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BY GEORGE HOWARD.

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DOMESTIC.

BLACKS & MULATTOES.

During the recent session of the Legislature of Ohio, a number of petitions were presented from various parts of the state, praying the repeal of all laws imposing disabilities of restrictions on blacks, or mulatto persons. The subject was referred to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary, by whom a report was subsequently made, from which we extract the following:

The relative standing of the white and colored population in a free community like ours, so far as regards their civil right and privileges, has been a subject of earnest, and at times, of angry dispute since our State Government was organized.—Repeated applications have been made to the Legislature, for the last twenty years, seeking to place blacks and mulattoes on the same footing, as nearly as the provisions of the Constitution will allow. The interest manifested by petitions and memorials, so often presented, emanating from respectable sources, to ameliorate the condition of the colored population of Ohio, demands respectful attention.

The committee have maturely considered the propositions contained in the memorials, referred to them, and have come to the conclusion, that it is inexpedient at this time, to recommend any Legislative action on the subject. For this, it is proper, they should submit a few reflections, and they ask for them an attentive consideration.

The framers of the constitution foresaw that difficulties might arise by placing the whites and blacks upon an equality; and while they declared that involuntary servitude should not exist in this state, with certain exceptions, they withheld from the negro the right of suffrage, and made him incapable, thereby, of holding any office of trust or profit. The object of this disfranchisement was, it is presumed, to prevent the migration of that unfortunate race; not from any callous or careless feeling for their unhappy condition, but for the purpose of self preservation, from evils which might arise by the introduction of a class of population degraded and debased in other states, and which from the antipathies of nature and the prejudices of education, operating against them, would necessarily remain so here. The same considerations no doubt prompted the legislature to carry out as far as practicable the views entertained by the Convention of 1802.

Experience has shown that these were not mistaken views. The records of crime in the free states, show a frightful disproportion in the numbers of white and black offenders, and most, especially in those states where there are no disabilities or restrictions of law imposed upon the blacks.

In Massachusetts the blacks labor under no disability or discrimination whatever, under constitution. They are only one twenty-fourth part of the popula-

tion, yet they are in the proportion of one sixth of the convicts in the state prison.

In Connecticut the black population is one thirty-fourth part of the whole. The blacks one third of the number in the penitentiary. The constitution of this state in regard to the qualifications of electors, is like that of Ohio, in excluding negroes from the right of suffrage. The committee, however, believe that the enactments of the legislature have not placed upon them any additional disability.

New York, by her constitution, has placed the whites and blacks upon an exact equality. The colored population is one thirty-fifth of the whole. One fourth part of the convicts in her two penitentiaries are negroes.

The one thirteenth part of the population of New Jersey is colored, and one third of the convicts, in the penitentiary are blacks and mulattoes.

In Pennsylvania one third of the convicts, in the two penitentiaries are colored, while the blacks are only one thirty-fifth part of the population.

In Ohio, the black population, as compared with the white, is as one to one hundred and fifteen. In the penitentiary the number of black convicts as compared with the whites is in the proportion of seven to one hundred.

But the state prison of Vermont illustrates, in its most glaring colors, the impolicy of giving to the black population the privileges and immunities of the whites. In that state the negroes are under no restriction that the whites are not. By the census of 1830, Vermont contained about 277,000 souls; 918 were negroes. In 1831, there were 74 convicts in the prison, and of these, twenty four were negroes!

The foregoing statistics have been gleaned from authentic sources, and principally from the annual reports of the American Prison Discipline Society. When compared with what is reported of the prisons of the slaveholding states, it is shown that the proportion of negroes in the penitentiaries of the free states is in the ratio of more than ten to one, in favor of the slave holding states.

To account for this disproportion the main argument is, that by the spirit of our institutions, the mind, the capacity of the negro is not developed, that no encouragement is given him to abstain from vice or to prompt him to industry. Without stopping to combat this proposition in detail, the committee deem it sufficient to say, that the history of the race has shown the causes to lie deeper. Nature has forbidden a general amalgamation of the two races; and misfortune, which cannot be at once remedied, has made the black dependent upon and subservient to the white man.

The free negroes in Ohio, in the aggregate are in no better condition, therefore than the slaves in Kentucky. They are excluded from social intercourse with the white, and whatever of education you may give them, will not tend to elevate their standing, to any considerable extent. In those free states where every right has been extended to the negro which the white man claims, it is proven by what is contained in the above statements, that his condition is still worse than in the states where he is under restriction. This may appear singular, indeed, almost unaccountable, but it is nevertheless true.

There are considerations of a still graver character than any presented, which influence the committee, to ask the passage of the resolution appended, such as address themselves to the good sense of every man; challenging deep interest and solicitude, and

requiring the calm but firm action of every one who has the weal of his country near his heart.

