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" THE NEW SOUTH "

BY

GEORGIA WEST.

B I B L I O G R A P H Y .

1. Bedford's Magazine Vol 111.
2. "The New South" - An oration by Henry W. Grabney,
found in "Modern American Oratory"
3. "Compromises of Life" Henry Watterson
Articles - "The New South"
"The South in Light and Shade".
4. "Development of the South" Harper's Weekly,
Vol. 138 - 1904.
5. North American Review, Henry Woodfin Graby
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6. "The Present South" - Murphy.

"THE NEW SOUTH"

"The New South"; The phrase is enormously popular. It is a prime favorite with newspapers, magazines and politicians. Public speakers employ it to adorn their most aspiring periods". The last applies principally to Southern orators speaking at Northern banquets. It seems to be admitted that a new South must be made and not a modified old one. Everything must be new; the character of the South, its principals and its institutions.

The South, as it is to day, is very different from what the South was at the beginning of the Civil War, and very many of the changes are for the better. That slavery abolition was a great thing for the country need not be said as it has been proven in scores of ways. It was a most remarkable change and different from any evolution in the history of any people. The people accept the result and are doing all in their power to adjust, satisfactorily, the relations between the former master and his slaves and to redistribute the landed property.

There have not been enough people in the South to work the immense plantations and the conditions have been very bad. However, for this trouble there is immediate relief. Heretofore the tide of immigration, coming to this country has gone to the North and North west. There have been millions and millions who have gone there but those that went to the South could be counted by the hundreds. Capital and investment also avoided

and distrusted the South. But in the last few years the people who have been up in the colder parts have discovered what the Southern states possess, - the almost inexhaustible mines and the wonderful fertility of the soil with a most delightful and mild climate. The northern people have started an exodus to the South and are investing their capital causing the Southern cities to grow wonderfully in population. The price of land will go up and great manufacturing concerns are in operation, this causing, in turn, the growth of the railroad systems. It can hardly be doubted, with these facts in view, that soon the South will have an immense population and be one of the wealthiest and most influential parts of the United States.

However, it is hardly just or fair, to give all credit or praise to the New South and say nothing of the old South which was the real nucleus of this new country. It has been the principals, energy and intelligence of the South - of the old South - that have brought about this restoration and advancement. The people have perservered and now can see that they have made the South very prosperous and wealthy.

The people of the South have been badly misunderstood by the people of the other sections of the country and the cause of the misunderstanding may be briefly state to be slavery. Even the most intensely Southern symathizers realize what a curse slavery has been to the South. The late J. L. M. Curry, a most typical representative of the old South says, " We have heard much already and we will hear much of slavery. It was an economic curse, a legacy of ignorance. It cursed the South with stupid, ignorant and uninventive labor. The curse in a large degree remains. The policy of sum would perpetuate it and give a system

of serfdom, degrading the negro and corrupting the employer". The real civilization of the South was essentially good and high - one of the highest. But the truth has never been known for as one author says. "The great men in literature, in every department of learning, the disciples of Channing and Emerson, the graduates and teachers of the great universities, the whole guild of the cultured and learned of New England were opposed to slavery and to them slavery and the South were synonymous terms".

The New England writers were the ones who gave to the world such unjust and distorted ideas of the South. The world looked to them as the makers of public sentiment and so it was generally concluded that the South was wholly wrong. They were right in regard to slavery but it was hardly fair to them not to admit that, aside from this one thing, the South had a civilization equal, if not better than their own. They did not realize that in the South were men and women of culture and refinement just the same as in the North and that these Southern people had a hospitality and generosity and standard of honor and morality, that was quite as advanced as that of the North. They lacked, too, some of the bad qualities and faults characteristic of the North.

James Russel Lowell, Emerson, Whipple and Thoreau were some of the noted ones in this war against the slavery trouble. Perhaps they did not mean to do the South an injustice but they were so confident that they were in the right that they may have been over zealous.

Things were antagonistic at first, next hatred and then the

war came. The hatred was intense then and the feeling indescribably bitter. The North was distrustful of the South and the feeling of the South towards the North was equally bad, only the North was powerful and the South was powerless. In this state of affairs was needed a number of years to change the feeling of animosity between the two sections.

The greatest result of the Civil War was emancipation. The proclamation freed the negro but did not remove and it was inevitable that the two races must live in close proximity and this fact has really been the cause of so much social strife.

The changed conditions affected the labor of the South and altered the attitude between the former master and his slaves. This is, even at the present time, the root of the great problem of the future welfare of the country. Never, in her best days and with her most cherished system of slave labor, did the South produce better crops or reap a richer reward than she does at the present time. Yet there is almost constant trouble, for men like Tillman are continually agitating the social question between the blacks and the whites. There is surely enough feeling without this agitation. The South must realize the worth of the negro as a laborer, but does not want him to be considered an equal in any way.

