

# Morehouse Clarion.

DEVOTED TO POLITICS, AGRICULTURE, HOME INTERESTS, AND THE MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY.

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Offers to the public his professional experience of thirty years in the above specialty for the treatment of all diseases peculiar to the mouth and preservation of its natural organs, the teeth. Charges for all dental services graded by quality and character desired, to suit the times. For dental substitutes, from \$15.00 to \$75.00, \$100.00, up to Buatt's celebrated improved gold plate, \$350.00 for full sets, recommended as healthy, and to perform the functions of mastication satisfactorily as to kind selected. Without previous arrangements, cash is invariably expected. Moved to new office, near the Baptist Church.

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IN ALL ITS BRANCHES, BY  
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Gold fillings from \$2 to \$5; silver fillings from \$1 to \$3; full upper and lower set artificial teeth \$40. Extracting teeth a specialty. Having had my office newly fitted up, I will take pleasure in serving all persons wishing work in my line.

**COME AND SEE,**  
Mr. A. CURTIS is offering his best brick for TEN DOLLARS PER THOUSAND. Now is the best time to repair your side-walks and under-pie your houses. Call and examine the brick.  
A. CURTIS.

### ABOUT KISSING.

Little child, when twilight shadows  
Close the western gates of gold,  
Then those loving arms of mother's  
Tenderly about thee fold  
Over lip, and cheek, and forehead,  
Like a shower caresses fall;  
For a mother's kiss at twilight  
Is the sweetest kiss of all.

Pretty maiden at the gateway,  
Shy, sweet face and downcast eye,  
Two white, trembling hands imprisoned,  
How the golden moments fly!  
Lips that softly press thy forehead,  
All thy eyes, thy smiles, thy sighs,  
For a lover's kiss at twilight  
Is the fondest kiss of all.

Happy wife, thy noble husband,  
More than half a lover yet—  
For those sunny hours of wooing  
Are too sweet to soon forget—  
On thy smiling lips uplifted,  
Full of love his kisses fall,  
For a husband's kiss at parting  
Is the dearest kiss of all.

Weary mother, little children  
With their dimpled hands so fair,  
Passing over cheek and forehead,  
Soothie away all pain and care;  
Lead your doubting heart to Heaven,  
Where no dreary shadows fall,  
For the kiss of sinless childhood  
Is the purest kiss of all.

### LABOR IN LOUISIANA.

[From the N. O. Democrat.]

The question of labor in our cotton fields is every day becoming more and more perplexing. Notwithstanding the success that has attended the efforts of our planters to rid themselves of the incubus of debt, and the still greater success which the future promises, it is a fact that something is yet lacking to render our system completely satisfactory and to obtain from it a result in the highest degree satisfactory and profitable to employer and employe alike. It is evident to the critical and informed observer that there is a defect in the operation of our labor arrangement and that great ameliorations are still possible.

Let us consider the subject for a moment. There are at present three systems in vogue in Louisiana, and what is true of Louisiana is true of all the other cotton States. One of these, perhaps the most generally adopted of the three, is known as the

### SHARE SYSTEM.

The workings of this system have already been described in the DEMOCRAT, but in order to make our paper complete and compact let us briefly sketch it over again. Under the share system, then, the laborer is furnished with dwelling, land, tools, team, implements, seed, etc., such as may be necessary to enable him to raise a crop. In this way, without having or being required to possess the single cent of capital, he is placed upon the footing of an independent farmer, and has at his disposal, what, for all his purposes, may be called unlimited financial resources. A failure on his part will cost nothing, but his labor and his time. He cannot become involved or pecuniarily embarrassed. It is a bargain in which the planter takes all the risk and gets only half the profit, and in which the laborer is secure of half the profit, but cannot, under any circumstances, suffer the smallest loss. It could hardly be expected that an arrangement so unequal could bear really satisfactory fruit, and therefore the reader will not be surprised to hear that we propose to discuss the objections farther along.

It should be mentioned, however, before proceeding further that there are several modifica-

tions of the share system above described, the division of the crop being governed always by the amount of risk; which in some exceptional cases, the laborer is prepared to take. The principle pursued, though, is in all cases the same, and the operation is practically uniform.

