The peculiar difficulties under which our State Department labored have been appreciated abroad, and the calm, undisturbed workings of our Government in the midst of such frightful circumstances, has not failed to communicate new and wholesome ideas of the immovable stability of our institutions. It says:

"Mr. Seward, who has recovered slowly from his terrible succession of injuries, has only just been able to speak for himself and his Government. The British public will not have failed to notice the modesty with which the Secretary alludes to the cause of this delay. His Department was indeed crippled when he lay, as many thought on his death bed, with wounds upon wounds; for that was "the peculiar calamity" which impaired the efficiency of the American Foreign Office. That a Government simply constituted for the transaction of affairs in the ordinary course of public business should have been able to do its share in the work of the war was itself a wonder to this country. But when a new calamity involved new "obligations"—the calamity a partial massacre of the Government, and the "obligations" the duty of answering condolences—the worst foe of Republican institutions could not but do justice to the Government which went on at all under such circumstances. We all saw, and duly appreciated, that there was not the least symptom of failure or collapse. Everything went on as usual, as far as our eye. Our own difficulties, indeed, are so different in kind that it is not easy to make a just and intelligible comparison; but after witnessing the continuing up to take place in other States upon the sudden withdrawing or the disabling of those at the head of critical affairs, we seemed to recognize a character like our own in a people whose chief rulers fell or were prostrated in a day, at a time when they were more than ever wanted, but which went on just as usual."

We have good right to be proud of the men who have conquered from the most stubborn opponents of our republican government such tributes of praise as these. It is by no means one of the least important of the services which Mr. Lincoln rendered his country that he reflected upon the whole American character so much of the lustre of his own true greatness, and gave us, as a people, a higher position in foreign esteem than we have ever enjoyed before. And Mr. Seward is doing for his country, in his peculiar sphere, the same honorable work. The people of the United States and their public ministers are so thoroughly identified that the whole body politic gains or loses as our public men adorn or disgrace the positions they occupy. The patriotism, the faith, the courage of our people throughout the war has won for us an undying fame throughout the civilized world, but over it all there is an added lustre, brighter and more glorious than all beside, that is shed over the record by those who stood at the head of affairs in our most desperate straits, not counting their own lives dear to them, so that they might save the country whose destinies the will of the people and the providence of God had committed to their hands.

PENNSYLVANIA INTERESTS. A writer who has evidently bestowed much thought upon the subject, and who brings an array of undeniable facts and figures to support his views, furnishes to a morning cotemporary a strong article upon the importance of our Pennsylvania manufactures and staple products, and upon the necessity of guarding these great interests. In speaking of what he believes to be a colossal scheme for diverting the fruits of those great advantages to New York and Liverpool, he says:

"They (the schemers) would not fall very early to devote their means and influence to bring about their favorite system of free trade, which would, of course, utterly destroy the whole producing and manufacturing interests of the country, so far as they rest upon our present system of full-paid labor. No sane man who will examine the subject can suppose for a moment that our system of free and full-paid labor can at all compete with the manufacturer of Europe, who produces by labor that is not paid over twenty-five per cent, of what American mechanics and laborers receive."

We were about to say that we would commend these facts to the consideration of those advocates of free trade who, for their own purposes, are also misleading well-meaning men into assisting upon a reduction of twenty per

cent upon the productiveness of their labor. But it would be useless to reason with men who are without principle except such principle as is based upon Number One, and who are equally ready to utter a gross absurdity, or do any out and out wrong so that thereby they can accomplish their own selfish ends. We prefer to commend the facts referred to directly to those most interested, and we would urge them to fret upon them before falling into the trap that unscrupulous politicians have set for them.

Outside Steamers to New York. Great shippers will be interested in an advertisement in another column, announcing that the Express Steamship Line have placed three steamers on the outside route between Philadelphia and New York, to commence running regularly from first wharf below Market street, as soon as canal navigation closes.

