

TO BUILD A MODEL TOWN FOR NEGROES

ONE RESULT OF THE SOUTHERN LYNCHINGS.

Factories and Dwellings to Be Built on the Peconic River, Near Jamesport, L. I.—White Men to Furnish the Capital—Many Negroes Already Eager to Come.

From the New York Sun.

Within a few months Long Island is to have an industrial colony made up of negroes from the South. It will be a municipality in itself, conducted according to its own rules, and will start its existence with a population of 1,000 negroes. No white persons will be permitted to acquire property for dwelling purposes within its limits, but the factories which will furnish the industrial life of the town will be owned by whites. Lynch law, as practiced in the South, is the main cause of this colony, the colonists being from the states of Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, and should this experiment prove a success other Northern settlements for Southern negroes may follow.

THE SITE.

The site of the proposed colony is in a county, about twenty miles east of New York City. It is on the Long Island main line, to Jamesport, about a mile and a half from the south side of the Peconic river, two miles from Peconic. Here the river is broad and deep enough to admit large vessels from the north and south and from swamps. Nearby are some of the best farms on Long Island. The tract near the river is not wooded, back a short distance there is the timber land. It would be difficult to find anywhere a site better suited for an industrial city whose inhabitants intend to grow their own crops, as the plan with the negro colony, and will require little grading or bringing the soil in a high degree acceptable of cultivation and access to both by land and by water. The promoters intend to buy at first a tract of 3,000 acres, and they have an option for 6,000 acres more. The first purchases will be made within a day or two, as soon as the title has been thoroughly searched.

What financial interests are back of the project is a matter of secrecy at present. Rufus L. Perry, of Brooklyn, represents the active management. Mr. Perry is a young colored lawyer, a graduate of the New York university, and a Democrat in the politician of prominence. His scheme is, in substance, as follows:

THE PLAN.

As soon as the land is secured grants will be made to certain manufacturers who will put up factories. To the manufacturers all the labor they need will be guaranteed at a certain rate, in return for which they must engage to abide by the rules of the corporation which is to conduct the affairs of the colony. Streets are to be laid out and houses built, and when the factories are in running order and there are accommodations for the colonists 1,000 of them will come up. Already the selection of the site on the south has been arranged for by the agents of the colonizers, and it is expected that the factories will be running by next winter.

Mr. Perry was asked by a Sun reporter last week to tell the objects and nature of the colony. He declined to do so. He was at first reluctant to speak on the subject, saying that for some reasons it seemed best not to make the matter public as, even when nothing was definitely known of it, one newspaper had got an inkling of the project. He was at last prevailed upon by the agents of the colonizers, and it is expected that the factories will be running by next winter.

WHAT SUGGESTED IT.

"This thing," said he, "was suggested by the wish of the negroes in many southern states to get away because of the outbreak of bad feeling against them which has caused so many lynchings in the past few months. About three months ago a took hold of the matter actively and

What a brute! That is what is said of the man who abuses his horse, but the man who abuses his body finds help and encouragement on every side. His mother makes him some of that good old-fashioned mince pie his daughter gives him hot bis-

cut, and his wife follows with the delicious ice cream. Presently the man has that unpleasant feeling in the stomach which is the beginning of a dyspeptic condition. His nerves become unstrung, he makes mother, wife and daughter miserable with his moodiness. His liver is torpid. His blood is being poisoned by the impurities which the broken-down organs are incapable of taking care of. He is in just the condition to receive the germs of any disease, and the germs of consumption. To that disease too, he becomes a victim one day or another, unless saved by the use of such a remedy as Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. This will put him on his feet again. It is a tonic and appetizer, a blood purifier, a liver invigorator, a nerve restorer, a strengthening for the weak, a cure for weak and bleeding lungs, bronchitis, lingering cough and kindred ailments, which if neglected or improperly treated lead up to consumption. Perhaps you think no medicine can cure so many ailments, but when you remember that all these diseases start in the stomach and nutritive system, and that "Golden Medical Discovery" corrects that fault or derangement at the starting point, it isn't so strange after all that it does so much.