It is the truth that emancipation made the negro too proud to work for he thought that freedom meant idleness. The ruin of many of the planters may then be laid to this aided by bad seasons and the troubles following war. However, the negro soon found that he must work or starve and he shows a capacity for energy which is quite surprising. It is very seldom,

though, that a negro is found that owns any considerable property.

In each locality the negro is a different problem. Ultimately of course, it is the same for it has the same races and the same habits and the same soil. But where the whites outnumber the blacks, the racial conditions are different from an adjoining county where the negroes are in a majority. It might be a surprise to some people to know that certain counties of Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Alabama contain fewer negroes than certain counties of New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts or Rhode Island. But it is equally surprising to know how few whites there are in some counties. In one county in Mississippi only six people in every hundred are white. In fourteen counties in the South, seven eighths of the people are negroes. In fifty four counties, three fourths are negroes and in a hundred and eight, two thirds are negroes. Locally as well as historically, the negro question is a Southern one. Seven eighths of the negro population is in the South and is there to stay.

Although most of the negro population is in the South, they are steadily increasing in the North. The city in the United States with the largest number of negroes in 1900 was Washington, D. C. with 86,702, New Orleans with 77,714, Philadelphia with 62,613 and New York with 60,666. It will be seen that New Orleans is the only city south of Washington, D. C., has as large a negro population as New York. The negro problem in the North and South, especially in the latter, has in the last five years grown more serious. Many of our difficulties are due to the advancement of the negro as well as to his delinquencies.

The consideration of some of the social changes in the negro life by the emancipation act should be brought in. Slavery was, in short, a bondage above which the negro must not rise or below he must not fall. By the act of emancipation, the smaller number of negroes were permitted to rise but most of them fell. It was to have been expected that upon the whole, the masses of the negroes would first become worse before becoming better. But the negroes know that in his struggles there has been and is really a spirit of helpfulness for him in the South. He is admitted into any trade and if he does it well he is usually treated fairly and paid for it honestly. Booker T. Washington says, "in the statistics of the United States census for 1900. Here is a unique fact, that from a penniless population just out of slavery, 372,414 owners of homes have emerged, and of these 255,156 are known to own their homes absolutely, free of encumbrance". In 1900 there were 732,362 farms operated by negroes in the South. Now 153,000 Southern negroes own their own farms and 28,000 are part owners. The value of all the property operated as farms by the negroes in the South 469,506,555. In more than half of the counties of Virginia over 70% of the negro farmers are owners or managers and in thirty three counties of the state the proportion is over eighty per cent.

The South has sometimes abridged the negro's right to vote but a democracy cannot have a dependent race and the withdrawal of the right to vote makes the negro this. But there is a growing disposition toward giving the qualified negro the right to vote. According to the Secretary of State of Mississippi more than 15,000 negroes are already registered there as voters.

In Virginia the number is 2300. The negro race is from 30% to 50% of the population of the South yet contributes but 4 to 5% of the direct taxes of the States.

There, too, after the war came the reconstruction problem. One purpose of this policy was to withdraw power from the hands of those in official position who had borne arms against the United States. This was a very unwise proceeding for it left the power in the hands of the young and irresponsible and gave every proof that these older men were held in distrust by the North. The younger citizens had not been in the war and could not know the woth and cost of peace and they were the ones who aided the Klu Klux Klan.

In the South there is an abundance of material for writers but neverthe less before the war there was very little literary merit shown and but for the statesmen, the South would have been apparently barren. But with such men as Calhoun, Clay, Jackson and Henry there was plenty of fame in scientific ways for the country.

The South is a land of conversation. One writer says that the North may think that it knows something of conversation, but the North, as compared with the South, may be said to have never a conversation. The reason the South is a land of convesation is that there has always been leisure, no haste and there is no need for those resourses of expression and interest which belong to the crowded cities. It may also be partly laid to the climate and social habits of the people and moreover, it is part of the tradition of the cavalier.

The industrial transformation is, however, making many

changes and putting to an end this leisure and of the old possibilities which it involved. It is also making a demand for a more active leadership, in politics, in the press and pulpit and in the university. This leadership is now well known in the South, but is the slowest in appearing in politics. The press has done much upon the really important and vital questions of the South.

