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THE
AFRICAN REPOSITORY.

VOL. XXVII—1851.

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AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

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THE AFRICAN REPOSITORY.

VOL. XXVII.]

WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY, 1851.

[No. 2.

Report of the Rev. R. R. Gurley.

OUR readers generally are aware of the fact, that in August, 1849, the Rev. R. R. Gurley, formerly and for many years Secretary of the American Colonization Society, and at present Chaplain of the House of Representatives of the United States, sailed for Liberia as a special agent of the United States Government, to obtain information respecting Liberia. Mr. G.'s Report of the results of his mission has been published, by order of Congress; and, for the gratification and information of our readers who may not have the privilege of reading the Report in full, we give, in our present number, several extracts, embodying some of the results of observations made by one whose statements are perhaps as impartial and candid as those of any other person who has ever visited Liberia.

“From my experience of two months on the coast of Liberia, I may be allowed to say, that my impressions of the African climate are more favorable than those I had derived from books; for, though our arrival occurred during the latter

portion of what is termed the rainy season, and we continued on the coast during most of the transition period from that to the dry season, the weather was generally clear and pleasant, and we were seldom deterred for an entire day from visiting the shore, or from moderate physical exertion.

During the African rains, strangers notice, not only an extraordinary moisture in the atmosphere, but a peculiar power in the sun's rays, though the heat at all seasons is less, as indicated by the thermometer, than that occasionally known in the United States. We passed through what is called the tornado season without experiencing any storm which could with propriety be termed a tornado; and the weather during the whole time we were on the coast was not greatly different from the ordinary summer weather of our own southern States.

No one can look upon the athletic, finely-proportioned and developed forms of the native Africans, or upon a congregation of the inhabitants of Monrovia, or of the other towns and villages of the Liberian republic, and retain the idea that health cannot be enjoyed on the African coast. The general aspect of the people of Liberia is healthy; and I am convinced, from much observation and many inquiries, that the dangers of the climate

to colored emigrants are becoming less and less formidable, and that soon they will, to a good degree, be averted, by the cultivation of the soil, an appropriate regimen, and increased medical experience and skill. I have seen large families in Liberia, who, after a residence there of some years, had suffered no invasion from death, and who, doubtless, found their security, under Providence, in their watchfulness against excesses in diet and exertion, in a moderation approaching to abstinence, in the use of medicine, and in the possession of ample supplies of the necessaries and comforts of life. The friends of our colored people, and of the republic of Liberia, cannot be too emphatically reminded that to send emigrants with inadequate supplies, to feel all the depression of want, while exposed to the untried influences of the African climate, is an error which must often prove fatal to human life, and sadly injurious to their great enterprise. Far better is it to enable a few emigrants to establish themselves in health and comfort in Liberia than to cast large bodies of them on that shore, with no sufficient means of subsistence, during the time when such means can be secured by no exertions of theirs—thus augmenting vastly the perils of their condition, or imposing burdens upon the charity of that but recent community which its citizens must find it difficult, if not impossible, to sustain.

Having visited Africa in my youth, and witnessed, in company with the distinguished and lamented Ashmun, the first buddings of civilized and Christian life on Cape Montserado, it may be readily imagined that I could not, after a quarter of a century, look again upon that verdant promontory—that I could not again tread the streets of Monrovia;

that I could not meet those who, so many years ago, extended to me their hospitalities—could not behold that humble community, who, when I first stood there, were making some narrow openings in the dense forest, and sheltering themselves beneath some thirty or forty thatched roofs, few, feeble, and exposed to barbarous foes, now risen, through the favoring hand of the Almighty, by their fortitude and energy, to the elevation of an independent republic, acknowledged as such by two of the most powerful nations,—without a deep sense of the Divine goodness to the people of Liberia, and to the writer, in that he was permitted to see on that shore the renovating power of a government of constitutional liberty, pervaded by the Christian spirit and encompassed by the highest motives to beneficence. * * * * *

In regard “to the military and naval force of the republic,” to the honor of the people of Liberia should it be recorded, that, from their earliest settlement upon the African coast, they have, by courage and discipline, defended themselves against the machinations of slave traders, and the combined forces of many barbarous tribes, and in no instance suffered defeat. With the exception of such as are exempted in virtue of religious or civil offices, all the males in the republic, from the age of sixteen to fifty, are subject to military duty; may be called at any moment by the executive into actual service; and, in time of peace, muster, on stated days, and in obedience to a uniform law, in the several settlements, for examination, exercise, and discipline. This force, well armed and disciplined, may be, in number, from one thousand to fifteen hundred men; while a much larger native force might doubtless be brought into more or

less effectual service, in case of an invasion. Of naval force the republic has nothing, with the exception of one small but beautiful vessel, armed with four guns, a present from the British Government. Since foreign vessels are, without exception, subject to certain commercial regulations, and duties imposed on all merchandise brought within the republic, wherever landed, and swether consigned to the American settlers or native Africans, this vessel will prove of great utility in guarding from violation the revenue laws, and in enforcing their provisions. This vessel also affords an easy and rapid conveyance of any orders or officers of the government to different points of the coast; will enable the public authorities to observe any movements for the renewal of the slave trade, and to adopt measures to counteract them, and to communicate intelligence between the settlements in any dangerous emergency.

“Of the administration of justice, the system of laws upon which it is based, and, more especially, whether it is entirely impartial towards the inhabitants of the republic,” I am gratified to express the opinion that the judicial system of the republic is wisely constituted, and that justice is administered to all classes impartially, and without unnecessary expense or delay. By the constitution, the judicial power of the republic is vested in one supreme court, and such other subordinate courts as the legislature may from time to time establish. The supreme court has original jurisdiction in all cases affecting ambassadors or other public ministers or consuls, and those to which the republic shall be a party. All judges of courts are to hold office during good behaviour, but may be removed by the president, at the request of two-

thirds of both houses of the legislature, or when impeached and convicted. By authority of the legislature, qualified justices of the peace may arrest offenders against the laws or public peace, commit them to prison, or take security for their appearance for trial, and may determine actions for debt, where the amount in question does not exceed thirty dollars, though the parties have the right of appeal to the ensuing monthly court. In each of the counties of the republic is held a monthly court, composed of not more than five nor less than three justices of the peace, which court is to examine and decide on all cases of commitment by justices, and has power to summon jurors, to determine actions for debt above thirty dollars, and exercise original jurisdiction in all cases not intrusted to justices of the peace, causes in admiralty, and those constitutionally vested in the supreme court. To this court also belong the care and management of the estates of orphans, and the record and probate of wills.

By the same authority is constituted in each county of the republic a court of quarter sessions, with one judge, which court has power to empanel both a grand and petit jury, and to try prisoners sent from the monthly court, and all presentments or indictments found by the grand jury; has original jurisdiction in cases of admiralty, and appellate jurisdiction in cases coming from the monthly court. Appeal may be taken from the decisions of this court to the supreme court.

The supreme court is required to sit annually, and until all causes submitted to its jurisdiction are disposed of, in the town of Monrovia, and consists of the chief justice and three associates, the judges of the court of quarter sessions—two only

of these associates sitting at one time, the right of absence being exercised in regular rotation. Provision is made to exempt judges in this court and that of quarter sessions from official duty in cases wherein they are interested; and the decisions of the supreme court are final.

Some few directions and principles of civil government and jurisprudence were supplied to the first settlers in Liberia by the American Colonization Society. In 1824, a brief but comprehensive constitution was submitted to them, and received their assent. Subsequently, the lamented Ashmun guided and instructed them in public affairs. In 1839, a constitution and clear but concise body of laws were transmitted to the governor and council of the then colony, to which they gave their sanction. So that the present laws of the republic are to be traced to the past history of the people, are the growth from their peculiar circumstances, and embrace the acts of the legislature before and since the declaration of their independence; while, in their courts, the common law, with few modifications, as existing in Great Britain and the United States, constitutes the ground of judicial arguments and decisions. * * *

Every civilized stranger, instructed in the truths, and sensible of the value, of the Christian religion, who visits the republic of Liberia, must experience an inexpressible delight, not only in the visible evidences of the institutions of a free and well-organized State, but in the quiet, ever-active, and beneficent operations of missionary teachers, penetrating, and making glad by their presence, the gloom of the African forest, and, under the protection of its government, inviting not only its sons and daughters into their schools,

but imparting, with a zeal, a cheerfulness, and a perseverance not to be discouraged and not to be defeated, a knowledge of letters, of some branches of science, and, above all, of Divine Revelation, to the superstitious and barbarous population of Africa. To find Christian teachers and ministers, with libraries, small, but of choice books, in their thatched dwellings, beneath the shade of the palm tree, in spots where but a few openings have been made in the dense forest; to see groups of native African children gathered for instruction; to listen to voices of Christian worshippers, and hear the songs of Christian praise, amid the habitations of idolatry and cruelty,—gives beauty even to the aspect of uncultivated nature, and animates with unwonted joy every thoughtful and benevolent heart.

The authorities and people of Liberia cherish a sincere attachment to the government and people of the United States. They are sensible that under the auspices of American benevolence they have attained to their present elevation, from which they are permitted to see before them a widely-expanded and glorious prospect of social happiness and political prosperity and renown. To the entire people of the republic, the recognition of their independence by the government of the United States is an object of earnest desire. The peculiarities of the condition of the free people of color, and others of the African race, in this country, they well know, and have no wish, by any relations which may be established between their government and ours, to cause inconvenience or embarrassment. While their wish and purpose is to maintain a just self-respect, as a free and independent republic, before the world, they will, I doubt

not, be disposed to accommodate (as far as may be without exposure to dishonor or self-reproach) their arrangements to the sense and views of the American government. It has been suggested that they might conduct all their public affairs in this country with the United States through some one or more of its citizens, in case our government should feel inclined to confide to citizens of Liberia any business it might wish transacted in Africa with the authorities of that republic.

The scheme of African colonization originated not only in benevolence towards our colored population, but towards both races on this continent, and towards two quarters of the globe. At its inception, our most illustrious statesmen—a Jefferson, Marshall, Monroe, and Madison—gave to it their sanction. It was seen to unite Christian philanthropy with political expediency—a just regard for our national welfare with the more solemn obligations of religious duty. It has derived strength from the homes of the good and pious in our southern States, and found eloquent advocates and defenders in their legislative halls. Many States have urged its claims upon the general government, and the voices of the churches of every name second their appeals.

