

The Would-be Massoniello of Georgia

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"Prince" Rivers, who is named as being the head and front of the threatened insurrection in Georgia and South Carolina, was before the war a slave, owned by Mr. H. M. Stuart, of Branford, South Carolina. He was Mr. Stuart's coachman, and was said to be the finest looking negro at the south. In 1862, Gen. Saxton sent him north in charge of a clergyman, who exhibited him in public meetings as a fair specimen of the plantation negroes. After getting all the money they could, they returned to the south. Rivers purchased a lot of the abandoned property of the government, and went in as a planter. Not succeeding in this, he went into one of the colored regiments. After the war he turned up in one of the up-country parishes, where he was elected to the Assembly. He there became one of the ring of scalawags and carpet-baggers, consisting of General Scott, of Ohio, Whittemore, of Massachusetts, Dennis, of Connecticut, Moses, Small, DeLarge, Bowen, Whipple, and others of that sort. The militia was organized, and from a subordinate official position Rivers has risen to the rank of major general. He is a man of unbounded ambition and much influence and it is thought that it will be found that this spirit of insurrection pervades other states. The idea among the negroes that the land is theirs, and that their fathers earned it by their labor, has been preached to them for years, until they have become imbued with that feeling to such an extent that a war of races would not be the most surprising occurrence of the day.