

CAUSE OF SANDED COTTON.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I noticed in a late number of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN some remarks by you in relation to southern crops. Let me explain to you why there is so much dirty and badly handled cotton sent to our markets. I presume that no cotton planter prefers sending dirt or sand, nor do they try to have it gathered with the cotton any more than possible, for market. Whenever we have large crops, it must necessarily be handled more roughly, or lost to a large amount in the field. We, as planters, blame the commission merchants for so much inferior cotton going into market. If they would make a greater difference in the price between fine and inferior cottons, you would hear no more about dirty or badly handled cotton. Several years ago, many planters went to considerable expense in trying to make fine cotton, but finding that those planters who took no pains whatever in handling their cotton received nearly or quite as good a price, they very soon decided to try for quantity and not take so much time and labor in making fine cotton when it did not pay to do so. The trouble all begins with the commission merchants, in classifying our cotton; they should let each quality sell on its own merits, and not try to make a lot of fine cotton sell an inferior lot. Let the planters see and know that there is a great difference in the price of cotton, and I assure you the market will soon be well supplied with clean, good, and fine cottons. The planters are not going to any extra pains or expense to make fine cotton, when they know that they will not receive much, if any, higher prices than those who took no pains. I have been engaged in planting and selling cotton for the last 26 years. These are my views and those of many of the most intelligent planters in Louisiana and Mississippi.

E. J. C.

Centerville, Miss., Dec. 15, 1859.