## THE SOUTH.

Further Report from the Joint Commit tee on Reconstruction---Evidence in Relation to Florida, Louisiann and lexas-Bitterness of the "Misguided Brethren" towards the Union People and the Government. &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, March 7, 1866.—The testimony reported from the Committee on Reconstruction to-day, refers to the States of Texas, Florida and Louisiana.

Lieut. Wilson Miller, commanding colored troops in the southwestern part of Texas, with his headquarters at Corpus testified he had been over the principal part of that section and through the district lying thirty or forty miles back of Indianola, extending westward to Mexico; he found the people of Texas divided into three classes; the first are those who have been always under all circumstances friendly to the Government, who had mostly been refugees during the war, but have since returned. Of the remaining portion there are those who have been more or less active rebels throughout the wealthy and intelligent class, and those who are no large property holders, and who are generally without property—a class which he found in no other State—who would come gene rally under the vagabond law, without any visible means of support—not all blacklegs but principally non-property-holders, or property-holders to a less extent. He found the feeling manifested by these two classes entirely different; the most intelligent, and as a general thing the most wealthy men in that portion of the State, whether they have been in the rebel service or not, are more favorably disposed toward the Government than the other class; they appear more will-ing to accept the question raised by the war as settled, and in favor of measures calculated to adapt that country as rapidly as possible to the new order of things; he did not know but what he spoke a little too ra-pidly in saying that this is the temper of the class, because he had naturally, from choice been brought in contact more with people holding these opinions; but he be-lieved it was generally true that there is among them less bitterness, less hostility and less looking forward to a future time when a second trial of arms may be had, than he found among the other class. When our troops first went to Western Texas the feeling was an acceptance of the fortunes of war. The question had been tried by battle but had resulted adversely, and the general disposition was to submit to the result. Since then he had noticed a gradual change in the manifestation of feeling, which has been growing more and more independent, and at the time he left this class were becoming more and more outspoken in their bitterness against the United States Government, and mere hostile toward the officers and sol diers of the army in their intercourse with them. It appeared to be only restrained from breaking out into acts of violence toward our officers by the superiority of our numbers. Occasional difficulties occurred, which the witness related.

In response to the question as to what has produced the change of feeling, he replied, the conduct of the Government; of the administration; the facility with which pardens were reported to be granted; the gen-eral disposition of the administration to be lenient, which he had frequently heard spoken of by these people, that they had strong friends in the North and in the Go-vernment. The fact that they had strong party friends in the North appeared to be the principal grounds of encouragement they had for supposing the rebellion to be overlooked, and they could once more get the political power in the hands of the South The freedmen's bureau is an absolute necessity. The witness, in reply to a question said: He might be extreme in his opinion but when you come below what is called the educated and intelligent class of whites, the most intelligent class next are the ne-groes; they know more of what is going on than the poor whites, and show a continual disposition to learn and improve. Major General David T. Stanley testifies

that he served in Texas before and after the breaking up of the rebel army. He found matters unsettled. The negroes had learned the disposition which was to be made of them by the Government; that is, they were free. In the immediate vicinity of the troops there was no effort on the part of masters to restrain them; but at points somewhat remote—and that is a country of long distances—at points forty or fifty miles away from the troops, the former owner tried to constrain the negroes to remain on the plantations. They threatened them and sometimes used violence, killing them in some instances. The troops endeavored to arrest the murderers and arrested those guilty of whipping negroes. Texas had not been conquered, the people asserting the State had not been surrendered by General Lee. The Germans are a loyal people and go beyond the American Union sentiments vastly. The witness said, besides these the only Union men whom he knew in Texas— men of any influence, would be comprised in ten persons. He did not think there need be any fear of an outbreak or resistance to the government, but stated if we become involved in a foreign war almost the entire American population of Texas would go over to our enemies if they thought they had any chance of succeeding; and this was not only his opinion, but he had heard the same opinion expressed by other men of ability there. The women of Texas were universally rebels, contemptuous, and disposed to be insolent to American officers whenever they could; as to the feeling of the people it has been bitter since the fall of the rebel lion, excepting Western Texas; they would elect candidates for office favorable to rebellion: the witness said he considered Texas in a worse condition than any othe State, for the reason that they were never whipped there; in the course of his testimony he said there was more solid money in Texas than in any other State; the peo-ple left to themselves would hold the negroes in bondage; the people are generally in comfortable circumstances; the keeping of a military force in Texas is a necessity for

