

Bureau of Refugees  
Freedmen and Abandoned  
Lands N.Car  
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Annual Report  
Of Ass't Commissioner  
1867

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Of the  
Assistant Commissioner  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
For  
North Carolina.  
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Of the  
Assist. Commissioner for North Carolina.  
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Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
Head-quarters Assist. Commissioner,  
Raleigh, N.C., October 9, 1867.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard, Commissioner,

Washington, D.C.

General: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the Bureau in this Stat for the year ending September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1867:

Another year has passed with its various interests and events, and will form a chapter in the history which preceding events have recorded of the workings of the Bureau.

The influence exerted upon the people for whose benefit the Bureau was created, will live in the generations which shall follow, and become a perpetual monument of the wisdom and philanthropy of its conception, and the untiring diligence and self-sacrificing spirit with which its operations have been carried on and consummated. The experience in this State, is a convincing proof of the appreciation of the thousands recently elevated to the dignity of manhood of what has now become their duty, not only to themselves, but to the community of which they compose such an important part. It is manifest that a period covering years will elapse before the associations, education, and habits, incident to their past position can be entirely absorbed in their new relations- yet there has been much already developed that proves the efforts in their behalf have been crowned with extraordinary success, and gives flattering promises for the future. There have been many barriers to the speedy attainment of the position earnestly desired for freedmen by those who have indefatigably devoted themselves to effect it. Many of the obstacles, however, can be removed by constant care and judicious management.

Among these may be cited the prejudices of those who have so long held the colored man an inferior race, and righteously believed that involuntary servitude was a divine institution. Such fallacies as these are crumbling to dust and will become only a thing of the past. But a greater obstacle than these tends to retard their advancement. It can only be when the laborer can place himself beyond the reach of want that he can rise to his proper sphere. For several years scanty crops have rewarded the labor of months, and while the country is in this impoverished condition, as at the present, he is compelled to look to public or private charity, or become the victim of individual cupidity. The past year has developed much of this state of affairs. The crops of the previous years were insufficient to provide for the necessities of the people, and at the commencement of winter it was found necessary to make issues of meat and breadstuff's to prevent actual suffering. As spring opened these issues increased, and as summer advanced the demand continued. A late season, in all respects, kept back the fruits and early vegetables upon which all had relied for an early self-support; added to this, the scanty means derived from crops of previous years gradually gave out, and many found themselves with a promising harvest, without means of support for themselves or laborers until the time of gathering. In this emergency, the Bureau put forth a helping hand, and by the regular issues, combined with the assistance of the "Special Relief Fund" and donations from the North, were enabled to meet the present demands. An entire suspension of issues took place August 20th 1867, which was undoubtedly a wise measure, and will be for some time to come. But it is feared that the yield is not sufficient in many sections to supply the wants through the winter. Only a partial crop of grain has been secured, and cotton, the great staple, uncertain and unfit as yet to gather, the approaching cold months may damage vastly. The entire community seems to turn its attention to the culture of cotton, a crop, which, if successful, will eventually enrich the producer, and in an indirect way benefit the country, but it is a risk. It consumes time in cultivation, preparation and realization, and the result is, that there being no bread in the land, the poor must starve or the Government support them. Thus the Government furnishes capital for the planter, and receives neither credit nor gain for so doing. The issue of food has been large, as will be seen by accompanying tables, and has been a task of no small dimensions; but through the energy and industry of those to whom it was assigned, immense labor has been performed with little or no additional expenditure.

#### ISSUE OF RATIONS.

*Table of rations issued in the State of North Carolina from November 1st, 1866 to September 30th, 1867.*

Sick in Hospitals,	71,193
Orphans in Asylums,	16,039
Destitute Whites,	150,392
Destitute Freed-people,	202,320
Total	439,944

Raleigh, being the centre of a vast country with a large population, among whom was probably a larger proportion of those needing help than elsewhere, soon became the depot for large supplies; and also, for this and other reasons, became the point where advice was sought.

By the untiring energy, good counsels, and admirable executive abilities of Dr. H. G. Voele, the Agent in charge at this precinct, the suffering has been relieved, and their wants attended to in a manner that entitles him to my thanks.

