

has given a better vindication of our system of slavery than all the books that could be written in a generation. Hereafter there can be no dispute between facts plainly exhibited and the pictures of romance; and intelligent men of all countries will obtain their ideas of slavery from certain leading and indisputable facts in the history of this war, rather than from partisan sources of information and the literary inventions of the North. The war has shown that slavery has been an element of strength with us; that it has assisted us in the war; that no servile insurrections have taken place in the South in spite of the allurements of our enemy; that the slave has tilled the soil while his master has fought; that in large districts unprotected by our troops, and with a white population consisting almost exclusively of women and children, the slave has continued at his work quiet, cheerful and faithful;\* and that, as

\* The following is taken from the letter of an English nobleman, who visited the South while the war was in its active stages, and the result of whose observations there, at the time war was racking the country and many of our own whites were houseless and starving, was that the condition of the negro slaves in the South was "better than that of any labouring population in the world."

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"Amongst the dangers which we had heard at New York threatened the South, a revolt of the slave population was said to be the most imminent. Let us take, then, a peep, at the cotton field, and see what likelihood there is of such a contingency. On the bank of the Alabama River, which winds its yellow course through woods of oak, ash, maple and pine, thickened with tangled copse of varied evergreens, lie some of the most fertile plantations of the State. One of these we had the advantage of visiting. Its owner received us with all that hospitality and unaffected *bonhomme* which invariably distinguish a Southern gentleman. Having mounted a couple of hacks, we started off through a large pine wood, and soon arrived at the "clearing" of about two hundred acres in extent, on most of which was growing an average cotton crop. This was a fair sample of the rest of the plantation, which consisted altogether of 7,000 acres. Riding into the middle of the field, we found ourselves surrounded by about forty slaves—men, women and children—engaged in "picking." They were all well dressed, and seemed happy and cheerful. Wishing to know what time of day it was, I asked Mr. — the hour, whereupon one of the darkies by my side took out a watch and informed me.

"Do your labourers wear watches, sir?" I enquired.

"A great many of them have. Why, sir, my negroes all have their cotton-plats and gardens, and most of them have little orchards."

"We found from their own testimony that they are fed well, chiefly upon pork,