But it is the success of the plan of African colonization, as seen in the independent republic of Liberia, that most conclusively commends it to national consideration. On that far-distant shore, for ages darkened by superstition and outraged by crime, a community of free colored persons from the United States, aided by American benevolence, have adopted a constitution of free government, and taken their high posi-

tion among the independent States of the world. England and France have acknowledged their right of self-government and their just claim to the respect and comity of nations. What higher motives can be imagined than those which have given existence to this republic?—what work more honorable or more sublime than that to which it is dedicated and destined? Though at present few in numbers and very limited in means, a vast field for action and influence opens before it; and in its constitution and laws, in the spirit of its people, the advantages of its position, and the motives and necessities of those who are hastening to build up their homes and their fortunes under the shadow of its wings, we see the elements of mighty power, of an unbounded growth and prosperity. It has been justly said, that “the great necessity of the world at this moment is a free, civilized, and powerful State within the tropics—a necessity felt through every period of the world’s history, and now about to be realized. The western coast of Africa is in every point of view the most effective position for such a State to occupy. The black race, of which there cannot be much less than 150,000,000 on earth, is pre-eminently the race needing such a development, and prepared for it; and the United States are exactly in a condition to found such a commonwealth with this race, and under circumstances the most glorious to ourselves, the most hopeful to the world, and the most beneficial to the blacks.”* Around the republic of Liberia—the morning star of Africa’s redemption, revealing how great evils may be transmuted by the hand of the Almighty into an in-

*Rev. Dr. Breckenridge.

calculable good; which looks with encouraging and cheering aspect upon the African race in every part of the earth; reconciles the gift of liberty with the highest interests of those who bestow and those who receive it; opens a quarter of the world for many years shut up in barbarism to the genial and renovating influence of letters, laws, commerce and Christianity—are gathered the sympathies of all virtuous and generous minds, allied with its safeguard, the all-encircling and never-slumbering power of an omnipotent Providence. The rapid increase of free persons of color in many of the States of this Union; the importance, for their benefit more than our own, of their organization into a community by themselves, in the land of their ancestors; the immense advantages such a community must secure to itself and extend to others, by developing the resources and turning into legitimate channels the commerce of Africa, by the civilization it must impart, and the moral and political truths it must exemplify and enforce among her ignorant, debased, and chaotic population—all commend the republic of Liberia to the regards of the general government of this Union. Engaged in a work of unsurpassed dignity and importance, the inhabitants of this small republic are accomplishing more good, as I must believe, than any equal number of human beings, in private stations, on the face of the globe. More than to the united endeavors of all Christian nations, with their treaties and armed squadrons against the slave trade, is humanity indebted for its suppression along many hundred miles of the African coast to the people of Liberia. But it should not be concealed, that to explore Africa; to establish commercial intercourse and relations with her in-

terior tribes; to improve and fortify the harbors of the republic; to make needful experiments in agriculture and the arts in a region to which the people from this country have so recently been introduced, and to maintain a wise system of education for all classes of her population, so that its territory shall offer an attractive home to all the free descendants of Africa, demands pecuniary means to which the present revenues of Liberia are unequal. But since this republic, more than any other power, will develop the resources and increase the trade of western Africa, the United States, in aiding her endeavors, will open new markets for American productions, and essentially augment American commerce. Yet far higher and nobler motives than those of gain, will, I trust, incline our national authorities to encourage and assist the citizens of Liberia, a few adventurous but determined children of Africa, gone out from our midst, that they may recover their long-lost inheritance, show their ability to build up civilized cities and states in regions where they have been unknown, and bring a vast continent, now lying in dim eclipse, within the circle and the influences of enlightened Christian nations.

From the presence of our squadron on the African coast, benefits, doubtless, accrue both to Liberia and to our own commerce; but I may be permitted, in the conclusion of this report, to avow the opinion that a recognition by the government of the United States of the independence of the republic of Liberia, and an appropriation of fifty thousand dollars a year for ten years, to enable that republic to carry out the principles of its constitution, for the happiness of those who from this country are seeking a home upon its soil; for the suppression

of the slave trade; and the civilization of Africa; would be in harmony with the character and sentiments of this nation, and give stability, progress, and triumph in liberty and Christianity on the African shore.

I have the honor to be, sir, with the highest consideration and respect, your friend and obedient servant,

R. R. GURLEY.

HON. J. M. CLAYTON,

Secretary of State of the U. S.

Where shall they go?

Extract from a letter from the Rev. Heman Humphrey, D. D., to the N. Y. Observer.

THIS was the great question with the sages of the revolution at the South as well as the North, who looked forward to the early abolition of slavery, in all the States. The great question still is, Where shall they go? Liberty will be no boon to them, unless they can somewhere enjoy those equal rights and privileges which develop the intellectual, social and moral faculties of our common nature. When they are emancipated, they must either remain on the soil, or emigrate to the free States, or have some part of our vacant territory assigned them, like what has been done for the Indians, where they may form a State, and government of their own, or they must find a better home in some foreign land.

Can they remain on the soil? If they do, they must either be interspersed with the white population, or some one or more of the slave States must be relinquished to them, where they may congregate as fast as they are set free. Will the owners of the plantations leave all, and retire to make room for them? Never. Will they even allow them to remain, and do the best they can for themselves, after they are emancipated? What says Kentucky in her new Constitution? The only condition on which she will allow any master to free his slaves is, that he shall send them out of the State. They cannot safely remain free there twenty-four hours. How is it in all the other slave States?

They are barely tolerated, and that reluctantly any where. It would make some difference, no doubt, if there were no slaves left to cultivate the soil. The proprietors might wish to retain some of the emancipated as house servants and field laborers; but would they be free in the proper sense of the term? In social standing, in civil rights and privileges, would they ever be raised to the same level with their former masters?—Would they ever be put upon the bench, or sent to Congress? Would they, under such circumstances, ever rise to their proper manhood? Never—never in the world. No two races, differing in various respects as much as they and we do, ever yet dwelt together in the enjoyment of equal privileges. One will be the masters and the other the servants.

“Well, then, why not let the three millions, or a part of them at least, emigrate to the free States as fast as they shall be emancipated?” Because, in the *first place*, the free States do not want them, and would not let them come. Witness the new Constitution of Illinois. Witness the fate of Mr. Randolph’s liberated slaves, who were mobbed and driven off from their own lands in Ohio. Because, in the *second place*, if they might go to the free States, in any numbers, and settle down where they chose, interspersed as they would be among an overshadowing white population, they could never rise to any thing like an equal social, civil and political standing. They would be mere “hewers

of wood and drawers of water" to the privileged caste.

"Why not then assign them a large and good inheritance by themselves, somewhere within the vast extent of our unoccupied national domain?" This was for some time a favorite project with Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Madison, Mr. Monroe, Mr. King, and other distinguished statesmen of their day; but mature reflection, after carefully looking over the whole ground, satisfied them, that there was no territory within our limits, or beyond our limits, to which the race in question could be removed, and where they and their posterity would be secure from the encroachments of our branch of the great Caucasian race, the most restless and enterprising of all the races. Since that time, great additions have been made to our national territory by purchase and conquest; but is the prospect any better? Most unhappily the area of slavery has in this way been greatly extended; but where, between the two oceans, would the *three millions* of slaves, or half the number, be permitted to settle down quietly together, if they could be emancipated at once, or by a gradual process? Texas may have room enough, but would she receive them? Would Congress give them California, or New Mexico, or a space somewhere between the present outposts of civilization and the Rocky Mountains? And if there was no objection from any quarter, what enlightened philanthropist would advise our colored brethren to settle down upon any spot where they would be certain to be hemmed in and overshadowed by us, provided they can find a better inheritance, where they will be exposed to no such intrusion.

Does somebody propose *Upper Canada*? There is certainly room enough between the Lakes and the

North Pole; but what right have we to it? and the climate is so entirely unsuited to the black race, that I cannot see how any well informed man who wishes the three millions among us, to grow up into a great and powerful Christian republic, could advise them to accept such a location from the British crown, if it were tendered to them as a gift.

Is there any other country or place, then, to which our numerous colored population can emigrate, under better auspices, and as fast as they be released from the house of bondage? I think there is. When a child is stolen and carried into captivity, if in process of time he can be released, we say he ought to be sent back to his kindred and friends, and neither be compelled nor advised to go somewhere else to enjoy his liberty. Though "God hath made of one blood all the nations that dwell upon the face of the earth," he hath appointed the bounds of their habitation, in different climates; some amid arctic snows, some in the temperate zones, and some under "the burning line;" and he has given them physical constitutions adapted to their several locations. The torrid zone is the natural home of the black man. God gave the continent of Africa, the greater part of which lies within that zone, to the children of Ham; and in the order of nature, other things being equal, the fullest developments of their capabilities are to be looked for there, rather than in our own or any other climate. The slaves in this country are all of African descent. Their fathers, not long ago, were stolen and brought over to this country. Their children, whether bond or free, do not belong here. Africa, and not America, is their home.

Now, if there is room enough for them in Africa: if there is good

ground to believe that they would be better off there than they can ever hope to be here; and if ways and means can be found for sending them back, as fast as they shall be emancipated, why should we look any farther? Had our fathers and mothers been stolen and enslaved in a foreign land, where, if emancipated, we could never be "free indeed," what would be so natural as a desire to return to the paternal inheritance, and what kindness be so gratefully remembered as that which should aid us to return.

Is there room, then, in the fatherland, to receive *three millions* of children returning from the house of bondage? Who that knows any thing of the ravages of the slave-trade for two hundred years, can doubt it? The sweeping off of thirty or forty millions into returnless captivity, has all but depopulated vast regions, and left room enough for thrice three millions to return.—Nobody who has taken the pains to inform himself on the subject, can doubt for a moment that there is territory enough to be had on the Western coast of Africa, to receive all our slaves, as fast as they could be freed and sent over, by any arrangement which the purest philanthropy could devise.

But would they and their posterity be any better off in Africa than in America? A full answer to this question would require more room than the largest indulgence could afford for a whole letter. What is the condition of the *free* blacks in this country, and what are their prospects? And remaining here, would that of the *slaves* be any better after being emancipated? It is easy to say that it would, but infinitely difficult to show it. They would, after all, be three or four thousand miles from home, breathing a tainted atmosphere. Though no longer under

the hand of task-masters, they would still be in Egypt—no matter whether in upper or lower Egypt—whether above the cataracts or by the sea—it would be Egypt still, and not their father-land. Let them return as the Hebrews did, after four hundred years of hard bondage; and what would be their condition? Just look at Liberia, a nation born as it were in a day—a free and independent republic of black men, acknowledged as such by the great powers of Europe; with her President, and Senate, and House of Representatives, her Courts of Justice, her schools, her churches, her ministers, her Sabbaths, her growing social, intellectual, moral and industrial prosperity. There she stands, looking out upon the broad Atlantic, exciting the admiration of all who visit her rising capital; breaking up the barracoons and beating off the slavers from the four hundred miles of her sea-board. What should hinder Liberia from "stretching forth the curtains of her habitation," far beyond her present limits on the coast, and still farther towards the centre of benighted Africa? What young colony in the world more likely to spread, and grow, and become a great and powerful Christian republic? And what shall hinder her brethren of the same race and color from going over from America, and sharing with her in all her privileges; or if they prefer it, founding other Christian republics on the same model? She invites them; she stretches out her arms to receive them. "Come by hundreds, come by thousands," she cries, "and be *men*, as you can never be till you touch these shores. You may be emancipated, you may take your free papers, and wander up and down the land where you have been slaves, but you can never enjoy equal rights and privileges there. Come over as fast as

you can. Cast in your lot with us, and we will do you good."