#### NORTHERN DONATIONS.

In addition to the statistics given of supplies furnished, several thousand bushels of corn and other necessaries have been distributed through the Bureau, being the donations of charitable people in Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

#### BOSTON DONATION.

In reference to the donations from the North, I must bear testimony, not only to that from the citizens of Boston, but also to the great good accomplished by the purposes to which it has been devoted by the direction of the committee acting in behalf of the donors. While the supplies furnished by the Government and private contributions were devoted to the relief of starving humanity, there was still a class whose peculiar wants could not be reached by these sources. The sick and aged, infirm and feeble children, to whom the food furnished was not sufficient to sustain life, and to whom food of a different character was necessary, were supplied through this gift. Nine thousand one hundred dollars and ninety-five cents was placed in the hands of a committee for the State composed of Hon. W. AY. Holden, ex-Governor of North Carolina, K. AAr. Pulliam, Esq., and the Asst. Commissioner, with instructions to provide for this class of sufferers, without regard to race, political or religious sentiments. By the appointment of sub-committees, principally composed of ladies, the fund has been freely given, and a considerable balance still remains to be used as cases occur, and to meet the exigencies of the approaching winter. This charity has been of incalculable benefit, and the recipients are exceedingly grateful to the donors.

The thanks of all are particularly due to Wm. Gkay, Esq., chairman of the committee on behalf of the Bostonians, for his sympathy and interest in this voluntary act of humanity, and to Addison Gaoe, Esq., who personally visited this section and proposed this excellent arrangement.

#### SUB-DIVISIONS OF THE STATE.

Since assuming the duties of Asst. Commissioner, in April last, the State has been divided into Bureau Districts, conforming as nearly as possible to the Military Divisions as laid down by the District Commander, thus harmonizing the respective jurisdictions, and thus tending to the greater interest of

the service. These Bureau Districts are sub- divided, and officers or agents assigned to such sub- divisions, giving an average of three counties each. The officers and agents are assigned as follows:

STAFF.

Bvt. Lieut. Col. Jacob F. Chur, Capt. V. R. C., A. A. G.  
Bvt. Lieut. Col. T. P. Johnston, A. Q. M., Ch'f Q. M. & D. O.  
Capt. W. F. Smith, Asst. Surg. U. S. A., Surg. in Chief.  
1st Lieut. Robt. Avery, 44th U. S. Infantry, Inspector.  
Bvt. Maj. And. Coats, 1st Lt. V. R. C., in charge Claim Div.  
Rev. F. A. Fiske, Superintendent of Education.  
Chap. G. W. Pepper, Asst, do do

SUB-ASST. COMMISSIONERS.

Bvt. Col. John R. Edie, Lt. Col. 8th U. S. Infantry.  
Lieut. Col. Stephen Moore, V. R. C.  
Bvt. Col. M. Cogswell, Maj. 8th Infantry.  
Major C. E. Compton, 40th Infantry.  
Captain A. Rutherford, 44th Infantry.  
Bvt. Maj. II. D. Norton, Capt. V. R. C.  
Captain II. Hillebrandt, V. R. C.  
2d Lieut. Jno. M. Foote, V. R. C.  
2d Lieut. T. D. McAlpine, V. R. C.

ASST. SCB-ASST. COMMISSIONERS.

Bvt. Lieut. Col. W. A. Cutler, Major 37th U. S. C. T.  
Captain Richard Dillon, V. R. C.  
Captain Charles Wolff, Y. R. C.  
Captain W. W. Jones, V. R. C.  
1st Lieut. Thos. H. Hay, 42d Infantry.  
1st Lieut. Geo. S. Hawley, Y. R. C.  
1st Lieut. J. F. Allison, Y. R. C.  
2d Lieut. C. W. Dodge, Y. R. C.  
Bvt. Capt. A. W. McKillop, 2d Lt. V. R. C.  
Bvt. Capt. A. W. Fuller, 2d Lt. Y. R. C.  
Bvt. Capt. J. F. Curren, 2d Lt. V. R. C.  
2d Lieut. L. Echelberry, Y. R. C.  
2d Lieut. W. N. Thompson, V. R. C.

AGENTS.

Wm. H. Doherty, Esq.  
Manchester W. Weld, Esq.  
William Birnie, Esq.  
Henry C. Yogell, Esq.  
Oscar Eastmond, Esq.

Wm. McFarland, Esq.  
W. F. Henderson, Esq.  
Jno. A. Scarlett, Esq.  
Geo. O. Spooner, Esq.