Mrs. Ellen E. Bacon, of Shiloh, Franklin Co., Mass., writes: "I sincerely believe I should never have been able to get on my feet without Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. Prior to September 1897, I had doctor after doctor, but to no purpose. I had been sick several months, and was unable to do any work. I had taken twenty pills in two months."

went south to find out how a suggestion of emigration would be received by the colored people there. Until I went down I supposed that it would take many months to find enough people of the right kind who would be willing to leave their homes; but I did not then understand the conditions there. The notion took like wildfire, and soon I saw that the difficulty would be not in getting the colonists, but in selecting the best ones from the many who want to come. Plenty of labor for the industrial colony was to be had without trouble. The next thing was to arrange definitely for its employment.

A number of manufacturers here promptly agreed to build factories if labor could be furnished at a certain figure. That figure is one that will give the average colonist a 50 per cent. advance on the wages he is now earning, and his expenses will not be more than probably be less than his present ones. Next came the matter of the site for our town. We selected a place in Suffolk county and had the price all settled, but the deal fell through because of a defect in the title. Then we hit upon the tract on the shore of the Peconic river, and that was to be just about what we want.

"Down there we are going to build a city that will be considerably different from anything in this vicinity. At the start off we are going to put in \$75,000 to get the town laid out. We're going to have a town building, a good club house, a hotel for colored people only, and a wharf on the river, and when we get around to it we're going to run high-class steamboat excursions down there from this city. That's a good way ahead, however. The factories will be put up by the manufacturers, but they'll get the ground free.

EASY TERMS.

"Our town will be laid out in squares, and we will put up two-story frame houses for the colonists. If a man wants to build a home of his own he may have the land free and we'll advance half the sum for building the house and a mortgage on the property without interest. No man can come there with nothing and start in. He's got to have his fare up here and at least \$75, or he won't be accepted. First we'll get the men up here and keep them in a big general building until the houses are ready. Then in the early spring, they will be allowed to bring up their families and go to housekeeping."

"How can you be sure of getting the right kind of settlers?" asked the reporter. "For that we depend on our agents," Mr. Perry replied. "The agents are all ministers and they understand their people and report on all applicants. In order to join us a man must be of good habits and character, industrious, sober, and of at least fair intelligence. Besides that, he must agree to accept of the terms of the colony. We don't intend to let in any of the disorderly element, and any man who doesn't believe himself after he gets here will be turned out pretty quickly. We guarantee to desirable colonists steady employment at all kinds of work, and we're going to take in all kinds of workmen."

A TOWN GARDEN.

"One thing that we'll have is a big town garden in which to raise produce for the town and the gardeners will live in detached houses near by. Probably each will have a plot allotted to him and he will receive a percentage on what he raises. As for the stores, that will be run, not to make a profit, but to sell goods at the lowest possible cost and still pay expenses. It will sell all kinds of things, and will be the only store in the place. Then, too, there will be a hardware store, a drug store, a grocery store and a fire department, and there'll be a welcome for churches of all denominations as soon as they care to come. About the only man who won't be able to make a good living will be the lawyer, for there is an agreement between the colonists and the capitalists that all legal disputes shall be settled by arbitration. Criminal cases, if there are any, we will, of course, hand over to the county authorities."

"What will be your town government?" asked the reporter. "Colonists will have no legal votes for a year," Mr. Perry said. "The town will be incorporated and the rules of the community code will govern," said Mr. Perry. "Every colonist will understand before he comes that he must obey the rules to which he has subscribed or get out. Just how the governing power will be vested is not yet fully decided."

IN CASE OF GROWTH.

"In provision made for a growth of the colony or will the number be restricted to 1,000?" "If we have 1,000 acres on which we have the option to be taken in case of growth, though we have now much more than enough land for the 1,000 colonists and their families."

"How large a community do you expect to have eventually?" "Mr. Perry, after a moment's hesitation, "we expect to have a city of 15,000 inhabitants."

"That would mean enough votes to decide the political complexion of the county, probably," suggested the reporter. "That certainly would," was the reply. "Those votes are going together, too, for the best good of the community. If we had the space we could have a city of 75,000 there in a year; but under our system 15,000 would be about as many as we could handle. Come down next spring and land at our wharf and take our town street car through the place—all the principal streets named after prominent colored men—and I think we will be able to show you a community that will prove the industrial value of the negro."

