

"I believe the south is growing generally. I do not know the other states so well as Georgia. I think Georgia is the best state of the south. I know every inch of it, and I can speak better about it than I can about the other states."

"If what you say is true, why don't the south encourage immigration? Why is it that the west gets all the emigrants?"

"The tide of emigration has been toward the west on account of the public lands and the railroads. The big western roads have had large tracts of land to sell, and they have discriminated in favor of that section. This is now somewhat changed. The public lands of the west have been largely taken up, and our southern railroads are helping us. As to our not wanting immigrants, that is not true. We are now doing all we can to get them. Ex-Governor Northern is now at the head of an immigration bureau for Georgia, and he is pushing the interests of the state in all parts of the world. Colonies are being formed all over Georgia, and we are bringing people there from Germany and Switzerland. One scheme is to organize a colony of Union soldiers in the southern part of the state. Hundreds of thousands of acres have been set apart for it, and I am told about 10,000 old soldiers from Indiana and Illinois are going to settle upon these lands."

"How about the condition of these immigrants when they get there? How do you treat them? Will they be your equals socially and politically? Can they vote as they please?"

"Yes," replied Secretary Smith, "We will be glad to welcome them and to fraternize with them. They can vote as they like, and no one will disturb them. As to social equality, any respectable man will be treated well in Georgia, and the hospitality of the south will be thrown to him. Of course we draw the line on the negro. If a man asks negroes to his house and to his dinner table, and makes his friendships entirely among them; if he visits the houses of negroes and fraternizes with them as his social equals, you can't expect this to be overlooked."

"How about the negro problem, Mr. Secretary?"

"I don't think there is any negro problem," replied the Secretary of the Interior. "Such a problem as there seemed to be has settled itself, and it would never have existed had it not been for the sectional utterances of the north, and for a small party of a certain class of whites—and that not the most respectable class—in the south. The negroes and the whites are perfectly harmonious in the south. The white people are willing and anxious to do all they can to better the moral and intellectual condition of the negro, and they are doing it. The negro is rapidly advancing. He is acquiring property and he makes a good citizen."

"Does he show any inclination toward emigration? Does he want to go back to Africa?"

"No; he is doing well, and he is perfectly satisfied."

"How about his political rights?"

"He votes with the best class of the whites. They are his friends, and he knows it. Cleveland's first election showed him that his rights were as safe under a Democratic as under a Republican administration. The result is the

negro vote is divided between the parties, and he now votes as he pleases."

"How about the solid south, Mr. Secretary? Will it always be solid? Is it always to be an empire belonging to the Democratic party?"

"As long as the differences between the Democratic and Republican parties continue, and these two parties remain the leading ones of the United States, I do not see how it can be otherwise. The interests of the south are against the policy and principles of the Republican party. They lie in the direction of a low tariff. As long as the Republican party represents protection the south will be solid."

"Speaking again about the negro, Mr. Secretary; what is to be his social future?"

"It will be along the lines of his own race," replied Mr. Smith. "Neither he nor the white man wants to mix their blood. They do not desire to come together on the lines of social equality. There is a large class of negroes, in fact, who want no social or marital alliances with the whites. They pride themselves upon their pure African blood and the keeping it pure. They do not want the whites in their churches, nor their schools, and some of their churches will not allow white preachers in their pulpits. This is the case with the African Methodist Church. As to white teachers in the negro schools, when I was on the school board of Atlanta I advocated that none but negro teachers be employed in negro schools. I did not think it right that a bright white girl should compete with the educated negro for such places. I thought the chances were in favor of the whites, and that it would be better for the development of the negroes to have teachers of their own color. The result is that we now have none but negroes teaching in the negro schools."

"But, Mr. Secretary, can you keep the races apart? As the colored people grow in wealth and education, will they not come together? Will there not be a union of the races in the future, a grand mahogany of the white and the black?"

"A debased mahogany, I should say," replied the Secretary. "No, I do not think that will ever come to pass. The races will keep apart. It is better for both that they should do so."

"Will there ever be a social equality?"

"No, I think not. I don't think it best for either race."

"You say they are now kept apart in the churches and in the schools of the south?"

"Yes, it is their desire, as well as ours."

"How about the railroad cars?"

"There are separate cars for the negroes on some of the southern railroads, but the whites are not permitted to enter the negro cars, and can be ordered out just as the negroes can be ordered out of the white cars."

"How about the manufactures of the south? Are they increasing?"

"Yes, indeed," replied Secretary Smith. "The country is growing very rapidly in a manufacturing way. Cotton factories are springing up everywhere, and I understand that some of them are making as high as twenty per cent a year. There is no reason why the south should not manufacture all its own cotton instead of exporting it to New England and Europe. There is a difference of seven per cent on the value

of the cotton as baled and sold in the Georgia markets and its value in Liverpool, and this seven per cent alone would make enough of a margin to pay for its manufacture in Georgia. The difference of a half a cent a pound of profit in the value of cotton would make five per cent, and in these days when capital is going begging that is a fair profit, to say nothing of the fifteen and twenty per cent which some of the factories say they are making."

"The south, Mr. Secretary, seems to be giving us a large amount of our American literature today. Many of the authors and authoresses are from the south, and compared with the north, it furnishes a larger number. Why is it?"

"I suppose it is because the south has devoted itself more to educational and professional lines than to business ones. I don't believe there is any difference in the intellectual caliber of the people. But the north has thrown its force into business. It has been dealing with material things, and the south, not so thickly settled, and scattered over plantations, has run more to literature. A larger number of our southern men go into the professions than do the men of the north, and a great number are practicing these professions in the northern cities. Have you ever thought of the number of southern physicians in New York city? Their name is legion, and proportionately they surpass the number from the north."

"How about the unemployed in the south, Mr. Secretary? Are there many men who cannot get work? Is there much suffering from poverty?"

"No, I think there is none such as you have in the northern cities. There is no suffering and no pauperism to speak of. We all have enough to eat and drink."

"How about the silver question? You have been making speeches throughout the south upon it."

"Yes, I have made some," replied Secretary Smith. "The silver sentiment of the south has been exaggerated. The better sentiment of the people is in favor of sound money. It is the easier for them to see the dangers of an inflated currency through their experience with confederated money. When the war began all of our notes were good for face value, as we thought the confederate states government would be able to pay them in gold. But as the war went on, and it became impossible for the treasury to give something of the actual value for them, they depreciated and fell. At first the reduction was small, but it steadily increased until men paid \$500 for a saucer of ice cream or for a cigar. I had in my audiences men who possessed large amounts of this money. It represented to many of them actual losses. It is, of course, worth nothing now, and it was not hard to draw the comparison between it and free silver. Another example I used was that of a German, who lived in my state, and who coined on his own account gold when this confederate worthless money was circulating. I showed them that his stamp upon the gold gave it circulation because it was gold, and that though he is dead, his coins are still worth their face value."

"How about the Nicaragua canal? That would be of great value to the south, would it not?"

"Yes," replied the Secretary. "But I don't think I ought to give any expression upon it until we get the report of