

[ca. 1862]?

Memorial of General S. Watson Webb,
a Citizen of the United States, and now
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister
Plenipotentiary from the Government
of the United States near the Court of
Brazil, to His Imperial Majesty
Dom Pedro II, Constitutional
Emperor and Perpetual Defender
of Brazil.

The great want of Bra-
zil at this day is labour. From the char-
acter of her climate and soil, Black
labour is preferable to white; and
because free labour is more stationary,
and cannot be removed from the regi-
ons to which it has accommodated it-
self, Free Black labour, in a nation-
al point of view, is preferable to slave
labour.

The demand for labour upon
the Coffee Plantations and in the
Southern Provinces of Brazil, gener-
ally, is gradually depopulating.

the Northern Provinces; because the labour there being slave labour, the owner of it may transfer and sell it wherever he pleases; and according to the well established principles of political economy, labour like every other merchantable commodity, will necessarily flow where it commands the highest price. Hence, according to the laws of demand & supply, the labour of the Northern Provinces being slave-labour and transportable at the will of the owner, it follows as an irresistible conclusion, that just as the demand for labour increases in the Southern Provinces, and the price of the slave advances, that demand will be supplied by transferring the slave of the Northern Provinces to the regions where the greater demand & consequent higher prices exist. The consequences are inevitable, & to Brazil, most disastrous; being no less than the depopulation of the N-

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thern Provinces and their relapsing into the state of barbarism from which they were rescued by African Slave Labour.

Were it the more temperate and genial Southern Provinces of the Empire, which are threatened with this depopulation, time would remedy the evil; because in process of time, the Government and People of Brazil, will come to perceive the absolute necessity of passing such wise and liberal Colonization Laws, as will ensure emigration and a supply of white free labour from the too densely populated regions of Europe. But unfortunately, not so in regard to those Northern Provinces of this vast Empire lying under and in the regions of the tropics whose undeveloped resources, could afford employment to all the unemployed labour of the world, and in time, render Brazil the richest and the greatest among

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the kingdoms of the Earth. They cannot be redeemed and cultivated by white labour. Suffer them once to become depopulated, and how is the evil to be remedied & its consequences to be averted? The African Slave trade, can never again, supply the negro labour alone suited to the region; and white labour is quite out of the question. Free Negro labour then, is the only possible mode of averting from Brazil the great evil with which she is threatened, and the gradual but certain approach of which, does not appear to have awakened generally, the anxiety and alarm which it is so well calculated to excite. And the great author of all good, appears to have placed within the grasp of Brazil, the remedy which of all others, is alone calculated to avert from her the threatened evil.

God has built up in the hearts of the People of the United States of America, whose soil & climate is uncongenial

is uncongenial to slave labour, a horror of the Institution of Slavery, which has resulted in the greatest Civil war the world has ever witnessed; and which can never be brought to a close without the emancipation of at least a million of slaves within the next five years, and of the whole four millions within a reasonable period. Time and circumstances, not necessary to be considered in this memorial, have produced prejudices between the White and Black races in the United States, which, to the honor of Brazil, do not exist here, and which render it absolutely impossible, that the ^{two} races should live together on terms of social and political equality. When manumitted therefore, there exists an absolute necessity that the freed Negro should be transported beyond the jurisdiction of the United States, where he can never enjoy political or social equality. The Negro thus to be manumitted, has been trained to labour, is docile &

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tractable, but sighs for freedom.
And God, in his Infinite wisdom
and mercy, has rendered it the
policy and the interest of the Uni-
ted States and Brazil, to secure to
him that freedom. Brazil is abso-
lutely suffering for Labour. Four
Millions of Negros educated to
labour, each one of whom is worth
three native Africans, are sighing
for Freedom and ready to purchase
it on the genial soil, and under the
liberal laws and Institutions of
Brazil.

The United States stand
ready to throw on the instant, from
ten to fifty thousand of her experi-
enced and educated labourers
upon the soil of Brazil, without
cost and without price, if Bra-
zil will but open wide her arms
to receive them and provide for their
future comfort!

Most assuredly, the finger
of Providence is manifest in this

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extraordinary combination of causes, which gives at one and the same moment and almost without cost to the United States or Brazil;

1st. The riddance by the United States of a Population which she is ready to free from Bondage by the expenditure of hundreds of millions of Dollars.

2nd. A genial home for the emancipated Negro, where, by a short apprenticeship, he can secure to himself freedom, political and social equality, and pecuniary prosperity.

3rd. To Brazil, a supply of necessary and experienced labour at a moment when that necessity is pressing most severely upon her industry and prosperity.

The first great object of Brazil should be to secure to herself this proffered labour; &

the modus operandi of doing so,
 it is the purpose of this memorial
 to indicate. Having accomplished
 this object, which in her wisdom
 I think Brazil cannot omit to
 do, her next object, should be, to ar-
 rest the process of depopulation
 now going on from the Northern
 Provinces, by directing the first
 importations of partly emanci-
 pated Negroes or "Apprentices,"
 from the United States, to the
 supplying of the demand for
 labour in the Southern Provinces
 of the Empire. And to do this, she
 has only to give freely of her wild
Sands, now utterly valueless to
 her, and forever to remain so, unless
 she places upon them the proper
 labourer for their cultivation. And
 if that labourer, is to become a
 freeman and a Citizen of the
 Empire, so much the better for
 her future prosperity and great-
 ness.

Brazil

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Brazil at this time, with a foresight and liberality unprecedented, has devised and is constructing a system of Internal Improvements which commands the admiration of the world. The Government loans its credit, to do what individual enterprise could not accomplish, and freely guarantees satisfactory results to the Capitalists of Europe who build her Rail Roads. But it is not unknown to the Statesman of Brazil, that the far seeing and shrewd Capitalist has already halted in his desire to invest in the stock of her Rail Roads, because as he alleges with too much apparent truth, that after they are completed and have opened to Commerce the finest Coffee, sugar, and Cotton Regions in the World, the absence of labourers to cultivate and produce these great staples, will leave her Rail Roads without employment for a tithe of their capacity; & thus, render them almost valueless instead of largely remunerative. It is all important then, to the credit as well as the prosperity of Brazil,

that a very large labouring population, should immediately be thrown into the rich agricultural regions whence her Rail Roads are directed, and from which, when they are completed, there will be but little or no traffic for them, because there will be but little agricultural product to transport. To draw the labour for agriculture in this quarter, from the more Northern Provinces, would be a fatal error; and therefore, to prevent or arrest the drain from thence already existing, is a matter of primary importance, which can only be accomplished by the immediate introduction of free White or Black labour.

Of the general and almost universal progress of evil growing out of the existing demand for labour, it is unnecessary to speak. Every wise man in Brazil, well knows, that since the suppression of the slave trade and the cessation of

a supply of labour through that channel, the value of a slave has nearly quadrupled, and the actual value of labour, has increased at least two hundred per cent. As an inevitable result, and in strict accordance with the principles of Political Economy, all the necessities of life, have advanced in nearly the same ratio. The consequence is, that the masses are daily becoming poorer; and in time, this state of things must breed discontent with Government, whether it be, or be not in its power to afford the necessary relief. This Memorialist has witnessed through a long life of practical experience, the beneficial influences of good Colonization & Naturalization Laws upon the introduction of free labour into a new Country, & the almost miraculous prosperity, national and individual, flowing therefrom; and, as a friend to the future greatness of Brazil, he entreats

Private & Confidential, to
President & Secretary of State.
"Latham in Brazil."

of her, to pass laws calculated
to draw towards her the free la-
bours of overpopulated Europe
and to seize with avidity the
proffered opportunity, if not
already too late, of securing
to herself the manumitted ne-
gro of the United States, and he
therefore proposes to His Impe-
rial Majesty, that a concep-
tion be made to him and such
associates as he may select,
in the following form or sub-
stance, or such other form as
may retain & embody the substance
thereof; and that the same
be embodied in a Treaty to be
negotiated between this Memori-
alist as the Accredited Rep-
resentative of the United States
and Brazil, for the approval
of the Executive & Senate of the
United States.

[ca. 1862]?

Concession to General J. Watson Webb
of the United States of America by

1st To the said Webb and
to such other persons as he may asso-
ciate with him; & to his and their af-
fines, is hereby conceded for a period of
twenty five years, and thereafter until
revoked by the Government of Brazil,
the exclusive right of introducing as
apprentices or colonists into the Em-
pire of Brazil, Negroes in part or whole
the descendants of Africans, eman-
cipated or about to be emancipated
by the Government or People, or indiv-
iduals in the United States of Amer-
ica.

2nd The persons ^{be} intro-
duced by the Concessionist and his af-
fines, or their affines, shall be known
as "Apprentices"; and their labour for a

period of five years and one month from the day of their landing in Brazil, shall be the property of said Conceptionist, his Associates and Agents.

3rd. For the purpose of carrying into operation this Conception and to enable the Conceptionist to render it effective, he shall have the right to organize a Joint Stock Company, with a capital not exceeding Five Millions of Dollars, the Subscribers to and Stock-holders in which, shall not be liable beyond the amount of their respective subscriptions; and the Company to be governed by its own By-laws.

The Brazilian Government and the Government of the United States, each to have the right to subscribe from one to three Millions of Dollars to said Company, payable in the Bonds of the Government subscribing, at par, bearing an interest of six per cent per annum, and having ten years to mature.

Such subscriptions however, if made, to be considered an addition to the Capital stock of the Company.

The Company to have a right to borrow from the Governments of Brazil and the United States, or either of them, or from any other source, an amount equal to one half its Capital.

4th. For every colored person introduced into Brazil by the said Webb & his Associates or Assigns, under this concession, or by the Company organized by him or them, the Government of Brazil hereby binds itself, to convey to him or them, or such Company, one hundred acres of land to be selected and located upon the land of the Government, at such place or places in any part of the Kingdom as the Concessionist or his Assigns, may select; provided however, that in no

instance, shall a selection or location, be less than one English Mile square, containing six hundred and forty acres.

Brazil guarantees to the Concessionist and his assigns, that the persons introduced as Colonists under this Concession, & known as "Apprentices" shall, for the term of their apprenticeship, render faithful service to the party or parties so introducing them; and she will cause such additional Legislation as may be necessary, to insure a faithful discharge of their duties as "apprentices." And at the expiration of the period of Five Years and one month from the day of their introduction into Brazil, they shall be discharged from their apprenticeship, and become Citizens of the Brazilian Empire. And upon such discharge, the Concessionist or the Company representing his interest in this concession

conception, shall execute to him a formal discharge in the manner and form hereafter to be agreed upon which shall be duly recorded free of charge in some Court of Record to be designated by the Government of Brazil; together with a Deed in Fee Simple for ever of twenty acres of land of which at least three acres shall be cleared and fitted for cultivation. And in addition to said grant of land, the Conceptionist and his associates, or the Company representing him or them, shall elect thereon a hut for the occupancy of the Colonist and furnish him or her with certain agricultural implements of the value of Twenty milreis, and give him twenty milreis in money. And the said Apprentice, thus discharged from his apprenticeship, shall be declared a freeman by the laws of Brazil from the day of his discharge; and the Government of Brazil will not only guard and protect such

discharged apprentice ~~but~~ in all his rights while an apprentice and after his discharge, but will by Treaty stipulation with the United States, solemnly bind itself so to do.

All children born while the mother is an apprentice, shall be considered Colonists & discharged with their Mothers; and The Conceptionist or Company, shall in all cases, receive for each & every child so born and discharged a grant of land, as in case of a Colonist introduced, in order to pay for its support while an apprentice and the loss of the services of its mother; but such children shall have no claim upon the Company for land, agricultural implements or money, unless in case of the death of their Parents, they remain with the Company as apprentices, until the age of eighteen.

Families shall in all cases, be discharged from Appren-

tieship at the same place, and have their allotment of land made as nearly contiguous, as the convenience and interest of the Company will admit.

Children who have no Parents living, instead of being discharged at any fixed period, will be held as Apprentices, and be cared for by the Company, after the expiration of their five years and one month of apprenticeship, until they reach the age of eighteen, unless sooner discharged by the Government of Brazil or of the United States. That is to say, The Concessionist or Company representing him, shall be compelled to care for such apprentice until he arrives at the age of eighteen years; but it shall be the right of either Government to order his discharge at the age of twelve if his term of apprenticeship has expired, upon becoming responsible for his support & maintenance until he

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shall become eighteen years of age.
But this shall not give to either
Government the right to discharge
such apprentices from the service
of the Company and the further right
of binding them to labour elsewhere.

No Contract whatever
made by an apprentice with the
Company to which he owes ser-
vice, or with any other person or per-
sons, during his apprenticeship, or
for ten days thereafter, shall be
binding in law or equity, - it being
the purpose of this provision to
insure the discharge of every
apprentice from service and
his transition to the status of a
Freeman, free from all debts,
incumbrances, and liabilities, of
every kind and description what-
soever.

Private and
Confidential to the
President & Secretaries
of State - including
a plan for carrying
out - Despatch No 31.
"Labour in Brazil"