

of 1200 acres, which he has apportioned in lots at the same rental to the negroes whom he had employed last year, charging them only a commission for advances and for the sale of their crop.

Near Helena we passed an extensive cotton field, on which the negroes were busy picking the precious staple. We understand that the cause of the delay (and loss and injury to the fibre) was the difficulty so generally prevalent throughout last season of obtaining labour—a cause that has probably had much to do with the short aggregate crop. This is a subject of which we hear a good deal, and on which I may, perhaps, be able to speak more intelligently as we advance further.

The wild cane begins to show in green tufts in the underwood, and the far extending forests of cotton wood are now hung with festoons of moss—dry and dreary, and suggestive of dreamland.

We stopped at a trading place this p.m., to discharge a few barrels of meal, and H., being enterprising and adventurous, climbed up the steep bank and plucked a wild rose bush, in fine growth, from the ruins of a homestead that had apparently been sacrificed by the red hand of war. A few green bushes and some stumps of fence posts remain to tell the sad but too common story of desolation.

We pass here and there, bleaching on the sand-bars, the wheel or the timbers of a hull, or some other skeleton of a steamer that has succumbed to fire or steam or snag. This last enemy is supplied for the most part from the extensive land slides that are constantly occurring, when several acres at a fall drop into the river, presenting, as we noticed in some cases, a surface of forest, arable, or glebe land yet unbroken and not fully submerged. The bottom and banks of the Mississippi appear to be constantly shifting, and the process of decrease or attraction constantly in progress on one bank and the other respectively, whilst shoals are formed