

OUR FORTRESS MONROE LETTER.

Enlistment of Negro Soldiers for the Massachusetts Contingent—The Vacated Lands of Rebels to be Assigned to Contrabands—A Relief to the Government—New-York Soldiers Selling Negroes into Slavery.

Fortress Monroe, Tuesday, Feb. 3, 1863.

An authorization having been granted by the Government to Gov. ANDREWS, of Massachusetts, for the enlistment of colored men as United States soldiers, the latter has requested Mr. C. B. WILDER, Superintendent of Contrabands for this Department, to enlist all such as desire it. Having obtained the concurrence of Gen. DIX, as Military Governor, Mr. WILDER immediately held out prospects of promotion in the black regiment to certain commissioned and non-commissioned officers here, and the result is a spirited recruitment on their part of able men, who will render good service. In this neighborhood, including that of Norfolk, Suffolk and Yorktown, at least a battalion, and probably a regiment, will be raised within a fortnight. The men will then be sent to Washington, and endued with blue coats and red unmentionables, as part of the Massachusetts contingent. Those who think these men will not fight, may safely divest themselves of the illusion. They are far more intelligent than the blacks of the French and Arab armies. A caviler may argue that the latter were never slaves, and would naturally possess more spirit than our lately freed negroes. The position is false. Many of them were slaves, and all had been treated in the barbarous regions of their birth with more brutality by superiors than fell generally to the lot of American bondmen.

To those colored men who do not wish a soldier's life, and who may not have desirable employment, another opening presents itself. The Secretary of War has at last definitely authorized Mr. WILDER to appropriate vacated lands of rebels, in this Department, to the use of those colored people of both sexes who may wish to use them. The lands are not confiscated, they are merely appropriated for the time being, and, should peace speedily ensue, will be held only during the present year. The occupants will be placed in charge of white superintendents, who will each have under his control as many laborers as the farm may find employment for. The blacks will either be paid for their labor monthly, or wait until the sale of produce remunerates them—small advances for necessities being made them when required.

Attached to each farm will be a school, where children will be taught in the day, and adults at night. The teachers will be independent in their action of the farm superintendents. All this is intended both to relieve the Government of the \$1,000 a day it now pays for the support of contrabands in this department, and to prove, what is doubted by many, that negroes will work in a state of freedom. The result of the experiment will be satisfactory, and will set at rest all fears of foolish persons, that free blacks will be a charge to the nation.

The attention of the proper authorities is called to the conduct of certain soldiers of the Ninety-ninth New-York regiment, stationed between Norfolk and Suffolk, who by the confession of several of their officers, have been kidnapping negroes and selling them to individuals within the rebel lines.