There is room enough for all our colored population in Western Africa. They have a right to it, as it belongs to their stolen and expatriated fathers, and has never been relinquished. The only question is, how can such a multitude as now blacken our soil, ever find their way back? It has been a thousand times declared "that they cannot; that however desirable it might be, their transportation to Africa is impossible. We have neither the money nor the ships to do it." I do not suppose it could be done in one year, nor in five years. But if I can gain a hearing, Messrs. Editors, through your journal, or any other, I pledge myself to demonstrate, that under a system of gradual emancipation perfectly feasible and safe, the work can be accomplished. If our colored brethren, free and bond, were *four* millions instead of *three*, they might all be

sent home in a few years. I am aware it is said they will never consent to go; but I do not believe it. It will not be possible to keep them blinded to their own highest interests. I expect to see a tide of voluntary emigration from our shores to Africa, like the tide which is rolling in upon us from Europe. No—I am probably too old for that; but my children will see it. God be thanked, that I have been allowed to do a little to help forward the cause of African Colonization; a cause which I firmly believe, will be looked back upon fifty years hence, as one of the greatest, if not the very greatest, benevolent enterprize of the nineteenth century; and if for any thing I could wish to have "the sun go back fifteen degrees upon the dial," it would be that I might do much more than I have done to forward this glorious enterprize of humanity and Christian benevolence.

Character of the Emigrants by the Liberia Packet.

THE Maryland Colonization Journal, gives the following account of the emigrants who sailed in the Packet on the 21st December last:

A very great proportion of all the emigrants were adults, nearly four to one—and a majority of them males. We believe most of them were free, and went entirely of their own accord, influenced only by reports of their friends in Liberia. We have seldom seen a company of emigrants of so much promise; several of them now go out for the second and third time, having returned to this country for their families and friends.—Among them is Mr. Cassell, now holding the office of Judge of the Court of Quarter Sessions at Cape Palmas. He first emigrated in 1833, and was one of the founders of Ma-

ryland in Liberia. After a residence of six or eight months, he concluded that he could do better in Baltimore. He returned and practised his profession as a barber. But he had tasted freedom, and could not endure to be *niggered* again, so, in 1848, he abandoned his trade, which had become lucrative, and returned to Cape Palmas. His family now go out with him. Stephen Smith, from St. Mary's, also returns for the third and last time—having visited the State in the vain hope of inducing the owner of one or two of his children to give them up. Thos. Brown, another citizen of Cape Palmas, visited the Eastern Shore, with a view of persuading his old friends to accompany him to his new home; but to use his own language, "there warn't none of 'em there, Sir; they

was all dead, or run'd away, or sold to Georgia, Sir." Paul Smith, a cripple, who found it hard getting along in Liberia, came back to live with his old master; but on the sailing of the Packet, he appeared for his passage. Well, Smith, why did'nt you stay? did you find things changed down in old Anne Arundel? "No, Sir; but I found I'se changed myself. I don't want to stay here no how, Sir." The last returned convict was Rachel Hughes, a woman of some fifty years of age, set free by the Rev. Mr. Goodwin, of Charles Co., some years since, to go to Liberia. She would then emigrate only under the promise to be brought back in two years, if she desired it. At the end of two years, she demanded her passage *home*, as she termed it, and returned to her master. Not one year, however, elapsed

before she begs for the freedom of her children, or all that are willing to accompany her, and to go again to Liberia. This is readily granted,—and she takes the only willing one, a daughter of twelve years old, and for the last time, as she says, goes to Cape Palmas. We report these individual instances of emigrants voluntarily returning to Liberia, not because they are rare, but to put them on record for reference; and we will also repeat here, what we have often said before, and which is worth all other arguments in favor of African Colonization, viz: That no instance can be adduced of a citizen leaving Cape Palmas, or we will venture to say Liberia, and permanently locating himself in the United States after having resided in Africa for two years.

Discovery of Lake Ngami and River Zonga,

By Rev. David Livingston and his Companions.

July 4th and August 1st, 1849.

THE Missions at the Cape of Good Hope, began 1794 by Dr. Vanderkey, gradually extended until in 1832, when Rev. John Campbell visited the Missions as agent of the London Missionary Society. He proceeded as far north as Latakoo, some 600 miles from Capetown.

A Missionary station was formed near Latakoo, called Kurruman, from a fountain found there: in this place Rev. Mr. Moffitt lived and labored a long time. Stimulated by the facts developed in his work, other laborers entered that interesting field, among whom was Rev. David Livingston, of Scotland, who established a station called Kolo-berry, two hundred miles N. E. of Kurruman, in lat. 25° S., lon. 25° E. West and Northwest and North of this station extended a vast desert, cutting off access to the tribes be-

yond, of whom accounts were from time to time received, indicating that they were numerous and populous.

It was also stated that an extensive lake existed there, the accounts of which, from many sources, enabled Captain Owen to locate it at the very place where now it has been discovered. The following account of it, taken from the London Missionary Magazine, March, 1850, will be found interesting. Mr. Livingston's companions, Messrs. Oswell and Murray, seem to have had no other object than love of discovery, but were of invaluable service on the tour.

—
Letter from the Rev. David Livingston, addressed to the Rev. Arthur Tidman, Foreign Secretary, London Missionary Society.

"BANKS OF THE RIVER ZONGA,

September 3, 1849.

"DEAR SIR:—I left my station, Kolobeng, (situated 25° south lat. 26° east long.) on the 1st of June last, to open a new field in the north, by penetrating the great obstacle to our progress, called the Desert, which, stretching away on our west, northwest, and north, has hitherto presented an insurmountable barrier to Europeans.

"Two gentlemen, to whom I had communicated my intention of proceeding to the oft-reported lake beyond the Desert, came from England for the express purpose of being present at the discovery; and to their liberal and zealous co-operation we are especially indebted for the success with which that and other objects have been accomplished.

"Through the good providence of God, after travelling about *three hundred miles* from Kolenbeng, we struck on a magnificent river on the 4th of July, and without further difficulty, in so far as water was concerned, by winding along its banks nearly *three hundred miles more*, we reached the Batavana, on the lake Ngami, by the beginning of August.

"The Bakoba or Bayeilye inhabit its Banks. They are totally a distinct race from the Bechuanas, They call themselves Bayeilye (or men,) while the term Bakoba (the name has somewhat of the meaning of 'slaves,') is applied to them by the Bechuanas. Their complexion is darker than that of the Bechuanas; and of three hundred words I collected of their language, only twenty-one bear any resemblance to Bitchuana. They paddle along the rivers and lake in canoes hollowed out of the trunks of single trees; take fish in nets made of a weed which abounds on the banks; and

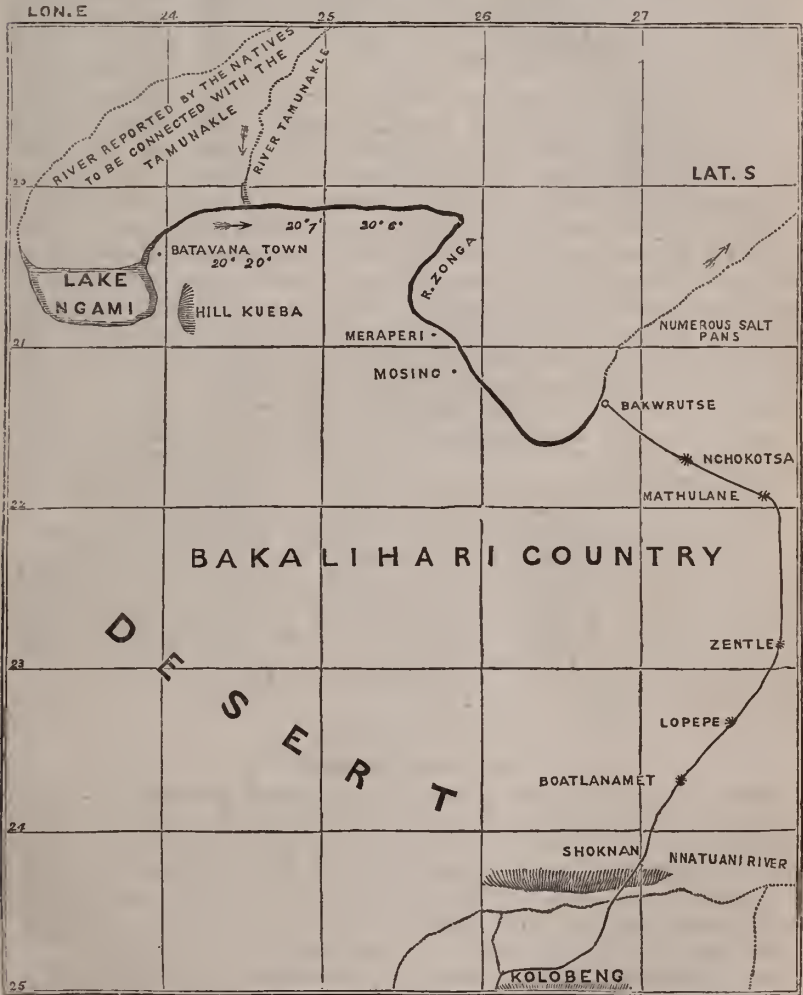
kill hippopotami with harpoons attached to ropes. We greatly admired the frank, manly bearing of those inland sailors. Many of them spoke Bitchuana fluently, and while the wagon went along the bank, I greatly enjoyed following the windings of the river in one of their primitive craft, and visiting their little villages among the reeds. The banks are beautiful beyond any we had ever seen, except perhaps some parts of the Clyde. They are covered, in general, with gigantic trees, some of them bearing fruit, and quite new. Two of the Baobab variety measured seventy to seventy-six feet in circumference. The higher we ascended the river the broader it became, until we often saw more than one hundred yards of clear deep water between the broad belt of reed which grows in the shallower parts. The water was clear as crystal, and as we approached the point of junction with other large rivers reported to exist in the north, it was quite soft and cold. The fact that the Zonga is connected with large rivers coming from the north, awakens emotions in my mind which make the discovery of the lake dwindle out of sight. It opens the prospect of a highway, capable of being quickly traversed by boats, to a large section of well-peopled territory.

"One remarkable feature in this river is, its periodical rise and fall. It has risen nearly three feet in height since our arrival, and this is the dry season. That *the rise is not caused by rains* is evident from the water being so pure. Its purity and softness increased as we ascended towards its junction with the Tamunakle, from which, although connected with the lake, it derives the present increased supply. The sharpness of the air caused an amazing keenness of appetite, at

an elevation of a little more than two thousand feet above the level of the sea, (water boiled at 207½ deg. thermometer,) and the reports of the Bayeiye, that the waters came

from a mountainous region, suggested the conclusion that the increase of the water at the beginning and middle of the dry season must be derived from melting snow.

Map of Rev. David Livingston's Journey, and the Lake and River discovered.



“All the rivers reported, to the north of this, have Bayeiye upon them, and there other tribes on their banks. To one of these, after vis-

iting the Batavana, and taking a peep at the broad part of the lake, we directed our course. But the Batavana chief managed to obstruct

* Stars indicate water stations. . . . Dots the reported rivers and other courses.

us, by keeping all Bayeiye near the ford on the opposite banks of the Zonga. I endeavored to construct a raft, at a part which was only fifty or sixty yards wide; but the wood, though sun-dried, was so heavy it sunk immediately; another kind would not bear my weight, although a considerable portion of my person was under water.

"The Bayeiye or Bakoba listened to the statements made from the Divine Word with great attention; and, if I am not mistaken, seemed to understand the message of mercy delivered better than any people to whom I have preached for the first time. They have invariably a great many charms in the villages; stated the name of God in their language (without the least hesitation) to be 'Oreeja;' mentioned the name of the first man and woman, and some traditionary statements respecting the flood.

