Semi-monthly Report of the Corresponding Secretary to the Executive Committee of the Am. Freedmen's & Union Commission; March 14th, 1866.

The Corresponding Secretary reports that he has been closely engaged, since the last meeting in duties indicated by the titles of his office. He has been in correspondence with parties cooperating with, or desirous to cooperate with this Commission, North, South and abroad, and has on file many cheering assurances of the onward progress of our cause.

His correspondence with the South, so far as it has extended, indicates, on the part of all classes, & in despite of all obstacles, an increased sense of the need of education. Notwithstanding the resistance made to the Freedmen's Bureau, & Freedmen's Schools, both of these agencies are convincing the people, that in a free Commonwealth, education is an absolute necessity; and that, come from whatever source it may, the means of popular enlightenment must be provided.

Planters are assuming to, and adding in the establishment of Freedmen's schools in order to keep their labourers content & prevent them from migrating to other parts. The conservatively virtuous & loyal are arraying themselves against the superstitious views, & disloyal on this subject, and, from mere motives of economy and policy, are doing means to furnish the funds of this Commission.

All parties at the South, not beyond the reach of reason, admit that the bane of that region is Ignorance, and that the only antidote is Education.

A lady in Halifax, North Carolina, Miss A. F. Clarke, a teacher sent out by the New England Women of this Commission, writes: "The ignorance prevalent here among the people, black & white, is truly deplorable. The people are in urgent need of three things: the first is Education; the second is the work of Education; and the third is receiving different Education."

Correspondence with parties in other

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sections of the country, and with increased ardor, in discharging the same growing conviction as to the prime and specific need of the southern States. The physical wants of the freedmen having been necessarily relieved the next effort of their friends is to promote their moral elevation & permanent well-being. The letting to be done — it is instinctively felt — is to help them to do without help; and the duty to do this is to establish among them schools. Even children to develop this conviction obtaining, and its utterance bearing to find an echo from the most distant parts.

At a mass meeting held in San Francisco, to organize a California Branch of this Association, the Hon. D. F. Low, Governor of California, said:

"The objects and aims of the Association — the American Freedmen's and Union Aid Society — as I understand them, should entitle it to the sympathy of the intelligent & patriotic people of this State. Industry and Education, Freedom and Christian Morality form the only basis on

which a Republican form of government can secure rest; and any society or association which aims to promote this cardinal principle, or thereby elevate & improve the public, whether white or black, will have my cordial support and cooperation."

The Hon J. D. Stratton, Attorney General of California, said, on the same occasion:

"I believe it to be the duty of every lover of liberty to give aid and support to every effort which has for its object the advancement of the moral and intellectual standard of the Freedmen."

Dr. E. S. Holden of Boston, said in a letter to the Meeting, said:

"I fully endorse the sentiment that the American Freedmen and Western Emancipation is an institution, national and catholic in the highest and noblest sense, and worthy the confidence of every lover of Freedom. For in behalf of the only form of government a Republican, Federal one, I consider it all important that the Freedmen should be educated, without regard to complexion, in order

that they may become not only men, but be raised above insurrection and all hatred."

Senator Cole, at the same meeting, said:

"The character of the African race for peace & quietness has been grossly misrepresented. They are not turbulent and bloodthirsty as they have been charged, but exactly the reverse. Not the freedmen alone, however, need attention. The poor uneducated whites, also, & Chinese, are also included in the scope of our charities, should be subjects of Christ's solicitude."

Mr. Hon. T. F. Bell Chellenger, attorney General of California, said:

"I hold it to be a privilege to be connected in any way, even the humblest, with such a work as that of the American Freedmen's and Union Commission. What Commission is, and is to be, the almoner of our bounty for the education and elevation of the Freedmen."

Similar in spirit are the expressions of sympathy and approval which came to us from England. The Cell-steamer Arctic

in a letter which is an assurance of good will and a token of intelligent cooperation on the part of our friends in that country is especially gratifying. It is from Mr Wilson Armistead of Leeds, a veteran advocate of the anti-slavery cause, while slavery was in existence, and now that it has been abolished one of the foremost in the work of reconstruction. He says:

"as Treasurer of our society (Freedmen) it is my great joy to remit this a bill on demand drawn on the National Bank of Commerce of Newcastle for the sum of one thousand pounds (£1,000.) This has resulted from the inclosed extract from a letter of mine which appeared in the "Herald of Peace", a London monthly. A gentleman who read it called upon me and offered me £100. if we would make it up quickly to £1,000. Ultimately, he agreed to double his gift and then we went to work in good earnest. I only up one whole night getting out circulars &c, and within a week we made up the sum. I now send it for the use of the Com-

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institution of which there are Corresponding Secretary. In doing so I am requested by the donor of the $200. to lay special stress on the 4th paragraph of my letter, which I have marked; and we would suggest that so far as practicable a school be raised or organized with each allotment of Cultivation.

The "4th paragraph" referred to by Mr Atwing read thus: "We find that instruction and physical aid, be made often effective, most so hand in hand. Instruction adds one hundred per cent to the value of material receives. That is to say: Five Hundred dollars and a school will be further in diminishing the want and promoting physical comfort than one thousand dollars worth of clothing without a school"

— In conclusion, the Cor. feels would say — as the result of his correspondence, & reflections — he can not but feel that — at this most important crisis & juncture — it relinquishes upon its work on a basis which is imperishable, and the humane policy of which is vindicated by every

days experience. The victories and the intelligently loyal, all over the country, the people in their primary assemblies or at the polls & our Representatives in Congress are demanding that man shall be treated as man without regard to any adventitious distinction; that our Constitution and laws, & the administration thereof, shall recognize no distinction of race, caste or complexion.

On this ~~Condition~~ basis, our Commission has placed itself. On this basis, corresponding with the ~~Freedmen~~ Bureau of Freedmen & Refugees, and with all persons & parties feeling the same need, its purpose to continue its labors till its object shall be accomplished.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Geo. W. McKee

Cor. Sec. A.F. & A.C.

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