

**COTTON CULTURE AND
THE SOUTH CONSIDERED
WITH REFERENCE TO
EMIGRATION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649556786

Cotton Culture and the South Considered with Reference to Emigration by F. W. Loring & C. F. Atkinson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

F. W. LORING & C. F. ATKINSON

**COTTON CULTURE AND
THE SOUTH CONSIDERED
WITH REFERENCE TO
EMIGRATION**

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
CONDITION OF LABOR IN THE SOUTH	3
RELATION BETWEEN EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYED	25
MANURE	34
COTTON CULTURE	51
POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE SOUTH	67
DEMAND FOR IMMIGRATION	84
WHITE LABOR	86
CHINESE LABOR	96
CAPACITIES OF THE SOUTH, AND INDUCEMENTS TO IMMIGRATION	98
SMALL FARMS	126

APPENDIX.

- A. INDIA VERSUS AMERICA.
- B. MANUFACTURING AT THE SOUTH.
- C. STATISTICS OF IMMIGRATION.
- E. TABLES OF MORTALITY AND TEMPERATURE.
- F. STATISTICS OF IMPORTATION OF SALT.
- G. USE OF SALT AS A FERTILIZER.
- H. SUGGESTIONS FOR GATHERING THE CROP.
- K. SUPPLY AND CONSUMPTION OF COTTON.
- L. TABLE OF CROPS SINCE 1822.



OFFICE OF
LORING & ATKINSON,
COTTON BROKERS AND AGENTS,

NO. 69 WATER STREET, cor. CONGRESS, BOSTON.

WE lately issued a circular which was widely distributed amongst the cotton-planters of the South, with the hope of getting facts relating to the cotton-interest which might be of value to the cotton consumer, and at the same time might stimulate the production of the great staple by "showing to how slight an extent the capacities of the South for its production have as yet been developed," thus furnishing information which should do something to turn *Emigration and Capital* to the cotton belt of our country. Our Circular asked for detailed facts and opinions relative to the labor, the methods of cotton culture, and the general condition and capacities of the South. The number, the universal interest, and the consistent character of the replies have been most gratifying, and show an earnest intention on the part of the writers to give accurate information which should help to build up a true prosperity in their portion of the Union. We wish to return to all our correspondents,* without exception, our hearty thanks for the fulness and uniform courtesy of their answers.

* See Appendix.

The facts and opinions in our letters are so varied, the actual condition of things in different parts of the country so different, and the answers often from sources so naturally prejudiced that it is sometimes hard to form the right deductions. In the following digest we shall print full and numerous extracts from our letters, striving to give each variety of opinion its fair voice, and also to let the differences of the various sections of the cotton-belt speak for themselves. In all our statements we have sought by a careful study of the thousand and more pages of manuscript received to deduce from them only their just conclusions.

LORING & ATKINSON.

COTTON CULTURE AND THE SOUTH

CONSIDERED WITH REFERENCE TO

EMIGRATION.

CONDITION OF LABOR.

THE consideration of cotton culture as at present conducted at the South involves the consideration of its labor.

The opinions received in answer to our circular with regard to the condition of the liberated slaves and the effectiveness of their labor vary more and are more likely to be prejudiced than in regard to any other question connected with the South. Furthermore, their actual condition varies much in different sections of the cotton belt, which increases the difficulty of justly estimating their present state and future prospects. The following extracts give full and varied views of the labor problem :

Your general proposition that the cotton lands of the South have not been estimated in quantity may be proved perhaps by a shorter process than individual testimony. Take the area of the Cotton States, at 300,000 square miles. Take the labor of the colored people at 500,000 full hands. Take the labor of the whites at 100,000, and you may, at $3\frac{1}{2}$ or $3\frac{3}{4}$ bales to the hand, get the present crop, 2,250,000 bales. Remember that the freedmen have gone to various other occupations, menial and maritime — at least to river navigation — that many have emigrated North and West, and that there was a portion lost during the war. That our labor has shrunk greatly, is shown by the low price of cotton lands and by the reduction of the

labor to the best spots on the old plantations. We need emigrant capital and labor, machinery and an improved process of culture.

MAURY CO., TEXAS.

The great problem of cotton culture just now is the growing scarcity and worthlessness of our laborers. I am a Northern man, an ex-federal officer—have paid wages and treated my hands with the utmost kindness for the last three years, but find a growing dislike to being controlled by or working for white men. They prefer to get a little patch where they can do as they choose, where they raise corn, sometimes a little cotton, and steal their meat from the woods. I am paying \$12.00 apiece per month, but have only hands enough to work half my place, and have to be with them constantly to prevent their idling away their time. Hands are so scarce that if they are offended in any way (and they are very sensitive), they leave at once, knowing they will have no difficulty in getting another place. I have had a hand threaten to leave because he was told to use one plow when he wished to use another. We are dependent on them, and they know it. I fear that next year they will not work at all. Up to this time, owing to the ravages of the worm, every Northern man who has attempted to raise cotton, as far as my knowledge goes, has lost heavily.

MONTGOMERY CO., TEXAS.

The cotton region wants people. Negroes will never make neat and careful farmers. Cotton is a tender and delicate plant. Good culture and tender care increases its yield per acre. Any delay and loss of time in the picking season is disastrous. Negroes know nothing of the value of time, and will waste the season until storms, rain and cold come upon them, when it is impossible to pick. The care bestowed upon the picking of cotton materially affects its value. Negroes are good-natured and lazy, and ninety-nine out of a hundred are satisfied with their daily bread, and are willing for the morrow literally to take care of itself. The old hands are passing away. The young ones do not learn to work. No authority is exercised by parents to teach them to work or understand the value of time, industry and economy. The women have retired from the field, and prefer to make a precarious and vicious living than to work. Disease and destitution make fearful inroads upon them. Hence the Southern people give every possible inducement to encourage immigration. They

want a permanent and fixed population of good citizens. Negroes rove from place to place. They love change, and a month's work at a place, and are reluctant to make a year engagement. White people love home, take interest in making it pleasant, comfortable—as the spot from which issue all their money and comforts.

The negroes will disappear more rapidly than immigration will appear. The crops will decline, even at the stupendous prices and fabulous returns which it will give a man for his labor. Twice the number of white men will not make as much cotton as the slave did, for, as a general rule, the slave got his meat from the West, the mule he drove from Kentucky, and frequently the bread he ate was procured in the North. The white man will provide all this at home, at the expense of half his labor taken from cotton and devoted to the provision crop. Under the old system a negro would pick more than twice the amount of cotton as is possible for any man to pick who was not raised from childhood in the cotton field, and besides the skill acquired in a lifetime. His whole time and energies was devoted to cotton picking. He had no other duties, no other occupation during the picking season. The instantaneous immigration of four millions of souls into the South would not make the cotton crop reach this year, five millions bales.

ISSAQUENA COUNTY, MISS.,

From laborers great numbers of the negroes have been transformed into tenantry, which, although it may operate so as to produce a greater quantity of cotton eventually, still it takes the profit of production out of the hands of the planters, and further discourages the emigration of persons who would come to hire laborers. As for capital there never was more of it in proportion to its demand; in fact the country is full of money, and the larger number of negroes to whom I have leased land have paid half the rent in advance.

SOUTHERN LOUISIANA.

In regard to labor the present condition is bad; the prospective is worse. Labor is more scarce, harder to procure at the present time than any time since the close of the rebellion. It is also growing less every day; miscarriage and abortions have become as popular and dear to the negro women as freedom itself, and unless these things