Since Mr. Perry began his work he has had hundreds of letters from applicants in the south. A Texas man offered to bring him 75,000 reputable workers. Many of his correspondents were graduates of industrial schools in the south. The president of a well known colored institute wrote suggesting the founding of a similar colony in the south, and declaring that if the capital could be found to start it, 50,000 of the best colored people in his part of the country would settle there. Still another correspondent wrote to ask if there was an opening for him in the new colony. He owned a chicken farm, he said, with 5,000 chickens. Mr. Perry wrote back that, as the colonists were to be of good principles, he could not conscientiously submit their morals at the very outset to such a strain as the establishment of a chicken farm within its borders would amount to. At least a dozen correspondents were offering to supply from 1,000 to 5,000 colonists. From the general tone of the letters, it would appear as if certain southern states were in danger of losing their laboring population as soon as opportunity for emigration offers.

Sunday-School Lesson for June 4.

Christ Crucified.

JOHN xix, 17-30.

BY J. E. GILBERT, D. D., LL. D.,

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CONTEXT—After the cry of the mob preferring Barabbas (chapter xviii, 40), Jesus was delivered to the soldiers who put a crown of thorns on His head, arrayed Him in the purple, and mocked Him as a king. In this condition He was brought forth to the multitude by Pilate, who doubtless expected to excite the mob by the display of the crucified man. He was crucified at nine o'clock in the morning, and the sun was darkened. Pilate, alarmed at this statement, withdrew with his prisoner to the judgment hall, and earnestly sought to find some ground for release. However, ever to pacify the people, Pilate once more brought Jesus before them, saying "Behold your king." But they cried out saying they had no king but Caesar, thus relinquishing all their Messianic hopes. Overcome by these persistent demands Pilate at length yielded and gave the sentence of death.

THE PLACE—With that refinement which the Christian religion inculcates, the evangelists have given very meager account of the crucifixion. One must turn to profane history for the details of this brutal mode of punishment inflicted by the Romans and other eastern peoples. Passing out of the city by the Golden Gate, the soldiers and the slaves (the executioners) moving on in an orderly way, the chief priests, who had instigated the arrest, not far distant, the holy multitude, some before some behind, delighting in cruelty; a few women His truest friends, making loud lamentations of grief, and at least one of the apostles, Jesus (Luke xxiv, 13) led forth to expiate their crimes (Matt. xxv, 38). The procession halted upon the high elevation, familiarly called the place of a skull, in Hebrew is Golgotha (Verse 17), and in Latin Calvary (Luke xxiii, 33). There at 9 o'clock in the morning (Mark xv, 25) the Son of God was nailed to the cross (Verse 18).

THE TITLE—All the evangelists agree that a superscription was placed over the head of Jesus (Verse 19), but they do not agree as to the language in which the lesson was given. "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." The first Gospel omits "of Nazareth" and prefixes the words "This is Jesus, the Son of David, the second Gospel is still briefer (Mark, xv, 26). The essential part, "The King of the Jews," appears in all. The writing was by order of Pilate, before the cross was erected, and it is significant, it being customary to announce the offense of a criminal. The words were in Hebrew, the language of the church; and in Latin, the language of the government (Verse 23). It was a plain announcement, to all classes of the people, that Jesus was going to die for those who had arraigned Him before Pilate. The title was eminently proper. The chief priests and the Roman governor had conspired together to do so, to do justice to the innocent.

THE REQUEST—There have been

many conjectures concerning the motive that prompted Pilate to place this title over Jesus. Some have thought that he was influenced by the spirit of God; that he was, as the saying is, "under the influence of the Holy Spirit." The consciousness that the Father had forsaken Him (Mark xv, 34). The omission might be accounted for by his supposed absence while awaiting Mary. He returned, however, to describe the closing scene. For nearly six hours Jesus had been hanging on the cross, sinking slowly from depth to depth of unfeeling suffering. No word of complaint had fallen from His lips. But now, knowing that He had accomplished all that was required and that the end was near (Verse 30), He cried, "It is finished." This expression of the Sufferer was the outcry of His humanity, indicating that torment which is most difficult of all for the human race to bear, the most unmitigated of the many sources of anguish which were combined in this form of death. This sole word of physical suffering showed that He did not sanction stoic impassibility. With some measure of sympathy a soldier offered Him some of the rough wine to drink (Verse 33).