the next five years. Lieutenant-Colonel H. S. Hall testifies there seems to be a very general desire and earnest wish to be immediately admitted into the Union, which takes the shape of a demand of absolute right; but there is no real love expressed for the Government; on the contrary there is an expression of hatred for the people of the North, of Yankees generally; while the idea seems to be that they should at once obtain possession of political privileges and power which they once had. They seem to have an idea that they are entitled to all the rights under the Constitution which they ever had. They Constitution which they ever had. They express bitterness against those whom they characterize as radicals, and denounce most severely the policy of the party which they term the radical party. They consider the freedmen's bureau an unmitigated nuisance. If this were abolished the negro would be forced to labor without compensation.

Brig. Gen. W. E. Strong, inspector general, gave testimony on the condition of the freedmen. When the negroes were held in bondage they were, as a rule, treated well: cases of extreme cruelty were very rare; it was then for the interest of the master to take care of and not ill-treat them; now it is ouite different; they have no interest in their welfare, and seem to take every op-portunity to vent their rage and hatred on the freedmen. They are frequently beaten inmercifully, and shot down like beasts, without provocation, and followed with hounds and maltreated in every possible way. It is the same old story of only there is more of it in Texas than in any other Southern State the witness had visited One campaign of our army through the

eastern part of Texas, such as was made by Major General Sherman in South Caro lina, would greatly improve the temper and generosity of the people. The most intense hatred is shown by many citizens of that country toward Northern men and the officers and soldiers of the army and the United

States Government

The following is an outline of the testimony taken with regard to Florida; John W. Recks, collector of customs in that State says, the general impression among the cople was that they had been overcome but not conquered. There has been no material change for the better in any portion of the State lately in rebellion; the people have a bitter aversion to what they call the Yan-kees or Northern men. They have no love for them. He would not know where to lay his hand upon a man who really loves the Union at the present day. He would just as soon expect to find a white raven on the sand banks of Florida as to find a Union man who has always resided there. There might be some, but he had not found them Those who are apparently friendly are deceitful from circumstances, and from what he witnessed if they had the power they would destroy the Union men. The presence of a military force in Florida is necessary to secure the rights of property and the lives of citizens, both whites and blacks.

William Marvin testified that when he was appointed Provisional Governor of Florida it was under military control; he detailed the circumstances attending the steps taken by the Federal Government to reorganize the State; the number of persons who were pardoned under the amnesty oath did not exceed seven thousand; on being questioned as to the election of delegates to the convention, he said he did not think any ticket was run in any of the counties which could be called in opposition to the reconstruction of the Union; about one-half of the delegates previously belonged to the Confederate army; nearly one-fourth of the entire number claimed to be Union men all the time, and avoided being drafted into the rebel service, and did not participate in the movement; the other fourth rather sym pathized with secession.

The examination was not completed, as Governor Marvin had to leave the city. Rev. L. M. Hobbs testified that in Florida the feeling against the Government is bitter, much more so than it was three or four months ago. There was a time when the people seemed to be very much disposed to do anything that the Government would require of them. They are now quite bitter, and say what they would not dare bave said three months ago. They talk treason on the street without any concealment. The great majority of them do so-the majority of the lower classes. A few intelligent citi-zens, whom he regarded as honorable men, deplore the expression of such opinions, bu they are very much in the minority, and can have but little influence in the affairs of the State government. The change in tone is because of the leniency manifested by the

present Administration.