"With the periodical flow of the rivers great shoals of fish descend.

"The sketch, which I enclose, is intended to convey an idea of the river Zonga and the lake Ngami. The name of the latter is pronounced as if written with the Spanish N, the g being inserted to show that the ringing sound is required. The mean-

ing is 'Great Water,' The latitude taken by a sextant on which I can fully depend, was twenty degrees twenty minutes south at the north-east extremity, where it is joined by the Zonga; longitude, about twenty-four degrees east. We left our wagon near the Batavana town, and rode on horseback about six miles beyond, to the broad part. It gradually widens out into a frith, about fifteen miles across, as you go south from the town; and in the south-south-west, presents a large horizon of water. It is reported to be about seventy miles in length, bends round to the north-west, and there receives another river similar to the Zonga.

"The breadth marked is intended to show the difference between the size of the Zonga, after its junction with the Tamunakle, and before it. The further it runs east, the narrower it becomes. The course is shown by the arrow-heads. The rivers not seen, but reported by natives, are put down in dotted lines.

(Signed) DAVID LIVINGSTON."

By a postscript, dated Kolobeng, 14th October, we are happy to learn that Mr. Livingston reached home on the 10th of that month, in health and safety.

Religious Intelligence.

WEST AFRICA.—Accounts of a very interesting character have lately been received from West Africa. Rev. George Thompson has penetrated into the interior, about 200 miles, [300 following the course of river], where the people had never before seen a white man. Mr. T. was sent out to West Africa, about two years ago, by the American Missionary Association, as successor to Rev. William Raymond, who accompanied the Amistad Africans to their native country. He was stationed at

a place called Kaw-Mendi, on the Little Boom river, about 100 miles south of Sierra Leone, and 50 miles from the coast, this being as near the Mendi country as the missionaries could reach, owing to the wars then prevailing in that region.

His efforts to instruct and benefit the people were greatly hindered by the war which was raging among the different tribes in the Sherbro country, and which extended far back into the Mendi country. This war had prevailed several years. The

consequence was, that several towns were quite depopulated, the cultivation of the soil was almost abandoned, the people suffered sorely from famine, and multitudes were carried to the coast and sold into slavery. The women and children were often obliged to go out in search of berries and fruits, to keep themselves from starving.

Things went on this way for more than a year after Mr. Thompson's arrival, the war raging all around the mission. Meanwhile he had been gaining the confidence of the chiefs and people on both sides.—Mr. Raymond, his predecessor, who labored there some five or six years, had done much to promote a friendly feeling among the natives. This has always been made a prominent object with the mission, because these wars are the great means of perpetuating the traffic in slaves.—In fact, to suppress war in Africa is to suppress the slave trade. During the whole time, the mission premises had been considered as neutral ground, it being well understood, that the missionary there was a man of peace, and preached a Gospel which forbade war and enjoined of all men to love one another.

At length Mr. Thompson assembled a large number of the chiefs and principal men at the mission house, and spent several days in hearing their causes of complaint, and endeavoring to reconcile them to one another. They were all heartily tired of the war, but neither party was inclined to make such concession. However, by dint of arguments, persuasions and presents, he succeeded in bringing them round, so that they concluded on terms of peace. This was a most joyful event to a people who had endured all the horrors of savage warfare for nearly nine years.

But as there were other tribes at

a distance, who were concerned in this war, Mr. Thompson found that to secure the advantage already gained, and ensure a general and permanent peace, it would be necessary for him to visit them.

On the 13th of March last, he started on this benevolent errand, taking with him Thomas Bunyan, his interpreter [a native Mendian], and five others. They made their way in a canoe up to the Little Boom. After following it for some time, they entered a fine large river, as wide as the Ohio or Mississippi. This noble stream is called, in distinction from its tributary, the Big Boom. They followed it as far as Tissana, a large walled town at the head of navigation. Here he was met by Braw, the principal chief on that side of the war. This chief had heard of the Christian religion through Bunyan, and, some years before, had visited the mission at Kaw-Mendi. He had long desired to have a teacher come to his country, and was overjoyed when he heard of Mr. Thompson's arrival.—The account of their first interview is so interesting that we must give it in his own words. Mr. T. says:

“On the wide sand beach he came down to meet me, and as he approached, I could hear him exclaim, ‘O, Ga-waw! O, Fe-a-ra Gawaw! Fears Gawaw! Fears, fears, fears Gawaw!’ which is, ‘O, thank God, Thank God! Thank, thank, thank God! He repeated it many times as we met, and embraced me with all the warmth of a long absent father. The scene was touching to my heart. The town was full of joy on my arrival; every face beamed with gladness; and from all the country round, where the tidings flew as on the wings of the wind, they flocked to Tissana to get a view of the white man. For days I could do little else but content my-

self to be put up to public gaze, shake hands from morning till night, and hear their exclamations of wonder, and their thanks for my coming to their country to teach them."

After a few days spent at Tissana, during which, at Braw's earnest request, Mr. Thompson entered into an agreement to establish a mission there, he started, accompanied by this friendly chief, to visit the tribes on the other side. He passed through great dangers and hardships, from which his health suffered severely; but after spending about two months among them, he had the happiness of seeing his labors crowned with success. Peace was established; great were the rejoicings among chiefs and people. Under date of April 8th, he says:

"From day to day, I witness thrilling scenes; warriors meeting and falling on each other's necks; chiefs, who have for years been enemies, now shaking hands and embracing with the affection of long separated friends; sisters, wives, daughters, long captive, falling into each other's arms with great emotion, sinking on the ground, weeping long and loud before they can be quieted. Now a chief's daughter is seen running to embrace her father's feet, refusing to be torn from her hold; then a wife returns to embrace her husband and children; while the whole town join in the cry of rejoicing. To witness such scenes, day after day, who could help shouting? I will rejoice with them and praise the Lord."

They told Mr. Thompson that no one but a white man could have brought about this peace; and said they had long been praying that God would send a white man to stop the war. Mr. T. says:

"About one o'clock, we met in the Barre [Palaver house] again, and two more interesting, enthu-

siastic, spirited, good-natured peace meetings I never attended. The 'king's mouth' made a long speech, and thanked me very much—could not thank me enough—spoke again of the feeling which had long existed among them, that no colored man could stop the war—that unless a white man should come to hold it, it could never be stopped; but God had sent a white man, and they could not deny his word; and added, 'We do not know how to express our joy and thankfulness at your coming.'"

While thus engaged, Mr. Thompson lost no opportunity of unfolding to them the great truths of the Gospel. He found everywhere a readiness to listen. Their hearts seemed in a wonderful manner prepared to receive the truth; they welcomed him as the ambassador of Heaven, and, when he left, begged earnestly that he would send them teachers.

Here, then, is an inviting field all ready for harvest. Mr. Thompson writes:

"They welcome the Gospel as glad news—as the thing they need. They call for schools and teachers. *Shall they have them?* The impression is strong in favor of white men coming among them. Missionaries and teachers would be received with open arms and shouts of joy. There is an undoubted call of God to plant the Gospel in this country. Shall it be heeded?

"Young men and women, what say you? Young ministers, doctors, mechanics, what do you answer? Come not to make money, get a name, see the world; but to do good, to teach and exemplify the Gospel. Besides ministers and teachers, we want carpenters, weavers, cotton growers, sugar-makers, &c., who will do all these things only for God and souls."

In the eagerness of this interest-

ing people for religious instruction, we are forcibly reminded of the promise, "Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands to God." They do

indeed seem to be stretching out their hands to God, and he is saying, "Whom shall we send, and who will go for us?"

[For the Repository.]

Prospects in Illinois.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.,
December 18, 1850.

Rev. WM. McLAIN:

My dear Sir: Although you have heard but little at your office, perhaps, from our State, upon the subject of Colonization, you must not infer that nothing is doing. On the contrary, never, we have good ground for believing, was there a time when there was more doing *practically* in the glorious enterprise of colonization, in our community.

Opposition has nearly ceased, and many who a few years ago were uncompromising in their hostility to the Colonization Society, and looked upon Liberia as a dark spot upon the map of Africa, have changed their ground, and now admit that Colonization furnishes the only practical scheme for elevating the colored man to his proper level, and that Liberia is not only the nucleus of a vast trading mart, and the germ of a mighty maritime power, but that it is the focal point from which the light of science and religion, will be reflected upon the ignorant and barbarous tribes of Africa.

Little or nothing is doing, it is true, in collecting funds for the Society. But this arises only from the fact that we have no *collecting agent* in the field. The people were never more willing, as they were never so able, to give as now.

But the most interesting piece of intelligence that I have to communicate, is the fact, that an earnest movement is on foot among the colored people themselves, to form a large company, composed of such only as will be able to pay their own passage to Liberia, and who will colonize together, and lay the foundation of an "Illinois in Africa."— This is truly a noble and patriotic movement upon the part of our colored brethren. And as they are about taking measures to memorialize the general assembly of our State, at its approaching session, praying for assistance, not to get to Liberia, but to enable them to open their farms and build their cabins *after* they get there, we hope that they will meet with the encouragement and assistance they so richly deserve. Such assistance extended to her colored citizens would be peculiarly appropriate, and would be exceedingly beautiful in a moral point of view, on the part of our State, which has been so generously dealt by, in the large donations made to her from the domain of the General Government, at the last session of Congress

D. J. SNOW,

Secretary
Ind. State Col. Society.

An example for Abolitionists.

ON board the Liberia Packet was a smart, healthy boy, who was set free to go to Liberia, and for whom his mistress, a lady who keeps a

boarding house for a livelihood, and who, we are warranted in saying, is far from rich, was offered six hundred and fifty dollars in cash.

[From the Maine Farmer.]

Republic of Liberia.

WE wonder if our model republic, the United States of America, are going to acknowledge the independence of the Republic of Liberia. It has been done by France and England—are we to do “that same,” or are the complexions of the people in the sister republic so dark that we must keep *shady* too?

We anticipate great benefit will accrue on account of this people of Liberia, not only to Africa, but to our own country too, if our movements toward them be dictated by justice and sound policy.

Africa will become more and more civilized, and by means of the republic having so large a part of the western coast under its control, the doors will be opened to the interior of that hitherto unexplored country. Commerce will or may increase with them, and exchanges of the products and manufactures of the two nations be carried on with reciprocal good will and profit.

From the last advices, their government is progressing full as correctly, in a business point of view, and a vast deal more harmoniously in their social relations, than in our own “model,” from which they emanated.

A letter written from Monrovia

in January last, and published in the African Repository, states that the session of their Legislature had closed after twenty-nine days session. Much had been accomplished, and with as much ability as is shown in most of the State Legislatures of your own favored land.

Thirty-six bills and resolutions had been passed, some of them of very great importance. The writer makes the following remarks: “As the good people of the United States have started us upon our national career, I hope they will before long, extend to us, as a nation, the right hand of friendship, and recognize us as a part of the great family of nations. They need not be ashamed of us in that relationship, for we have had added to the evidences that Republican Government is promotive of peace and prosperity.”

Another letter states that the Europeans are anxious to establish trading connections with the inhabitants. Two German houses are about to open a large mercantile establishment at Monrovia, and a Bristol (England) house is arranging matters for the same purpose.—The Yankees would do well to be looking that way too.

