

Social and Economic Reconstruction

Beginning in war, then the Emancipation Proclamation, then with contrabands, then the 13th Amendment, and finally Reconstruction...the South gradually saw its captive and un-educated work force leave.

Some called it a “general strike” of blacks.

The effect was huge—farms unproductive; half the labor force unable to read; transportation destroyed.

Most importantly it meant a social revolution —black families could decide how they spent their time

Southern Education —as rapidly as the war spread, so too did the desire for education among the former slaves.

Blacks instinctively knew this was a difference between them and Southern whites.

Southern Whites were split;

Many feared educating the blacks would end white supremacy...

Others recognized that without educating half its people the south would never develop...

Still others hoped for needed educations—but without “Yankee ways”

By default, Northerners took commend of black education since Southerners did almost nothing to promote it.

...women volunteered as Union Armies took in contrabands

...the American Missionary Association provided hundreds of volunteer teachers and worked closely with the Freedmen's Bureau

...The Freedmen's Bureau created the first "state-wide" system a schools for blacks in conquered Southern states

...unaffiliated organizations banded together to form the American Freedmen's Union Commission—provided teachers for Freedmen's schools.

...Black denominations of the African American Methodist Church founded schools and sent volunteers.

The Freedmen's Bureau built most schools, paid transportation from the North for teachers, and provided oversight....local teachers and volunteer groups did the rest.

Freedmen's School in South Carolina



Freedmen's School in Edisto Island, South Carolina



Mrs. Cooke's Freedmen's School in Richmond, Virginia



MRS. COOKE'S FREEDMEN'S SCHOOL, RICHMOND, VA.—FROM A SKETCH BY J. M. COOKE.



MRS. COOKE.

MRS. S. P. BOWEN AND "LADY AGOLEY'S SECRET."

As the result of the... [The text continues with a detailed account of a social event or scandal involving Mrs. Bowen and Lady Agoley, mentioning names like 'the Countess' and 'the Duke'.]



MRS. BOWEN.

THE MEXICO STATUE.

The... [The text discusses the Mexico statue, mentioning its location and the efforts to move it.]

... [Additional text related to the Mexico statue.]

... [Final lines of text at the bottom of the page.]

Freedmen's Union School



OLIMPIANS AT THE FREEDMEN—THE FREEDMEN'S UNION INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, RICHMOND, VA.—FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST, JAS. E. TAYLOR.

Union Industrial School, whose garments of various kinds are made, and afterward distributed gratuitously among the poor in the vicinity without regard to color or creed. The school is under the control of Mr. T. C. Chase, assisted by two ladies, who superintend and execute the work.

From an apartment in the Wade building music lectures are given, every Monday, in the old and still, the musical care being taken that none but the really

deserving shall receive these benefactions. Some months ago one thousand tickets were issued weekly, but the number has since been reduced to about three hundred. After receiving their tickets, the parties take them to another building, and obtain whatever articles are named on their certificates. This business is in charge of Mr. S. Stone, formerly of Troy, New York. In a few weeks the operations of the Bureau will be scarcely suspended, orders having been given by the Government to that effect.

BEST SUGAR IN EUROPE.—The rapid increase in the production of beet sugar is seen by the following: In 1827, the product in France was only 1,000 tons; in 1837 it had reached 30,000 tons; in 1846, 100,000 tons; and by a late arrival the estimated product is 350,000 tons. In Belgium and Austria, the increase has been equally rapid, the former having trebled her yield in the last fifteen years, and the latter having increased in twenty years from 4,000 to 40,000 tons. The increase in

all the countries of Europe since 1825 has been from the small aggregate of 7,500 tons to a total in 1846 of 100,000 tons—which is something more than one-half of the total annual consumption of sugar in all Europe. The experiment of making sugar from the beet in this country, hitherto, we believe, has been confined to Ohio and Illinois. In the latter State, the experiment is still in progress on quite an extensive scale; results to be announced at the close of this season. The beet can be grown in any part of the United States, and the manufacture is not difficult.