THE RAIMENT—Jesus was nailed to the cross naked. His raiment, His only worldly possession, according to custom, became the property of the executioners. There was first a division into four parts of such garments as were of nearly the same value—the head-gear, the outer cloak, the girdle and the sandals (Verse 24). Besides these there were the seamless woven inner garment, by far the most valuable of all, for which, as it could not be divided without being destroyed, it was sold to one of the soldiers by lot (Verse 26). By comparison (Matt. xxvii, 35) it will be seen that John's account of this occurrence is more particularly correct, as he alone gives by the other evangelists (Mark xv, 24). He appears also to have reflected upon the strange spectacle, and as he gazed upon the scene the words of the Psalmist came to his mind, predicting the sufferings and contempt that should attend the Saviour even unto death (Psalm xxii, 18).

THE MOTHER—It appears that five persons only of all those who had followed Jesus during His ministry remained with Him to the end. One of them was John the beloved disciple, who had been in the palace of the High Priest and in the judgment before Pilate. The other four were women—the virgin mother, her sister, the wife of Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene (Verse 25). For awhile they remained at a distance (Mark xv, 40), unwilling to gaze upon the shocking spectacle of the crucifixion. But later, when the crowd had dispersed, Jesus gave a most beautiful exhibition of His utter self-forgetfulness and of His human thoughtfulness of others. Addressing His mother He committed her to the care of John as her son (Verse 26), and then turning to him He said, "Behold thy mother." Immediately that charge brought his soul with unavailing gravity had come to him, and he promised (Verse 27). Of her after history we know nothing, but it is safe to assume that she was held in high esteem.

REFLECTIONS—Dr. Keim's words may be concluded by saying that the death of Christ appropriately closed His career. He could endure, but that would not be to sacrifice. He could recant and descend from the cross, but that would be to repudiate His Messianic claim. He suffered, and though it was against His nature, it was His vocation. He suffered, purposeful to atone by His blood, sure of His own redemption, and of the free-will gift, knowing that it was only His body and not His soul that He was sacrificing, but that He would ascend to His Father in glory, and that the world's history does the enigma of Providence stand before us in such gigantic proportions, and yet in such a simple way, that we are almost permitted of the cruel death of the man at whose hands God received back a lost and ruined world."

THE THIRST—John makes no reference in his narrative to the mocking of the chief priests (Matt. xxvii, 41-43), the railing of the malefactor (Luke xxiii, 41), and the raving of the Jews (John viii, 12). The consciousness that the Father had forsaken Him (Mark xv, 34). The omission might be accounted for by his supposed absence while awaiting Mary. He returned, however, to describe the closing scene. For nearly six hours Jesus had been hanging on the cross, sinking slowly from depth to depth of unfeeling suffering. No word of complaint had fallen from His lips. But now, knowing that He had accomplished all that was required and that the end was near (Verse 30), He cried, "It is finished." This expression of the Sufferer was the outcry of His humanity, indicating that torment which is most difficult of all for the human race to bear, the most unmitigated of the many sources of anguish which were combined in this form of death. This sole word of physical suffering showed that He did not sanction stoic impassibility. With some measure of sympathy a soldier offered Him some of the rough wine to drink (Verse 33).

THE END—Having barely tasted the proffered drink Jesus exclaimed, "It is finished" (Verse 30). The work of His life was done; the atonement for the world's sin was complete; the last moment of suffering and of cruelty had passed. With a loud voice He cried, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." He bowed His head upon His breast and "gave up the ghost." His death was not altogether the result of crucifixion. He lay down His life (John x, 15). It was not taken from Him. At the time when all things had been completed He withdrew from the body, leaving it to remain on the cross. Then followed phenomena of a most startling character, mentioned only by the other evangelists, symbolic of great truths. The earth and the rocks were rent (Matt. xxvii, 51), and the veil of the temple was rent in twain from top to bottom (Mark xv, 38). Nature shuddered in token of sympathy with her Lord.

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