A Note On Negro Labor.

My dear Kelsey:-

As I recall it, I promised to send you some observations on negro labor for a forthcoming issue of the Annals, the time limit being approximately February first. It is somewhat singular that my time has been so fully occupied with transactions with negro labor during the past three months that I have had no opportunity to discuss the subject on paper. If this "Note", and it is meant to be no more than that, reaches you in time, and can be utilized in any way, you are more than welcome to it. If it is too late, or is not available, you are at liberty to chuck it into the waste basket.

During the fifteen years in which I have been planting cotton I have never known as much agitation of the general subject of the negro on the plantation as there has been this winter. This is due to the disastrous situation in Louisiana and South Mississippi, brought about by the destructive ravages of the boll weevil in 1908. The appearance of this pest in this territory, and its final crossing of the Mississippi, served to turn practical attention to the consideration of the character of labor which would have to be relied upon to meet its attacks. Negro labor is still identified with cotton production, and whatever concerns the latter, affects the former also. The boll weevil is the greatest enemy which has yet appeared in the history of cotton. In my judgment it will create conditions which will form a supreme test of the capacity and efficiency of negro labor in the field of Southern agriculture. This note can do no more than offer a glance at some of these conditions and at some of the characteristics of the labor in question.