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ANNUAL MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT ROBERTS.*

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: Another year has rolled around, during which there have been many and marked changes and occurrences in the political as well as in the natural world; and in conformity with a provision of our Constitution, I am here to lay the condition of our Republic before you, who have been elected by the people to represent their interests, to legislate for the advancement and prosperity of our political institutions, and to devise ways and means for the most effectually establishing a firm and sure basis of national progress and greatness.

On this, as on all occasions, we have manifold reason for offering to the Almighty and beneficent ruler of the universe, our unfeigned thanks and gratitude for the continued mercies and goodness which He has not ceased to manifest and bestow upon us, either as individuals or as a nation. Notwithstanding, since your last session the churlish knot of all-abhorred war has been unknit among us, and the angel of death has with unsparing hand cut down in our midst valuable and useful citizens, yet even these events may be some of the mysterious workings of an all-wise Providence for the salvation of the country; and in the abundance of the harvests which has attended the labors of the agriculturalist, and in the success experienced generally by those engaged in commercial, mechanical, or other pursuits, we cannot fail to acknowledge the goodness of God.

OBITUARY.—It becomes my melancholy duty to inform you of the death of Hon. Jacob D. Preston, Senator from Grand Bassa county, who after a lingering illness departed this life in the early part of the year. He filled several positions in our Government, and his services to the public are well known to you. At the time of his death there were two years of his term remaining to be served, and accordingly I ordered a special election to be held in that county on the 26th of October last, to fill the vacancy thus occasioned.

* Peculiar interest attaches to this paper from the fact that it was probably the last official production of its esteemed and venerable author.

Among those who have also passed off the stage of action this year, I might mention Hon. D. F. Smith, who for many years served his country as a legislator—first in the House and then in the Senate,—and in the Judiciary had won the reputation of having no superior as a judge, either in ability or integrity. He was Superintendent of Grand Bassa county at his death, and had also been selected as one of the associate justices of the Supreme Court, under the act passed at your last session. Hon. H. E. Fuller, Treasurer of the Republic, a position filled by him for the last three years with satisfaction and probity. Hon. H. W. Moulton, Judge of the Court of Quarter Sessions and Common Pleas of Maryland county. He was killed during the hostilities in that county, thus leaving vacant a place in which he had served for several years. Hon. A. Washington, Ex Senator from Montserrat county, who by his industry, rectitude and straight-forwardness, had so commended himself to the favor and appreciation of his countrymen as to have been returned several times to represent their interest as a member of one or the other of your houses. His term was finished at your last session.

ABSENCE OF THE PRESIDENT.—Those of you who were present at the late session of the Legislature may have observed the impaired state of my health at that time, and my increasing feebleness. Finding myself gradually becoming more infirm, I was impressed that a visit from home would so far resuscitate my strength and restore my health as to enable me to fill the remaining portion of my term of office with greater satisfaction both to my fellow-citizens and to myself. I therefore, on the twenty-seventh of June, left here in one of the mail steamers, reaching England in due time, where I remained until last month, when I took passage for home and arrived here on the 30th of the same. While I have not fully realized a restoration to health, and do not find myself improved in this respect as I would like, yet I have every reason to believe that but for the change of climate and other concomitants I should not have the honor of being in your presence. And I would here beg to offer my absence as an excuse for any deficiency in this document as to fullness of details of such occurrences of the year as should be brought to your attention. For most of the information herein contained I am indebted to the Vice President—who conducted the affairs of state during my absence, and has since my return furnished me with a summary of the doings of Government while he was thus acting, which I perceive is already in print,—and to the other officers of Government who assisted him.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.—Nothing has transpired within the year to impair the friendly relations existing between this and other nations:—these, so far as we are aware, are as satisfactory and favorable as when last reported to you, and no occasion has been permitted to pass unimproved that has offered for the enhancement and strengthening of them.

