

comes a Blue Book, entitled "Trusts and Trade Combinations in Europe," which is compiled from the Special Consular Reports of the United States, and issued by the Bureau of Foreign Commerce.

### SOME HOLIDAY NOTES MADE IN WASHINGTON.

The manners, and what one might call the mannerisms of the colored people thus far south seemed to us plainly marked by the distinctive quality of Virginia negroes or mulattoes rather than by that of the Carolinas or the States further South and West. There was more refinement about them, more general intelligent civility, as if a survival or rather a copying of old-world habits from across the sea. And they seemed so well behaved. But it became evident that we had seen the better element only; for there is a certain class, our informant said, who mainly frequent the neighborhood of the river, who are vicious and truculent to a degree, giving the police great trouble by their violence. Perhaps these were what the Lime Kiln Club man calls the "razzer niggers," as distinguished from those who had either got religion at some recent period or had been always naturally honest.

In conversation we sometimes heard the colored people use such expressions as "persons of color" or "ladies of color" when speaking of their confreres. They would use the phrase "a yellow man," with no reference to a Chinese but to a mulatto or a quadroon. And it was a very neat sort of euphemism to hear them speak of "a dark chimney," when indicating a black chimney, and of "a dark man" when they meant one very black. We did not test the expression "black," as applied to dress. One servant, telling us of an important person in the government, characterized him as "a large man, sah, I assuah ye, right large," meaning that he was a prominent one. And a hotel waiter said that Mr. So-and-so was "quite a wealthy person," instead of, as another phrased it "a very (pronouncing very without the r), rich man" As a matter of fact the man in question was not distinctly rich but only comfortably off; still the waiter meant by wealth the independence and modest comfort which perhaps confer greater happiness than much riches. Unconsciously he had imbibed the meaning of wealth as wellness, derived from the Anglo-Saxon, "weal," meaning "well." To illustrate the light-hearted improvidence of the race a Washington resident told me a story, as under:

One day a merchant overheard his colored porter, named Jim, saluting a colored chum who passed. They got into conversation, first through the open window, but Jim finally left his indoor work, went out upon the sidewalk, and for half an hour, by the watch of the merchant (who saw the interview), talked of church and social matters, laughing at intervals. This was by no means the first of such offenses, so the merchant called Jim inside and said:

"Jim, do you understand that this establishment is pretty busy, just now?"

"Well, yes sah, I reckon we'se right busy."

"And yet you go and gossip for half an hour with a crony of yours, in the middle of the day. This won't do; I have told you so before. It is not business."

"Why! for the lan's sake, Mr. D., you don' say half an hour—half an hour! Oh, sho'ly now; hit didn't seem but a minit."

Jim received his conge with the same half-laughing manner that he would have received more welcome things. As the household or hotel servant and waiter the colored man is in his proper sphere, and as wagon drivers, small peddlers and the like many fill the bill. It was delightful to the writer, and recalled times "befo' de wah" (when the underground railroad through Ohio delivered Kentucky and Virginia darkies, escaped slaves, at points in Southwestern Ontario, notably Amherstburg) to find some "Old Timers" along the river front of the city, who had still the genuine flavor of the field. A group of these were unloading coal from a canal-boat near the Mount Vernon steamer landing—the one who swung the crane and warned the others having the regular camp-meeting whine in his voice—when a Canadian approached the oldest man, who had finished his stint and sat on the wharf with his hands folded on his knee.

"How are you, Uncle?"

"Not so po'ly, sah, thank the Lawd. But I'd like powerful well fur to git a smoke, here this minute. I would for a fact."

"Well, here's a cigar for you."

"Ho! ho! look heah, Josh, what I dun got from thish yer genlum. What I tell you 'bout bein' lucky? Dog my cat ef taint a real dandy"—it was a Pittsburg stogy, I am ashamed to say.—"Say, boss, you'se right frien'ly, yes indeedy. I take you pow'ful kind and thanky." Then he told me about bringing this coal a matter of 250 miles, how they fed and slept and fared on board, what family he had, and similar

"Short and simple annals of the poor."

Here is a Tennessee version of a business announcement, which exhibits much of the joyousness of the darkey, mingled with a little Scripture. The production, I am told, is a genuine one:

#### THE BIG TIME HAVE COME.

It have been said that the Negroes are coming. But we are here. The Centrial Boading House will open her doors SATERDAY, on the left-hand side of deppo at 9 a.m. Boys, what a big Time!

Barbacure — Lemon-ade — chicken — Fish — potaters — Molassers — tobacco — ice-cream — snuff — Poak-chop — sardines — flowyer — chewing-gum — Suger — green pease — sody — Beef rost meal — oyster soap — fancy candy — brown candy — meat soap.

Whosoever will, let him come and enjoy yoself FREELY. The Big Time have come, *right now*. Johnson & Dugless, Dyersburg, Tennessee, U. S. A. YOU BET.

#### FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Grocery clerks in St. John are agitating for an early closing rule.

The Canadian Packers' Association will hold their first annual banquet on Thursday evening, January 10th, at the Walker House, Toronto.

The twenty-fourth annual convention of the Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Association will be held at Smith's Falls on the 9th, 10th and 11th inst.

The National Convention of Retail Grocers is to be held at Detroit, Mich., on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, the 21st, 22nd and 23rd January. A row is in prospect, because of an attack made upon Treasurer Floyd by Secretary Godfrey in his paper, the Ohio Merchant.

It is worth noting that the largest number of eggs exported from Canada by any one firm during the past season amounted to something like a million dozen, which were shipped by Messrs. D. Gunn Bros. & Co., of Toronto. From Montreal alone they shipped 27,286 cases.

A quarter's worth of difference in money value between good and poor canned goods, sometimes means a couple of dollars' worth of difference in the satisfaction of the consumer, says the Merchants' Review. Cheap canned goods are an expensive luxury for the grocer.

Retail clerks in New York city shops are agitating for shorter hours, and their bosses seem to be backing them up. Numerous transparencies bearing the inscription, "Buy your goods before 6 p.m." have been placed on the street sign posts on Eighth avenue from Thirty-fourth street north as far as fifty-ninth street.

The Ontario Government is coming in for some criticism on its proposal to subsidize an abattoir in Toronto, on the ground that the live stock of that province is not of sufficiently high grade to compete with American cattle. But surely if this be true, no better plan for encouraging the breeding of a better class of animals in Ontario could be hit upon than this very suggestion of establishing a stable market for the best qualities.

As a result of a paper read by Secretary Wolverton before the recent convention of Ontario fruit growers in Brantford.