

## THE SOUTHWESTERN BORDER.

### Three Forms of Servitude on the Border.

Correspondence of The Tribune.

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The Rio Bravo frontier—including the strip of country about which so much is said and so little done in the way of protection—will present, as it develops, a geographical arrangement of morals peculiar to itself. Like three layers of different colored earths ranged one above the other, and showing their edges on the uncovered face of the bank, we have between Santa Fé and the sea the three colors of servitude. We have on the upper line the Red Race in peon slavery, which is thought a most moral, excellent thing by the Mexicans—that is, by those rich enough to own peons—and it will be counted as a kindly and harmless thing at Washington until it can be manufactured into some kind of combustible gas wherewith to light up the province of Bancombe. Then comes the middle region, the land of ores and wheat and vines, into which the White Race are rapidly forcing their servitude of wages. Here the cords of bondage are twisted of the triple strands of want, ignorance and intemperance. In this abounding country the first would soon dwindle to a cobweb but for the other two; but together they hold a numerous and miserable race of slaves in bondage. They are mostly foreigners, but wherever born they are as little their own masters to any honorable purpose as the Red serfs in the district north of them, or the black slaves on the south. They live and toil, grovel and die, in a closer equality with their different colored neighbors than they and other whites care to admit—and, of course, society is never to blame for their fall. The army and navy would be a lively and instructive parallel, if the gentlemen of the whip and gallows school had free way—Well, enlistment, or whatever cramping debasement can be imposed upon the ignorant toiler for wages, is also innocent and moral. It must be, or why do gallant officers and wise Congressmen and rich capitalists cherish it as a heaven-ordained thing? If opposition to it is not wrong, and ridiculous besides, why are we sneered at by these high ones, when we speak of instruction, employment and support as the natural right of all the children of man? Decidedly, this must be an absurdity, and the Golden Rule of Him the Stable-Born was only intended to regulate genteel life and the proceedings of legislative bodies.

The third class of servitude is more stringent and unchanging than the other two, though generally attended with less personal suffering. Black slavery is more sharply defined, but it is the best fed.

A line drawn in the most direct and available course from Santa Fé to the Gulf—and as the Government will not find it out without help, in years, it may as well be mentioned again, that it would run nearly a hundred miles, or something more than that, to the east of the present nearly impracticable road to Presidio del Norte, down to the grassy and well watered vales in which the higher streams of the Colorado approach the sources of the Pecos, and thence skirting and defending as it went, the settled edge of the country it would keep southward to the Gulf to meet, and to some purpose, the Rio Grande line of defence, and make safe all that is inclosed between them—On this line, like three beads on a string, will be found the three shades of servitude to which the maternal forethought of society devotes her children from their birth—each one as best befits mercy, justice and his color. Geography has more to do than people are willing to own with their moral views on servitude. Negro servitude is abominable in Great Britain, but it is perfectly moral there, if not absolutely praiseworthy, to keep soldiers, and sailors and servants "in their proper place." Now in Louisiana slave holders may be found who think it improper to brutify enlisted men with the lash, and to compress the life of factory children into an iron coffin in which mind and body is pinched down to a senseless clod. Then some people have prejudices about the enslavement of the Red race, but it is not an immorality in the latitude of Mexico, though African slavery is, and so they hold the chain of the crouching peon in one hand while with the other they beckon the negro to steal his owner's horse and fly on it to their arms and liberty. That we may see side by side the beauties and the blessings of all the varieties of well regulated servitude known to our domestic and Christian institutions, here they are unrolled together and offered to our comparison in the genial soil of Texas. Like her vast diversity of soil and production, which enables the most opposite tastes to find what pleases them best, so those who wish a pet morality can have it of any race or color they fancy; or they can choose "the sin they have a mind to" and make all right with their conscience, and what some people think more of, with public opinion, by a double amount of severity to those "they are not inclined to."

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