

THE HAYTIAN SITUATION.

The Boston *Herald* has the following description of the existing situation in Hayti:

Rarely has so small and insignificant a state attracted so much attention as has Hayti during the past 10 months. Since the year of their independence the condition of the Haytians has been even worse than when under French rule. During nearly a century the country has been governed by arrogance and despotism, harsh as these terms may seem to lovers of republicanism, for Hayti is a republic only in name. When Dessalines was proclaimed president in 1804, he was invested with arbitrary power, as much as any European king or oriental potentate, and which he exercised as vigorously. About the only humane or Christian president which this little republic has ever had, and he continued in office but a brief time, was Gen. Seide Thelemaque. His violent death at the hands of the present managers is well known. The inside facts of the cause of the present rebellion have never been published, but they are here given by a Boston gentleman who was in Hayti at the disposal of President Salomon, and at the beginning of the present war. Legitime was in Jamaica, and hastening to Port-au-Prince he became a rival candidate for the presidency. Thelemaque received the most votes and was lawfully elected, but was fired upon in his own house and killed, after which Legitime assumed his seat. He not having received sufficient votes to meet the requirements of the constitution, that article was altered to suit the deficiency. It was on this account that the North arose in rebellion. Gen. Renaud Hippolyte was abroad, and the people of the north, principally at Cape Haytien, the former capital, sent for him as being the most available man and the one most likely to oust Legitime. Gen. Hippolyte is a man of fine personality. Mr. J. S. Paine, of this city, who, with his wife, came from St. Thomas to Cape Haytien on the steamer *Francaise*, with Hippolyte on his recall, thus describes him: He is a large man, above six feet in height, with broad shoulders and grand military bearing. He was educated in France, and speaks the French language as well as the patois of the mongrel Haytian. He is nearly black, with Ethiopian features, excepting a Roman nose. He is gentlemanly in deportment, and a Protestant Christian in religion. He has had a son in Newton seminary until recently, he having been called home to take a part in the impending crisis. All well educated Haytians are particularly partial and courteous to white ladies who chance to visit the "Black Republic." While on the passage Gen. Hippolyte took a fancy to seat himself at the table next to a refined Boston lady, who, not quite used to such close intimacy with the black race, could at first scarcely refrain from expressions of annoyance, but

the general's affability and politeness soon overcame all scruples of color, and during the remainder of the brief passage his efforts to please contributed much to the interest and amusement of herself and friends. The difference between the

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of the people of the north and south of Hayti is as marked as that of the two sections of any country of the globe. An American lady who was on the island when the present war broke out, and who was studied and pictured then in every section, furnishes some interesting personal observations among the Haytians.

"I was at Jeremie, where I saw one of the first companies of soldiers of the war," she said, "and really I thought it was a burlesque parade. There was a tall man ranked next to a very short man; a slim, consumptive-looking mulatto wrestling with a fife, and a fat, stubby negro, as black as night, working vigorously at a bass drum. No two kept step, and no three were dressed alike. The captain was in uniform, and his 50 tatterdemalions may have so fancied themselves. A hundred or more women and children were following, shouting and laughing uproariously, and, as I said, I thought it a burlesque, until a storekeeper, into whose place I ran to avoid the rabble, informed me that it was really a part of the army of the South. But army they must have, even if conscripted and brought into camp, bound like slaves, as I saw them in Port-au-Prince."

The boasted freedom and independence of the people of Hayti is a farce of the biggest kind. Yet there is union and patriotism on the side of the north, which, it is hoped by all well-informed and disinterested Americans, may result in a better and safer condition of society throughout the whole island.

A private letter received in this city, yesterday, by a Boston gentleman, who is supposed to be captain of one of the gunboats of the north, gives some reliable information of the situation at Port-au-Prince, which, amid the contradictory reports circulated by fugitives and agents of the warring Legitime government, is truly gratifying. Gen. Hippolyte has neither gone to France nor to Germany, as is reported, but is massing his army on Port-au-Prince for the final struggle. After capturing every town and fortification on the north side of the Artibonite River, he crossed over and made a clean sweep to the "Cul-de-sac," in the rear of Port-au-Prince, on or about the 20th inst. As the Sierra-de-la-Sella mountains form a complete barrier on the south side of the capital, the occupation of the "Cul-de-sac" closes the passage on the east and the north. The only point of escape from the city, therefore, up to the 20th inst., is by sea. It is well known in the capital that Hippolyte's navy could close this at any time. Many of the better citizens, merchants and officers of Legitime's

army have improved the opportunity and left the city and the island. General Hippolyte, in the mean time had mustered back north, and was, by last information collecting all his scattered forces left behind as guard and sending them rapidly forward to the Cul-de-sac. These forces will aggregate 6000 efficient men, beside General Nord's army already in the rear of Port-au-Prince. This accounts for the delay in taking the capital, the last stand of Legitime and his southern forces. Another reason for the delay is found in the character of the commander of the north. A more humane man never stepped foot on that island than General Hippolyte, whose desire is to effect a settlement of pending difficulties with as

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of property as possible. This is a desideratum never before taken into consideration by a conqueror in that country, and, while it is slowly acted upon by those in command, may be appreciated by the suffering inhabitants of the afflicted city. A bombardment of the city would, at this particular period, cause great loss of life and destruction of property. The city has suffered two severe fires within a year, and can ill afford another, such as a bombardment would cause. All the available men, including firemen, have been conscripted, and there is no efficient fire department left to protect it in case a fire was started during the dry season. There is great distress in the city now, such as the present generation never suffered. Fresh provisions and country produce supplies are cut off entirely by the occupancy of the roads by Hippolyte's army. The remaining merchants are asking exorbitant prices for the merest necessities of life, and starvation seems staring the people in the face. Beside all this the city is in a fearful condition. There is no sewerage system in Port-au-Prince, and the accumulating debris and filth are great at any time, and now are swollen to enormous proportions by the massing of soldiers in the city and suburbs, of which there is, it is estimated, more than 5000, with camp followers and attaches. Certainly, the much talked of truce is most desirable on the part of the inhabitants, if not by Legitime. But the repeated statements in the newspapers that a truce was desired "that the men might, on both sides, go home and gather the crops," is inconsistent with facts, since the men do not gather the crops in times of peace or war. This work is done almost entirely by the women and children in Hayti. This refers at this time, or later, to the coffee crop, which is the principal production of the island. Coffee ripens in July. This crop, in the best days of the republic, consisted of 85,000,000 pounds. There are 380,000 working women, beside unnumbered children, who assist in raking up the coffee, which grows almost spontaneously, and when