The system which ranks next in point of prevalence is the

### TENANT SYSTEM.

What the tenant system is almost everybody knows, without being told. In Louisiana it is a tenant system without any of the benefits to the proprietor which are enjoyed elsewhere under similar conditions. The Louisiana planter has tenants, and they pay a given rate per acre, but in seven cases out of ten there are tenants who have nothing at stake, who depend upon their crops to get the means of paying their rent; and here again the planter takes all the risk, and bears all the burden of whatever misfortunes may occur. In this case, as in that of the share system, the partnership is unequal and ill-assorted. It forms a compact which would not be tolerated or even entertained in any other part of the civilized world. If an individual were to approach a landed proprietor in Illinois or Pennsylvania and propose to rent a piece of property from him, without being able to give security for the payment of the rent, and expecting, in fact, to be supplied at the proprietor's risk with food, clothing, and the means of making a crop, he would simply be looked upon as a lunatic. Such, however is the basis of the tenant system as practiced in Louisiana between the white proprietor and the colored laborer, and it is after this fashion—this, together with the share system—that four-fifths of the cotton plantations in the State are operated.

### OBJECTIONS.

Perhaps it may be said that we have already stated objections enough to condemn the two systems in question. This is true. The fact that in both instances the planter takes all the risk, bears all the consequences, and gets only one-half the profits would be, as we have previously shown, sufficient to dismiss the idea from serious consideration in any other part of the world. But the vices of the arrangement do not end here. As the laborer is often penniless and unthrifty, so he is unintelligent and reckless. It is not enough that he perpetrates the sarcasm of renting land without a cent in possession or credit, and without the means of feeding himself for a single month, (in which sarcasm the planter solemnly participates,) he enters into the compact without the faintest sense of any obligation on his part to protect the planter's property or promote his interest in any way whatsoever. Take a trip through the cotton belt and see for yourself. How many plantations boast of even the fictions of drainage? Upon a majority you will not be able to find the places where the ditches used to be. Ask any planter whether he can

get his tenants or his partners (as the case may be) to render adequate service in keeping up the fences and gates. Ascertain how many planters are able to get winter work done, such as breaking up land for next year's crop, fertilizing, and all the general overhauling so necessary to the maintenance of a high agricultural standard. In other words, see if there be not a general degeneration visible everywhere; if the lands are not generally less productive, the plantations in inferior order, and the prevailing tendency downward?

Every one, however, who is familiar with the cotton planting business is aware of these facts. In tracing them to their origin there can hardly be more than one conclusion. The cause is to be found in the labor system, and nowhere else. One of the most fruitful sources of evil is in the annual withdrawal from nine-tenths of the plantations of the entire surplus of cotton seed after the crop has been "pitched." This cotton seed is to the soil what food is to the individual. It contains all the elements of restoration, revivification, replenishment. It is the natural and almost indispensable fertilizer of cotton lands. In times gone by no planter ever thought of disposing of his cotton seed. It was invariably returned to the soil, and thus utilized in the best possible way by contributing to its preservation and enrichment.

Since the era of free labor, however, and the inauguration of the share and tenant system there has been a most lamentable change. One of rights claimed by the laborer (and in nine cases out of ten conceded by the planter) is the right to sell the cotton seed. The practice has become almost universal, and under its operation the productive capacity of our soil is being slowly but steadily diminished. The complaint is heard on every side and is only too well founded in fact.

Thus, our cotton lands are laboring under powerful influences of deterioration.

The obligation of drainage.  
The abandonment of fertilization.

Nothing but the magnificent natural resources of our soil could have withstood so long and with so little apparent injury the action of these destructive elements. Yet intelligent planters already feel and deplore the consequences, and express the most gloomy forebodings in the premises. Already the efforts and deliberations of particular individuals, and of such organizations as the Cotton Planters Association, are being directed to the discovery and adoption of a remedy.

It is clear to our mind that these are the direct and legitimate effect of the share and tenant systems as practiced in Louisiana, and that they must always be taken into account as an offset to any advantages which those systems may be known to possess. So long as the colored laborers are accepted as tenants or received into partnership upon the terms now in vogue in this section, so long will the land be poorly cultivated, the drainage utterly neglected, the soil robbed of its nourishment, and the gen-

eral equipment of the farms be suffered to decay. A laborer who is incapable of taking an intelligent interest in the land he tills, and who is permitted to infuse that indifference into all his methods and acts, should not have confided to him the destinies of so immense and important an industry as the cotton culture of the United States.

