

*From a New England
Woman's Diary in
Dixie in 1865...*

By MARY AMES

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FROM

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From A NEW ENGLAND
WOMAN'S DIARY *in* DIXIE
in 1865

By
MARY AMES

SPRINGFIELD
1906

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A New England Woman's

lines, through which General Saxton and General Howard, with the other gentlemen, passed, receiving the horsemen's salute.

The church was crowded. General Howard, in simple words, said that he, being their friend, had been sent by the President to tell them that the owners of the land, their old masters, had been pardoned, and their plantations were to be given back to them; that they wanted to come back to cultivate the land, and would hire the blacks to work for them.

At first the people could not understand, but as the meaning struck them, that they must give up their little homes and gardens, and work again

Diary in Dixie

for others, there was a general murmur of dissatisfaction. General Howard's task grew more painful. He begged them to lay aside their bitter feelings, and to become reconciled to their old masters. We heard murmurs of "No, never." "Can't do it." General Howard proposed that three men be chosen to represent the people, to consult and report to him.

Meantime they were asked to sing, and burst forth with "Nobody knows the trouble I see," and "Wandering in the wilderness of sorrow and gloom." Two of the largest owners came down with General Howard. Many of their old slaves were in the church. It was touching to see them saying, "How dy"

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to each other. The gentlemen also felt it. Tears were in their eyes. One of them made a long address.

Still the negroes would not trust them or their promises, declaring that they never could work again "for the Se-cesh." One said "It was very distressful." Another that he could forgive his old master, as he hoped to be forgiven, but he had lived all his life with a basket over his head, and now that it had been taken off and air and sunlight had come to him, he could not consent to have the basket over him again. It was a hard day for them, poor creatures.

The committee came back after some time, saying they could come to no