The following is a synopsis of the testimony taken in relation to Louisiana: Tuos. W. Conway, who occupied the position of assistant commissioner of freedmen's affairs, testined that his field of duties was in the neighborhood of New Orleans, comprising twenty parishes. There was a coniderable loyal sentiment, not an element of which became loval since the occupation but of men who were previously loyal. He was brought in contact with property holders and the holders of slaves, and he was confirmed in the opinion that they ha i not changed, but were opposed to the Government. They were not willing to make their opposition physically, but secretly and quietly. They would always throw obstacles in the way of the work of the bureau. and the issuing of pardons emboldened and encouraged them to exhibit a spirit of defiance toward the officers of the Government and toward loyal men.

Brigadier-General Doolittle, who served in the northeastern part of Louisiana, testifies that among the better class of citizens, while he did not think there was a very hearty loyalty, perhaps there was a disposi-tion to conduct themselves in support of the Government; the greater numbers, perhaps, regretted the war more from the fact that their property was destroyed, and so much suffering entailed upon them, than because of the undertaking itself; a great many were sorry they had not succeeded, but were willing to accept the condition of things and make the best of it, and do everything they could now to support the Government, and there were others who had just as much bitterness as ever toward the Union people Rev. Jeseph E. Roy, agent of the Home Missionary Society, who went to Louisiana on evangelical business, testified that while the people were disposed to be loyal, they still retain the old spirit of secession. have a bitterness of feeling against the Unio element, and especially against the old Union men of the South. The Government should keep the army there for the protection of Union men and freedmen.

D. A. Haines testified he was a resident of Rapides parish until the rebels burnt him out; and as an indication of rebel feeling, related how he had been treated. The rebers beat him violently, and would have mur dered him but for the interference of friends because he had been in the Union army. He said it would not be safe to withdraw the troops, and that Northern men are stigma-tized as damped Yankees. J. W. Shaffer, in his testimony, said he found a deep-seated desire to repudiate the

national debt Hon. John Covode, of Pennsylvania, who visited the South in June and July, testified that, with regard to the temper and spirit of the people, the politicians who remained at home, and particularly the female portion of the community, indulged in very bitter feelings towards the United States Government—much more hostile than soldiers of the surrendered revel army. Many planters had determined to leave the country, and some had already left, believing that they could never take part in the Government which they feared would lay a heavy hand

on the participants in the rebellion.

In conversation with multitudes of officers and soldiers of Kirby Smith's army, he was surprised to find how docile and submissive they were, never in a single instance hearing an unkind feeling expressed towards the Government. The general expression was that they were well whipped; that they were glad the war was over, and were ready to come back and submit to what was required of them. Many of the more intelligent said their leaders had made a grea mistake in going into rebellion against the Government; that they should have endeavored to accomplish his political purpose by political measures in which they feel sure of the aid of Northern Democrats, but that by participating in the recellion they had tied the handsof their Northern friends. had tied the handsoftner northern frieurs. The men of the army seemed not to have the least expectation of being entrusted again with political power or privileges, at least for some time. When Governor Wells refor some time. When Governor Wells returned from Washington with a Dr. Cottmain, a former secessionist, and Mayor Kennedy, the rebel element appeared to be greatly encouraged with the reports he brought from Washington. He (Governor Wells) stated in a public meeting that the President was a Southern man and a Demcrat, and he would be a bulwark between the South and Northern Abolitionists and fanaticism, and made open issue with Mr. Lincoln's administration—charging it with the contraction of an enormous debt, and said Mr. Johnson's administration would said Mr. Johnson's administration would be of a very different character. While this speech encouraged the rebel element, it equally discouraged the loyal element, being the first intimation to the latter that the Government had betrayed them.