### ANOTHER SYSTEM.

We are aware that a great deal of popular opposition exists as to the plan of hiring laborers by the month. It is claimed that the negro will not work, that he cannot be controlled, that the risk is too great, etc. Our observation, however, inclines us to believe that the contrary is true. We think, in fact, that the negro will work more faithfully and effectively under intelligent direction than when left to himself. We think the negro can always be controlled under a policy of kindness and fair dealing; and as to the risk, we certainly consider it less of a risk to pay money for labor actually performed than to advance it in anticipation of labor which may never be performed at all, or, if performed, negligently and fruitlessly. There is always this to be said in favor of the wage system. One can then pursue the policy of his choice; he is master of his own destinies, and if he fails it is his own fault. Hiring labor and operating it in his own way and for his exclusive benefit, the planter can at least keep up the standard of his place, maintain his drainage system and secure the replenishment of his soil by the fertilizing power of cotton seed. We fail to be convinced that the share system is not the most wasteful and the tenant system the most hazardous of the three now under consideration. Certain it is that every intelligent planter with whom we discuss the question will admit that, as they are generally practiced in Louisiana, the share and tenant systems are steadily tending to the serious if not the irreparable deterioration of our cotton lands. It seems to us that the time has come for an earnest and deliberate consideration of this labor question, and it is all the more imperative since, to our mind, the interests of the laborer are quite as deeply involved in the issue as are those of the planter himself. No more significant contrast could be established than between the negroes of St. Mary or St. James parish, where the wage system prevails, and those of Franklin or Caldwell, where the share and tenant plans are pursued. In the former case the negroes are advancing in all material respects; in the latter they are at a hopeless stand-still. We believe this to be the fault of the system. A system so essentially defective and vicious could hardly be expected to result favorably to any of its followers. The only remedy is its abolition in favor of one better adapted to the wants of all concerned and more in harmony with the fact and equities of the situation.

A poultry dealer recently bought forty ducks from a farmer who lived forty miles away. The next morning they were missing and he supposed they had been stolen. A few days afterwards he received a letter stating that the ducks had reached their old home again.

### Weather Wisdom.

"Gem'len," said the President of the Lime-kilo Club, "I fink dat de inhabitants of dis kentry am rayin' altogether too much 'tenshun to dis wedder queshun. Dar's a groan o' despair when it's hot an' a growl o' displeasur when it's cold. If it rains somebody raises a row, an' if it's dry somebody else has a bone to pick wid de powers above. Ebery red-headed, one-hoss white man, ebery broken down old two-cent darkey, has got de ideah in his head dat de Lawd am bou'n to send him along jist de sort o' wedder he wants, no matter 'bout de rest of de kentry. De ole man Rabottom, libin' up dar by my cabin, has got about fifteen cents worf o' garden truck back of his house, and when it's hot or cold or wet or dry he am so agitated dat he forgets dat any odder soul in dis kentry has sot out an onion or plauted a tater. Mo' dan fifty y'ars ago I come to de conclushun dat I must put up wid sich wedder as de Lawd gim me, no matter whedder it brought on chilblains or rheumatics, and it was a great burden off my mind. I take it jist as it comes, keepin' de ole umbrella in good repair, an' I doan' want to."—[Detroit Free Press.

Dr. Tanner, the great faster, delivered a lecture the other night in New York on the subject of fasting. He claims that he had two objects in view when he abstained so long from eating; one to prove that he had fasted forty days in 1877, and the other, to explode the rotten theories of the regular school of medicine. The Doctor claims that nine-tenths of the disorders of the human family would recuperate themselves, if the patients would only let the poor, over-worked stomach have a little rest. He attributes the prevalence of chronic diseases in this country to over-loaded stomachs, and to the credulity of the public in trusting in patent nostrums. In the course of his lecture, Dr. Tanner said: "The sanative principle is in man, not in medicine. It is my aim to convince the public that they should rely on the recuperative power of self and nature, not upon burnt loads of mercury and arsenic. People now-a-days are too credulous. They are easily persuaded to pour down patent medicines for every ill." If he can succeed in convincing people of the danger of using patent humbug poisons, he will indeed be a public benefactor.

Selfish people of the very amiable kind are the very worst sort of people to get along with. They conquer you with their smiles, and you are so greatly overwhelmed by their gush that you have not the grit to complain. They say that you are awfully good, but they are never very good to you. They say that you are "a dear," and they take the pillow from under your head, still saying that to give it up you are "a dear;" and you may keep on being "a dear" so long as they are amiable and selfish enough to let you do so.

### I Have for Sale at a Bargain

2 young mules, over 15 hands high, 6 open and 6 top buggies.  
2 two-horse double-seat buggies.  
1 one-horse wagon and 5 two-horse wagons under New Orleans prices.  
J. S. HANDY.