

The Southern Situation.

*to be*  
*The greatest misfortune of our section & of our country has been the presence of a race that was not homogeneous. This*  
*has been*  
*the overshadowing interest and issue in our history to the present politics &*  
*race problem*  
*seems now more hopeful than it has appeared at any time since the first settlement was made at Jamestown.*

*Economics*  
*has*  
*all the while*  
*displayed*  
~~problem.~~ It dominated and predominated. It has a perennial charm and  
peril. Since the foundation of the government it has been the prin-  
cipal industry of our people to discuss it. It has on two occasions  
put the life of the nation in jeopardy. In the Confederate War at  
the Battle of the Wilderness in May 1863 the Bullock House was the  
goal of Stonewall Jackson. If he *has* could reached the Bullock House Hook-  
er's retreat would *have* been impossible. The government would have been  
compelled to concede the independence of the Confederacy. He was  
within half a mile of the Bullock House when he was wounded and  
gave up the command. That was a close call.

In the autumn of 1876 there was a disputed succession, ~~and~~ the Pres-  
idency *being* claimed by both Hayes and Tilden. The Southern leaders  
*permitted* *agreed that*  
~~agreed to~~ permit Hayes *should* *with the understanding*  
~~reign in condition~~ that he would with-  
draw the national forces from the Southern States. That was another  
close call.

The abolition of slavery did not settle the race problem *as was expected*  
*of it.*  
~~primary~~ The abolition of slavery only served to render the race  
problem more intense and perilous. The question *immediately* ~~then~~ arose as to  
what should be the new relation between the races. That was a ~~delicate~~  
*and difficult*  
delicate question. The Africans were made the wards of the nation and  
the Anglosaxons were disfranchised. *The bottom rail was laid upon the top of the*  
*fence. That was the raprest and deepest blunder that appeared in the politics of any civilized*  
*nation throughout the nineteenth century.*

By that policy the government created the Solid South. Dr. W. J. McMur-

of Nashville has  
ray ^

estimated that the Southern States contributed 600,000 troops to the Confederate Armies and 464,000 to the Union Armies. If those figures are correct it is clear that the Southern people were not united on the Confederate War. But the South was <sup>the</sup> ~~just~~ as ~~soon~~ <sup>moment</sup> the government <sup>had</sup> declared her policy of reconstruction.

The War of Reconstruction was begun immediately upon the close of the Confederate War and **last**ed for twelve years. It was a ~~few~~ more determined and perilous struggle than the Confederate War had been. Two questions were understood to be at issue, the first being the preservation of the Anglo-Saxon race, and the second the preservation of Anglo-Saxon civilization. The Southern states were reduced to abject poverty and almost to desolation, <sup>in this war,</sup> but they stood their ground and won the day.

Thus was closed <sup>perhaps</sup> the most honorable and glorious chapter in American history, ~~during the 19th century~~. This struggle of the <sup>defeated</sup> Southern Anglo-Saxons <sup>against a victorious and powerful government seems every way</sup> ~~worthy~~ to stand by the side of the struggle of the Dutch Republic against the King of Spain.

Scarcely 27 years have elapsed since the War of Reconstruction was closed, but the changes which peace has brought have been almost miraculous. The South is rapidly becoming one of the most prosperous and powerful and enlightened sections of the country.

The government <sup>appeared to be</sup> ~~disposed~~ to renew the War of Reconstruction when a Force Bill was brought forward in 1891, but it was not pressed, and it is not likely that ~~the~~ <sup>this</sup> issue will

Ever

again be pressed. After the <sup>sad</sup> ~~error~~ blunder that she made in <sup>creat-</sup> ~~provis-~~ ing the Solid South it seems likely that the government will henceforth be <sup>more</sup> ~~more~~ <sup>about</sup> ~~more~~ dealing with this question.

Henceforward we may suppose that the two races will be left alone <sup>in the</sup> to work out their own salvation without any outside interference; <sup>which</sup> ~~that~~ is the only possible chance of a peaceful development.

South

The results of their <sup>of non-interference</sup> policy have thus far been <sup>satisfactory &</sup> ~~most~~

successful. The Southern States were reduced <sup>almost</sup> ~~to~~ desolation by their two wars of sixteen years duration with the government. Peace dawned upon us <sup>first</sup> ~~in~~ the year 1877. During the <sup>that have succeeded</sup> ~~27~~ years the growth of the

South has been almost unexampled. The whole section has risen <sup>up</sup> ~~from~~ <sup>abject</sup> ~~poverty~~ and ruin to flourish like the garden of the

Lord. It is rapidly becoming one of the most prosperous and powerful portions of the union. It thrills and trembles everywhere with energy and <sup>initiative,</sup> ~~force,~~ and does not <sup>a moment</sup> ~~hesitate~~ to enter into rivalry

with any other <sup>region</sup> ~~part~~ for the commerce and industry of the world. The work which the South has accomplished in these 27 years

of peace may be <sup>safely</sup> ~~readily~~ compared with the brightest achievements of any other land. It could not have been <sup>performed</sup> ~~accomplished~~ by any but a <sup>courageous,</sup> ~~valiant~~ a hopeful and capable race.