Mr. Covode speaks of having himself addressed the Union men, denying the allegations of the Covomers according to the covo tions of the Governor concerning Johnson's administration, and urging them to organize, have their men registered, and register

the names of colored men thus authorized constitutionally to vote, viz: Those who had served in the Union army, that paid taxes, and those who were educated-pro mising that if excluded, by rebels from the polls and beaten, the rebel candidates for Congress thus elected would not be allowed to take their seats: he stated that the officia appointees of Governor Wells were rebels of the worst class of men at home, and one high official had kept the blood hounds during the rebellion with which Union men were hunted to death; Union men who had been barbarously persecuted during the rebellion felt obliged to remain within military protection, and were unable to return to their homes. Over one hundred rebel officers had been appointed to office by the Governor, After this the rebel officers and soldiers, a Mr. Covode reports, become more defiant, and freely discussed their plans for political ascendancy; to this end they began to regis-ter for voting, and if unable to pay their taxes, the money was furnished them, and of a list of seven thousand only about two thousand three hundred took the oath of allegiance as required. He was asked by loyal men to notify them in case they were to be abandoned to the control of rebels, that they might have time to get away. Such men declared they could not live there if the military should be withdrawn, and an instance is given of a man who ventured to return home being driven away.

In conversation held with Gov. Wells, he

reports a demand of the Governor upon the Government for pay for slaves emancipated, and for their removal to Mexico or else-where, and when told that the plantations could not be worked without them, he said, "we can import labor from abroad or from the North." He said he found the freedmen working well, and in every case was told by planters that they worked as well as when slaves. The highest wages paid, so far as he heard, was eight dollars per month and sup-

Some of them manifested a want of con fidence in their fermer masters, many o whom were unwilling to make bargain with them in good faith; some worked for one-eighth or a tenth of the crop and their support; some were unwilling to raise cot-ton or sugar, lest it should be taken from them, but they were willing to raise corn some who farmed for themselves in 186had saved several hundred dollars each and were now hiring others to work for He reports a universally-expressed determination of the negroes, whenever questioned, to vote for the Government and not for rebels, and states that he never found in the South a disloyal negro. He stated that he had made a report to the President, of which he retained only a rough draft. One of its conclusions was that, if the rebel element was allowed to vote in the South at that time, every member returned to Congress would be hostile to the policy of the Federal Government, not only as regards the payment of the national debt, but in reference to the emancipation of the negroes; that while they expressed a willingness to sufmit to emancipation, they coupled with it determination to regulate their own afficers with the freedmen and control their system of labor, some declaring that the system of negro labor would be better for them than before: the Government should care for the cripples, and they would control the aide-bodied. He stated that he urged upon the President the immediate removal of Gover nor Wells, who had betrayed his trust, and expressed himself unfavorable to trustic. he people to administer the affairs of that State. He also recommended the continuance of military governments in other States.

San Francisco, California, Wool Trade. The quantity of wool handled in the market during the year was 7,250,000 pound-which shows a decrease of about 10 per cen: from last year's product. This includes all the wool received from Oregon, the Hawaiian Islands &c., which has always been included as California wool. The decreasis wholly in the Califorian product, and imainly accounted for by the fact that a great many sheep died in 1864 on account of the drought, while numerous flocks were driven to Oregon to graze. The market has been subject to great fluctuations during the year, and prices have, for the most part, been re-latively lower than those ruling in N. York

and Boston—thus rendering purchases in these markets more or less dangerous. The product of wool in 1864 was 8,000,000 lbs., and in 1865, 7,221,000. The shipments for 1864 were 6,473,615 lbs., against 6,336,19\_

In the beginning of the year the ruling price was 24 cents and upward, under a brisk local demand. This, however, was oon met by liberal receipts, and prices declined to 20(a.22 cents. In the early part of the second quarter, under a sharp compet. tion, there was an advance to 24a 26 cents, but in July prices reached to 18a 20. The market for the fall clip opened in favor of the buyer at 16a 18 cents but competition soon carried prices up to 206; 22 cents, at which the bulk of the fall clip went forward. This wool in the East has never reached over 35% 37 cents, lcurrency, which barely covers costs and charges. The estimated consumption of the two local mills is, in round numbers, 1,000,000, both establishments having been idle for repairs some portion of the year. The fall clip has been pretty well cleared out of market, and prices at the close were nominally 186520c. or well graded lots, free from burs.

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