

**OTHER FOOLS AND  
THEIR DOINGS: OR, LIFE  
AMONG THE FREEDMEN**

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Other fools and their doings: or, Life among the freedmen by H. N. K. Goff

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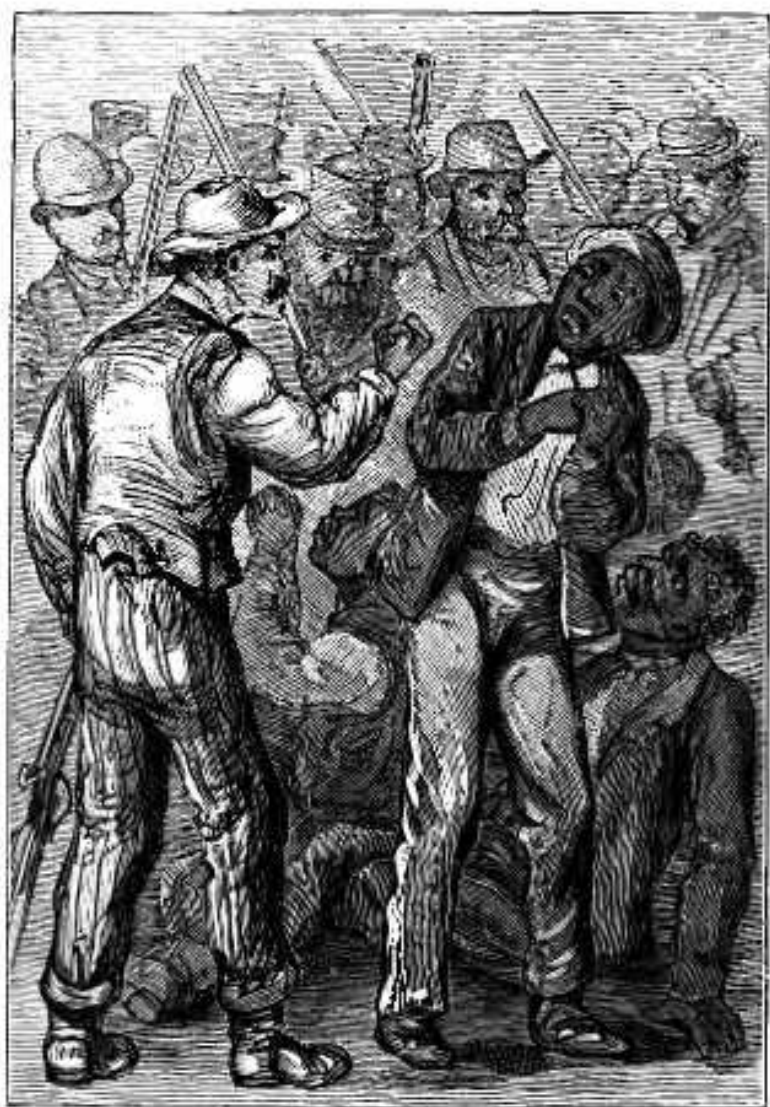
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**H. N. K. GOFF**

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AMONG THE FREEDMEN**





"HAM STERNS, I RECKON YOU KNOW ME."—Page 190.

**OTHER FOOLS**  
**AND THEIR DOINGS,**

OR,

LIFE AMONG THE FREEDMEN.

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BY ONE WHO HAS SEEN IT.

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# OTHER FOOLS AND THEIR DOINGS.

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## CHAPTER I.

### THE BEAN ISLAND PEOPLE.

"O Tam! hadst thou but been sae wise  
As ta'en thy ain wife Kate's advice!"

—TAM O'SHANTER.

It was April, 1876, and Deacon Atwood and Captain Black were riding along the sandy highway in the sparsely settled vicinity of Bean Island, in the State of South Carolina.

Though the sun shone uncomfortably hot, neither the men nor the horses they bestrode seemed anxious to escape its rays, for they traveled quite leisurely several miles, till they reached a point where the road forked.

There they paused a few moments, and continued their conversation in the same low, earnest tones they had previously employed.

The Deacon was fifty years of age, large, broad-chested, red-faced, with full fiery red beard and thin brown hair,

which gathered in sodden, tapering hanks about his short neck and large ears ; and his pale-blue eyes looked out of little triangular orifices on either side of a pyramidal nose, upon the apex of which was balanced a narrow forehead of a "quirked ogee" pattern. His hands were large and freckled, and he kept them in constant motion, like his huge feet, which seemed even too heavy for his clumsy legs. His snuff-colored suit, and the slouched hat he wore on the back part of his head, were dusty with travel.

His companion was younger, taller, and less stoutly built than he. His eyes were large and dark, and his head, crowned with bushy black hair, was poised upon a long, slim neck. His manners indicated more culture than the Deacon had received.

"Well, Deacon," said he, rising in his stirrups, "we have submitted long enough, and too long, and there must be a change: and I am bound to do my share to secure it."

"And I won't be behind yo', Cap'n," replied Deacon Atwood. "These niggers must be put down where they belong, and the carpet-baggers driven back where they came from."

"It's doubtful whether many of them would be received there. I apprehend that the most of them "left their country for their country's good" when they came here. A man don't emigrate for nothing, and I expect they have been run out of the North for some mean acts, and have come to the South to prey upon a conquered people."

"I reckon that's so, and I wonder how yo' men that