

The Daily Sentinel.

VOL III.

RALEIGH, N. C., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1867.

NO. 77.

DAILY SENTINEL.

W. E. PELL, Proprietor.

IMMIGRATION.

We have the pleasure of laying before our valued friend and his address by J. B. Kilbourn, Esq., of Clarksville, Tennessee, on the subject of Immigration into Tennessee. Our readers will well remember his advice, and we think the land owners should at once take steps to carry it out.

We learn from our friend, Rev. W. J. W. Crowder, who has lately visited Tennessee, that the citizens of Montgomery, Dickson and other Counties are carrying out substantially the views of Mr. Kilbourn with excellent effect. Our schemes much favored in those Counties is to lease or dispose from 25 to 40 acres to a head of a family, on the condition he shall furnish for five years a white laborer on the land of the owner at wages per month agreed on.

Mr. Kilbourn is a native of North Carolina, a graduate of our University with first distinction, and is a rising member of the Tennessee bar.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:

There has not been, within my memory, a subject fraught with so much interest and so much importance to the people of this and the surrounding counties, as the one we now propose to discuss—a subject overshadowing and overruling every other, and upon the proper solution of which hang all our hopes for the future, security for the present, and indemnity for the past.

We have here, in our State, all the natural elements necessary to inaugurate a splendid civilization; with not such great exuberance of nature as renders the labor of man insufficient to keep it in action; we yet have such a happy combination of soil and climate, as to be able to produce a greater variety of remunerative crops, than can be grown in any other portion of the globe. We have here no such long seasons of humidity, alternating with those of excessive drought, as in the tropical regions, and which are fatal to habits of systematic and hardy industry wherever they prevail; but throughout the entire year we may reasonably look for rain and sunshine in just sufficient quantities to produce the highest degree of perfection and maturity in our crops.

We should remember—gentlemen, that notwithstanding our natural advantages, our improvidence and slovenly cultivation is fast exhausting the fertility of our soils. We should remember that we may not, with impunity, take from the soil more than we add to it. For it is a law of nature, and agricultural chemistry has demonstrated the fact, that to retain the fertility of the soil, we must replace in some form or other, the elements that we take from it in producing our crops.

Our soils are not yet exhausted, but may be in a few years, under our present system of culture. While they are yet capable of producing almost every variety of crops, we find ourselves checked in our career of prosperity by the want of good, reliable, intelligent and efficient labor. Our farms are growing up in weeds and briars—our fences and houses are going to decay—our stock is diminishing in quantity and value, and our timber is growing painfully scarce.

If there was ever a people under heaven, who needed to be taught habits of economy, we are that people. I do not mean economy in dress or equipage, but economy in the use of those things which are thrown away around us every day. There is but little scope that enough is wasted and destroyed in provisions, in the improper care taken of farming utensils, in the waste of fertilizers, and in many other respects, to maintain and support double the population we now have. We want then, an economical population—a population that will take care of the little things—that will pick up the bones and stones on our farms, making them of the one and fertilizers of the other—a population that will save their earnings and will help us to pay taxes, build churches and schools, establish manufactures, and bring the State of Jackson and Polk and Grundy, to a degree of prosperity she has never known. What will it profit us, to have all the natural advantages of soil and climate that I have spoken of, if we go from year to year, growing poorer and poorer, and impoverishing our lands until we are no longer able to meet the demands of the tax-gatherer?

I have said that we want a population that will save their earnings and be a benefit to the community. We do not, then, gentlemen, want the draft and oaf of our Northern cities, reckless with squalor, filled with crime and impregnated with evil principles. For political purposes, if that were our object, they would, perhaps, be better than any others. But we want material for good citizens—we want the sober, industrious German, selected with care from the rural districts of Germany, whose virtues and whose morals have not been corrupted and despised by the influence of great cities.

