

## Tunis Campbell—His History, Career and Downfall.

This old reprobate is a West India negro who came South from New York in the wake of the war, and settled upon St. Catherine's Island off the coast of Liberty county, Ga.

Commanding in appearance and possessing much shrewdness and cunning, he at once became a great man among his recently enfranchised brethren. Tunis is a first-class buccaneer and fillibuster, and no sooner had he entered the tabby walls of the Waldburg family and surveyed its orange embowered grounds and the adjacent fertile fields, he resolved to possess and hold them by the indisputable right of conquest. According, asserting his authority as the rightful successor of the ancient queen of St. Catherine's in the days of Toma-chi-chi, he proclaimed himself lord of the manor; raised an army; expelled all the disaffected; hung a few malcontents, and reigned as absolutely as the King of Dahomey.

But alas! many thorns were woven in the crown that encircled his sable brow. After a brief but glorious career, during which Tunis hunted the red deer that abound on the island, feasted upon fish and turtle, exacted tribute from his willing subjects, imposed tasks which he himself would not so much as touch with his little finger, the universal greed of the average Yankee proved his downfall. In an unlucky day some Federal capitalist, possibly a camp follower of Sherman, and perhaps afflicted with a cough, and resolved to gain health, and ingots too, in the Southern Eldorado, bought the whole island for a large sum from its rebel owner.

But Tunis now stood upon his royal prerogative, and regarded with scorn and contempt all efforts to dispossess him. Cortes had conquered and held Mexico, and so had he St. Catherine's; and he would maintain his authority by force of arms at every hazard. Those, therefore, who sought to depose him were peremptorily expelled. For the time he remained master of the situation. Threats of Federal interference were fulminated against him, but this Island Tycoon snapped his fingers in Uncle Sam's face, and declared that he was an independent sovereignty and subject to no power on earth. At length, however, the sorely puzzled purchaser succeeding in procuring from government a detachment of regular troops, under command of Col. Collins, the present collector of the port of Brunswick, who effected a lodgment on the island, and in due form demanded its unconditional surrender.

The sight of these gleaming bayonets and scudded ranks of blue proved too much for the stomach of the African magnate. "He came, he saw," he wilted, and with courage oozing out at fingers' ends declared himself the obedient vassal and devoted slave of the Radical government.

It was a reproduction in miniature of the rise and fall of their numerous sooty majesties in the West India islands, where royalty is a mere burlesque, and a half dozen black musketeers nearly naked compose the body guard of a reigning monarch.

Next we hear of Tunis in McIntosh county, where he had sought refuge among the disbanded and ignorant rice field negroes in the delta of the Altamaha river.

They at once received him as of superior intelligence, and again he was installed king, to all practical intents and purposes. There Tunis reigned and flourished, administered justice (so-called), proscribed or jailed offenders against himself, made a travestie of the law in his functions as magistrate, and wielded an authority as absolute as the Kahn of Tartary.

If he wished to go to the Legislature, he had only to say so, while an admiring and obedient multitude stood ready to do his bidding and execute his behests without doubt or question.

But unfortunately for Tunis, Judge Tompkins appeared upon the scene as the judicial expounder and champion of the law, and again, as at St. Catherine's, he was forced to surrender, not, however, before his henchmen had assaulted the officers of justice and even fired upon the Judge. But the attempt to rescue their idol was in vain, and the twice dethroned monarch now "peeps and mutters" through the barred windows of the Chatham jail, and twelve of his turbulent associates have been arrested and will be made to answer for this onslaught upon the laws of the country.

But we have a quasi admiration for Tunis, begotten of his fine and imposing physique. We heard an ex-Judge of the Superior Court recently declare that he was the "most dignified and Senatorial looking personage in the upper House of the General Assembly." And then the man has the faculty of attaching the masses to him in a most wonderful degree. Judge Tompkins told us that in McIntosh county he is almost worshipped by the ignorant negroes. So Tunis is no common fellow after all, though a precious and anointed rascal and conspirator. We trust he will have meted out to him every particle of justice that attaches to his case, even though it may be necessary to subsidize the halter or penitentiary for his benefit.