

FOUR HUNDRED WAGONLOADS OF NEGROES.—

It appears that among the captures made by the late successful expedition of Gen. Weitzel, from New Orleans down the Bayou La Fourche, were four hundred wagonloads of negroes—or say four thousand contrabands, allowing ten to each wagon. The rebels had been gathering them up to carry them farther into the interior, or perhaps to Texas, or perhaps with the intention of slipping them over to Cuba. At all events, with the numerous gangs of negroes which had found their way to his lines, Gen. Weitzel, with these reinforcements of four hundred wagonloads, left by the retreating enemy, was overwhelmed with Africans. What was he to do with them? He wrote to Gen. Butler to advise and relieve him.

In response, Gen. Butler has issued his instructions; but we have yet to learn what they are. He has probably recommended that they be turned over as free laborers to the loyal Union planters of the neighborhood, or something of that sort. What else, under the present laws of Congress, is to be done with these cumbersome legions of slaves, as they continue to pour into the lines of our advancing armies, we cannot divine. President Lincoln, in view of his emancipation proclamation, will realize the necessity of some special recommendations on the subject in his annual message. If the Northern States will not have these Southern negroes, if they are not wanted in the army, and if the colonization scheme has already collapsed, they must, under some new system, be retained where they are found, or be turned adrift to take their chance. We turn them over to the special attention of President Lincoln.