

THE GREENVILLE INDEX

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Good Bye Georgia.

"Off for ole Africa at las, bless de Lamb."

The old darkey stood upon the rear platform of the excursion train that left Atlanta last Monday for the steamer that will take the thirty negroes abroad to Africa, and as she spoke the tears trickled down her black cheeks in a way that made her pitiable, indeed.

Whether those were tears of gladness because she was going away to Africa to die, or whether they were tears of sorrow at a prospect so gloomy as it would seem to the average mind is not known.

To judge from the old woman's words they were tears of genuine gratification and delight, and, indeed, whether it was wishing to keep their courage up or not all of the darkeys aboard the train were loud in rejoicing at the trip ahead.

Such a shouting and talking and shouting and going on was never witnessed at the union passenger depot. There were about seven hundred negroes at the car shed to see the party off for the land of the sun. They had gathered there from all quarters of the city. They came to see their friends off, some of them to deride and laugh at the excursion party and very many out of curiosity, being neither disposed to criticize or yet to praise the undertaking.

It was very funny, and yet had its sad side, too, for many of the excursionists taking voyage for the hot sands of Africa were old-time darkeys, such as one used to see around the "big house" in slavery days, scraping and bowing their courtesies to the white folks.

There were just thirty of them to leave. They had a special car reserved for them, and will go to Savannah on the Central, arriving there early this morning, and will take voyage on a steamer for New York at once. In New York they will be joined by others who have been scraped together by the Gaston Agency there and will sail for Africa. They will have no stopping on the way, so they declare, and will go straight across the waters blue and land in the harbor of eternal rest and joy, they seem to think.

The party was made up of all manner of negroes. Some were young some were old, some big, some little. One of the old women in the party was so aged she had to be lifted in the car.

When asked why she was going so far away at this period of life, she screamed out with many grunts and groans that it was no use to live in this country any more, since "Ole marster and ole mistis" had gone off and left her.

The party was organized by Gaston, the now notorious excursion worker. He has had an agency at work in New York collecting money on the installment plan for this trip for some time. Many of the darkeys who were aboard yesterday declared that they have been chipping in their nickels and dimes for more than a year to pay for their tickets. The money all went to New York and not until the agency there wired the Central railroad here that the tickets had been paid for did the party set ready to go. There was a hitch about it some way or other. They received news day before yesterday that the trip was a go, however, and

one of them went round and notified the others to pack up and get ready. —Atlanta Constitution.

One Year of Mistakes.

No party ever came into power with so great an opportunity, and no one ever put a great opportunity to such base uses or cut so poor a figure. All is chaos, and for the time being all seems lost. Mr. Cleveland could yet retrieve the fortunes of the day if he could get rid of the terror into which his message of 1887 threw him when he realized its meaning, and would cut aloof from the moneyed influences which appear to have gotten as complete possession of him as they had of poor General Grant.

It is not too late for Mr. Cleveland to recover his lost popularity and to do his country invaluable service by the unqualified display of some of the old-time virtues for which he has received so much credit. Instead of frittering his strength away by an unseemly wrangle with the New York senators over pickled-herring issues of New York origin, revolting to the good sense of the people at large, he were better engaged in the work of uniting the party upon the line of the national platform. The latter half of the silver promise remains yet to be fulfilled. The promise as to the repeal of the tax on State banks still stands where Mr. Cleveland's own friends placed it.

It is yet possible to call a halt upon the career of the protectionist dough-faces who masquerade as democrats in the senate and to force them to come back to the party or to get out and take the consequences. —Courier Journal.

The Price of Wheat.

Wheat is now selling at a lower price than ever before known, and an investigation into the causes of its low price has been made by Senator Peffer, the Populist Senator from Kansas, whom the Democratic Senate appointed chairman of the sub-committee on agriculture for that purpose. He has just completed his report and one great cause that he gives for the low price of wheat is the same that the Record has frequently suggested. He says, "that the enlargement of the farming area in the Western States has brought a new region into competition with the older portions of the country, and in connection with that our transportation system has rapidly developed and the cost of carrying farm products from West to East has rapidly lessened. In other words, Senator Peffer's report corroborates the Record's oft-repeated assertion that the low price of wheat is chiefly due to the immense crops in the West which are being transported by the railroads at so small a cost to the Eastern cities, and that our farmers cannot successfully compete with the wheat growers of that section. And yet some of our farmers wish the government to own the railroads and reduce the rates of transportation still lower.

Another cause given by Senator Peffer's report for the low price of wheat is the small cost of producing wheat in India, which is only thirteen cents a bushel, and since the opening of the Suez canal it can be laid down in Liverpool for about 50 cents a bushel. As England is the chief foreign market for American

wheat, and the price of wheat as regulated and fixed at Liverpool, it will readily be seen that the cheapness of India wheat very greatly affects the price of our wheat. And yet, because of the low price of wheat, some farmers are casting out Cleveland and the Democratic party. —Atlanta Constitution.

The question as to who should have the offices is as simple as the alphabet. They belong naturally and rightfully to the party that is in control of the government. A denial of that right is subversive of the sound principles of our system. Those deniers who have been appointed to office have succeeded. The changes have made no inconvenience and have not injured the public service.

There are a great many laws of nature which Mr. Cleveland is obliged to obey. Why can he not recognize a natural law of politics and government? His present position is abnormal. He cannot establish the policy of a non-partisan distribution of the offices. He might if he had to deal with the affairs of a city where politics played no part in the elections; but the political consideration is present in all the affairs of the general government. Now that the republicans have overlapped a year on Mr. Cleveland's term, can't we have a return to sound and logical practices? The people can't be fed long on the far-fetched philosophy of non-partisan administration of the government of the United States. Every man who is mentally and morally fit for the public service is a partisan on national and state question.

Those who claim that the democratic party can be brought up enthusiastically to the support of leaders who are constantly favoring republicans are fanciful theorists. In this matter of the offices and other places under the federal government neither the democratic nor republican party is on an ethereal plane. All parties and all people are on earth. Not even the magwumps are exceptions. They preach a heavenly state of unselfishness as to the offices, and then get sour if they are not appointed to good places themselves. —Cincinnati Enquirer.

Populists throughout the Western States must not forget the rule adopted by the Omaha Convention, and which has been recently reaffirmed by Chairman Taubeneck and cited as part of the instructions to State, county and Congressional committees. This rule prohibits all office-holders, State, county, municipal or Congressional, from holding seats in People's party conventions, and this rule must be rigidly enforced during the ensuing campaign. —Denver News. (Pop.)

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