After the war the conditions of the South were reversed to what they had been in respect to the North. In 1860, the wealth of the South exceeded the wealth of New England and the Middle States by \$750,000,000 but in 1870 the conditions were reversed and the wealth of these states exceeded the South's by \$10,800,000,000. The wealth of New York and Pennsylvania in 1870 was greater than that of the whole South. In 1860, South Carolina stood third in the rank of wealth but in 1870 was thirtieth. About the year 1880, the change began. By 1900, the South had entered upon one of the most remarkable economic developments to be found in the history of the modern industrial world. The most distinctive element in this development has been the rise of the manufacturing industries over agriculture. In 1880, the value of the manufactured products of the South was \$200,000,000 less than her agricultural products. In 1900, the value of the Southern manufactures exceeded the agricultural products by \$190,000,000 and if the mining interests may be added, the amount would be doubled. In 1880, the products of the Southern factories were not even \$500,000,000. By 1900, the amount had reached the total of \$1,200,000,000 or increased

220%. It seems from these figures that the industrial "seat of gravity" is gradually changing from the fields to the factories. The "factory" means principally the cotton factory. In the twenty years from 1880 to 1900, the capital invested in cotton manufacturing increased from \$22,000,000 to \$113,000,000. The number of establishments in 1870 was 180 and in 1900 there were 900. There are many causes to which these changes may be laid. People have discovered the South's available and inexpensive fuels, her water power, her climate and her cheap labor.

The financial condition of the South at the close of the war was about as bad as possible. The South was simply a wreck financially. The agricultural interests were in confusion and commercial matters and manufacturing interests shut off. There was not even transportation. In this plight the South had to begin a new era in its history without the help of state, municipal or individual credit. She could not even expect any help when every industry stood on the verge of destruction. Surely the people of the South in this time of historical existence deserve much glory for adjusting themselves to the new relations for they began work with a steadfastness of purpose and determination which has been good in all ways. There were enormous public and private debts caused mostly by the freeing of the slaves, which before the war, had been almost the nation's fortune. There seemed to be no possible way to adjust these debts except by totally renouncing them. But the people found new strength, new hope and energy to meet all of these obligations, all of which combined in a sacred pledge to make the new South

Some writer claim, that before the Civil War, were without industrial ambitions because there was the economic disadvantage of slavery. This assumption is not well founded. The present industrial development is not a new creation but a revival. Before the war there was a creditable development of the industrial movement.

Foreign capital, at first, was slow in coming to the aid of the South but it soon saw the possibilities of the natural resources and here began to be confident in this reconstructed states and times were beginning to be prosperous. All property improved in value.

The agricultural aspect in the South immediately after the war was very unpromising. But great changes took place in the next few years. Northern energy and capital, not distrustful, any more, came to avail themselves of the opportunity and the South, even under all her disabilities seemed awakening to the unparalleled prosperity. Under the altered condition of her labor she had to learn much in the way of diversifying her products and of varying the application of her intellect and labor. The result has been the development of a new South and not one entirely agricultural but another one where there is a development of all the natural resources and varied industries. Naturally the South, on account of her climate, soil and habit, was an agricultural country but lately they have discovered that there is room too, for manufacturing concerns and are profiting by this discovery.

The conditions of public education in the South even now are not at all perfect. It may be said that the present public

school system started in 1870. A state system of free public education was known in some of the Southern states before 1860. In Alabama there was an act passed in 1854 which may really be said to be the begining of the State system but the Civil War caused a reorganization of the system in which the blacks had to be counted. In proportion to her means the South is probably spending as much per capita on her childern of school age as (st) states like New York. The amount raised for public education per capita of the school childern was \$22.37 in Massachusetts (a) and \$20.88 in New York as compared with \$2.87 in Tennessee and \$2.28 in North Carolina but according to Dr. Chas. W. Dabney, Preseident of the University of Tennessee there is only \$509.00 of taxable property back of every child in Tennessee while in New York there is \$2661. It is well that the South is spending more on her educational system for in 1900 the situation was appaling. Dr. Dabney also gives the figures following. In 1900 the sates east of the Mississippi and south of the Potomac contained 16,400,000 people, 10,400,000 white and 6,000,000 black. Of these 6,400,000 are of school age but only forty two per cent of thse were in schools. One half of the negores get no schooling and one white child in every five is wholly illiterate. In South Carolina the average citizen gets 2.6 years of schooling and the conditions in the other Southern states are about the same as this. In the whole South the average amount of schooling is three years.

By the emancipation act the South was left with the task of educating two populations. About 50% of the colored cannot read and write and 12.7% of the whites. Of the native

white illiteracy of our country, the South has 64%. In the United States there are 231 counties in which twenty percent of the white voters cannot read and write and of this 231 counties, 210 are in the South.

But when compared to the conditions in 1870, and in 1880, the percent of the illiterates of the total native white population was twenty five percent in Alabama, against 14.8% in 1900. In Kentucky it was 22.8% in 1880 and in 1900 it was 12.8%. Alabama in the last five years has doubled her general appropriations for public education. The nation ought to be very considerate of the South for the people are making great sacrifices to raise the standards of the country and they are succeeding beyond the North along educational lines.

The South still possessing much of the fine genius of the old aristocracy stood on the threshold of an enduring democratic age. We can hardly say that her entrance was unimpeded. She has brought little with her except her native resources, her habitual and historic faith in American institutions, her memories, her instinctive love of order and beauty and her sense of civic responsibility. but she has crossed the threshold; she has closed the door behind her and a New South has been the result.