Assuming the duties of Asst. Commissioner as I did, without previous experience in the Bureau, and being obliged to devote a portion of my time to my military duties, I take great pleasure in stating that I have derived great assistance and aid from the admirable executive ability of Bvt Lt. Col. Jacob F. Chur, Act. Asst. Adj. Gen'l. His untiring application, and promptness in the discharge of the duties of his office, have been characterized with commendable zeal and fidelity.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Administration of justice has been entirely conceded to the civil authorities, except in cases of settlement of contracts and litigations of various forms, where it is deemed advisable to act and thus avoid costs which the parties are illy able to bear, and delays that would be disastrous. As an evidence of the amount of labor performed in this way, I would here state, that no less than two thousand cases of the above nature have been adjudicated, and as many more, perhaps, of minor importance not accounted for. But little complaint can be made as to the manner in which justice has been dispensed. The tone of a few months back has been softened: first, by laws upon the subject, and finally, by the proper realization of interest and welfare.

Recent enactments of Congress and regulations of the District Commanders, serve still further to guarantee the unbiased and impartial administration of civil law. The Superior Court of the State has done much towards effecting this very satisfactory condition of affairs. As a body, it has been impartial and just in its decisions, and the eminent gentlemen comprising its bench have given decisions worthy of their high position and honorable profession. A few cases have been submitted to Military Commissions, as it was deemed local prejudices and feelings interfered with a proper disposition of them. Among the important duties of the Bureau Agents, is that of attending the County Courts within their respective jurisdictions, and there give advice and counsel to those under their charge. The necessity for such assistance in some sections has required abilities of a peculiar nature, which have been displayed to a gratifying extent by many of the officers, among whom are Lieutenants Thomas H. Hay and John M. Foote, both of whom have been very successful in their arduous tasks.

#### APPRENTICES.

A year since, the Bureau was constantly engaged in endeavoring to prevent evils arising from promiscuous and much abused practice of apprenticing colored children. Many vexatious cases, arising from the hasty and unscrupulous action of inferior courts, were brought to the notice of the Bureau officers, and it was growing to be a crying evil, either as to their present or past actions. The evil was brought to the notice of the Legislature, and by that body several acts were passed which finally struck from the code any law prejudicial to colored people; and later, the ruling of the Supreme Court removed all obstacles to the proper administration of the law. Since then, the officers have been engaged in cancelling indentures improperly made, and no trouble now exists.

## RESULTS OF FREE LABOR.

Although, from reasons heretofore given, labor has not been as productive as to enable one to fully portray the practical results of free labor, still, sufficient has been developed to prove that, so far, it has been a complete success, not only for the employee, but also the employer. It is a fact so evident that it cannot be denied but by those who are perversely blind; and this, too, developed under so many difficulties, such as unproductive seasons, small wages and the short time there has been for the experiment. At the wages now paid, and which, if conscientiously paid, would still prove the assertion that the planter now cultivates his land with less expense than he did in the days of slavery. The wages now given are far short of what it cost him then to hire; or if an owner, are less than the interest on his human investment, to which, of course, must be added the insurance, rations, clothing and medical attendance. If the capitalist and the planter will but act their part, the country will again arise to its former importance, the laborer will occupy the position to which industry will entitle him, and the whole community reach a stand-point never known where compulsory labor existed. As this state of affairs progresses, labor will be more productive, and wealth flow in a land possessing all the elements for large gains. The system of working for a part of the crops seems to be the one possessing the greatest allurements, but the experience has not been one of success; therefore the Bureau has discountenanced it as much as possible, as one ultimately resulting in no benefit to the laborer, and productive of much discord and complaint.

## CLAIMS OF DECEASED SOLDIERS, AC.

The very large number of colored soldiers enlisted and discharged within this State, has made the Claim Division of the Bureau an exceedingly important branch, and has been for the year past in charge of an officer who gives his exclusive attention to the business. The resolution of Congress, approved March 29th, 1837, making the treasury certificates issued in settlement of claims for arrears of pay and bounty due colored soldiers, sailors and mariners, or their legal representatives, payable through the Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau, has tended to materially increase this branch of the work, and has been of vast benefit to those interested, to prevent extortion and robbery. During the year three hundred and ninety-five claims for arrears of pay and bounty have been prepared and forwarded to Washington. Fifty claims have been corrected and returned. Two hundred and forty-five claims have been collected and the amount, thirty-five thousand and ninety-six dollars, paid to claimants; and it is estimated that seven thousand persons have been, to a greater or less degree, benefitted thereby. This branch has been under the charge of Brevet Major A. Coats, who, by his careful attention to his business and admirable executive ability, has done much to produce the above gratifying results.

## MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

The Medical Department, under the supervision of Assistant Surgeon W. F. Smith, U. S. A., has been systematically and economically conducted, and presents a statement of facts highly creditable to its management. Since the date of last yearly report, there have been seven thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven cases in which medical aid has been afforded. But few cases of contagion have occurred. These were for the most part of a mild form, and were confined to two points. At this time the disease, (small-pox,) has almost entirely disappeared. The total number of deaths was two hundred and forty-seven, giving a ratio of deaths per one thousand of 31-544. Five hospitals have been discontinued and a still farther reduction is contemplated, substituting therefor dispensaries, which plan has been tried at some points and found to meet the requirements of the localities where they exist. The number of

medical officers now in the employ of the Bureau is seven, located at Raleigh, New Berne, Beaufort, Wilmington, Greensboro', Salisbury and Charlotte. At these points there are accommodations for four hundred and fifty patients; but half that number are now under treatment in the hospitals. A serious want is felt, in the absence of some provision for the insane, blind, deaf and dumb. The State institutions are filled to their utmost capacity, and many remain unprovided for. Annexed will be found statistics as to the number of patients and unfortunates.

Tabular statement of all cases under medical treatment since last report, October 30th, 1866.

	Remaining under treatment	Gain during the month	Total number under treatment	Discharged during month	Died during the month	Percentage of deaths during the month	Remaining at the end of the month
November	609	804	1413	836	43	30431	534
December	534	547	1081	575	25	23148	418
January	481	545	1026	524	32	31189	470
February	470	518	988	526	24	24291	438
March	438	567	1005	537	16	15920	452
April	452	575	1027	550	12	11684	465
May	465	563	1028	530	14	13618	484
June	484	603	1087	622	18	16559	417
July	447	557	1004	522	19	18924	463
August	463	612	1075	566	29	26976	480
September	480	314	794	254	15	18513	525
Vaccinated		1013		1013			
Total		7827		7055			

Table showing the number, age and sex of the class of "Unfortunates,," among the colored population of the State of North Carolina:

Classification	Blind	Deaf	Deaf and Dumb	Deaf and Blind	Imbecile and Idiotic	Insane	Club Foot	Dwarf	Deformed	Paralytic	Subject to Fits	Rheumatic distortions	Crippled from accident or otherwise	Incurable Invalids.	Total
Adult Males	86	2	41	1	130	32	28	1	2			8	39	1	
Adult Females	85	1	23		104	44	11		2	2	1	5	11	10	
Male Children	12	1	17		32	27	11								
Female Children	7		14		25	15	16								
Total	190	4	95	1	291	118	66	1	4	2	1	13	50	11	847

#### REGISTRATION UNDER RECONSTRUCTION ACTS.

For several months back registration and preparations for carrying out the requirements of the Reconstruction Acts have been vigorously carried on, and have now arrived at a stage of completeness sufficient to indicate a correct view of the ends attained. Although this work has not been carried on under the auspices of the Bureau, it is a matter of so much importance as to attract the attention of all, and more particularly of those whose official duties bring them in contact with the class who now, for the first time, enter the political world as enfranchised people. The importance of the work, the duties arising therefrom, and the appreciation of its benefits are without a doubt realized by every man in the State. The issue now pending is thoroughly understood by them, and it is a subject of much wonder to see how familiar they are with our form of government, and the administration of civil affairs, evincing at all points that it has been a study, and that their researches have been crowned with success. Considerable has been published as to the want of intelligence in regard to the meaning of this new power just reached; but enemies to them and to the government are alone the heralds of such cries; no one with a proper regard for the future welfare of all could or would proclaim such fallacies. In the enjoyment of the right of suffrage no apprehension need arise that the colored man will not use his gift with discretion. In this country, where merit and ability are the only true aristocracy, it is absurd to anticipate and apprehend negro supremacy and negro rule, and cowardly and unbecoming the Caucasian who has always enjoyed advantages far beyond all others to prophecy thus, and to fear rivalry in the African, who for two hundred years has been bound mentally and physically. Neither is it necessary for the white race to degrade themselves or to descend to their level in order to elevate and improve their condition. The colored men, as a class, are loyal to the government and are entitled to every advantage in exercising their voice in its administration, as well as to counterbalance the thousands of educated white men who already exercise these privileges and whose feelings are antagonistic to the country as it now is. The interests of the colored man is with republican institutions; his voice through the ballot box will never be raised against them ; he is 'free and never will he vote against measures that will be detrimental to the State or General Government, They will support all measures that tend to elevate themselves, and thus benefit others. They are liberal in their views as to their own position, and disposed to follow rather than attempt to lead, so long as they are guided in the right direction, and harbor no animosity for the past, looking hopefully to the future, and living in harmony with all; and there need be no apprehension of a war of races, which will be brought on, if at all, by designing white men.

