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DE BOW'S REVIEW

AND

Industrial Resources, Statistics, etc.

DEVOTED TO

COMMERCE, AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURES, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, EDUCATION, POLITICAL ECONOMY, GENERAL LITERATURE, ETC.

"Commerce is King."

EDITED BY

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NEW ORLEANS
AND
WASHINGTON CITY.

1855.
EFFECTS OF EMANCIPATION.

EFFECTS OF EMANCIPATION—EXAMPLES OF HAYTI, JAMAICA, ETC.

Why is it that our abolitionists and would-be-thought philanthropists of the north are apparently so ignorant of the practical effects of emancipation, and the misery that has resulted therefrom by unwise legislation and blind fanaticism?

Why do they not, instead of standing afar off from these “benighted people,” advocating chimerical dogmas, go among them, and by teaching prepare them to occupy a more exalted position, if they are really capable of so doing, as they would have us believe? Is there not field enough for them in Liberia, in Jamaica, and the Danish islands, instead of creating discord at home; and, above all, in Hayti, once the “Queen of the Antilles,” and now a mass of corruption, abounding in all that is revolting to civilized and refined minds, both morally and intellectually?

This island has, since the revolt of the blacks in 1792, been steadily retrograding, with the exception of during Boyer’s administration, and even then it made no advancement, no progress. There is not a parallel case in the annals of history where the people starting, as the blacks did in Hayti, by conquering a country the richest and most productive in the world of its size, that has sunk in so short a time into absolute poverty.

In 1789 there were, according to reliable statistics, exported 141,000,000 pounds of sugar, and the export of coffee was 76,835,219 pounds; of cotton, 7,004,274 pounds; of indigo 738,628 pounds; and the abundance of luxuries produced enabled the inhabitants to live in a style unequalled elsewhere, even in the tropics.

Before I speak of the present condition of the island, let me repeat an anecdote in illustration, related to me while there not long since by an old resident, an American by birth, who has lived long enough among them to become impoverished like the rest.

He was formerly a merchant, having frequently as many as a dozen vessels in port to his own consignment. Some twenty years since, at a dinner party given by him, on the anniversary of our independence, to the American merchants and shipmasters in port, he spoke of the changes that had already taken place, and among other things, remarked that he expected to see the day when, instead of sweetening their coffee with the sugar produced on the island, as they were then doing, it would be done with sugar imported from the United States. The remark was received with loud acclamations as a good joke, for my friend had the reputation in those days of being somewhat of a humorist. Let us see how his words have been verified.

At this moment there is not one pound of sugar exported from the island, and all that is used is imported from the United States. Some friends of mine have made the attempt to make sugar in a small way within a few years past, but for want of labor were obliged to abandon the project with loss. There is not raised at the very most, as I have been credibly informed by those employed in the custom-houses, more than 40,000,000 pounds of coffee, and the amount decreases yearly. With the exception of Gonaives, there is not a pound of cotton produced, and only a very limited quantity there, barely sufficient for consumption; and instead of exporting, as formerly, indigo, they import all they use from the United States. The people this moment exist (not live) under the most tyrannical and corrupt government known among so-called civilized nations.

I speak from a knowledge of facts, having resided formerly some time in the island, and some of the many circumstances that came to my knowledge then I shall hereafter speak of.

I am, as I ever have been, opposed to slavery in the abstract, and believe it not only a moral wrong, but a greater misfortune to the master than the slave; but I am opposed to the still greater wrong, both moral and social, that must inevitably arise from immediate emancipation. How has it resulted in the English colonies? Was the mere nominal sum paid to the master for his slaves by the English government all that was required, all that was due to him? Was the liberty given to his slave all that he had a right to ask? I think not; for it seems almost a dream when one compares the beautiful estates that formerly adorned those islands to the few and miserably cultivated ones that are now in existence. The negro was formerly as happy and contented as nature designed he should be
THE WEATHER AND THE GRAIN CROPS.

with all of his physical wants supplied, supported and protected by a master, upon whom the laws imposed an obligation to protect and support him in return for his labor, and indulged and encouraged in his innocent and holiday amusements. He became intoxicated at finding himself free, and, under no obligations to himself and master, soon lost all desire of self-cultivation, if he ever had any, or to cultivate the soil; and he has year by year degenerated, until now he is lower in the scale of humanity than those of his own people who roam the deserts of Africa; for they "know not what they do," whereas the negro of Jamaica has systematically learned vice and become too ready a pupil, and is now unfitted for any position above the lowest sensualist, and is even looked upon with contempt, to my personal knowledge and observation, by the degenerate natives of Hayti.

NORTHERNER.

AGRICULTURAL DIVISION OF THE PATENT OFFICE.

Olive cuttings for the South.—A considerable quantity of choice olive cuttings have been lately distributed in the southern States bordering on the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico. They were selected some months ago by the agent of the office in France from the best and most hardy varieties cultivated in that country. Of the olive it has been said with much justice, "Olea prima omnium arborum est;" and, when we consider its usefulness, productiveness, and importance, a little enthusiasm is not altogether misplaced. It had already been introduced into Florida, California, and the Carolinas. Into Florida it was introduced by a colony of Greeks and Minorcans, brought by Dr. Turnbull, an Englishman, in 1769. Into California the Jesuits transplanted it from their own country about one hundred and fifty years ago; and it was about the year 1755 that Mr. Henry Laurens introduced into Charleston, from remote parts of the globe, a great variety of useful and ornamental productions, among which were olives, capers, limes, ginger, Guinea grass, the African strawberry, (which bore fruit nine months in the year,) red raspberry, and blue grapes; also, directly from the south of France, apples, pears, plums of choice varieties, and the white Chasselas grape, the latter of which bore abundantly. The fruit of the olive tree was prepared and pickled, equal to those imported. In 1785 a society was incorporated in South Carolina for the promotion of agriculture. The object was to institute a farm for agricultural experiments, to import and distribute foreign productions suitable to the climate of Charleston, and to direct the attention of agriculturists of the State to economical objects, as well as to reward those persons who should improve the art of husbandry. Among other objects of interest, the society imported and distributed some cuttings of vines and olives. The latter answered well, but the climate near Charleston proved too moist for the grapes. Attempts have been made to propagate the olive from seeds in various parts of the south, but hitherto with little success. This may be attributed to a tendency in the olive to sport into inferior varieties when so planted; but there is every reason to hope that the new importations of cuttings of approved kinds will increase the production in many parts of the south.

[Congress, in the year 1817, granted four townships of land, in the present State of Alabama, on a long credit, to a company of French emigrants, for the purpose and on the condition of their introducing and cultivating the olive and the grape; but we believe the enterprise never was prosecuted to any considerable extent, and it finally fell through, and the lands reverted to the government.]

THE WEATHER AND THE GRAIN CROPS.

The doubts, such as they have been, of a good harvest, are rapidly disappearing all over the country, while the hopes which the most sanguine have indulged gain daily stronger confirmation. As we conceive that no subject is, or ought to be, at this moment of equal importance with the prospect of the crops, we collect from various sources the following information; most of it, as will be seen, of an exceedingly encouraging nature.

The harvest is pretty well over in most of the southern States, and has commenced in the middle and western. A letter from Nashville, Tennessee, says: