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A PECULIAR PEOPLE.

The Malungeons Who Live in Hancock County, Tennessee.

FINE SPECIMENS OF THE RACE

Descendants of Portuguese Immigrants Who Retain the Ancient Customs of their Progenitors Even Yet.

NEARLY ALL ARE REPUBLICANS

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

HARLAN COURT HOUSE, Ky., February 18.—Just across the Kentucky line, in Tennessee, live a peculiar people. They are known as the Malungeons. They are splendid specimens of the human race, copper-colored, with high cheek bones, straight noses, black hair, rather coarse and straight, eyes invariably black, and above the ordinary mountaineers in intelligence. Their peculiar color and their customs have caused them a great deal of trouble. They number between 200 and 400. They live on Black Water creek, in Hancock county, and they have lived in this section for over 100 years. The records of Hancock county show that the ancestors of these strange people came to Powell's valley as early as 1789, when they took up lands on Black Water. Tradition says they held aloof from the white settlers and spoke a strange language, which none of the pioneers understood. Some of them could speak broken English, and by this means communicated with the white merchants to the extent of buying arms and ammunition and other supplies which they could not raise in the valleys of their mountain homes. They intermarried until their radical characteristics were so thoroughly established in their progeny that the frequent marrying of strangers by members of the colony during recent years has had no perceptible effect on their color, hair and general resemblance to their ancestors, who lived half a century ago.

Before the war the Malungeons had a hard time in obtaining the right to vote and to send their children to the primitive public schools of that day. The white citizens declared they were negroes, and the matter finally caused so much bickering and strife between the Malungeons and the whites that it was carried into the courts. In the trials which followed it was developed that the ancestors of these people had emigrated to America about 150 years ago from the interior of Portugal; that they had preserved their native habits and customs while sojourning in South Carolina, and that when they emigrated to Tennessee they were practically the same people which had left Portugal fifty years before. They declared on the witness stand that there was not a drop of negro blood in their veins, and after long and tedious litigation they were finally allowed the right of suffrage, and were permitted to send their children to the public schools, and the wrangling of years was over. When the war broke out between the states in 1861, the Malungeons espoused the cause of the union. They fought in the usual mountain fashion—bushwhacking—and many a confederate soldier was sent to his long home by the unerring bullets of these Portuguese-Americans. Whenever the confederates captured any of them they were shot on the spot. They were greatly dreaded by the soldiers, and whenever a column was marching in the Malungeon territory extra precautions were taken against bushwhackers.

After the war closed and the Malungeons returned to their old pursuits they found the government was interfering with one of their oldest industries—whisky making. They had been distillers back in South Carolina, and some of the early stills in Tennessee were brought by their ancestors over the mountains from the first named state. When they found a tax of $2 a gallon on the product of their stills they openly defied the government which had levied it. They did not make whisky openly, it is true, but they sold it in the open market after they had made it in their "moonshine" stills. They became very much incensed against revenue officials who came into their country, and not a few of the officers were killed with their deadly Winchesters.

Of late years the revenue men have been so persistent in their work of hunting the moonshiners down that the Malungeons have sold but little whisky openly. They still continue to make moonshine, however, in large quantities, but they have adopted the methods of other illicit distillers in the mountains of Kentucky and Tennessee, and they are rarely caught now. Notwithstanding railroads have penetrated Eastern Kentucky and Eastern Tennessee, the Malungeons never go far from home. It is a rare thing to see them on this side of the state line, although a few of them go to the little village of Cumberland Gap, Tenn., once in a great while to lay in supplies. Occasionally one or two Malungeons are seen in Tazewell, Tenn., but it is seldom indeed that a member of this unique community is seen in Knoxville or Middleboro.

Paradoxical as it may seem, these people, who have shed much blood and otherwise violated the laws of their country, are deeply religious. In this respect they very much resemble the southern negroes. During their meetings they will sing and shout and seem to be beside themselves with religious fervor. One of the patriarchs of the Malungeons was "Uncle" Vard Collins, who was a devout Christian. One night in June, many years ago, Dr. Frederick A. Ross, a noted Presbyterian minister of Eastern Tennessee, was traveling through the Black Water country. He accidentally came upon "Uncle Vard's" house and asked him if he could stay all night. The old mountaineer told him he could, and after he had fed his horse and the guest had eaten supper the old man asked him his business. He told him he was a preacher. The old man said he would like to hear him preach. "Where is your congregation?" asked the minister. "I'll get one in a few minutes," replied "Uncle Vard." He took a long dinner horn from its rack over the door and going out doors blew several shrill blasts. Within an hour a congregation of fifty people had assembled in answer to the horn, and Dr. Ross said afterward that he never preached to an audience which showed greater appreciation and deeper religious feeling than did the little band of copper-colored mountaineers on Black Water. "Uncle Vard" lived to be 101 years old.

Politically the Malungeons were whigs before the war, and since the rebellion they have been republicans. They are very clannish and in republican primaries they all support the same man, while at regular elections they vote the republican ticket straight. Their customs have not changed during the last 200 years. They still live in the log cabin, and while many of the younger men have the improved Winchesters and Martins the older citizens continue to use the long home-made squirrel rifles, which invariably hang on a rack above the old-fashioned fire place. They are hospitable to a degree, and no stranger, unless they think he is a revenue man, is ever turned away from their cabins. Their peach brandy is pronounced the best in the mountains, and it is freely offered to the wayfarer under their roofs, tempered with wild mountain honey. The original settlers were the Collins, Gibsons and Mullins, and it is difficult to find a Malungeon to-day who is not called by one of these names. They are practically the same people who lived here for years before a railroad was built, and while the march of progress has encircled the Black Water valley the Malungeons have not profited by the civilization around them, but remain the same peculiar people.

A LIMIT TO PATIENCE.

The Spanish Method of Treating Political Prisoners.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

Secretary Olney, it is announced, has directed Minister Taylor, the American representative at Madrid, to request of the Spanish government an inquiry into the death, under suspicious circumstances, in a Cuban prison, of Dr. Ruiz, formerly a dentist of Philadelphia, and said to be a naturalized American citizen. Consul General Lee, at Havana, has been active in his efforts to induce General Weyler to accord fair trials to prisoners who claim American protection, but it cannot be said that he has been very successful. Personally, he has been treated with civility, but on one pretext or another General Weyler and his underlings have contrived, in most cases, to put off the trials of prisoners. The American government has been scrupulously exact in maintaining its treaty obligations, and despite the fact that the sympathy of our people is undeniably extended to the insurgents in their brave struggle for freedom, and that congress has been disposed to accord belligerent rights to the Cubans, President Cleveland has firmly insisted that, in the comity of nations, we owe to Spain the same consideration that we would expect from her were the circumstances of the case reversed.

If the Spanish ministry recognizes and appreciates the courtesy and forbearance of our administration, there is no outcropping of it in the policy and methods of General Weyler, the autocratic governor of Cuba. Making due allowance for the probability that some of the imprisoned Cubans who claim to be American citizens are in reality Spanish subjects and in no sense entitled to American intervention it is patent that all of these unfortunates cannot be, in this sense, impostors. Furthermore, it is inconceivable that the many American citizens in custody, including newspaper correspondents and others who have business in Cuba, have all been taken with arms in their possession and fighting against the Spanish domination. Nevertheless, General Weyler has shown neither discrimination nor consideration. The Havana newspapers are suppressed if they reflect in the slightest degree upon the military despotism which has the hapless isle in its grasp, or if they publish a line of news relative to insurgent victories. Yet these same papers are filled with cartoons grossly insulting the American president and the American people, who are usually portrayed as hogs. The entire official atmosphere of Cuba is charged with hostility to the United States, her flag and her institutions.

But if we condemn Weyler for his contemptuous disregard of the treaty provisions which provide for a fair trial for American citizens, it is unwarrantable to go to the extreme and denounce him for making arrests. A citizen of the United States has no more right, from the legal standpoint, to go to Cuba and join in an attempt to overthrow the Spanish rule than a Spaniard would have to come to the United States and assist in a movement to overthrow the constituted authority here. It is Weyler's right and duty to put down the insurrection and to punish those in active rebellion. It is likewise his duty to accord to prisoners who are American citizens a prompt and fair trial in accordance with treaty stipulations. If the manner of the trial or the finding of the jury or tribunal be objectionable, the United States has still the right to appeal to Madrid for redress. Unfortunately, General Weyler is a law unto himself. Spanish warfare at best is cruel, treacherous and bloodthirsty, and Weyler appears to have deservedly earned for himself the title of "Butcher." It is about time that the United States served emphatic and significant notice upon Spain that there must be a halt in Weyler's methods, not only as applied to his wanton disregard of the personal rights of Americans, but also with respect to the ruin and sequestration of millions of dollars worth of property owned by citizens of the United States.