It is said by some that we cannot get these people. Determined energy, gentleness, backed by the wealth and intelligence of great people, can accomplish anything within the range of human possibility. We can build railroads, we can found cities, we can erect and endow colleges, build foundries, forges and rolling mills, and shall any one say we cannot get immigrants? Why, for more than fifteen centuries, the countries in the North of Europe have been sending out nearly great swarms of inhabitants, until they have received and merged the appellation of the "great bee hive of nations." And now to hardware by the time of their climate and the sterility of their soil, their martial ardor and impetuosity are baffled by no obstacles that the more sedentary nations in the South of the fourth century, old and interred. After subverting the Roman Empire, their migratory hordes, first contracted by love of plunder, were still small, and became their distinguishing characteristic. Accordingly we find the Goths, the Vandals, the Franks and Germans, in every country upon earth—cutting ship-builders in the teak forests of Burma, chasing tigers in the jungles of India, erecting temples to the Sun on the hills of Persia; trading among devilish swashers of California; building huts on the classic rivers of Greece, and delving shield the splendid ruins of Italy. Crossing the Atlantic, we find them wrestling with nature in the banks of the Amazon, squatting upon the rocky bottoms of the Mississippi, digging gold in California, making cotton in Texas, subduing forests and building great cities in the North west; every-

where and in every land, we find the same blue-eyed and light-haired Scandinavian and Teuton—the sons of Thor and Odin, the worshippers of the mist and storm, winning success by their untiring patience, unyielding efforts, unbending courage and invincible will. Migratory and somewhat claimish in their habits and disposition which classify in their habits and disposition which classify in their habits and disposition as their theatre of action.

Now, judging from their habits, their intense desire for gain, and the superiority of our country, it is antecedently probable that we might overcome any resistance or prejudice they may have in behalf against this section. But there are other causes at work, which may make our success amount to absolute certainty. It is well known that Hanover and Hess Cassel, formerly States of Germany, have been called to the Prussian crown. The military laws of Prussia are so severe, so despotic and unjust in their practical operations—making every man a soldier, and requiring him to serve a specified time in the army, without regard to his circumstances—that the inhabitants in these States are disengaged to a degree that we can scarcely conceive of. Not robbing the Prussian, and having no veneration for its government or institutions, they wish to remain unmolested; but that government, not consulting their wishes or desires, is impressing them into the Prussian army, and every man subject to military duty, and able to pay his way, is leaving the country. So great is the dissatisfaction arising from the annexation of these provinces to Prussia, that on the late anniversary of that event, the women of Hanover put on the sable of mourning and paraded the streets, bewailing their fate and sighing for deliverance from Prussian rule. Now, many of these people are so poor that they are unable to get away. They pine and sorrow for another land, but their poverty cuts off all hope. If an agent should go there prepared to pay their passage to this State and Kentucky, they would welcome him as a savior and benefactor, and would flock to him by thousands. This one act on our part would do more to disarm their prejudices against the South, than years of persuasion and argument.

It is surprising to me, gentlemen, that there can be found any man of reflection who opposes this scheme.

But no good enterprise was ever begun that was met with opposition. This scheme and ours may discourage us. We must not suffer our energies to be paralyzed and the day of our prosperity and eminence put off because there are a few who oppose it. We must work the harder, and if we can convince our theoretical reasoner that he is in error, we must vindicate the scheme's success, and convince him by the inexorable logic of facts.

The beneficial results which would flow from the introduction of this population amongst us, mentioned, are numerous; but there are a few of such transcendent importance to us as a people, that I cannot pass them over silent. We are almost overwhelmed with an influx of black population from every point of the compass, and these great railroads and their connections. The present situation of the Poor, with Petersburg Railway for all points in the Carolinas, Cars are run alongside of steamers' wharf, and goods transferred with careful handling. Cars are run through without breaking, and will soon, no doubt, be eligible to any office or house or trust to which they have a right, and indeed as far as they have a majority of voters, it is highly probable that in a short time their presumption and ambition will claim what their merits do not deserve, and they will be found sitting in places heretofore only occupied by men of worth and ability. With ignorance and prejudice, and with none of that conservatism which all owners of property are found to possess in some degree, their will and doings will be moulded into the form of laws, and attempted to be carried out by a judiciary acting sympathetically with them. The troubles that would ensue can be easily imagined, and it is only by the introduction of white labor that we can avert them.