DIFFICULTIES IN MARYLAND COUNTY.—Unfortunately our relations

with the aborigines of the country do not present so pleasing and favorable an aspect. On the contrary, there perhaps has been no period in our national existence when these have assumed a more precarious and unsettled state. The restless disposition of this class of our population becoming apparent, especially in the county of Maryland, I empowered the Hon. J. S. Payne, on the 26th of June last, as a Special Commissioner to proceed thither, inquire into, and adjust the difficulties existing between the natives and the settlers, to discover the causes of the disloyal feelings entertained by the natives, as evinced in their assuming, in Dec'r, 1873, in a conference of the chiefs and headmen of the various tribes of the G'deboes within our jurisdiction, the right and power to make a treaty forming themselves into a kingdom within and yet free and distinct from the Government of Liberia. Mr. Payne entered upon his duties in the following month with an assiduity, devotion, and earnestness deserving of better success and more felicitous results. On his arrival at Cape Palmas invitations were extended to the chieftains of the several tribes to meet him; but only one of them, Weah of the Cape Palmas tribe, with an unusually small number of his principal men, complied with the request and attended the interviews which were appointed.

After the hearing of the complaints as presented by the settlers and natives against each other, the Commissioner prepared conclusions on each point submitted—conclusions that commend themselves for their equity and impartiality—but before these were made known to the chieftains of the Cape Palmas G'deboes, a hostile intention was manifested by an armed force being ambushed in Park woods—the highway of the settlements—for the avowed purpose of fighting the Americo-Liberians.

Chief Weah, when questioned by the Commissioner respecting this warlike demonstration, attributed it to a report that the Government had sent information to the interior natives, inviting them down, that the Government was going to fight the Cape Palmas tribe. This report was, apparently to Weah's own satisfaction, proven to be false by the chiefs of the tribes to whom it was said the message had been sent; and confessing his wrong in thus hastily placing himself in such a hostile attitude, he promised to disarm his men.

“This promise,” the Commissioner states, “was not kept, for the day following (12th of August) his people began deliberately to fire upon the settlements from the Hoffman Mission Station, about which they paraded defiantly and repeatedly.” On the land matter, which seemed to be the chief question and the real cause of the dissatisfaction, the Commissioner's conclusions were:—“It must be understood that the domain of the country is the Government's. That it acquires and holds it for the *people*. The *people* of Liberia are Americo-Liberians and the Aboriginal-Liberians. There can be allowed no molestation to parties who hold lands by virtue of Government grants or sale. The Americo-Liberians having such lands will be protected in their

right. The Aboriginal-Liberians when they apply for and draw the two thousand acres appropriated by Act of the Legislature will be protected in their right to the same. Public land is accessible to both classes of the population alike for farming purposes and cutting timber. When the Aboriginal-Liberians select public lands before the assignment of the two thousand acres, the chief should give information of the locality to the Superintendent. The Land Commissioner shall not dispose of such lands nor any of their town sites while the former is being cultivated."

Though the conclusions thus arrived at were so equitable and just, yet they were unsatisfactory to the natives. They deny ever having sold the land; they ignore the right of Liberia to that part of her domain; the amounts paid by the Maryland State Colonization Society for the purchase of the territory, they claim were paid them for landing the immigrants and building their huts. Their chief aim is to repossess themselves of the land, the right over which has become vested in the Liberian Government by regular deeds of cession given at first to the aforementioned Society during and between the years 1834 and 1856, and on the annexation of that county to the Republic in 1857, transferred to this Government: to which right the title acquired by conquest can in several instances be added.

The more effectually to accomplish their object of dismembering the Republic, the Half Cavalla, River Cavalla, Graway, Cape Palmas, Rocktown, Middletown, and Fishtown tribes, together with such others as they could get to join them, combined into a so-called kingdom under the leadership, it is painful to say, of those of their numbers who had received the advantages of an education—the graduates, scholars and native employees of the Protestant Episcopal Mission.

And here I would remark that while there may be, and apparently are reasons for imputing to some of the instructors of those scholars the credit of having instilled and encouraged in them doctrines and sentiments pernicious and detrimental to the interest of the Republic, yet no blame can be attributed to the mission itself, for on learning of the combination referred to, the Secretary of the Foreign Committee of said mission issued a circular under date of December 20, 1874, to those in their employ, in which, after referring to the account of a conference held at Cape Palmas in December, 1873, at which the G'deboes tribes united themselves by treaty into one kingdom, the following statements are made:

"This matter is one with which the Committee have, of course, no right to meddle except in so far as it relates to those who are connected in some capacity with the mission work which the Committee are prosecuting within the limits of Liberia. As far as SUCH PERSONS are concerned, the Committee feel that they have a duty to perform. The Committee know no government within the limits of Liberia other than the Liberian Government. It is under the protection of that Government that the missionary work is carried on; and every-

thing conspires to make the Committee most anxious that nothing shall interfere with the growth and prosperity of said Government. This view must control the Committee in all their operations in Liberia; and in this view it is expected that all persons employed by them will agree. It is with no little concern that the Committee observe in the account published in the *West African Record*, before referred to, the names of persons employed by the Foreign Committee. Therefore it is that the Committee desires me to send to you, in their name, this letter of caution."

