

**RUGBY, TENNESSEE: BEING  
SOME ACCOUNT OF THE  
SETTLEMENT FOUNDED ON  
THE CUMBERLAND PLATEAU**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649696123

Rugby, Tennessee: Being Some Account of the Settlement Founded on the Cumberland Plateau  
by Thomas Hughes

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Cover @ 2017

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BRING

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE SETTLEMENT FOUNDED  
ON THE CUMBERLAND PLATEAU

BY

THE BOARD OF AID TO LAND OWNERSHIP, LIMITED

A COMPANY INCORPORATED IN ENGLAND, AND AUTHORISED TO HOLD  
AND DEAL IN LAND BY ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE OF  
THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

BY

THOMAS HUGHES

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

WITH A REPORT ON THE SOILS OF THE PLATEAU

By THE HON. F. W. KILLEBREW, A.M. Ph.D.  
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE STATE

London

MACMILLAN AND CO.

1881

"There need be no hesitation in affirming that colonisation in the present state of the world is the very best affair of business in which the capital of an old and wealthy country can possibly engage."—  
JOHN STUART MILL.

"Is it possible that I, who get indefinite quantities of sugar, hominy, cotton, buckets, crockery ware, and letter paper, by simply signing my name once in three months to a cheque in favour of John Smith and Co., traders, get the fair share of exercise to my faculties by that act, which nature intended for me in making all these far-fetched matters important to my comfort? It is John Smith himself, and his carriers, and dealers, and manufacturers; it is the sailor, the hide-dresser, the butcher, the negro, the hunter, and the planter, who have intercepted the sugar of the sugar and the cotton of the cotton. They have got the education, I only the commodity. This were all very well if I were necessarily absent, being detained by work of my own, like theirs, work of the same faculties, then should I be sure of my hands and my feet; but now I feel some shame before my wood-chopper, my ploughman, and my cook, for they have some sort of self-sufficiency, they can contrive without my aid to bring the day and year round, but I depend on them, and have not earned by use a right to my arms and feet."—R. W. EMERSON.

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## PREFACE.

THIS book is the best answer which the founders of Rugby, Tennessee, can at present make to the large and rapidly increasing number of questions which reach them from all parts of the United Kingdom about that settlement. These inquiries, speaking roughly, are addressed mainly to three points—(1) The class of persons for whom the place is intended; (2) What it is like; (3) Its prospects.

Part I. of the book deals with the first question; and I hope will sufficiently indicate the views of the founders. They will gladly welcome any persons who like to join them; but those whom they have specially in their minds are, young men of good education and small capital, the class which, of all others, is most overcrowded to-day in England. The experience of the past six months has proved that such an outlet—indeed that many such—are needed. It has also proved that, except in rare instances, the young men who go out are not able at once to earn their living, and that they should not be sent out under the age of eighteen at earliest. The Board strongly recommend that boys and young men should be placed, for a year at least, with one of the present settlers to



learn their business, which can be done at a cost of from £60 to £70 for the year's board, lodging, and teaching.

The letters to the *Spectator*, which form Part II., written on the spot last autumn (and reprinted by kind permission of the Editors), give my own first impressions of the site and surroundings, more accurately, I believe, than anything I could now write on the subject. They are printed without alteration, in order that they may remain, and be taken as, first impressions only. At the same time I may add that on going over the proofs I see scarcely anything which I should have to modify were I to sit down now to write them over again.

Part III., and especially Colonel Killebrew's report and the glossary, will enable readers to judge of the present condition and prospects of the settlement. Colonel Killebrew is the Minister of Agriculture of the State of Tennessee, and the highest authority on all matters connected with land in those parts.

The Board is glad to take this opportunity of thanking him for his valuable paper, which, coming from an entirely independent quarter, may be safely relied on as to the quality and capabilities of the soil on the plateau, in and around Rugby. They have always warned intending settlers that they will have to work hard, and with intelligence, in order to succeed in farming on the Cumberland plateau; and have stated their own conviction that such conditions are far better than those (if indeed they exist anywhere)

where settlers have only to scratch the soil -to get heavy crops for any number of consecutive years. They are aware that more rapid returns may probably be looked for in other parts of the States, both in the west and to the south of Rugby, where the Alabama Southern Railway Company, through their English management, are offering great advantages to the same class of settlers for whom Rugby is intended. But there will be need of many more Rugbys before the present demand is adequately met; and, meantime, they are glad to find their own anticipations borne out, and to be able to recommend their settlement as one well fitted in all respects as a home for young Englishmen.

Readers who desire to pursue the matter further, and to watch the growth of Rugby, Tennessee, may do so by reading the monthly paper which the settlers are publishing, under the name of the *Rugbeian*, and which may be procured in this country.