The Cleveland administration will terminate in little more than a week. It is improbable, unless in the event of great aggravation of the provocation, that the president will make any radical departure from his present course. It is inadvisable that he should take any step likely to embarrass Mr. McKinley at the outset of the new administration. There can be no embarrassment, however, for the president-elect or for the country, in a reiteration of the protest against the broken pledges of the Spanish ministry, or in the mobilization of the Atlantic squadron on our southern coast. An American man-of-war in Cuban waters would probably constrain General Weyler to abandon his outrageous indifference to the representations of the American government touching the trial of the American prisoners. These men, several of whom are unaccustomed to the Cuban climate, are incarcerated in dungeons, subjected to the ravages of disease, and are treated as harshly as though they were inmates of the oubliettes of medieval times. Guilty or innocent, they should be promptly brought to trial, afforded a fair chance for defense, and if unjustly or improperly convicted the United States should continue to exercise its watchfulness over them and interpose its authority whenever and wherever there is an American citizen who is denied that which his flag should ensure to him.

What Shall We Do with Our Prisoners?

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.

The bill which Representative Seyfert, of Lancaster county, has introduced in the legislature, providing for a system of prison administration under the general control of a board of prison commissioners, represents the views of the state board of charities and correction. The measure aims at solitary confinement, one prisoner to a cell. Congregate labor and the use of power-driven machinery are to be abolished. Manual labor may be performed within the confines of the cell. The weakness of the bill seems to be that, having made these provisions, it undoes them, for there is a proviso that congregate labor may be performed by selected or classified prisoners. In other words, we are to have solitary confinement at the option of the board.

New York has recently adopted the solitary confinement plan. It has aroused the animosity of many of those who have studied penology. Prisoners who had been in the habit of working, left idle, with nothing but their own thoughts for a companion, have degenerated, and one or two suicides have resulted. The main object of the New York bill was to get rid of contract labor. Having taken all labor away from the prisoners, there was no occasion to bring them together. Consequently, they have remained in their cells, and the bulk of argument is very much against the system. The question of contract labor is anything but a new one. Cheap prison goods ought not to be put into competition with the products of those who are struggling for a living outside prison walls. Yet it is in every way desirable that the prisoners should not be left in complete idleness. This Pennsylvania measure does not do away with prison-made goods. It simply confines the prisoners to their own cells, where work can be done under the direction of the commission.

The question of what to do with our prisoners is a serious one. Sentiment in New York seems to be entirely favorable to the employment of the convicts upon road building. This is going back to first principles, of course, for chain gangs have been used in many a state on public works, yet there seems to be nothing better in view, and it is entirely probable that, as soon as new legislation can be adopted, and because of the requirements this cannot be done for two or three years, the inmates of the various New York penitentiaries will be put to work at the making of good roads.

If this attempt to systematize the Pennsylvania prisons is to be followed up seriously it is most certainly to be hoped that full attention will be given to this experience of New York. Pennsylvania is far behind the age with its country roads. Good roads are in every way desirable, and are wanted by every one, yet both the legislature and the farmers oppose the expenditure of the state's money. We can meet the question of contract labor by putting our prisoners at work on the roads and at the same time consummate a great improvement which the state so badly needs.

The New Journalism.

From the Philadelphia North American.

A New York paper—the Journal, for it is well that its name should be known—yesterday published what was labelled an interview with Senator John Sherman, who will be the next secretary of state, on the killing of the American, Ruiz, in Cuba, in which Mr. Sherman was quoted as making most frank and direct statements with regard to the duty of our government in the matter, and ending with the remark: "If the facts are true, as reported, and American citizens are being murdered in Cuba in cold blood, the only way to put an end to the atrocities is to declare war on Spain." The sentiment is permissible; it is even more than that; it is warranted by the circumstances, and probably reflects the views of nine-tenths of the American people. But that a man under whose direct control such matters are about to fall should make such an unguarded and undiplomatic statement was regarded as most remarkable by those who read the Journal's sensational story. Later in the day came the truth. With indignation warranted by the facts of the case, Senator Sherman declared that this alleged interview was a direct lie, made out of the whole cloth; that he never gave utterance to such statements, and that the correspondent who thus quoted him wilfully ascribed to him words which he never spoke. This sounds much more like Senator John Sherman. But what of the paper that printed the "interview?" We have in this a sample of the new journalism, which has recently become prominent chiefly because of the noise it makes, or of the bizarre methods it adopts to attract the attention of the public. It is a journalism absolutely unscrupulous; an outrage upon the public; upon the persons who are misrepresented by it, and upon the self-respecting newspaper press as well. A free press, like the right of free speech, is subject to those abuses which a free people often long could be summarily cut short.