The germ of a faction has sprung into life in the United States, which now but feeble in numerical force, and not extraordinarily distinguished for character or talent, may, if its growth be not checked by the friends of peace and good order, through the medium of individual exertion, or legislative enactment, impair the stability of our Federative Union. It is well known that societies have been formed in different parts of the United States, for the avowed purpose of effecting the immediate emancipation of all the slaves. Any one who will reflect upon this, for a moment, must come to the conclusion, that their efforts contemplate revolution, and necessarily strike at the existence of the Republic. No respect is paid by them to the compact entered into by the States, when the general government was formed. The perseverance which has marked the steps of these visionaries, the increasing establishment of newspapers and periodicals to promulgate their incendiary doctrines; the donations and bequests which these societies have received, from men of fortune, to aid them; and beyond all this, the inculcation of their dangerous principles in the minds of youth in our schools and colleges, give loud warning "that the wolf is upon his walk." Jealousies, heart-burnings, and fears have been excited amongst our brethren of the south, by the countenance given to these societies by men of respectable standing, and by the efforts made through their agents and emissaries, to inflame the slaves against the masters, and thereby produce revolt and insurrection. Well may Virginia and the Carolina be indignant at the fanaticism, or the darker motive which prompts this mad interference in their internal concerns. The horrible massacre of Southampton is still fresh in recollection, and the scenes which followed, when the innocent black was sacrificed to appease the manes of the murdered!

Great Britain has been traversed by these enthusiasts to gather funds to accelerate the objects desired to be accomplished. These always met with encouragement, if the statements made by the English prints are to be relied on, from those who would exult in the dismemberment and destruction of our confederacy; or those who were most active in bringing about the manumission of the slaves in the British West India Isles. Speculations have been indulged in, by men, eminent for wisdom, with what color facts have given them for such speculations, the committee are unadvised, whether the measure spoken of is not an insidious blow at the commerce, the prosperity and the internal peace of the United States, in aid of the efforts of our own disorganizers. This, however, the committee will not descend upon, though greatly tempted to do so.

From a principle of self defence, then, from what experience has taught us of the capacity of the free blacks to elevate themselves above their present miserable condition, from the enormous amount of crime perpetrated by them, as compared with the crimes committed by the whites or the slaves; and reflecting that there is an insurmountable barrier to their becoming useful or orderly citizens, which does not arise from *casualty, but from fate*; your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is inexpedient, at this time, to take any legislative action on the subject matter of the memorials, and that the committee be discharged from the further consideration of the same.

The trial of Lawrence—Commenced at 9 1-2 o'clock on Saturday morning, and lasted until 6 o'clock, P. M. Mr. Key made a speech of fifteen or twenty minutes; the balance of the day was consumed in examining witnesses, principally as to the sanity of the prisoner. The jury returned at 6 P. M., and returned the following verdict in about ten minutes! "Not guilty; being of the opinion that he was under the influence of insanity at the time the act was committed."—The Court then remanded the prisoner to jail. We will publish the whole trial as soon as it can be prepared.—*Globe.*

We are happy in being able to announce that the proper authorities of the States of Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, have signified their acceptance of the portions of the Cumberland Road within those States respectively, agreeably to the provisions of an act of Congress of the last session, authorizing the expenditure of the sum of \$340,186 for its completion. The road is thus surrendered to the State Governments, and further appropriations by the United States will become unnecessary. It will be kept in repair by moderate tolls, established and collected under the authority of the States. The above sum will put the road in complete repair, and render it equal to any road in our country. This information will be gratifying to many of our readers who are interested in the condition of that great work. We understand that arrangements are already making for the completion of the road.—*ib.*

The Secretary of the Treasury has issued a Circular to all the Collectors and Receiving officers of the U. States, directing them not to receive in payment for public dues, Bank notes under the denomination of \$5, after the 30th of September next.

New Jersey—The legislature of this state has passed a law abolishing public Executions. The bill for dividing the Church property of the society of Friends, was defeated by its rejection in one of the branches of that body.

A curious scene occurred upon the steam boat deck at Albany, when the De Witt Clinton was about to start. A man who had been married for seven months, had made arrangements to leave his wife and come to this city. The good dame was not, however, disposed to allow such a thing to occur, without some exertion on her part to stop it, so attending him to the dock, as the last bell of the boat sounded for her departure, and the last cry of "all aboard" echoed along the decks, he prepared to walk on board, when his resolute wife collared him, dragged him ashore, carried him to the Police Office, and had him sent for thirty days to prison.—*N. Y. Star.*

A furious **tornado** took place at Columbia, Tenn. on the 21st ult.—lasted but a few minutes, but tore up trees, fences, houses &c., killing 8 persons and wounding 15. A negro girl was blown into a fire and there confined by a beam until nearly roasted. She was however still living.

Enormous Consumption of Silk—A Philadelphia paper states, on the authority of a discourse before the American Institute, that there "annually consumed in the United States more silk than all the wheat, corn, rye, oats, flaxseed, biscuit, potatoes and hops, which are exported, will pay for, by nearly two millions of dollars. Think of this, ladies, and beware how you ex-

tend the dimensions of your sleeves, or we shall be compelled to add cotton to the appalling list.
Newark Adv.

The case of the Commonwealth vs. Dr. Henry C. Worsham, for killing Dr. W. C. Jackson, came on in the Superior Court of Nottoway on Saturday last, and after a minute examination of the evidence, was submitted to the Jury without argument from the bar upon a charge as to the law of the case from the Court, and in a short time the Jury returned a verdict, "that the act was done in self-defence, and therefore the prisoner was not guilty."
Petersburg Int.

