

ally what had been a fine plantation, but they are mostly notable for the chimneys without houses, and the riddled and unroofed sugar houses. These latter having been built of brick, portions of walls as well as chimneys are yet standing. Port Hudson, famous for its defence by the Confederates, (against Banks and Farragut, if I recollect rightly,) presents but a series of barren and uneven clay hills, with a few huts scattered over them. Its immediate neighbourhood is dotted with more than the usual number of chimneys. At nightfall we reached Baton Rouge, formerly the capital of the State of Louisiana, and said to occupy a very fine site, and to be finely built. We could distinguish between us and the star-lit horizon the standing walls, in white stone, of what had been a very fine State House, but which, we were told, had paid the common price of the common hostility to those avenging gunboats. As we descend southward and land at places of more travel and traffic (and at some places that are otherwise deserted) we notice an increasing congregation of negroes (of both sexes and all ages) whom we should suspect of being "vagrants," if that term may be applied to willfully unproductive freedmen.

This morning I rose early to watch for the sunlight and the fine plantations that we were told should increase in number and beauty as we descended into Louisiana. We found the promise partially fulfilled. There is evidence everywhere of the scourge of war; in cane fields where the furrows are grown over with grass and weeds, in dykes where injury has become chronic, in sugar houses unrepaired, and in dwellings even in the neighbourhood of New Orleans, (though not so frequently as higher up the river) deserted and fallen into decay. There are, however, some very fine gardens and in richest green; the hedges and evergreens being apparently sufficient to protect even common vegetables that grow under their shelter. The live-oak, most beautiful of evergreens, is dotted thickly over the landscape with fine