

THE EVENING NEWS.

Thursday, December 10, 1872.

THE TREATMENT OF THE SOUTH
ARE THE SOUTHERN PEOPLE TO
HAVE PEACE?

[CONCLUDED.]

In this chapter of Louisiana fight the participants are all of the same stripe. It is a battle for the spoils among the carpet baggers, who have fallen out among themselves. Governor Warmoth was the creator of the carpet-bag politicians, who gladly availed themselves of his ready-made tools and helped him to place him in office by the authority of the bayonet, and armed him with arbitrary powers to be used in their own service. When his ambition clashed with the aspirations of other leaders there was a division in the party, and while Warmoth, with which he had been armed, against his former associates, they invoked for his destruction the very power they had used for his advancement. This would be a proper retort, but, unfortunately, the people of Louisiana are very difficult to be disengaged from in their business in their prospects, in their civil rights. They have no more sympathy with Warmoth than with Kellogg or Casey; but they feel the sorrow and mortification that all classes of a free government are naturally exquisitely sensitive when they find themselves powerless to resist outrageous aggressions upon their rights. The whole of these unfortunate Louisiana proceedings, as well as the attempt of Senator Spencer and his allies to seize upon the Legislature of Alabama in defiance of the will of the people, are typical of the ballot box, the bare toleration of the South by the Federal government, and of how low an estimate the liberties of the white citizens of the South are held by those who have assumed the work of reconstruction.

It is unnecessary to comment on the dangerous and unscrupulous methods of legislation in a country like ours, where the perfect equality of the States as well as of the citizens in all their civil rights, lies at the foundation of the government system. It might have been wise and humane to protect the freedmen and their newly-acquired privileges when the railroads were built, and while the Southern States were in process of rehabilitation. But years have passed since the fall of the Confederacy and of slavery, and it is now time that all the States of the Union, North and South, East and West, should enjoy the same freedom and the same exemption from federal interference in their domestic affairs. The Southern people have done all in their power to prove their allegiance to the national government, their earnest desire to be at peace and to regain the prosperity lost through the insanity policy of their leaders. What more can they do than to admit to a full restoration of all their rights as American citizens? What more ought we to require of them? Some extreme politicians proclaim the desire to hold the South in chains until the general union, when rebellion would be overthrown, when rebellion would strip the negroes of all their civil rights. No doubt in some localities prejudice might for a time discriminate against the colored voter, but prejudice in New York proclaimed against the nomination of a Catholic for the Vice-Presidency, and discriminated if it could not citizens of Irish nationality. Why should any one class of citizens receive special protection by the aid of special laws? The evil of race, not of color, in the Southern States would find its own cure in time, as all such evils do, and should the Southern people be left wholly to themselves to manage their own affairs in their own way without federal intermeddling, negrophobia would soon be as dead in the South as know nothingness is in the North.

President Grant may be unable to remedy the evils in Louisiana. The Warmoth party has been beaten, and so far as the deposed Governor is concerned his fate will excite no sympathy except as he represents the outraged sovereignty of the State. But the friends of the negro, clearly see that the rights and interests of the white citizens of the South are made the prey of an unscrupulous set of political adventurers, and that the Enforcement act, instead of being simply a protection to the negroes, is used by designing men to destroy the last vestige of liberty in that unhappy portion of the Union.

No set of Presidents, however, life will win him greater credit and renown than the disenthralment of the Southern States. It is in his power to restore freedom and happiness to a large section of our own country. He has already prepared the way by denouncing the "miserable assembly" for office at the South, and by depreciation of the Enforcement act as an extreme and undesirable law. Now let him deal such a final, sturdy blow at carpet-bag policy as he dealt at the Confederacy and he will win for himself a lasting fame second only to that of the Father of the Country.—*New York Herald*, Dec. 11.

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