#### SAVINGS BANKS.

The establishment of Savings Banks under the charter of the "Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company," is one of the designs of the Bureau in this State. As yet but little has been accomplished, but the matter has been brought to the notice of the officers of the Bureau and will have attention. Two branches have been established and several more are under contemplation. Efforts are being made to establish habits of economy and temperance among the colored people, with considerable success. A desire to accumulate property, and thus more firmly establish themselves upon an independent footing is prevalent, and although as yet their facilities are few, still it is apparent in many sections that considerable has already been attained.



#### EMPLOYMENT OF DESTITUTE WHITE WOMEN.

In a former report, the plan of providing for the employment of white women who have been left destitute, by procuring situations in Northern manufacturing towns, was mentioned. The personal efforts of the Asst. Commissioner have been directed to this end, but as yet with little success, except so far as to bring the subject to the notice of the proper parties. A partial stagnation of business in the manufacturing districts during the past summer, when the effort was made, prevented the fulfilment of the plan; but the matter is not forgotten, and with a revival of trade, it is to be hoped the subject will receive the share of attention due to it: and in this way it is confidently expected much good can be obtained by providing for both mental and physical wants of this suffering class.

#### BREAKING UP OF COLONIES.

Since the last annual report, all the colonies of freed people have been broken up and the properties upon which they were settled restored to the owners. This has been accomplished by gradual systematic measures, resulting in no disadvantage or suffering to the former occupants. Due notice was given, and assistance rendered by procuring houses, and in many instances transporting them to their new fields of action. This arduous task was assigned to Lieut. Col. Moore and Capt. Hillebrandt, who have, by their judicious management, accomplished their duties with credit to themselves, and advanced the interest and wellbeing of all others interested.

#### ORPHAN'S ASYLUM.

An Orphan Asylum, located about eight miles from Wilmington, N. C., was established in May, 1866, by the American Missionary Association, and for which the Bureau furnishes rations. Since its organization 137 orphans have been provided for.

#### REGISTERS OF LABOR WANTED.

Instructions have been issued to all officers to open books for the purpose of registering all applications for employment wanted and laborers needed, with a view to the establishment of a general system throughout the State. Although at this season many changes are not made, sufficient has already been developed to prove its utility.

#### DISBURSING AND QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT.

The Disbursing and Quartermaster's Department has been carried on with a view to accomplish all the intentions of the Bureau, but at the same time with economy. The entire business of issues and disbursements and purchase of provisions has been confined to one office, and the services of one officer. Large quantities of sanitary stores, such as quilts, bed sacks, shirts, Ac., have been distributed, as well as clothing manufactured in hospitals. The following are the items of expenditures from October 1, 1866, to September 1, 1867:

For Salaries Asst. and Sub-Asst. Commissioners,.....\$6373 67

“ Salaries of Clerks,.....18420 15

“ Stationery and Printing,.....895 60

“ Medical Department,.....16429 23  
 “ Quarters and Fuel,.....896 66  
 “ Transportation,.....1366 29  
 “ School Superintendents,.....1604 99  
 “ Telegraphing and Postage,.....2199 23  
 “ Clothing for distribution,.....1184 61  
 “ Refugees and Freedmen’s Fund,.....3662 11  
 “ Rents and Repairs of School Houses and Asylums,.....4669 59  
 “ Commissary Stores,.....11 25  
 “ Special Relief Fund,.....16980 42  
 Total,.....\$74,693 80

Bvt. Lt. Col. Th'os. P. Johnston, A. Q. M., in charge of these Departments, is deserving of high praise for the efficient manner in which he has attended to the various details connected therewith.