Chimborazo Freedmen's School,
Richmond Virginia

St. Philip's Church used as a
freedmen's school, Richmond Virginia

DAILY SCHOOL REGISTER for *Chimborazo*
commencing *10th mo 24th*, 1868, and ending

SCHOOL No.	NAMES OF SCHOLARS.	YEARS OF AGE.	WEEK										
			MONDAY.	TUESDAY.	WEDNESDAY.	THURSDAY.	FRIDAY.	MONDAY.	TUESDAY.	WEDNESDAY.	THURSDAY.	FRIDAY.	
1	Rebecca Braxton	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2	Delia A. Willis	10	.	0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
3	Francis Bailey	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
4	Mary L. Washington	12	.	0	.	.	.	.	0	.	.	.	.
5	Mary Washington	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
6	Margaret Johnson	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	.	1	.	.
7	Schellie Williams	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
8	Delaney, H. Jane	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
9	Sally A. Jefferson	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
10	Leah M. Lewis	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
11	Delia Jones	11	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.



A record of mixed accomplishments.....

...By 1870 4,000 Freedmen's schools enrolling 9,000 teachers and 200,000 freedmen's children. ...But that was only 12% of the 1,700,000 school-aged freedmen's children.

...The Bureau spent over \$9,000,000 from 1865-1870...By contrast white Southern school-aged children in school was around 16%.

The biggest accomplishment may have been among teachers—by 1870, half were black, gradually replacing white volunteers.

As Southern states took over there was great hope—but the difficulty of collecting local taxes to support schools along with corruption and Klan violence marred full recovery.

Most good freedmen's schools were in cities, and most black children were in rural areas.

Black Colleges --Using the base of volunteer black schools, most of the South's Black Colleges emerged as another area of success...

Fisk University, Nashville, TN

Atlanta University, founded by the American Missionary Association and the first black college to offer graduate degrees.

Dillard University, New Orleans

Morehouse College for black men was founded in the basement of a local Atlanta Baptist Church.

Spellman College, for black women, Atlanta

Talladega, Alabama

Tougaloo, Mississippi

Black illiteracy rate dropped from 80% in 1870 to 45% in 1900

Civil Rights Act 1875

As school integration attempts grew with Southern Freedmen's Schools, interest among Radicals for a new "integration law" increased.

In 1870 Ch. Sumner introduced a bill to prohibit discrimination in schools, juries, transportation, and public accommodations. For the next four years he re-introduced the bill.....

Only after his death did congress pass Sumner's bill. While futuristic, the bill was ruled unconstitutional in 1883.

Farming Tenantry & Land Ownership

...rise in economic standard of living among southern blacks —due to high cotton prices and labor shortage.

...White had to pass “anti-enticement” laws to keep their black “folk” working, even at fair supervised prices

...Share Tenantry also grew simply because there was so little cash. Land owners (whites) agreed to rent their land to farmers (mostly black) for a share of the crop. Soon sharecropping became the most common form of land farming among staple crops.

...Generally speaking white land ownership was reduced after the war, while black ownership grew slightly. Some aid societies bought land with goals of re-sell to blacks in small plots—but these ideas largely failed.

Crop Lien System...with little cash...more sharecropping...and little credit a new system of exchange was needed.

Northern banks loaned money to urban wholesalers...who sold their goods on credit to merchants...who sold their goods on credit to farm owners.. Who in turn sold their goods on “CROP LIEN” to farmers, mostly black freedmen.

This system meant a freedman and his family could be doubly indebted to the land owner—once for a share of the crop for use of the land; and a second debt for use of food, tools, feed extended on credit.

Rail Boom Fails in the South

...rebuilding Railroads took nearly 20 years.

...In most of American the rails provided a post war boom

...Yet corruption and financial fraud within railroads angered many Americans

...then came labor strikes and credit panics which angered Americans even more.

...in he south these Northern concerns were amplified, resulting in under-development of southern railroads

Conclusions...a clear pattern of progress, Northern ideas, followed by exploitation, corruption, and separation.

...black schools and colleges did increase black literacy and professional class.

...However as Southern states took over education initiative was lost.

...To address discrimination in public places Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1875, but it was not enforced

...economic standards of living for freedmen increased, but it also enveloped them in the complex crop lien system.

...as the rail boom caused economic growth in the North, it failed to catch fire in the South