Upon this <sup>tremendous</sup> ~~great~~ tide of rising life the prospect of a canal ~~at~~  
~~the Isthmus of Panama,~~ that shall unite the Atlantic with the Pacific  
at the Isthmus of Panama,  
ic Ocean, has now fairly dawned. It has been <sup>estimated</sup> ~~estimated~~ that the  
work will be opened for the service of commerce as early as the  
year 1914, and it may be in order to inquire what <sup>probable</sup> ~~the~~ ef-  
fect <sup>of it</sup> ~~is~~ upon the fortunes of our section.

1. The Trans-Continental Railroads have long resisted the project  
and striven to defeat it. They seemed to hope that they would be  
able to maintain the ascendancy of land-transportation above wa-  
ter-transportation; but with the passage of the Panama Canal Bill  
their schemes were crushed, and the Mississippi River <sup>now marches</sup> ~~up~~  
to the head of the column. It will <sup>henceforth</sup> ~~drain~~ the <sup>commerce of</sup> ~~the~~ twelve States of  
the Middle West and all the Southern States, leaving <sup>of almost</sup> ~~to~~ the Rail-  
roads <sup>only the swifter and the lighter traffic</sup> ~~but remnants of their former business.~~ It is fair to claim  
that the dominion of the world <sup>now</sup> has been promised to the Mississippi,  
Chicago <sup>must needs possess a direct connection with</sup> ~~is it too early~~  
the Canal as New York enjoys, and soon or late  
~~to anticipate that another Canal will come to unite the Mississip-~~  
pi with Lake Michigan and make it the outlet of <sup>nearly all</sup> our Northern seas.

2. The Canal will become the gateway of the Pacific, and in a certain  
sense the <sup>From ~~what~~ <sup>it our nation</sup> ~~our nation~~ <sup>proposes to dominate the Pacific Ocean.</sup></sup> centre of the world. The South lies nearest to the Canal  
and to the Caribbean-Sea, and she will be expected to defend both <sup>of these</sup>  
with all her resources and <sup>all her</sup> ~~energies.~~ Her interests would be more  
nearly concerned ~~by the~~, and her prospects would be more directly  
injured by foreign incursions there than those of any other section  
of the country. Our Southern home has by <sup>this</sup> means become one of

the most desirable regions on the continent of North America. Many nations would be delighted to find a footing <sup>anywhere</sup> on the thousand miles of our coast, stretching from the Potomac to the Rio Grande. The care and safety of the Southern seas; the care and safety of our own coveted coast; these are both important and dangerous propositions. We shall not travel far without stormy and stressful weather. ~~Our~~ Our children shall pour out their lives on many a sea and shore. We shall <sup>doubtless</sup> figure in some of the widest and bloodiest conflicts that the race of man ~~will~~ has known. Perhaps no nation has occupied a more perilous seat <sup>than ours,</sup> or fulfilled a calling of higher consequence to the world.

3. While we survey these unexampled issues and perils we shall not surrender our courage and <sup>confidence.</sup> ~~our~~ We have not invited this mighty work. It has come to us by the act of God and by our <sup>geographical situation</sup> ~~position~~ and settlement in the world. We shall reverently submit to the will of God, and walk in the ~~plain~~ path of destiny. We have striven for no preferment, but we shall refuse none that God and nature shall bestow upon us. We belong to a strong and patient race that for millenniums has been in the custom of rising to ~~the height of~~ great occasions, and we have not lost our ancient <sup>prudence and cunning.</sup> ~~prudence~~ Perhaps ours is purer Anglo-Saxon blood than that of ~~any~~ other large communities of Anglo-Saxon peoples. We have declined to mix with inferior races and so <sup>to</sup> lose our place and standing among men. We ought to rival in the future, as we have rivaled in the past, the best achievements of any ~~other~~ Anglo-Saxons in history.

4. Moreover we <sup>seem to have</sup> have been trained by the will of God, for the task to which his hand has <sup>now</sup> appointed us. We have <sup>recently</sup> been chastened by a great defeat, and <sup>heartened</sup> ~~strengthened~~ by a greater victory. In <sup>our</sup> long years of poverty and hard toil we have not sulked in our tents, but we have collected our powers for noble deeds and trials. We seem to be less corrupted and undermined by luxury than any other large body of Anglo-Saxon men. If any people are prepared for great and stern ~~chances~~ <sup>chances</sup> we certainly ought to be. We have received much martial training, ~~and~~ we are born to martial tastes and skill, ~~we~~ possess martial docility and courage and patience. Best of all we love our country and are <sup>grateful for</sup> ~~proud of~~ the task that has fallen to our lot; a task of world-wide significance and value. In all her history no finer distinction has come to the South. There shall doubtless be some dark and cloudy days; but we shall always justify the confidence and <sup>the</sup> hopes of our country. She shall never lean on Southern men in vain.

The Southern country has never witnessed the rising of a larger tide. This new day is worth all the sorrows and despite that have afflicted us hitherto. The poet Ovid <sup>says</sup> that when Envy ~~came~~ <sup>came</sup> to Athens, and looked upon her citadel resplendent ~~with~~ <sup>with</sup> genius and wealth and festal peace, she lifted up her voice and wept because there was nothing found there to weep over. When Envy shall ~~go to~~ <sup>go to</sup> New Orleans in the years to come, and ~~look upon~~ <sup>behold</sup> her citadel resplendent <sup>also</sup> with genius and wealth and festal peace, she will <sup>also</sup> lift up her voice and weep because nothing is found there to weep over.