Late advices have been received from the British West Indies, the dates from St. Vincent being to the 2d, and from Trinidad to the 11th March. The first crops since the emancipation of the Negroes, had been taken in, and the falling off in quality had been so great, as to realize the worst apprehensions of those, who had least faith in the Apprentice system.—*N. Y. Jour. of Com.*

A Delightful Climate—The Quebec Gazette of March 30, says "the season is still cold, and we have experienced repeated snow falls within the last ten days. The snow in the woods is 5 feet deep, and about houses and on the roads has driven sometimes 15 or 20 and even 30 feet deep. As soon as the milder weather commences the roads will be impassable, and the rivers swell and overflow their banks."

Louisiana Legislature—This body have passed a bill imposing a tax on all passengers arriving in that city by ships or steamboats coming from beyond the limits of the State—every cabin passenger to pay one dollar, and every deck and steerage half a dollar. To levy this impost, two Collectors are appointed, at a per centage salary not exceeding \$3000 each per annum. They are empowered to swear every captain or owner of vessels and steamboats, to give a faithful return of the number, names, ages and appurtenances and sex, &c. of their passengers; to have a lien on the boats or vessels, or institute a suit for recovery of the actual or presumed amount of the tax; and to hold the consignees as well as the owners amenable to its being paid. The revenue so levied is to be equally divided one-half to be appropriated to the charity hospital; and the other half to be equally distributed to the male orphan asylum, the female ditto, and the primary schools of New Orleans—that is, after the \$6000 are deducted to pay the collectors, and the amount of all expenses incurred in suits, &c.

Another section of the bill laying the tax on passengers imposes a tax on keepers of taverns and grog-shops, coffee-houses, and billiard tables, of \$100 a year, the like sum on exchange brokers, and \$250 on negro traders, and \$25 on all retailers, to collect with a salary of \$3000 a year. Another section imposes a tax of 100 annually on the agents in the city of all foreign insurance offices, and enacts that all real estate becoming the property of a foreigner shall be subject to a tax of 10 per cent.

The citizens of Mecklenburg county, North Carolina, are making extensive arrangements for celebrating the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence which was adopted by the people of the county, in public assembly, in the town of Charlotte, on the 20th of May, 1775, more than

a year prior to the declaration by Congress in July, 1776.

Canals in Illinois—A bill passed both branches of the Legislature of this State, for the construction of a canal from the Illinois river to Lake Michigan. The improvement, when completed, will be 115 miles in length, and will open a direct communication between the Lake and New Orleans, and the river St. Lawrence and the Gulf of Mexico. The estimated cost of this work is \$3,000,000.

One of the most successful rail roads in this country is the South Carolina, running from Charleston across the southern part of the State to Hamburg, on the Savannah river opposite to Augusta, a distance of one hundred and thirty-five miles. Together with its fixtures, locomotive engines, burthen cars, &c. it has cost one million two hundred thousand dollars, nine hundred thousand being in stock and three hundred thousand of debt. At a recent meeting of the Directors it was resolved to create three thousand additional shares of stock at one hundred dollars each, so as to pay off the debt. The committee on accounts, in a report made to the board, express the opinion that the whole capital thus augmented will yield eight per cent. They give an estimate, founded on good data, according to which the gross receipts of the year beginning on the 15th of October next, will be two hundred and seventy five thousand dollars. Current expenses they set down at one hundred and thirty thousand, fifteen for embankment, and thirty thousand for new machinery leaving a balance of nett profits of one hundred thousand.—*Bull. Am.*

We understand that Gov. Dunlap has received a letter from Lord Aylmer, the Governor Gen. of British America, at Quebec, stating in substance that he and his government are ready to meet ours in a survey of the route for the proposed Rail Road from our Atlantic sea board to Quebec whenever our government shall appoint the necessary Surveyors and Engineers. The Report in our Legislature on this subject, we are informed, has attracted the attention of the Quebec and Montreal papers, who have republished it, and commented upon it at some length. The Montreal people feel but little interest in it as they have comparatively an easy communication with the Atlantic via New York. But the Quebec people look to this city as their grand outlet and inlet particularly in the winter and spring and the months of October and November. The republication of the report in our Legislature in the Quebec newspapers with the interest felt by the Quebec public in the establishment of such a communication, induced Lord Aylmer to enter upon the subject with zeal, and therefore, he has tended a co-operation in a survey, to the Governor of Maine. Probably Lord Aylmer as Governor of Lower Canada, has under command a corps of Engineers attached to the army stationed at Quebec or, has the power of defraying the expense out of the income arising from the sale of the crown lands, for it seems that he has the power to make the Canada part of the survey without an appropriation by the Colonial Legislature.—*Portland Adv.*

The "Pee Dee Gazette, and Cheraw Advertiser," published at Cheraw, S. C. by Mathew Lyon, is no more. It breathed its last on Friday morning, April 3, aged 1 year, and about 7 months. This is the second public Journal which has been permitted to perish at the hands of the people of South Carolina, during the present month, and both for the want of patronage!