This cautionary letter, however, did not have its desired effect, nor was the movement regarded as of sufficient importance, so far as I am informed by the immediate representatives of that county, as to cause them to bring it to the attention of the Legislature. The representations and recommendations up to and since the beginning of the present year to the Executive were such as to create the impression that a commission composed of one or more well-known citizens could adjust and settle the differences.

The combination, however, in the meanwhile seemed to have been led on by the hope of receiving the fostering care and protection of Her Britannic Majesty's Government—an impression created and strengthened, doubtless, by the same class of unprincipled foreign traders to whom on more than one occasion we have been in no small degree indebted for the calamities of war with our native population. A disposition to assist and encourage these insurgents, even after hostilities have fairly begun, has been too plainly manifested; and in this respect I might allude especially to some of the commanders of the steamers belonging to both the African Steamship and the British and African Steam Navigation companies. These would not only land at the places thus in rebellion such of the insurgents as were brought from further down the Coast, but also such contrabands of war as arms and ammunition; and in some instances, taking advantage of our want of facilities to forcibly prevent such wanton outrages and disregard of our laws, would make it specially convenient to stop at other than ports of entry to land such parties and things, so as not to encounter even a show of opposition to a species of transactions so unfriendly and illicit.

I am loath to believe that the conduct of the commanders of the steamers who have thus acted in a manner that cannot be too strongly denounced, can have the countenance of their respective companies; and I am sure it can never receive the approval of Her Majesty's Government, or of the British public, of whom the traders who visit our Coast are in many instances no fair and just index.

This combination has entered into a correspondence with Her Majesty's Government, but I am unable to inform you definitely of the nature thereof, as the Commissioner could not induce the Chiefs to exhibit said correspondence. We learn, however, that their overtures to that Government were not favorably entertained.

The Commissioner, soon after the rejection of his conclusions, became convinced that the only way to avoid a war was to yield the land question. Such a concession would have been the death blow to the Republic, for if the doctrine once attained that we will relinquish our right honestly acquired to any tract of land whenever the sellers thereof or their descendants see fit to ignore the sale, we shall be doomed to see title after title disappear until we cease to have a foot-hold to call our own.

"From this time," he states, "everything bore the aspect of war." "The Americo-Liberians, perceiving the true intention of the natives, began to make preparations, mounting their cannon, laying off stations, raising breast-works, and putting small arms in a proper condition—nothing occurring in the meanwhile but occasional firing of small arms from and at the mission station." Warlike preparations and demonstrations rapidly increased, and the mail-steamer arriving here on the 29th August brought information to the Government that hostilities had begun.

Acting President Gardner, after consultation with his cabinet and the chief military officers, made a call the same week for volunteers—acting in this under the authority vested in the Executive by the Constitution which provides that "he shall in the recess of the Legislature have power to call out the militia or any portion thereof into actual service in defense of the Republic."

This call was so promptly and patriotically responded to that by the fifteenth of September there had been landed in Harper near four hundred soldiers from the counties of Montserrado and Bassa, the remaining force from these and Sinoe counties following thereafter. Ere this however, between the 11th and 13th of the same month, there had been several engagements, in all of which our forces were victorious and with remarkably small losses. The enemy who in large numbers had attacked twice the settlement of Philadelphia, defended by a force of only thirty-three men, were each time repulsed; but it was considered the most prudent course to abandon this new settlement—the farthest in the interior—which was done on the 13th, and on the following day the place was fired and destroyed by the enemy.

The vessels conveying the commanding officer with a portion of the troops from the first and second regiments, having drifted below the Cape, did not reach Harper until the 27th, bringing the startling news that Captain Francis A. Gross and Commissary R. L. Griggs, both of the second regiment, having landed for wood and water at Bassa, they, with seven out of nine kroomen comprising the crew, and the boat belonging to Messrs. Crusoe & Brother's schooner, the "Edina," then in the service, had been detained. Two of the kroomen, who had escaped and reached Harper about this time, reported the others as killed; but the subsequent arrival of two more of the crew has created a doubt as to the real fate of those two officers and the other kroomen.

