

England to Florida, and in Carolina it becomes the great source of the world's main supply of naval stores—the tar, pitch, turpentine, resin and turpentine that are shipped out of the Cape Fear River from Wilmington. The coast, which trends southward to Hatteras, turns westward beyond that dangerous headland, and our railway steadily approaches it. As we have swiftly made the southern journey, we have at the same time run out of the regions of ice and snow, into a warmer country bearing a brighter foliage and more luxuriant evergreens. Crossing miles and miles of swamp and forest, with woodmen's camps gathering the naval stores, we go over the Tar and Neus rivers, and at the latter pass Goldsborough, and beyond some smaller places, all of which look exactly alike, and none of them very attractive, and approach the Cape Fear River at Wilmington. This city, the chief town of North Carolina, is in the southeastern part of the State, and about 20 miles below it. Guarding the entrance to Cape Fear River, is the famous Fort Fisher, so conspicuous during the war, when, under the cover of its guns, the swift Clyde-built steamers ran the blockade in and out of the river, and trading between Wilmington and Nassau made fortunes for their owners and gave vast trouble to "Uncle Sam's" fleet, that tried in vain to close the entrance. The railway from Wilmington goes westward through a region largely composed of swamps, and entering South Carolina turns southward again to the coast at Charleston. For hundreds of miles this region is a variation of pine barrens and morass, sparsely inhabited, and having many cotton bales brought out to the stations on the line, for shipment down to Charleston. There is evidently a larger population of blacks than whites, and like much of the country to the northward, this, too, needs an infusion of new blood and enterprise to wake up the sleepy inhabitants.

Charleston, which is the metropolis of South Carolina, has a good export trade in cotton, timber, naval stores, rice, and that recent most valuable discovery made in the extensive deposits near by—the phosphate rock, which is shipped northward in