

Thoughts on Southern Affairs

By a Carpet-Bagger.

I.

That the South has been for half a century or more the hot-bed in which were started ~~the~~ ^{our} political issues, is a fact which no one conversant with our history can pretend to deny. It has seemed to possess an ~~power to generate political miseries~~ aptitude for generating noxious miseries to trouble the body politic - which was equalled only by the peculiar ignorance and uncertainty which prevailed ^{at the north,} in regard to her manners customs and institutions of her people. A peculiar exclusiveness has hedged them in, until there was probably never so great a dissimilarity between people of the same common stock, living under the same general government and separated by no natural barrier as there has been, and still is, between the North and the South. Mason and Dixon's line, though intended, to be, and always considered, to be imaginary, was, in fact one of the most veritable and insurmountable barriers ever drawn between two peoples. One may cross the boundary line between Canada and the United States and except for the sound of a cannon, the passage of a lake or river, or the ^{sight} presence of a customs officer, find it hard to tell when he left the States and entered the Dominion. Not so with the unmarked boundary between the South and the North. A child could not cross without observing it. The differences of customs, manners, thoughts is as wide as if an ocean rolled between. A person going from ~~the one~~ to the other is almost as easily distin-

quishable as a Polynesian would be in the streets of
 London. This dissimilarity has practically acted as
 a Chinese Wall in excluding people of Northern and
 foreign birth from the ~~soil~~ soil of the South. While the
 population of the North is constantly undergoing ad-
 mixture and change by the influx of foreign im-
 migration and the outflow and reflux of inter-
 state commerce and migration, the South has re-
 mained stationary. Its people are almost entirely the
 progeny of those who dwell upon the very plantations ^{which} they
 now cultivate. Not a single state of the South has ever
 had ten thousand people of northern birth in her ^{borders} at any
 one time ~~except during the war~~, unless it be Texas. Louisiana did,
 at one time, ^{contain} ~~have~~ about seven thousand! ^{The number is very much less,} and this includes
 both sexes, ~~and~~ old and young! It is believed, after ^{careful} ~~an~~
 estimation that the ~~average~~ number of voters, of Nor-
 thern birth in the southern states at this time, ^{will average less than} ~~is~~ ^a ~~not~~
one thousand ^{each!} apiece!

Although not numerous, they have been
 made the scape-goats for all political, sin dur-
 ring the past ten years. The catalogue of evils for
 which the carpet-baggers are ^{held} responsible, either
 primarily or secondarily, is an appalling and
 yet an amusing one. "The corpus of public credit"
 is laid at their door with a gravity which must
 almost impose upon ~~one~~ of the C. B.'s themselves,
 and they are called upon in sepulchral tones, by

and exemplars
 honorable advocates of "the Mississippi plan" of pay-
 ing debts both public and private, to

"Take up your dead
 and hide it from my sight!"

The Kuklux, caught with his mask and gown and
 with the stain of innocent blood on his mur-
 derous hands, lifted up his voice and cried out
 in tones of injured patriotism -

"I wouldn't ha' done it, if it hadn't a'
 bin for the Carpet-buggers!"

The bull-dozer, in the swamps of Louisi-
 ana sends the Winchester slug crushing through
 the brain of his unsuspecting victim and
 then coolly says to the weeping friends who
 hardly dare to mourn their dead,

"See what he got by followin' the Carpet-
 buggers!"

The distillers of the Carolinas and Virginia shoot down
 the Revenue officials whose duty compells them to
 seek the stills which ^{are hidden} ~~work~~ in their mountain fast-
 nesses, and their apologists make the world resound
 with cries of

"Carpet-bug Revenue raiders!" "Northern
 whiskey nosers! Carpet-bug outrages upon ignorant
 honest Southern men!"

Of course, the Democratic party of the North has joined with them. They have shouted "nigger" "Abolitionist" "murdering" "Rascals" &c, too long at the dictation of Southern leaders not to play the Cuckoo at their bidding now. That was to be expected and they were not to be blamed for it. The South, in the Union or out of it, could never take snuff but they were bound to sneeze! -

In this case, however, the Republican party of the North has also fallen into the same and shouted "carpet-bagger" for the past three or four years as lustily and fiercely as the innocent Kuller, the patriotic bull-dog or the bankrupt mowmer for public credit or the outraged revenue blockader!

There is a story in this country about there being two remedies for being cast in a law-suit, one being to appeal and the other to "go to the tavern and curse the court." This disappointed Republican politician of the North has had but one — to curse the carpet-bagger! If Maine or California fails to elect the chosen of a Republican caucus, no one dreams of attributing his ill-luck to his own unfitness, but every cross roads politician between the two oceans turns his hair and "curse the carpet-bagger!"

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They have not yet been called upon to father the "Ray Ruby", nor accused of crying for "the silver dollar of our daughters"; but if we should lose Ohio on the latter refrain from the political nursery, they undoubtedly ^{will} be, in a short time ~~thereafter~~ the election.