[From the Daily Evening Traveller.]

American Rum in Africa.

AN American gentleman in West Africa thus writes, under a recent date:—“American rum has done this people ten thousand times more injury than French guns. For the last five months the people have been literally flooded with rum.—Madness has reigned, and pandemoniums have met us at every turn. Men who had not drank for years

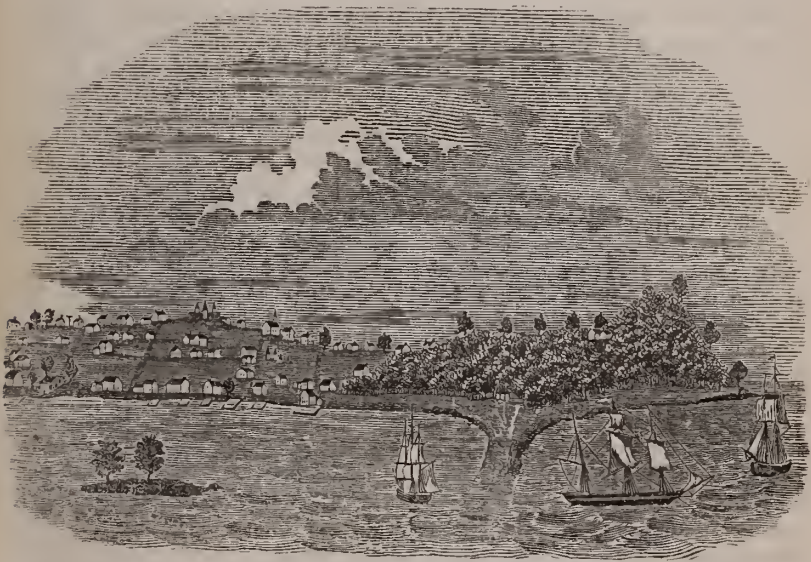
are now not only habitual but continual drunkards. And more than all, a renegade white man, having possessed himself of a quantity of goods, has settled down here, a burning curse among the people, shaming the worst of the heathen by wallowing deeper in filth than they ever dreamed of, rendering intoxication more maddening, impie-

ty more impious, depravity more depraved, and vileness more vile.—Heathenism here is the very blackness of darkness; and it is no improvement to have the lurid glare of civilized villany rendering that darkness visible.”

Well does an indignant commentator on such facts remark:—“How long must Christian missionaries meet among the heathen influences from Christian lands, so opposed to all their efforts, so blighting to their most cherished hopes, and so trying to their feelings. Do not African

heathenism, ignorance, degradation and depravity, strengthened in their opposition to the truth by the remembrance of all past wrongs inflicted on Africa by Christian nations, present obstacles enough to the success of missionary efforts?—Must the Christian laborer, seeking Africa’s redemption, be still doomed to met the influence of New England rum, and of men from Christian lands more abandoned and depraved than even the most abandoned of the natives.”

View of Monrovia.



THE above View of Monrovia, presents a pretty correct appearance of the seat of Government of the Republic of Liberia, as seen from the mouth of the Mesurado river, distant about half a mile. The position of the houses, with reference to one another, and to Cape Mesur-

ado, (the highest point of which is about three-fourths of a mile west of the central part of the town,) is well represented—also the appearance of the Cape, the greater part of which is still covered with a dense forest. The principal part of the town being located beyond the brow

of the hill here represented, of course most of the houses do not appear in this view. The most objectionable parts of this view are, the position of the little island, (Perseverance Island, on which the first settlement was made, in 1821,) and the too great blending of the waters of the ocean with those of the Mesurado river: the island is situated in the Mesurado river, about one-third of a mile from its mouth, and within a

stone's throw of the main land, or southern bank of the river. A greater number of trees (orange, lime, guava, mango, papaw, sour-sop, &c.,) should have been represented among the houses—presenting a more romantic and tropical appearance.

For a fuller description of Monrovia, the reader is referred to Sketches of Liberia, No. 2, in the Repository for July, 1850.

The Ebony Line.

WHATEVER may be the difference of opinion, says the *Providence Journal*, in regard to the merits and claims of the projected "Ebony Line" of steamships between this country and Liberia, whether the plan be one of real benevolence or only of individual speculation, it is certain that the progress of African colonization is one of the most interesting events of the age, and that the Republic of Liberia is entitled to the good wishes of every friend of civilization, especially of every citizen of the United States. There is no precedent of colonial importance and prosperity so rapidly acquired, and under such difficulties and impediments. There has been no colonial enterprize so full of the promise of high results to the happiness of a great portion of the human race. What diplomacy, and treaties, and navies have failed to accomplish, the peaceful influence of commerce will speedily and inevitably effect, carrying with it not the violence and bloodshed which attend all forcible measures for objects however good in themselves, but a thousand blessings in its train.—*N. O. Crescent.*

This is taking a just and an ele-

vated view of a subject that, sooner or later, must command the attention of Congress and of the country,—and the sooner the better. Statesmen may deliberate—cynics denounce—factionists misrepresent—but after all the great fact remains unshaken and unsullied—that *the only way to promote the welfare of the colored race, and the peace and perpetuity of our Country, is to make Liberia on the Western Coast of Africa attractive to the emigrant from this country by means of a regular Commercial intercourse with the United States, and by giving to the colored race in that region the advantage of association with those of their own blood who are their intellectual superiors.* A child must see that however the question is mystified in other respects, in this respect it assumes shape and substance, and compels all to admit its great weight and importance.

As at present instituted in this country, suppose the South were to say to the North to-morrow, "we are ready to abolish slavery, and only await your consent." This would present a practical question. But the result would be a sad commen-

tary upon the infamous clamor of the agitators in the free States, who have induced so many honest people to believe that slavery should be abolished without regard to consequences. Men of all classes would pause and ponder upon the question submitted for their decision. They would see themselves surrounded by a free black population of a most burdensome and constantly increasing character—the elements of expense to the whites and the instruments of tumult and excitement. They would see that as no more blacks can be sent into several of the free States of the West, the manumitted slaves of the South would be certain to pour into all those States where no such obstacles existed,—thus adding new thousands to an already unfortunate and luckless portion of their population. Free Soil Ohio is about to shut out any more of this class from coming into her borders. Illinois has done so; and Indiana will do so in a very few days. Self-protection is the first law of nature; and the very men who have done so much to avow sympathy for the colored race, will aid in passing laws to keep them out of the middle and western States. And should ever the South leave to the North the subject of the unconditional abolition of slavery, the North would cry out, with all her power, and with an acclaim that would drown all other opinions—

“No! no! we are not willing to receive into our midst the thousands you will thus set free ONLY THAT THEY MAY ENSLAVE US!”

But even if this alternative is never offered by the South, our present free colored population is an alarming subject for the statesman and the patriot to dwell upon. Long ago, Mr. JEFFERSON saw what the Future would produce in reference to it; and Mr. MONROE and Mr. MADISON both gave it serious reflection. All of these sages pointed to the plan, though not in distinct terms, now sought to be carried out by the projectors of the line of steamers between this country and the West Coast of Africa, for the purpose of affording a safe and easy access to those regions, of the free colored population, and to establish between the two Republics those bonds of commercial affinity and intercourse which are so essentially the handmaids of Civilization, of Christianity, and of Freedom.

Another view of this question strengthens it amazingly; and that is that never before was the necessity for some action in regard to the free colored people, more earnestly felt than at the present moment. The defiance of the law of Congress by men of color, and those who fraternize with, and encourage them, shows what fanaticism may lead to, and foreshadows a future full of danger.—*Pennsylvanian*.

Steamers and Colonization.

Extract from a letter from the Hon. George Poindexter to Geo. Nicholas Sanders, Esq.

The purpose to which yourself and your associates contemplate applying the ocean steamers which you design constructing, with the aid of the Government, is alike

supported by sound policy, humanity, and general philanthropy towards the whole race of man. To transfer and restore to the shores of Africa her population forcibly abducted to fill the measure of avarice of their captors, to which end they were transferred to the dependencies of

England, and among others to our own country, would be a consummation which could not fail to fill the heart of every real patriot with pride and pleasure, and thereby add another bright link to the chain which encircles the glory of the American name.

An original wrong fastened upon our country without our consent, and against our will, by the Government of England to which we then owed allegiance, may be by these means converted into a blessing to the country from which the African race among us were forcibly taken.

The free colored population within the several States is to a very great extent a class separated from the society of the whites; and as to all political power and freedom of intercourse with the people among whom they live, they may be considered a degraded race. The removal of persons thus situated to the western coast of Africa would at once elevate them to their proper rank among their fellow beings. It would open to them a wide field for the exercise and diffusion of that knowledge of Government, of the Christian Religion, and of the refinements of civilized life, which they had acquired by their residence among us, and thus contribute to redeem the inhabitants of their parent country from the savage state, which for centuries has rendered the African people subject to be bought and sold into slavery, even by their own countrymen; and as such, transferred as laborers, they and their posterity, into all the countries of the world where such labor could be profitably employed. We have

taught them the value of labor, which is the first step in advance from the savage to the civilized state; we have taught them the use of all the implements of agricultural industry; we have taught them in a degree the mechanic arts; and with all these advantages, we propose to transfer them, at a very small expense, to their native country, when they will have presented to them the glorious opportunity of imparting the benefits of this fund of useful knowledge to their benighted countrymen, and thereby subject the forest to the hand of the axeman, the soil to the plough, the hoe, and the harrow; and thus redeem the wilds of Africa from savage wastes, and convert them into thriving villages and cultivated fields, inhabited by a regenerated people, who owe their intelligence and their practical virtues to a portion of their own countrymen, who have been sent back by the benevolence of this free country, from a state of involuntary servitude into which their ancestors were thrown centuries past.

The accomplishment of a design so full of benevolence, humanity, and sound policy, would constitute, in my judgment, the brightest page in the history of our beloved country. It is surely worth the experiment which you and your associates propose to make in conjunction with the foreign mail operations of the United States. I consider the expenditure of money required from the Government in putting this system into operation, as the smallest consideration connected with it, compared with the benefits which may be expected to result from it.

The Republic of Liberia.

THE following letter from an officer in the United States squadron on the coast of Africa, to a friend in Boston, gives some in-

teresting facts in relation to the growing Republic of Liberia, which are worthy of general perusal:

My last letter was from Porto Praya, whence we sailed on the 11th ult., for the Coast of Africa. On the morning of the 20th we made Cape Mount, and a few hours afterwards we came to anchor in Mesurado Roads, where we saluted the flag of the Liberia Republic with twenty-one guns, which were promptly returned from the battery on shore. The next day the Commodore, accompanied by several officers, including myself, visited the shore, and paid our respects to His Excellency the President. We were all much pleased with our interview, and after spending an agreeable hour, and partaking of a handsome collation, we took our departure, favorably impressed with the character of the first Chief Magistrate of the young Republic. President Roberts is evidently the man for his position, possessing, as he does, much dignity of character, with a perfect knowledge of the resources and necessities of his country, and lending the best energies of his active and intelligent mind to promote its interests and respectability.

