

A Circular
To Farmers, Merchants, Mechanics and Others

Circa. 1880
A New Colony being founded and Village established in Virginia

The undersigned, in an extensive tour made through the North recently, became fully satisfied that there is a latent desire long cherished in the minds of many to exchange their cold, and, in some cases, health-destroying, region for a warmer climate. The peculiar labor system of the South has ever tended to keep the families and people of the two sections quite distinct. Persons living at the North seldom have relatives, or even acquaintance, at the South, and rarely visit the South as tourists; hence to remove there is emphatically to go among strangers. From the want of proper information and reliability on the part of agents ; from locating separately, and in widely remote sections, and being surrounded by a people with different habits and tastes, friendships at first formed slowly, and newcomers complained of an isolated, lonely and uncongenial state of society. After so bitter a sectional strife, there might naturally be expected some aversion to immediate cordiality on the part of the southerners; but this feeling has rapidly disappeared before the fair dealing and evident enterprising ability of actual northern settlers, and a warm and cordial reception is now almost universally extended to those who buy and settle in our midst.

Time and acquaintance with the better class of Northern people is a sure remedy for this sectional feeling. Again, those who went South at first were generally men of small means, who, actuated by a desire to buy cheap lands, were accommodated in this respect, and inveigled by sharp agents to purchase the poorest lands, in out of the way places, and, as a matter of course, failed of their high expectations. Some broke up and went back, others are toiling along at a great disadvantage, and do not encourage their friends to come South, but the majority who purchased fair or good lands are doing remarkably well. To insure entire success, and avoid the extraordinary, or even ordinary, discomforts of removal to a different locality, combine action on the part of a large number of families to locate in the same neighborhood seems to be desirable. Also, to locate in the vicinity, or under the auspices of one, long a resident of the new locality well acquainted with the climate, soil, &c., &c., would add to the probabilities of success.

The undersigned, a former citizen of the State of New York, but for the last twenty-five years a resident in Virginia, feels that he can act with some degree of confidence in directing his Northern brethren and friends in their laudable desire to go to a more favored climate. He represents a Company which proposes to operate in settling parties on land in the rich part of South Side Virginia, in the county of Charlotte, on the Richmond and Danville Railroad, eighty-seven miles from Richmond and fifty-four from Danville, at the junction of the Roanoke and Twitty's creeks, where there is a manufacturing and grist mill and fine water power. A plan of a village has been laid off along the railroad, and several business operations already commenced.

All the buildings to be erected will conform to a regular plan, so as to present a neat, convenient and tidy appearance, a thing quite uncommon along the line of Southern railroads. The lands surrounding for miles are of fine quality and deep soil. These are offered by the owners, excepting their homesteads, at very low prices compared with their intrinsic value. A charter of incorporation has been obtained for this, "The Randolph Combination Settlement Company," the objects of which are to facilitate in settling up these lands, and to foster the interests of this village, called "Randolph," from John Randolph, of Roanoke, whose residence was within a few miles of this point.

Should the Company succeed in raising stock sufficient, it is proposed to start a Woolen or Cotton factory, to build neat, cheap, and convenient residences for operatives and others, to buy up some of the adjoining lands, lay them off into small farms, and put on such accommodations as may be

necessary to make families comfortable till they can build to suit themselves. We would ask the serious consideration of our Northern friends whether it would not be a matter of pleasure and *profit* to join in this enterprise. The condition of the South, since the breaking up of her labor system, demands a radical change in all her industrial interests. With free labor comes the demand for home markets for small producers. Formerly planters, with thousands of acres of land, and hundreds of slaves, could afford to go once or twice a year to Richmond or Danville, long distances, to get the necessary supplies for the plantation. The people of the North know that no man with fifty or one hundred acres can afford to go far to market his produce, or get his supplies; hence the necessity for small villages, conveniently located, at the South, as well as at the North. These most naturally spring up on fine water power, or on railroads.

An intermediate village, or possible city, between Richmond and Danville is a necessity. It should be a manufacturing place—its surroundings indicate it. It simply wants some enterprising men, with capital, to give it a start, and remuneration will be most ample. We wish to build up a village with its usual accommodations and mechanical interests, to settle the surrounding country with a large number of Northern and European people, who, in comingling, will feel very slightly the transition from their fireside friends at home, and who may thus add to their present comforts the advantages of our delightful climate. The people of Virginia are now fully aroused to the importance of dividing up their large plantations, and selling them off in small farms to industrious and skilful settlers. A convention has been held at Richmond, composed of delegates from all parts of the State, and a memorial has been sent to the Legislature recommending some plan to encourage immigration. The Governor of Virginia, in his late message, lays much stress on the necessity of encouraging immigration, and has proposed to establish a bureau for that end. Virginia has opened a direct tide of emigration from England by means of a line of steamers running between Liverpool and Norfolk. The last of these steamers brought one hundred and fifty English emigrants, all men of means, and capable of purchasing farms. The opening of the great Southern through line from Norfolk to Bristol, Tennessee, under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, will pour a perfect flood-tide of new population into this part of the old State. A connection with this line is proposed from our new village of “Randolph.” the advance of real estate from its present low price in this vicinity is no doubtful problem. Now is the time to locate in a village destined to a rapid growth, or to locate a farm in its vicinity, sure to rise in value as our old State moves onward in her rapid march to prosperity.

For farther information respecting this settlement, address L.S. Squire, Secretary of the Randolph Combination Settlement Company, at Randolph or Talcott P.O., Richmond and Danville Railroad, VA

P.S. The Secretary has lots 50 feet front by 142 deep in this village for sale, or donation to actual settlers ; also farms in the vicinity, containing from 25 to 100 or more acres, at very reduced prices.

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