THE MARKETS.

Range of Prices in the Various Centres of Trade.

CHICAGO, February 23.—Cash quotations were as follows: Flour steady; unchanged. No. 2 spring wheat, 73½@75½c; No. 3 spring wheat, 73@74½c; No. 2 red, 85@86½c; No. 1 corn, 22½@23c; No. 2 oats, 18½@18½c; No. 2 rye, 33½@33½c; No. 2 barley, 33c, No. 1 flaxseed, 74@76½c; prime timothy seed, $3.65; mess pork, $7.85@7.90; lard, $3.87½@3.90; short ribs, sides, $3.90@4.15; shoulders, $4.50@4.75; short clear sides, $4.25@4.37½; whisky, $1.17; sugars, cut loaf, $5.20; granulated, $4.64; standard "A," $4.39.

PHILADELPHIA, February 23.—Flour—Dull, unchanged. Wheat weak. Contract wheat, February, 88@88½c; March, April and May, nominal. Car lots in elevator: No. 2 Pennsylvania red and No. 2 Delaware red, 91c; No. 2 red, 88c; No. 1 northern spring, 83c. Corn—Firm. No. 2 mixed, February, 26@26½c; March, 26½@26½c; April, 26½@28c; May, nominal. Car lots in export elevator: No. 2 mixed, 26@26½c; steamer, 25@25½c; No. 3, 23½@25½c. Oats—Quiet; futures neglected. No. 3 white, February, 23½@23½c March, April and May, 23½@24c. Feed—Winter bran, in bulk, spot, $12.75@13.50; spring bran in sacks, $12.50@13.00. Butter—Quiet, weaker. Creamery, extra, 19c; Pennsylvania prints, extra, wholesale, 20c; jobbing, 21@23c. Eggs—Quiet, steady. Pennsylvania and western firsts, 17@17½c. Other articles unchanged.

Receipts—Flour, 2,700 barrels and 5,000 sacks; wheat, 7,000; corn, 161,000; oats, 14,000.

Shipments—Wheat, 3,000; corn, 9,000; oats, 15,000.

EAST LIBERTY, February 23.—Cattle—Market slow. Extras, $4.70@4.90; prime, $4.50@4.70; good, $4.30@4.50; tidy $4.15@4.25; fair, $3.50@4.00; common $3.00@3.30; common to good fat bulls and cows, $2.00@3.50; heifers, $2.75@4.15; fresh cows and springers, $15.00@45.00.

Hogs—Market slow, 10 cents lower on all grades. Prime medium, $3.70@3.75; prime light, $3.65@3.70; Yorkers, $3.65@3.70; pigs, $3.50@3.65; heavy hogs, $3.50@3.55; good roughs, $3.00@3.35.

Sheep—Market steady. Good western wethers, $4.00@4.20; prime natives, $4.15@4.35; good, $3.80@4.00; fair, mixed, $3.40@3.70; common, $2.75@3.25; culls, $1.50@2.00; choice lambs, $4.85@5.25; fair to good lambs, $4.00@4.50; cull lambs, $3.40@3.50; veal calves, $5.00@6.25.

CHICAGO, Ill., February 23.—Cattle—Receipts 3,500. Market steady. Common to extra steers, $3.50@5.35; stockers and feeders, $3.00@4.25; cows and bulls, $1.80@3.75; calves, $3.25@6.25; Texans, $2.25@4.30.

Hogs—Receipts, 29,000. Market steady. Heavy packing and shipping lots, $3.30@3.55; common to choice mixed, $3.40@3.57½; choice assorted, $3.50@3.65; light, $3.45@3.62½; pigs, $3.25@3.62½.

Sheep—Receipts 7,000. Market firm. Inferior to choice, $2.50@4.10; lambs, $3.50@5.10.

Worse.

From the New York Ledger.

Max—"Do you know I'm eating very little of late?"

Mollie—"Indeed! Have you lost your appetite?"

Max—"No, but I've lost my credit."

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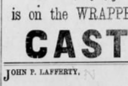

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