Miss Anna E. Dickinson. This gifted young lady will deliver her new lecture, "Flood Tide," at the Academy of Music, this evening. This lecture has never been delivered in Philadelphia, but those who have listened to it pronounce it one of her most eloquent efforts.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY, for January, has been received. It opens with Passages from Hawthorne's Note-Books—the every day jottings down of the lamented author of The Scarlet Letter, kept by him partly as a diary and partly as memoranda. In many short paragraphs we find the germs which afterwards developed into a "Twice-told Tale." These papers promise to make a peculiarly interesting feature of the magazine under which our State Department labored have been appreciated abroad, and the calm, undisturbed workings of our Government in the midst of such frightful circumstances, has not failed to communicate new and wholesome ideas of the immovable stability of our institutions. It says:

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"Our Young Folks" for January is devoted mainly to Christmas stories and is a very entertaining number. The growing popularity of this magazine is only what might have been expected for such a lively and well-conducted periodical. A year's subscription to it will make a most acceptable Christmas present, and the agent, Mr. T. B. Pugh, is prepared to furnish the bound volume for 1866, and to bind the back numbers for subscribers who wish to preserve them in a substantial form.

WHITMAN'S.—Mr. Stephen F. Whitman's great confectionery establishment, No. 1210 Market street, never was so well stocked and never looked so brilliant as it does now; and the throngs of purchasers of holiday articles add to its gay appearance. There is an infinite variety of good and tempting things, and a wonderful assortment of fancy boxes for bon-bons. Some of them are really artistic, and after their contents are gone, they will be preserved for their beauty and utility by those who may be fortunate enough to receive them.

SEWING MACHINES.—Every household has become so profoundly interested in the question of sewing machines and the relative merits of the various patents, that the detailed account of the "Willcox & Gibbs" machine, published in our columns of to-day, will be read with wide-spread interest.

John B. Myers & Co. Auctioneers, Nos. 22 and 24 Market street, will hold a public sale (Friday), December 22, at 10 o'clock, by catalogue, on the premises, of the special sale of the most desirable styles of Furs, including some high cost. Also, one case Lace Curtains, for holiday presents. Also, full lines rich broche and silk Scarfs, Kid Zephyr Goods, &c.

Neat Residence, South Twentieth street. The neat modern residence, No. 25 South Twentieth street, advertised to be sold on the Exchange, on Tuesday, will be removed to the auction rooms for sale.

Extensive Sale of Furniture at the La Pierre House, to-morrow. M. Thome & Sons, at the sale of the Furniture of the La Pierre House to-morrow (Friday), will include a large and valuable collection of 1500-odd chambers, well furnished with fine Hair Mattresses, carpets, Mirrors, &c. For particulars see catalogue.

Sales of Real Estate January 3 and 10. James A. Dryden, Auctioneer, advertises on the 3rd and 10th inst. to sell at public sale, on the premises, the following real estate: a lot on the corner of Arch and Market streets, No. 588 (Eight Thirty-five) Market street, below Ninth.

FINE OPERA GLASSES. A VERY LARGE VARIETY. JAMES W. QUEEN & CO., 224 CHESTNUT STREET.

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CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.—Do as once if you want any Photographs made for Christmas Presents. The time is at hand, go early, day's short. B.F. REIMERS' super styles, 67, 7th street.

TO EVERY YOUTHFUL street associate and I will exemplify give him a Chest of Tools or Boys' Trunk. This will bring out his mechanical and inventive talents and keep him at home. Apply at TRUMAN & SHAW'S, No. 588 (Eight Thirty-five) Market street, below Ninth.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS APPROACHING.—Don't fail to go early, the time is short, have Pictures made for presents, and for Christmas. See prices, prices reduced. REIMERS', Second street, above Green.

GIVE A CARPET SWEEPING MACHINE.—which, by taking up the dust as it sweeps, does not grind it into the carpet, into a broom. It therefore saves your carpet and your time. Sold at TRUMAN & SHAW'S, No. 588 (Eight Thirty-five) Market street, below Ninth.

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