He had just returned from a visit to Europe, where he was received and treated with much distinction, and succeeded in procuring the recognition of Liberian independence by the governments of France and England. With the latter power he formed a treaty of amity and commerce, and as an act of policy or good will, was sent out in a public ship, the frigate *Amazon*, Captain Trowbridge. The British government likewise presented President Roberts with a small armed vessel for public service. At the time of our visit, the treaty with England had not been laid before the Senate, and I was unable to obtain a copy. I understand, however, that on the part of England it is most liberal, not only acknowledging the jurisdiction of the Republic over all the territory now claimed—say from Little Cape Mount on the North, to its junction with the Maryland Colony of Cape Palmas on the South—but desirous that it should extend its limits northward to Sherbro.

What can be the object of this new-born zeal of the British Government for the Republic of Liberia it is difficult to tell. Yet, when viewed in connexion with the past course of its agents, it is hardly uncharitable to doubt its disinterestedness, it being notorious that the action of the British authorities in refusing to acknowledge the laws of the Colony did more than anything else to impair its usefulness, and ultimately forced it to assume its present independent position. If England thinks

that, by extending its political jurisdiction, elevating the character and strengthening the influence of Liberia, she is materially aiding in suppressing the slave-trade, she thinks right. In my own mind, the best and only sure method of suppressing the disgraceful traffic is, by planting and fostering such establishments as the American Colonies. I believe it is capable of demonstration, that since the formation of the American Colonization Society, the real, practical effects of its very limited instrumentalities in putting down the slave-trade, have been greater than those of the British government for the same purpose, with an expenditure of not less than a hundred millions sterling. From Cape Mount on the north, to Cavally on the south—a part of the coast once, and recently too, notorious only for the extent of this nefarious traffic—the soil is now unpolluted by the slave dealer. Where once stood the barracoon, to receive the coffles of slaves, now stands a temple dedicated to the living God; and where once were heard only the lamentations and wail of the victim of wrong and oppression, is now heard the voice of praise and thanksgiving, ascending to the common God and Father of all, from a free, independent, and happy people.

I am aware that there are many persons in the United States, and especially in New England, who view the Colonization scheme as visionary, if not in fact prejudicial to the interests of the slave and the cause of humanity, and who consequently regard it, some with indifference, and others with determined and inveterate hostility. I feel assured that if such persons could but realize a tittle of the good which this noble, yet unpretending institution has accomplished and is accomplishing, their opposition would cease, and they must from their hearts wish the cause God speed. I have not the slightest doubt that, for every slave that abolitionism has rescued from bondage Colonization has prevented the enslavement of thousands. The vast importance of the Colonization agency in suppressing the slave traffic is too manifest to doubt. Within the Colonial jurisdiction, embracing an extent of three hundred miles of coast, not a slave is exported, the preventive measures being the moral influence of the settlers and their wholesome laws, with the casual visits of foreign vessels of war; while upon the same extent of territory between Popo and Calabar, the annual shipmaets are believed to exceed fifty thousand, and made, too, in the very teeth of full one-half of the British African squadron, including

several fine steamships, concentrated in the Bights of Benin and Biafra.

But to return. I repeat, if such views were entertained by the British government, they should have been sooner evidenced; at a period when her aid would have been more important, and her motives more easily comprehended. I believe I am not uncharitable in asking whether the history of the past and the action of the present does not induce the belief that England, aware that the peculiar sentiments of a large portion of our people are such as will bar the recognition of Liberia as a Republic by our national government, takes the lead in doing so, and by an ostentatious display of interest or favor, seeks to occupy the position of a patron; to make an impression and gain an influence which will secure to her all the advantages, without the expense and inconvenience of a colonial establishment.

Liberia is undoubtedly rising in importance, political, social, commercial. Her people, if slowly, are surely acquiring an influence over, and extending their trade and relations with, the neighboring nations. The materials for this trade, up to the present moment, have been the products of the labor and capital of our own country; and I should very much regret to see advantages which naturally pertain to our own enterprise, pass into the hands of others. And yet such may be the case.—While the present population lasts, and exerts a controlling influence in Liberia, their attachment and sympathies, which are strong, will bind them to the United States. But a new race is springing up, who will not be subject to such influences, and, true to the instincts of nature, will follow wherever interest or prejudice may lead. With these persons, the graciousness of England is already a theme of praise, while the inaction or backwardness of the United States is commented upon as being ungenerous and unkind.

During my first visit to Monrovia, the Congress was in session, and I attended its sittings. The business in both branches was conducted in a manner so courteous and orderly, as favorably to compare with some bodies of greater pretensions and experience elsewhere. It is true there appeared to be rather an excess of formal politeness in the frequent repetition of "the gentleman from Sinoe," "the Senator from Mesurado," and "my honorable friend from Bassa;" but these are small matters, quite as harmless, and certainly as dignified, as expletives uttered in our own Capitol.

On the sabbath we attended worship in

the Methodist Church—the largest in the place—which was well filled by a well dressed, and apparently a devout congregator. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Burns, a colored man, from the text—"There remaineth, therefore, a rest for the people of God." Mr. Burns is an interesting speaker. His exposition and application were eloquent and happy.—We all agreed that it is seldom, even in our own highly favored land, that we listen to a sermon of greater interest and beauty. The effect upon my own mind was pleasing; and when the congregation all united in singing the favorite old hymn—

"There is a land of pure delight,"

I could scarcely realize that I was in Africa, and worshipping upon a spot where, a few years since, the wild beasts of the forest roamed undisturbed, except by marauders seeking to enslave their fellows.

The location of Monrovia, the metropolis of Liberia, is very beautiful, the finest decidedly on the northern coast. It is regularly laid out, the streets, which are broad, crossing each other at right angles. It contains some two hundred houses, some of them large, fine buildings, and all, I believe, comfortable. There are also several churches, an orphan-house, market-house and court-house, and there is now in the course of erection, upon a most beautiful and imposing site, a handsome edifice for a high school, which, if successful, must exert a salutary influence upon the character and destinies of Liberia.

This work has been undertaken by the Rev. Mr. Bastian, superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal mission, mainly, I believe, upon his own responsibility, relying upon the interest and zeal of the friends of Africa to sustain him. He is now on a visit to the United States, on business connected with his duties in Africa, and I trust, from all her well-wishers will receive the countenance and support which the cause and his own efforts deserve, and that, in the prosperous issue of his labors of philanthropy and religion, he may find at least a partial solace for the crushing affliction which has befallen him since his departure, in the death of his wife and only child.

The death of Mrs. Bastian was painfully sudden. On our arriving at Monrovia, I heard of her being on shore, and called to see her. I found her quite indisposed, but very cheerful. Born and educated in a southern city where I had passed a large portion of my early life, we were able to converse about scenes and events mutually in-

teresting, and of friends mutually dear.—My visit was a most agreeable one, and I took my leave with a determination early to renew it. The next day I was glad to hear that Mrs. B. was better, and the following morning was appalled to learn that she was a corpse. The death of this lady is greatly deplored by the people, to whom she was endeared by her pious devotion to their interest, and whose respect she commanded by her intelligence and dignity of character. It will doubtless be gratifying to her numerous friends to be assured that during her brief illness she received every attention which Christian sympathy could bestow, and was buried with many tears and regrets, by the side of others who had fallen in the same cause.

The Methodist Church seems to have been particularly unfortunate in the loss of its missionaries in Africa. They occupy a melancholy space in the Monrovia cemetery, and would seem to indicate that other instrumentalities must be found to accomplish the redemption and regeneration of this dark and benighted land.—Among the most conspicuous tablets was one to the memory of the pioneer missionary, the Rev. Melville B. Cox. My worthy friend, the Hon. S. Benedict, Chief Justice of the Republic, gave me an interesting account of the last hours of this faithful minister. He said that in witnessing his triumphal exit, he truly realized that—

“The chamber where the good man meets
his fate,
Is privileged beyond the common walks
Of virtuous life.”

With an intellect clear as the light, a mind unclouded by a single regret, rejoicing that he was privileged thus to fall, his spirit passed away, exulting in the prospect of a glorious immortality. History tells us of Saladin, cut off in the midst of his career of conquest and glory; of Napoleon, expiring amidst the fury of the tempest which then broke upon his sea-girt home; but to my mind, the grandeur which hallowed the death-scene of the humble missionary was “far more exceeding.”

“How beautiful it is for man to die
Upon the walls of Zion! To be called,
Like a watch-worn and weary sentinel,
To put his armor off, and rest in heaven.”

I very much regret that the sanitary regulations of our naval service on this coast are such that I could not visit the settlements in the interior. Under no circumstances are we permitted to pass a night on shore; and hence our observations are

confined to the sea-board, the most uninteresting part of the country. I am informed, however, that they are doing well, as all who turn their attention to agriculture prosper. Of this I have no doubt, the soil being rich, producing an abundance for a small amount of toil.

On the whole, my impressions respecting Liberia have been fully realized, as I believe will be the case with any one whose views are not Utopian, and who will reflect on the circumstances under which the Colony was planted, and the materials of which it was composed. To the patronage of government and the influence of a rich proprietary, it owes nothing. Its means have been the offerings of benevolence, and its instruments, persons who, till their arrival in Africa, were mostly in bondage. I believe the history of colonization will present but few examples of corresponding favorable results—of communities, the subjects of oppression and the victims of prejudice, planted in a foreign land, exerting, in so short a time, an influence so wholesome, and enjoying without stint the comforts and privileges which constitute the happiness of rational life.

I repeat, my impressions in regard to these colonies have been fully realized.—With others this may not be the case.—Many of the statements made in the United States respecting them are highly colored, and some entirely overwrought; but with all due allowance, there is enough to satisfy me that a great work has been accomplished: enough to cheer the hearts of the “faithful few,” who, amid calumny and reproach, have been steadfast to their purpose, and that still grander results are yet to flow from their efforts to bless down-trodden Africa. Upon her benighted shores a Republic has been founded, which, sustained by the hopes of the philanthropist and the prayers of the Christian, must prosper; and which, while it commemorates the true nobility of American hearts, will serve as a pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night, to lead the nations now sitting in darkness into the promised land of social, political, and moral light.

The above letter has been some time on the way. Since it was written some changes have occurred. The contemplated extension of Liberian jurisdiction as far north as Sherbro has been effected.—The Rev. Mr. Bastian has resigned his connection with the Methodist mission in Liberia, and his project for a high school is in other hands, who will carry it on upon a less extensive scale than he contemplated.

Letter from Robert Wood—late of Antigua.

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, MONROVIA,
September 26th, 1850.

To the Rev. Wm. McLain.

RESPECTED SIR:—I beg leave to tender my grateful acknowledgments, to Doctor Hall and yourself, for the ready manner you concurred, in granting me a passage in the Barque Liberia Packet, and placing me under the consideration of the resources of the Colonization Society, for these favors, accept my sincere thanks; and believe me they shall make a lasting impression on my heart.

Permit me to state for your information, we had a passage of thirty-four days.—I was landed safe on the shores of Africa, the land of my forefathers. I entertain no feelings of regret, or cause of complaint, for leaving my native land—Antigua—and making the selection I have made, in coming to Liberia, the land of liberty. The advantages I enjoy—living under the administration of equal laws, and governed by a mild and Constitutional Government, so ably represented by President Roberts.