The object of this present writing is not to defend or exonerate the Carpet-baggers. It is no time for consolation, and if it were, there is none to spare them. They have been the instruments of a party drunk with success, ~~and~~ over-confident of the future and over-anxious for the present in which it acted. They have been, collectively, the tools with which it dug its grave, — the style with which it graved its epitaph. They cannot look for justice in this generation, ^{and some of them may not wish it} the good they have done will indeed live after them — and it will surely be admitted that they have done any good until that time ^{shall arrive}. They are the martyrs whose blood will be the seed of ^{progress,} good, but like the martyrs of the Church, they will rarely be ^{canonized} ~~recognized~~ as such until ^{after bygone} death. It is rough on both, but human nature will not change either for carpetbaggers or martyrs. It is true that occasion may be taken, now and then, to suggest something of good for which they may, some time, be thanked and to give ^{another view} ~~the other side~~ of the picture whose blurred shadows have been heretofore hung in a bad light and very legibly catalogued as "The Devil," in our political gallery. — But no such justification of carpetbug-ism or ~~of~~ melioration of the generally accepted idea of the carpet-bagger, constitutes the objective point of the writer. He recognizes that they are too few, and too dead, as a political element, to demand a moment's consideration of our on-rushing ~~forty~~ millions who are careful only of the future regarding the past ^{but} as the dust over which they ^{trample} in the race of wealth and power.

His object is to delineate the general feeling and sentiment of the carpet-buggers, as to the present and prospective condition of the South. Every one else has been asked or has volunteered an opinion upon their subjects ~~but they~~. Correspondents of all shades of political sentiment and all grades of intelligence have whisked through the South by rail ^{or dropped} and ~~traveled~~ through it on foot, for the purpose of writing up their views of the South. Ministers and missionaries and tourists and commissions and Committees, have come down here, in limitless number, to try and read that side of our political life - the South. Most of them have come to develop peculiar theories upon a subject of which they knew nothing. They have attempted to display their wisdom and have set forth very plainly, their folly.

The South has been always heretofore, and will continue to be, during this generation, the propounder of difficult political problems to the nation. Its unification with the North, in sentiment and civilization is a far more difficult question than the double ^{headed} ~~headed~~ political scarecrow, known sometimes as "conciliation", and ~~now~~ now, as "pacification", ever typified or concealed. For fifty years ~~and now~~ she ruled the republic with a rod of iron, defiant alike of majorities, constitution, ^{and} compacts, ^{and} compromises, - the cob-web cables with which we have ever sought to bind her limbs. In these days, they were no more to her Procrustean powers than green withes to the usual sawyer. What they will now affect doth not yet appear.

Since the war, she has shaped the policy of two parties and three presidents; yet neither has been able to count upon her for a moment's support. She is spoken of as the "solid South"; yet for whom she will be sacrificed is the all-absorbing political question and will be, until she has lost her distinguishing features and become homologized with homologous with the rest of the nation.

Of this strange matter, the ^{North} ~~South~~, every body has given his opinion in one form or another, asked or ^{Witnesses} ~~unasked~~, ^{Information on} ~~except~~ the ^{UNITED STATES} ~~carpet-bagger~~ & whether from modesty or otherwise the views of these ~~wonderers~~ are altogether unknown, or except from inference, or the reports of numerous correspondents who have the power of thinking one's thoughts before he ^{has had time to accomplish that feat,} ~~does~~. This true there are three or four newspapers at the South, edited by such, but this very fact has some times prevented the utterance of the whole truth. The carpet-bagger has learned that discretion is the better part of valor, beyond a peradventure, and, like the managers of spiritualistic ^{seances}, declines to show his full hand, except in a room dark enough to conceal his features.

They are counted of all, ~~to~~ to be shrewd observers, not lacking in logical power or subtlety, of distinction & based in one section of the Union, they have been careful watchers of the peculiarities of the other since the close of the war with

contrary to the form of the Statutes in such cases made and provided, and against the
peace and dignity of the United States.

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intellects sharpened by the ventures they have made. They are the pioneers of one civilization descending in the midst of another. Their opinions ought to be both interesting and valuable - to any one who desires to know the whole truth, because they are more capable of comparing both sides.

The writer proposes, from time to time, to lay before the readers of the Independent some views of current events, relating to the South as many occur to him from this standpoint. Being one of those who have given such potent pledges to fortune as to compell him to remain a Carpet-bagger still, he feels impelled to speak in regard to these things, and is confident that his utterances will be endorsed by the more thoughtful of his class. At the same time he professes to bind or represent no one - least of all himself, for he has learned very thoroughly, that one who lies at the South will have a very uncomfortable home, if he dare it is known that he dare to intimate that the Society by which he is surrounded, is not in all respects, charitable.

In the Circuit Court of the United States,

EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The United States

AGAINST

James M. ...

... to recover ...

... for value ...

... having been duly sworn upon the holy Evangel

of Almighty God deposes and says:

... I depose that ...

... I depose that ...

... I depose that ...

... I depose that ...

... I depose that ...

... I depose that ...

... I depose that ...

... I depose that ...

... I depose that ...

... I depose that ...

... I depose that ...

... I depose that ...

... I depose that ...

... I depose that ...

A. Carleton ...
Thought on ...
Affairs

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