But there is another result which would flow from the immigration of white persons to our State, which would be quite as beneficial. We would then have population, and we could apply the proceeds from the sale or lease of our lands to the building of manufactories. It is idle to hope for any manufacturing establishment to be erected on a large scale in our midst, without a dense population. Having an abundance of labor, we could have our own cotton and woolen factories, our own establishments for making farming implements, our own shoe-shops, and machine shops. At present we sell our crops of tobacco and wheat, our hay and logs, and go to stores and buy New England calico, New England shoes, New England shirt-suds and buttons, and New England cradles and collars. Now this should not be the case, and we will be poor just so long as we do it. We can make those things at home after we have bought, cheaper than they can in New England; for we have as good water power, and our winter, in severity and duration, is not half that of New England. Like some strong Titan, who was often driven back, but never disengaged; often perplexed, but never in despair; often cast down, but never fallen; and at last gaining a victory as undauntable as that of Job's summer's sun. Genius, valor and science could avail nothing against her wealth.

She possessed the rod of Aaron, that道理 all the serpents of the magicians. Now let all the contrivances of the means we have, to secure the population we need. We will then have taken the first step to greatness and to wealth. Then let us divide our lands into small tracts of fifty acres or less, and sell or lease each alternate tract to actual settlers, who will work it themselves. It sold, let it be on long terms, requiring the purchaser to pay the interest annually, on all unpaid balances, retaining a lien on the lands for the purchase money, and a lien on the crops for the interest. No safer investment could be made, for it would be a debt bearing interest and secured by real estate, which estate would increase rapidly in value for two reasons.

1st. Other things being equal, lands will increase in value in proportion to popularization; and

2d. The purchaser having to make improvements for his own comfort and convenience, the land will be enhanced in value to the extent of these improvements.

Now it occurs to me that, ordinarily, this would be regarded as a judicious, safe and profitable investment.

But this is no means the only profit,

arising from the sale or lease of alternate tracts of land. The reserved tracts or lots will also increase in value, because of the increase of population, and according to all experience, will, in a few years, be worth double the value of the original tract.

This has been practiced with great success in the North-western States. It has turned up, within the memory of persons now living, cities so great and so densely populated, that you might almost throw the entire population of our largest Southern city into them without adding perceptibly to their size.

It has covered the Northern Lakes with the white wings of commerce, until the tonnage of those places bordering on the lakes will exceed the entire tonnage of our Southern cities. This system has subdued the wild swells of Michigan and Minnesota, reclaimed the extensive prairies of Illinois and Indiana, made them to yield enormous harvests for the support and maintenance of man. A system that works so advantageously is surely worth an effort,

and an earnest one on our part, to secure—I am aware that objections have been urged against the plan of subdividing our lands, and the principal one is that we cannot divide our lands so as to secure a proper proportion of timber and cleared lands. This objection, at first sight, would appear insurmountable, but when we remember that our dealer will soon be so scarce and so dear as to prohibit us the for cutting logs in the present manner, and that the population we propose to introduce have the industry and the energy to build stone fences or plant hedge, it will be seen that so far from being a disadvantage, it is a positive recommendation in its favor; for by selling or leasing land in alternate tracts, as we propose, one side certainly, and probably two, of the lot or tract we require will be leased either with stone or with hedge. In this manner we save all our timber, because, in a few years, as of article of fuel, it will be so much dearer than coal, we will all abandon this for that purpose.

It is often asked with what kind of labor will you cultivate the land you reserve? Every man could make his own selection. He could employ the black man, who with some slight drawbacks, such as want of economy and a certain timorous and unreliable, is a very efficient laborer, or he could secure white labor from the floating population that always congregates around a German settlement. In the cultivation of our lands we might learn much from our Northern friends, who employ just so much labor as they may need for the time being—a good deal in the summer months, and but little in winter, thereby saving fuel for their tenants and rent for their houses in winter.

The plan of dividing our lands is, I think, the true one for attaching this foreign element to our soil. Some, however, may prefer to furnish teams, utensils and land to the laborer, and share the crops. With an industry and a spirit of enterprise, we can easily afford to do this.

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ever invested with power, that did not use that power for their own advancement. Could you expect, gentlemen, justice to be administered in your courts by ignorance? Could you expect your tenures to be