#### SUPPORT OF POOR BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

The county authorities have recently been called upon to provide for the maintenance of the indigent poor in their respective districts; but few counties have as yet made a favorable response, and unless some measures are soon taken to require them to do so, the Government will be appealed to again for aid.

#### EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS.

The great foundation of all prosperity, and perpetuity of our institutions and our country, is education. From it as a stand-point rises every thing that is great and noble in us. To this great end then have the energies of the Bureau been put forth, and the result has been exceedingly satisfactory. The importance of the educational and moral improvements of a race heretofore entirely debarred of their benefits was early considered, and as time advanced it became almost paramount to all else. Money has been freely expended, talents brought into requisition, and sacrifices made—all have been returned with interest. The colored people are alive to their deficiencies, and with an energy and enthusiasm unbounded, have seconded the efforts made, and are rapidly disenthraling themselves of the chains of ignorance, and will, before long, place themselves in a position calculated forever to establish them upon the platform of citizenship. Sufficient progress has already been made to render the work, to a great extent, self-sustaining, as each year places, in the field those who, by their own exertions or the advantages offered colored people of sufficient education to instruct others: so do. they again give themselves to the work for the benefit of others, and thus fill tip the chasm which would otherwise open, as circumstances prevent those who have preceded them, from continuing their work. Until within a period covering but a few months, the Bureau has looked to the benevolent societies for the assistance they have so lavishly given in furnishing teachers. Now, although these societies are still engaged as warmly in the cause, teachers from among the masses are coming forth, and are earnestly

working to the great end. We still need our friends' assistance in continuing the work they have begun, for through them only can we be furnished with teachers for the ever-increasing demand. The past school year has been one to which all can look back with great satisfaction. Doubts, fears and obstacles seemed to present themselves, but as the year advanced these all gradually disappeared, and the result has exceeded the most sanguine expectations, proving a year of much greater prosperity than its predecessor, as will be seen from the following statistics:

	Day and Night Schools			Sabbath Schools			
	Schools	Teachers	Pupils	Schools	Teachers	Pupils	
October, 1866	80	75	3763	58	325	3448	
November"	94	96	5732	70	439	3197	
December"	118	122	9673	83	442	7034	
January, 1867	130	134	9961	82	390	6186	
February "	145	152	11714	92	437	7352	
March "	156	173	13039	101	424	7680	
April "	180	192	12840	124	424	8591	
May "	180	217	12273	127	632	11569	
June "	181	220	12020	129	625	11933	
July "	38	43	2027	22	158	3240	Summer
August "	41	45	2165	30	130	2352	Vacation

From the above it will be seen that the gain, during the year, was one hundred and one schools, one hundred and forty-five teachers, and eight thousand two hundred and fifty-seven pupils; in other words, while the schools were more than doubled, the number of teachers was trebled and that of the pupils more than trebled.

Maximum number of schools in any one month,.....181

Maximum number of teachers in any one month,.....220

Maximum number of pupils in any one month,.....13,039

Aggregate number of scholars under instruction for a longer or shorter period during the year,.....25,000

To Rev. F. A. Fiske, Superintendent of Education, great credit is due for the energetic and earnest manner in which he has discharged the duties devolving upon him, and the result of his labors is manifest in the statistics given above.

The indifference of white people of this State to the importance of free schools is deplorable. As far as I have been able to learn there are but three free white schools in the State; there are, however, many private institutions; but only those children whose parents are able to pay the price of tuition are benefitted thereby', and the result is, that hundreds and thousands of white men and women over 21 years of age cannot read and write, as will be seen by last census, which gives the number of this class at 73,566. A system of education, where all children between the ages of seven and fourteen years would

be obliged to attend school, would, in my estimation, be of the greatest advantage to the people of the State, as well as a benefit to the whole country. Free institutions, where ignorance prevails to any great extent, are of little benefit to the people, as the masses are prejudiced and influenced by a few political leaders, and are led blindly by the will of designing men, without studying the subject themselves. It is my belief that had this people been as liberally educated, and with the same advantages for general information as is found in the Northern States, they would never have been dragged into the rebellion as they were, neither would they have submitted to the oppression which they suffered under the despotic rule of the rebel government. The evidence of the evil arising from their indifference to education is seen in the absence of skilled labor in every branch of industry. There is very little economy in their pursuits; and the inventions and improvements which are applied so successfully elsewhere, are not to any extent adopted here, nor can we observe the evidence of the real comforts of life, and the high state of civilization among the masses, which are to be found in the most prosperous parts of the country.