It would indeed appear to me a matter amounting to impossibility, for any colored man coming to the shores of Liberia, and not to be pleased with all around him, to behold the peaceful abodes of the inhabitants, the decent behaviour of all classes of the community, their unequalled hospitality to strangers, the cheerful countenances of the captured natives that are brought back to their native land, the apparent regularity and well organized discipline in the stage of society. The laws are regarded, marriage is respected, drunkenness despised, property safe, life protected, and above all, *the fear of God* is exemplified by their Christian walk and conversation. I can with propriety say we have a goodly heritage. May God help the Liberians faithfully to discharge their official and social duties, and acquit themselves like men.

I trust the period is not far distant when this Infant Republic will not stand the least among the civilized nations of the earth. The cry of every true citizen is forward—forward in the arts and sciences which is rapidly gaining ground.

I regret that I am not a wealthy man.—For had I means or merchandize with me, there is abundant resources in these pos-

sessions, for any enterprising man. He will, in a very short time, by habits of industry, economy, and perseverance, raise himself to comparative affluence and ease, which cannot be expected in the West Indies, from the present depressed state they have been reduced to. This cannot be the fault of Liberia.

I must look forward to the progressive advancement of myself when I have proved to the satisfaction of the citizens, and the authorities, of this Commonwealth, that I am indeed a true citizen, and no spy—qualified by ability and good conduct.

The death of President Taylor was received here with considerable regret by all classes of the community. We hope his successor may tread in his footsteps. May that kind Providence that has led me thus far over the deep waters of the dark blue sea shine upon my path, and in this land of strangers, provide me friends, and a home.

I cannot imagine the cause of the obstinate objections, that some portions of the colored class evince in not removing themselves and families to this their only home, where they will enjoy pure liberty, and be happy.

Deprived as they are from all political rights and immunities, to continue unrepresented in the constitution, their elective franchise withheld from them—their oaths disregarded in the sacred sanctuary of justice, to be considered as being dangerous to the well-being of society,—what manner of men are they! Who can behold such distinctions and be silent?

I cannot close this epistle without offering a few remarks on the courteous manner I was received by the Chief Justice Benedict and his humane lady. I was received and lodged at his house for a few days, and was hospitably entertained.—The general saying of the people of Monrovia is—his house is the stranger's home.

President Roberts, Chief Justice Benedict, General Lewis—in fact all the respectable gentlemen has proffered to do what they can for me, which I am thankful for. May God keep me in health from the acclimating fever; for the love of liberty shall keep me at Liberia.

Your obedient humble servant,
ROBERT WOOD.

Letter from D. T. Harris, Liberia.

MONROVIA, Sept. 28th, 1850.

MY DEAR SIR: Your esteemed, and interesting favor of June 12th, came duly to hand, by the Liberia Packet.

Your attention to my requests, made in my last, is very gratifying to me. I am, however, sorry to see that such apathy prevails, among the colored folks of the

District in regard to emigrating to Liberia! If they will not believe the many impartial statements that have been made concerning Liberia, by those who are residents therein, and who have no selfish interests to effect thereby, neither would they believe, though the departed worth of Liberia, from Cary down to Johnson, were to stand in mighty phalanx before them, and declare in thundering tones, that *Liberia is your only home!* What keeps them so long making up their minds? What do they expect to accomplish by such suicidal steps as they are taking? or, rather, by such *suicidal supineness and non-action*, as they are guilty of? Can they doubt the accumulated mass of evidence that they have received on the subject? Really, it seems to me that they are equally as unmindful of their own good, as were the ancient Israelites, who "committed two evils," first, forsaking God, "the fountain of living water," and secondly, "hewing them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that could hold no water." Is not the conduct of these colored persons, similar to that of the Israelites? God was verily the salvation, nationally, morally, and spiritually of the Israelites; and Liberia is the salvation, the full redemption, of the *colored man*, nationally, politically, and socially considered. And have they not forsaken this their only refuge—their only hope? They certainly have. Not that they have settled in Liberia, and then removed elsewhere, having eternal hatred to their own home. But in an eminent degree they have "forsaken" Liberia, by refusing what any unintelligent creature would embrace, through the force of instinct. Show me any domesticated animal who refuses in a storm, to take shelter under the roof of that building or stable, that is prepared for it. There is none.—All creatures of *instinct* are governed by the law of self-preservation! Yet, notwithstanding this fact, we discover its apparent reverse in the conduct of the color-

ed people of the United States. They are *intelligent* beings—or at least they *ought* to be—yet, they show themselves to be more ignorant of their own good, and more reluctant, to embrace it, than are the natural brute beasts. Strange inconsistency!—Truly, it can be said in this case, "*O consistency, thou art a Jewel!*"

And, in embracing the illusory dreams of perfect equality with the white man in the United States, are they not hewing, thereby, to themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water? I think they are. For it does not seem reasonable, or natural to me, that a white man will acknowledge him, who but recently was his slave, to be his peer in state.—Why, as soon as they see each other, the *white* will think of the time when he ordered his slave, and he was obedient to his beck and call: the *black* at the same time will think of the same thing, and consequently feel that his former master is somewhat superior to him; and if he does not betray his feelings by the *peculiar duff*, &c., he will, nevertheless, be affected in mind, by his presence. This fact, together with the ebony and mongrel caste, will ever militate against the colored man's interest in the United States of America. But in Liberia these things do not, and cannot, exist. Yet, though it is known, it is disregarded; and hence the confusion and shame of the colored people in America.

The "*Four steamship project*," is bold and original, and if it succeeds, will give an impetus to colonization, that will either surpass the most sanguine hopes of its friends, or else rebound to the joy of its enemies. The vast influx of emigration resulting therefrom, would I think operate prejudicially to Liberia, unless such effect be anticipated and provided against; which, I doubt not, will be done.

I have the honor Sir, to assure you of my distinguished considerations,

D. T. HARRIS.

Rev. W. McLAIN, Washington, D. C.

Sketches of Liberia—Conclusion.

BY DR. J. W. LUGENBEEL.

In reference to the civil government of Liberia, I may here simply state, that it is based on the principles of republicanism; and, in every essential particular, it may be regarded as a miniature representation of the Government of the United States; the only particular point of difference being in the name of the national assembly, which

is styled Legislature instead of Congress, and in the time of service of the principal officers of the Government. The President is elected by the popular vote, for two years, and he is eligible to re-election.—The Senators, of whom there are two from each county—six in all—are elected for four years, and the Representatives, of

whom there are eight in all, are elected for two years. The only cabinet officers who have yet been commissioned are, the Secretaries of State and of the Treasury, and the Attorney General. All the officers of justice are appointed by the President, with the consent of the Senate. The judicial power of the Republic is vested in a supreme court, a court of quarter sessions, in each county, and magistrate's courts, which meet monthly. No white person is allowed to become a citizen; consequently, white residents cannot hold any office in the Government.

Previous to the establishment of the Republic the current expenses of the Government were defrayed by the duties on importations; the average annual amount of which was about \$8,000. But as additional expenses have been incurred by the change in the political relations, the amount derived from that source alone is not sufficient for the necessary expenditures in the support of the Government. Hence, the passage of a law at the first session of the Legislature of the Republic, in January, 1848, by which the Government monopolises the trade in certain articles. It is calculated that the revenue arising from the profits on the sale of these articles, together with the custom duties, will be sufficient to meet the expenses of the Government. I am apprehensive that this governmental monopoly will not operate so well as some of its sanguine supporters imagine; and that circumstances will render it expedient for a system of direct taxation to be adopted, and carried into operation; or for a considerable increase of the tariff.

The Government of Liberia is now altogether in the hands, and under the entire management of the citizens of Liberia, no white person, on either side of the Atlantic, being, in any way, connected with its operations. And if the disputed question has

not yet been fully settled, whether colored persons are capable of self-government or not, a few years will decide the point. The people of Liberia are now fairly "self-poised," and feeling confident, as I do, of the clemency and forbearance of all foreign nations towards that infant Republic, so long as the Government shall be maintained on the principles of national rectitude, (without which no government is worthy of encouragement,) I am quite satisfied that if the Republic of Liberia shall ingloriously fall, and her institutions be demolished, or if those institutions shall be voluntarily transferred to the control and management of any foreign power, the result will indubitably exhibit the melancholy fact, that the maintenance of an independent government by the colored race is at least, a subject of dubious practicability. I confidently hope, however, that the "lone star" of the Republic of Liberia, which is now culminating over a portion of the western coast of benighted Africa, will continue to shine, not like the brilliant meteor, or the erratic comet, but like the effulgent orb of day, which sheds his enlivening beams with increasing splendor as he ascends above the fleecy clouds which overhang the eastern sky.

In addition to the brief reflections which have been thrown out, in the different parts of these sketches, I would make a few suggestions which may be worthy of the particular attention of those persons who may emigrate to Liberia. The reader will, no doubt, be fully convinced, if he believes the statements herein exhibited, of the practicability of a comfortable competency being realized in Liberia, as the reward of industry and frugality. And the intelligent man of color, who is accustomed to observation and reflection, cannot but be convinced that he may enjoy privileges there—the privileges of a freeman in the full import of the term,

of which he is virtually deprived in every part of the United States, by the conventional rules of society among the dominant inheritors of a fairer complexion. But while I do not hesitate, in view of the facts set forth in these sketches, to recommend Liberia as an inviting field for enterprise, and a desirable place of residence; I may here state that, during my residence there, my eyes were not too frequently dazzled by captivating sights of agricultural industry, and of mechanical enterprise, to blind me to the conviction that much remains to be done, before the little African Republic can be regarded as an earthly paradise.

In reference to the cultivation of the soil, especially, which is the true road to independence in any country, I may remark, that comparatively few of the present citizens of Liberia are regularly and systematically engaged in this branch of practical industry. Unfortunately for the prosperity of Liberia, many of the earlier settlers fancied that they had found a more easy and more speedy highway to wealth, in the wholesale, retail, and demoralizing system of barter with their ignorant aboriginal neighbors; and many of their successors, lured on by this apparently accommodating means of ease and comfort, started their little crafts in the wakes of those of their predecessors; and not a few of them, in their eagerness to become rich, have failed to be warned by the disasters which attended many of those who preceded them. But happily for Liberia, the traffic in cam-wood and palm oil is becoming so unprofitable, in consequence of excess of competition, not only among the Liberians themselves, but among foreign traders, that it must soon occupy a station, as a source of wealth, inferior to that of the cultivation of the soil: the siren song of commercial experiment must give place to the cheerful hum of agricultural industry. I trust that the citizens of Liberia are generally becoming aroused to a consciousness of this important truth; and indeed during the last few years more attention has been given to agriculture than previously. Yet much remains to be accomplished, to demonstrate to distant nations the fact that Liberia is one of the most productive countries in the world; a fact, which I believe may, and I hope will be clearly demonstrated, by the quantity and quality of agricultural products that may be exported, and by the comfort and independence of a respectable yeomanry.

A more regular, systematic, and persevering course of farming operations must, however, be introduced. Greater attention ought also to be given to agricultural experiments, to develop the resources of the

soil; and to ascertain the most appropriate periods of the year, for the planting of different vegetable substances. Much more attention should also be given to the raising of different kinds of stock; and to the introduction of various mechanical inventions, in carrying on agricultural operations.