I would specially commend to your consideration the propriety of devising some way either for obtaining these parties if alive, or of punishing so flagrant an outrage upon our citizens. Bassa was represented as being friendly, is within our jurisdiction, the deed of cession therefor bearing date Feb'y 24th, 1846, and it was by the declarations and apparent manifestations of friendship that these parties were induced to go ashore. It is due to men who leave their homes and risk their lives for the general good that the Government should exhibit some interest in them when missing.

Our forces having all assembled in Harper, Sunday, the 10th of October, seemed to have been selected as the day for attacking the principal town of the enemy. This selection appears the more injudicious and inexcusable when it is known that after weeks of comparative idleness we should without even an apparent reason therefor have acted so directly contrary to the precepts that we profess to endeavor to impress upon the natives. In one of the deeds of cession for land in that section is this provision and exaction of the natives:—"We shall observe the Lord's day, and not suffer our people to convey any trade or fire-arms through the Colonial settlements, or do it ourselves on the Sabbath; and if any are found offending by trading or bearing fire-arms, they shall pay for the first offense five fowls; 2d, one goat; 3d, one bullock."

I do not allude to this as the especial cause of failure, or as an excuse for any military mismanagement that may have resulted in our disaster, but to contrast our pretensions of regard for religion and Christian influences with some of our actual doings which have elicited from the natives the well-deserved rebuke—you do not allow us to fish, trade, or carry arms on Sunday, but you carry war on that day. In such acts can we expect Divine favor to attend us? Was the loss of the battle too great a forfeiture for us to pay for our offense?

The following account of the fight is taken from the statement of the Acting President:—

"All necessary preparations having been made to attack the insurgents, the enemy was *bombarded* by the 'Emmy' and land forces on the 9th of October, and, according to Gen'l Crayton's programme, the army was marched against Benelu (the Bigtown) on the 10th, and engaged the enemy at a quarter to 6 o'clock in the morning. After a most severe contest for about two hours, the enemy gave way and fled in every direction before our troops, and strange to say, with these facts staring them in the face, it is said that General Crayton fainted and called for some 30 or 40 men to take him off the field; and while he was being assisted to the Jail station, some cowardly person passed the order up the line to retreat. Instead of our troops retreating in order, they ran off in all the confusion imaginable, and nothing that Col. Sherman and Col. Redd on the right could say or do could stop the general stampede. The natives discovering that the Americans were running, at once returned and pursued our troops, wound-

ing many in their flight. Our troops had most gloriously won the battle, but the flight turned the tide of war against us at an enormous sacrifice of money, if not of life."

After this defeat, owing to the state of the arms, the defects of which had been greatly experienced in the course of the fight, it was not deemed prudent to renew at once the attack; but as Vice President Gardner writes—"It was suggested by the officers of the army that, owing to the bad state and condition of our arms, Palmas should be garrisoned with two hundred men, that is, one hundred from the first regiment and fifty from the second and third respectively, until such time as the Government can procure the Snider or other improved arms for the further prosecution of the war."

"Although," he continues, "I did not like the plan of garrisoning Palmas, yet knowing that the Government was in need not only of good guns but also the means to prosecute the war effectually, I yielded to the suggestion, and garrisoned that place for two months, or until the Legislature can take such action in the premises as they in their judgment may deem best."

By his request I have to ask your approval of the several warrants drawn upon the Treasurer of the Republic for the relief of Palmas, a distinct account of which will be submitted by the Secretary of the Treasury.

I have laid before you at some length the condition of affairs in Maryland county. All of the troops except those to compose the garrison have been ordered to their homes, and with few exceptions, perhaps, have already returned to their families. The natives continue ever and anon to fire upon, attack, or in other ways to annoy the settlements, but as in all the engagements previous and subsequent to the 10th of October, they are invariably repulsed. Jacksonville, or Bunker Hill, which in the general panic of that ever memorable day was abandoned and afterwards destroyed by the enemy, has since been re-occupied by the settlers.

It is for you now, gentlemen, to determine the course and measures to be adopted for effectually crushing out the rebellion and the spirit of insubordination extant among our aboriginal population.

There are many and weighty reasons why this war should be prosecuted to a successful issue for the Republic. The restless and offensive attitude assumed by the natives in all parts of the country, since our disaster in October, too clearly manifests the general feeling towards the Republic, and evinces a disposition on their part to disintegrate and destroy our national fabric, that can only be checked by a successful prosecution and termination of the present hostilities.

