

INSTRUCTION, OR "A WHITE MAN'S GOVERNMENT"

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IT IS ONE which the Union League Clubs both North and South have hung in their rooms with warm approval. The Reconstruction of 1867, placing the South temporarily under military government and partial white disfranchisement, had placed the colored white allies, the Carpetbaggers and scalawags, in control of the former Confederacy. That the conservative white people of the South had this "black and tan" rule or misrule with the deepest disgust saying. They opposed the new regime with every weapon they could command, the ballot, the Ku Klux Klan, and unfortunately in many areas the ballot, the Ku Klux Klan, and unfortunately in many areas the ballot. For this attitude they had good reason: the governments of (that is, the Carpetbagger, scalawag, and Negro alliance) were incompetent, wasteful, and corrupt. Within a few years they incurred enormous debts in most Southern States, and raised taxation to such an extent that many Southern whites lost their lands for failure to pay the taxes. The ludicrous yet tragic character of the misgovernment in South Carolina is described in J. S. Pike's classic book on *The Prostrate South*. South Carolina did not suffer more than Mississippi, where the tax was fourteen times as high as in 1869, or than Louisiana, where the offices and contracts were fought over by rival machines. The result, after a brief initial show of moderation, supported the secessionist in the South because it meant Republican votes in Congress and a college, and because his strong sense of respect for order and law inculcated to the Klan violence. A great many Northerners took here inculcated—that if the Southern white would only accept the new government and work in friendly cooperation with his black brother, they might regain prosperity together. But the Southern white knew that the only hope for order and progress in his section lay in the reestablishment of his own supremacy. In one State after another, until by the summer of 1877—the year in which the Government ceased its interference and acquiesced in white rule—the entire South had been rewon.

The photograph is not better drawn than other Currier & Ives productions. It is the same made-to-order quality that characterizes most of their work. It shows the same simplicity and unity that the Currier & Ives establishment has learned some essential principles of caricature. The point is that it is a clutter of figures standing woodenly about, but by three men contrasted in pose and action.

