

Sad Event at the Dartmoor Prisons.

Prosperity of the Republic.

Its Relations to the Nations.

Dartmoor Prisoners.

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the appearance of mutinous intentions, not only refused to retire, but passed beyond the prescribed limits of their confinement, they were fired upon, by orders of Captain Shortland, for the purpose of intimidating all. This firing was followed up by the soldiers without the shadow of an excuse, according to an impartial report made by a commission appointed to investigate the matter.¹ Five prisoners were killed and thirty-three were wounded. The act of the soldiers was regarded by the Americans as a wanton massacre; and when the British authorities pronounced the act "justifiable homicide," the hottest indignation was excited. But Time, the great healer, has interposed its balm, and the event appears in history as one of the inevitable cruelties of ever-cruel war.

At the close of the SECOND WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE, the events of which are recorded in this volume, our Republic had achieved, as we have observed, the most important of all its triumphs, and was still wealthy with the fruits of a wonderful progress in the space of twenty-five years since its nativity.² It then started afresh upon a grand career of prosperity, with marvelous resources developed and undeveloped—known and unknown. The rulers and privileged classes in other lands persisted in calling it an experiment, and were ever prophesying the failure of the republican principle in government, of which it was a notable example. Recent events have silenced all cavil, and dispelled all doubts on that point.

Fifty years after the close of its last struggle for independence, our Republic emerged* from the fiery furnace of a Civil War unparalleled in proportions and operations hitherto, purified and strengthened by the ordeal. The most skeptical observer of that trial and its results can no longer consider our Government an experiment. It is a demonstration. Its history is an affirmative answer to the question whether republican institutions have elements of vitality and power sufficient for the demands of every exigency of national life. Henceforth it will stand before the nations a trusted oracle for the guidance and encouragement of all aspirants in other lands for the privileges of free thought and action.

what he recorded. The following is a description of the picture: A. Surgeon's House; B. Captain Shortland's Quarters; C. Hospital; D. Barracks; E. Cachot, or Black-hole; F, F, F. Guard-houses; G, G. Store-houses. The Arabic numerals refer to the numbers of the prisons as they were alluded to in narratives and official documents. The outward of the two encircling walls of stone (of which the prisons were built) was a mile in circumference. The inner wall was used as a military walk for the sentinels. Within this wall were iron palisades, ten feet in height. The guard was composed of a little more than two thousand well-disciplined militia, and two companies of Royal Artillery. The picture not only gives a bird's-eye view of the post, but the position of the guards at the time they fired, and of the killed where they fell.

¹ The American commissioners to negotiate the treaty of peace, then in London, appointed the late Charles King, president of Columbia College (then a young man, who was on a visit to England), a commissioner on the part of the Americans, and the British authorities appointed Francis Seymour Larpet to act with him.

² John Bristed, in his admirable work on *The Resources of the United States*, published in 1818, gives the following summary of the real and personal capital, and the income of the people of the Republic, at about the time of the close of the war:

Real Property.—Public lands, 500,000,000 acres, at \$2 an acre, \$1,000,000,000; cultivated lands, 200,000,000 acres, at \$10 an acre, \$2,000,000,000; dwelling-houses of all kinds, \$1,000,000,000. Total of real property, \$5,000,000,000.

Personal Property.—Capital to the holders of government stocks, who were American citizens, \$100,000,000; banking stocks, \$100,000,000; slaves, 1,500,000, at \$150 each, \$225,000,000; shipping of all kinds, \$225,000,000; money, farming stock and utensils, manufactures, household furniture and plate, carriages, and every other species of personal property not above enumerated, \$1,850,000,000. Total of personal property, \$2,200,000,000. Grand total of American capital, in real and personal property, \$7,200,000,000.

war was estimated at 1760.
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