

haughty people must have been, is to shut everything from view and imagine ourselves in their position. Human nature is the same the world over, and methinks we would scarcely be able to contain ourselves.

But, as we said, their spirit for opposition was broken, and they wholly withdrew from politics—the main reason being that their leaders were disfranchised. And now a swarm of unemployed army officers, office-seekers, (called by the southern people "Carpet Bagger") and missionaries, flocked thither to enlighten the negroes and take the lead in affairs, which was easily done since the blacks knew not how to do anything, and blindly followed those who claimed to be their friends and benefactors. The condition of affairs after the mighty struggle and revolution, as it is graphically portrayed by a writer in the Atlantic Monthly, must have been terrible. This writer acknowledges that many of those who followed close upon the heels of our war may have been sincere, and oftentimes did good to the negroes; but he claims, and justly, we believe, for it is only in accordance with human nature, that the most were only unprincipled office-seekers and money-makers. They were men who cared nothing for the reconciliation of the two races, or the prosperity of the South, so long as they could be filling their pockets with ill-gotten gains. Taxes were run up to an enormous extent to supply these corrupt officials and their friends with means to revel in luxury at the expense of those in whom they took no interest. All state, even county, officers reveled in luxuries unheard of before, and such as would not be tolerated here for an instant.

Men who were beggars one day grew amazingly rich the next. The negroes were allowed, at first, the minor offices, concerning the duties of which they knew nothing, and in the majority of cases were so ignorant that they could only sign documents by a cross. In time they filled higher offices and soon learned from the

white office holders to love luxury, and also, how to extort money, rightly considering themselves as much entitled to it as their leaders, so that they soon outrivalled the so called "Carpet Baggers" in their headlong career. Crimes of all sorts were on the increase. It is said that it was almost impossible to convict a negro since juries were composed, for the most part, of blacks. With crimes on the increase and no chance of punishing the guilty, with taxes advanced to such an extent that it was almost impossible to pay them except by allowing their lands to be knocked off under the sheriff's hammer, could we expect that the southern whites would long remain quiet and allow their all to be swept away by hungry office seekers and especially by those who were formerly made to come and go at their bidding? The Ku Klux and White League organizations were the outgrowth of this condition of things. The southern whites, seeing they could not obtain relief through the law, took it into their own hands to punish crimes committed against them.

The young men, not having been brought up to labor, found it more congenial to threaten, beat and shoot down defenseless, and in, the majority of cases, innocent negroes. Finding that by so doing they could cower down the blacks, they scoured the country during political campaigns, threatening, shooting, hanging and butchering the defenceless colored populace. This condition of affairs has now existed for many years and the blacks are so afraid of the whites that, in many places, they live hidden away in the swamps and forests, only coming forth to plunder the neighboring country and apply the torch to the property of their former masters, but who are now their deadly enemies.

And now we have the spectacle in our country of two races in open hostility to each other. The one, shooting and butchering; the other retaliating by plundering and destroying property with fire. Instead of affairs becoming better as time