One very important thing which has received very limited attention in Liberia, is that of fencing, or the enclosing of lots and fields; by the neglect of which, many persons have frequently lost the principal part of the fruits of their labor, in the tilling of the soil. Undoubtedly, the best fences which can be made in Liberia are those that are commonly called "growing fences," made by planting certain shrubs closely together, and trimming them occasionally. Several different kinds of shrubs may be easily and abundantly procured, for making these fences. And, with proper attention, a piece of land may, in two or three years, be thus securely and substantially enclosed with a fence which will last many years.

Hitherto, the people of Liberia generally have been too easily intimidated or discouraged by comparatively small obstacles; most of which have been more imaginary, than real. Difficulties, however, do really exist; but these difficulties are generally far less than those which exist in carrying on farming operations in any part of the United States. And I am quite satisfied that every thing that is really necessary for human subsistence and comfort, together with many luxuries, can be raised in Liberia, with much less labor than would be required to procure the necessaries of life in the United States.

Let the cultivation of the soil, then, receive that attention which it should receive, as the principal means of wealth—let a regular, systematic, and persevering course of agricultural operations be carried on; and the citizens of Liberia may live in ease and comfort and independence.

In tracing the various events connected with the rise and progress of the Republic of Liberia, no unprejudiced individual can for a moment doubt that the smiles of Heaven have rested upon it; and that the sheltering wings of a kind Providence have been spread over it for good—not only to the immigrants from this country, but to the benighted and degraded aborigines of Africa—a land which has so long been enveloped in the darkness of heathenism.—And, in view of the social and political position and relations of colored persons in the United States, contrasted with the position and relations of the free and inde-

pendent citizens of that young Republic, it must be admitted by all candid persons, that the condition of those people in Liberia who are disposed to use the necessary appliances for making themselves truly independent, is vastly superior to that of free people of color in any part of this country.

Though many difficulties have been encountered in the progressive exaltation of the infant Colony to the present interesting and flourishing Republic, and though many obstacles will necessarily be presented to its onward progress; yet, it is clearly evident that the experiment has been fairly tried, the experiment of establishing on the coast of Africa a community and government of colored immigrants from this country,—and has been crowned with complete success;—a success even beyond the most sanguine expectations of the benevolent founders of the Colonization Society; who amidst difficulties which seemed almost insurmountable, determined to try what could be done towards the establishment on the coast of Africa of an asylum and a home for the people of color of the United States; who, in the language of a public journalist, “are here restricted in the exercise of the very elementary principles of existence best calculated to expand and exalt the heart and mind,” and who, in every part of this country, must continue to labor under political and social disadvantages; from which they can be fully rescued in no other way than by voluntarily emigrating to a country in which the restrictions that are here thrown around them cannot operate—a country in which they may enjoy the benefits of free government, with all the blessings of civil and religious liberty.

In the providence of God, by the efforts of those who have been “laborers together with him,” such an asylum has been established:—difficulties which at first appeared almost insuperable have been overcome; and Liberia now presents an inviting field for commercial enterprise and agricultural industry, and a desirable home for all persons of color who wish to realize the privileges of freedom and the blessings of independence.

But while I would heartily recommend Liberia as a desirable place of residence for colored persons who are disposed to appreciate the advantages and to improve the privileges there afforded, I would not advise any person to emigrate thither, who will not go cheerfully, and with a determination to try to overcome every obstacle that may be presented. I am decidedly of opinion, that, with a cheerful, contented

mind, and industrious habits, colored persons may live more easily, more comfortably, and more independently than they can in the United States. In Liberia, however, as in all other new countries, industry and perseverance are necessary; and while to the man of enterprise and frugality it affords a desirable home, and promises a rich reward to his labors, it offers no encouragement to those who expect to live in luxurious ease and pampered indolence.

In conclusion, I would repeat, that I firmly believe that the hand of an overruling Providence has been extended over the progressive course of that little Republic. And, whatever may be said in opposition to the wise and benevolent scheme of Colonization; and however apparently plausible may be the objections of persons who are unfriendly to the cause; it is clearly evident to any individual whose mind is unprejudiced, especially to those who have had opportunities for personal observation and investigation as to the results of that enterprise, that it is one of the instruments in the hands of the Almighty Ruler of the universe for carrying out his wise designs with reference to Africa. And in view of what has already been accomplished, and of the incalculable amount of good which may yet be accomplished, through the instrumentality of the Colonization Society, and of the Republic of Liberia; surely no true friend of the colored race can consistently oppose the operations of the former, or withhold the expression or exhibition of a sincere desire for the continued prosperity of the latter.

Through the instrumentality of the Government of Liberia, much has been done towards the suppression of the nefarious traffic in slaves. Within the jurisdiction of that miniature Republic, whence, a few years ago, hundreds and thousands of miserable beings were transported, like inanimate objects of merchandize, to the western world, the slave-trade has been entirely abolished; and many of the contiguous native tribes have laid down their weapons of warfare, and have sought the protection of that Government. And I verily believe that God intends that the mental illumination of the degraded aborigines of Africa, is to be effected chiefly by her own returning civilized and christian children—by the influence and example of colored immigrants and teachers from this side of the Atlantic; carrying with them and introducing among the ignorant natives, habits of civilized life, and the blessings of the gospel of peace and salva-

tion; and by the missionary labors of enlightened and converted native inhabitants. Thus shall the belligerent hordes of Africa be induced to convert their instruments of war-

fare into agricultural implements; thus shall the slave-trade be effectually and forever suppressed; and thus shall Ethiopia be taught to stretch out her hands unto God.

Annual Meeting of the American Col. Society.

THE thirty-fourth Anniversary of the American Colonization Society, was held in the First Presbyterian Church in this city, on Tuesday evening, the 21st January, 1851.

The Hon. HENRY CLAY, President of the Society, delivered a deeply interesting address of three quarters of an hour's duration; after which an abstract of the Annual Report was read; and addresses were delivered by the Rev. Dr. R. Fuller, J. H.

B. Latrobe, Esq., and Hon. Frederick P. Stanton.

The President of the United States, and many other distinguished persons were present, and as many others as could get into the building.

The Annual Report, together with the four addresses, and the minutes of the annual meeting of the Society, and of the Board of Directors, will be given in full in the March number of the Repository.

Receipts of the American Colonization Society,

From the 20th of December, 1850, to the 20th of January, 1851.

CONNECTICUT.

By Rev. John Orcutt:—
Colchester.—N. Hayward, \$10; Rev. L. Strong, \$5; P. A. Gillet, \$3; Benj. Swan, G. Langdon, J. C. Hammond, J. Turner, each \$2; D. B. Carroll, J. B. Wheeler, M. W. Hutchins, A. B. Pierce, Capt. H. Weeks, J. Clark, Mrs. E. Clark, Miss A. Lathrop, P. Hall, Dr. F. Morgan, G. Bigelow, Maj. W. Clark, E. Carpenter, Mrs. A. J. Hammond, Miss M. K. Hammond, R. Gillet, S. Gillet, G. Elderkin, R. Dutton; J. D. Kellog, Dea. S. Smith, J. H. Rogers, Col. A. Morgan, Mrs. T. B. L'Hommedieu, each \$1; A. H. Otis, 79 cents; B. Sparrow, 75 cents; Mrs. M. Dolbear, J. Kellog, Mrs. Anna Day, J. Patten, Dea. J. Newton, Mrs. A. D. Raymond, Miss Raymond, H. Barden, Misses R. A. & F. C. Hall, J. A. Hall, J. C. Wightman, D. Smith Dr. L. L. Dickinson, Mrs. H. E. Dickinson, A. W. Packer, Mrs. E. Bolles, Miss M. Z. Wheeler, each 50 cents; E. Strong, C. F. Day, D. Foot, Mrs. A. Wells, C. Lewis, G. Way, G. B. Worthington, W. Tew, E. Brown, Mrs. N. M.

Clark, Miss R. M. Cobb, each 25 cents; G. Karnar, J. M. Barden, each 12 cents; \$63.03; To constitute Rev. Lyman Strong, and Mrs. N. M. Swift, Life members of the American Colonization Society—From the Ladies Congregational sewing Society, \$20..... 83 03
East Windsor—Miss Somantha Wells, Aaron King, (conductor, N. L. W. & P. R. R.) each \$1..... 2 00
Lisbon—Rev. Levi Nelson, Mrs. Burnham, each \$1..... 2 00
 87 03

NEW YORK.

Schuyler—Collection in Rev. S. Halbert's Congregation, on Thanksgiving day, \$3 32; Cash, 68 cents..... 4 00

PENNSYLVANIA.

Philadelphia—J. L. Erringer, Esq., to constitute his wife Mrs. Frances P. Erringer, a Life Member of the Am. Col. Society, \$30; Donation from the Pennsylvania Colonization Society, \$500..... 530 00

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Washington City—O. C. Wight, Esq., for common school purposes in Liberia, by Rev. E. Ballantine..... 6 00

VIRGINIA.

<i>Botetourt county</i> —From a friend, by Rev. James M. Rice.....	2 00
<i>Big Lick</i> —Mrs. Sarah Betts, annual subscription.....	10 00
<i>Petersburgh</i> —Robert B. Bolling, Esq.....	30 00
<i>Raccoon Ford</i> —Miss Eliza Stringfellow.....	2 00
	<hr/> 44 00

NORTH CAROLINA.

<i>Statesville</i> —Contribution of Rev. S. C. Miller's congregation....	5 00
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KENTUCKY.

By Rev. J. Morris Pease:— <i>Louisville</i> —Donations in 8th st. Meth. Epis. church, south, to make Rev. James Young a Life Member of the Am. Col. Society;—Thomas Joyce, A. L. Montgomery, John R. Prittle, William Kendrick, each \$5; Collection, \$10—all 8th street Meth. Epis. church, south, \$30; Rev. Dr. Wool's Meth. Epis. church, south, donations—A lady, \$2; A lady, \$1; A stranger, \$5—all in Dr. Wool's church, \$8; Rev. Dr. Lynn's church, Meth. Epis., south—A friend, \$1—all from the M. Epis. church, south, Louisville.....	39 00
<i>Elkton</i> —F. M. Bristow, Esq., to constitute himself a Life Member of the Am. Col. Society, by Hon. F. E. McLean.....	30 00
	<hr/> 69 00

OHIO.

By Rev. J. Morris Pease : <i>Hamilton</i> —Joseph Hough, Esq. .	10 00
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MISSISSIPPI.

By Rev. J. Morris Pease:— <i>Greenville</i> —F. Griffin, Esq., Wm. Hurt, Esq., each \$100; A. B. Montgomery, \$50; W. R. Campbell, Mrs. Margaret Campbell, Mrs. H. B. Theobald, O. M. Blanton, W. C. Blanton, W. C. Montgomery, Mrs. Eveline Montgomery, ea. \$30; S. Theobald, \$10; W. J. Montgomery, Miss E. Burks, each \$5.....	480 00
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Total Contributions..... 1,235 03

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OHIO.— <i>Urbana</i> —Miss J. E. Zwissler, to January, 1853, \$5. <i>Steubenville</i> —Hon. H. H. Leavitt, to January, 1851, \$3. <i>Xenia</i> —Alexander Weir, to January, '52, \$1; Mrs. Mary Galloway, to Jan. '52, \$1; John Vaneton, to Jan. '52, \$1; J. C. McMullan, to Jan. '52, \$1; John Hemphill, to Jan. '52, \$1.....	13 00
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