#### STATE OF THE COUNTRY AND ITS CAUSES.

Much has been said about the heavy losses sustained by these people by reason of the war, and the blame attached to the Federal Government or rather to the Yankee Army; but upon inquiry it will be found that the damages caused by the troops are not worthy of mention when compared to what was given to sustain the rebel government, and what that assumed power took by force. Their specie, bank and rail road stock, school fund, produce, &c.. were all swept into the whirlpool of rebellion, and the people were left at the close with simply their lands, and upon the very brink of ruin. A large portion of the lands in the State are under mortgage for debt, yet the holders of the land are protected by a special act of the recent Legislature, known as the Stay Law, as well as by General Orders No. 10, current series, Head Quarters Second Military District. These laws may be of great advantage to the wealthier classes, but are detrimental to the poor man, inasmuch as they tend to keep these vast estates in the hands of the few, and out of the reach of the poor man. I believe were it not for these laws much of the land that is now held by those who would have no claim to them, if their debts were paid, would go into the market, and thus give the laboring man an opportunity of purchasing; but under the present state of affairs the price of land is kept up, and labor made unprofitable, thereby benefiting the rich, and degrading those in humbler circumstances.

#### THE RESULTS OF THE WORKINGS OF THE BUREAU.

In the foregoing condensed views and statistics the work of the Bureau cannot be entirely represented; it is of so varied a character that mere reports upon paper cannot sufficiently exhibit its details—the future will only tell its history. Much depends upon the influence and guidance given to the colored people in their new condition of life. If they are left to fall into habits of idleness and prodigality, are wronged and oppressed, their condition will become deplorable, and they be a curse to themselves and the community. But on the contrary, if they are treated with justice and humanity, proper example and the advantages of education given them, the coming years will be as bright and prosperous to the unfortunate race as the past has been dark and painful. The seed has been sown, and by proper attention a bountiful harvest will be gathered. The stereotype answer of children in the schools to the question “What do you intend to do when you grow up to be men and women and become educated?” has been “I am going to be a teacher.” This may appear insignificant and unmeaning to a casual

observer, yet, in my opinion, it is the key-note to the fulfilment of a work conceived in the mind of God, and is among the events which will result in " Ethiopia stretching out her hands to God."

Twenty-five thousand are reported in the schools of North Carolina. If not these, their children, under the influence of the increased facilities, will become so far enlightened as to be enabled to grasp the great object of progressive Christianity and become the elevators and civilizers of Africa, and accomplish what generations have failed to achieve, and in the true missionary spirit of the Gospel, send back to the land of their forefathers, from whence they were stolen, the word of life, thus making the "wrath of man to praise Him." Strange indeed that events and influences so antagonistic to every principle of justice and humanity, should be made the engine of power in frustrating the designs of the despoiler, and in effecting the final good of the victims of the slave-ship. If the enlightened continents of the earth could not go success- fully to Africa, God, by a single act of permission, could bring Africa to them. The problem that has so long baffled the Christian world is about to be solved in making her sons the means of he\* civilization and salvation. The future of the colored race in their improved condition and adapted- ness of sympathy to effect the final introduction and establishment of civilization in their own country, must be taken into account in the workings and designs of the Bureau in its legitimate results.

A Christian people who have for two hundred years kept a race in bondage, deprived of the advantages of civilization and religion, owe them a debt of gratitude which it would seem ungenerous to withhold. The colored people have contributed so much to the wealth and prosperity of this country, furnished so many soldiers for its defence in its hour of danger, that the least we can do is to afford them every advantage for enlightenment and improvement here in the land we have placed them; and in the future, should their attention be turned to their native country, extend to them that encouragement and support which an independent and powerful nation could well afford. I have the honor to remain,

With great respect,

Your ob't. serv't,

NELSON A. MILES,

Bvt. Maj. Gen'l U. S. A., Asst. Com.