This general dissatisfaction is not very complimentary to our past policy and treatment of the natives, and should strongly direct the attention of you, gentlemen, and the whole people to a correction of past errors and a wholesome reformation in this respect.

I should not fail to remark that in the preparation of the late expe-

dition much credit is attributed to the merchants—citizens and foreigners—who cheerfully responded to the call of the Government for aid, and came forward with liberal hand to her support. I beg also to state that much praise is due to our Consul General in London, James Jackson, esq., for his indefatigable efforts to raise subscriptions, &c., for the relief of the sufferers of the war.

On the 28th September, the Secretary of State, by direction of the Acting President, applied to the American Minister at this place for the assistance of a United States' man-of-war; and I am pleased to state that so promptly was the application forwarded by that gentleman that our Department of State has already been placed in possession of the information that the Secretary of State at Washington had requested the Secretary of the Navy to order one of the ships-of-war of the Government of the United States to proceed to Palmas. I think I am justified in adding that we may expect the arrival of this warship daily, and to observe that this manifestation of friendship towards us by a nation to whom we are so peculiarly allied, is very gratifying.

I have also to submit to you in connection with our native difficulties that the German Consul at this place has complained to this Government that two boats belonging to the house of A. Woermann, esq., a German citizen transacting mercantile business in our midst, while on their way from Cape Palmas to Monrovia were attacked, robbed, and carried away by the residents of Piccaniny Cess and Toota Benda, and that five of the crew were killed in the affair; and the damages sustained by the loss of the boats and cargo are assessed at seven hundred and seventy dollars. This complaint was filed on the second of the present month, but the absence of the "Emmy," now engaged in protecting the harbor of Harper, has prevented any investigation or inquiry being made into the affair.

FINANCES.—The financial condition and prospects of the country are far from cheering, for added to our previous embarrassments the outlay that has been made and that it will be still necessary to make on account of the unexpected war into which we find ourselves plunged, will form no insignificant or unimportant item of expenditure. The Secretary of the Treasury has laid before you his reports more fully setting forth the actual state of our finances.

APPEARANCE AT THE CENTENNIAL.—I have already, through the Department of State, directed your attention to the consideration whether under our present circumstances we can creditably appear at the Centennial Exhibition of 1876, to be held in Philadelphia, or if our embarrassments do not dictate the advisability of the withdrawal of the acceptance of the invitation tendered to us.

THE ENGLISH LOAN.—At your last session was again submitted the subject of the loan, and all the papers and information connected therewith that had reached the Government were laid before you. During the present year the Government has been communica-

ted with with respect to the default in the payment of the interest, &c., by the council of Foreign Bondholders, who write—"The council have learned with regret that the Legislature at its late session made no provision for the payment of the interest and sinking fund. They, however, sincerely trust that both in the interests of the bondholders and of the Republic of Liberia herself, some steps will at once be taken by the Legislature to provide the necessary funds for the service of the foreign debt, as the continued default is most injurious to the credit of the Republic." Applications have also been received from individual bondholders urging upon the Government the payment of the overdue interest. I can only again invite your attention to a subject of such vital importance to the public credit and character, and respectfully submit if it is not worthy of your earnest efforts and energies as legislators. In a few days the "general bungling of the present Government" will cease to be an excuse for the apparent indifference and non-action on this subject of the legislators of the people. And it is to be sincerely hoped that there will be a full realization of all the grand changes for the benefit of our common country so earnestly and anxiously anticipated at the termination of the present administration.

EDUCATION.—There is a wide scope for improvement in the educational interests of the country. At present the public schools present in many instances very farcical appearances from the inability of those having these under their control to get competent teachers for the small salary paid. While we are aware that at this time the Government can make no large outlay in any one direction, yet there are public expenses which might with great propriety and advantage to the country be curtailed in favor of the educational department.

It is to be exceedingly regretted that the citizens generally do not more fully evince some of the essential conditions of a permanent government, viz., a willingness and ability to do what is necessary for its preservation, and to discharge the functions which it imposes on them. They seem to ignore their duty to contribute to the support of Government by the payment of those taxes that are levied upon them from time to time; to entertain the opinion that such a political anomaly could exist as a government maintaining the institutions of the country, promptly meeting and canceling the current expenses of a national organization, while the people who constitute that government were not bound and should not be required faithfully and equally as promptly to contribute to these ends by the payment of their legal dues. Thus it is that aside from the revenue arising from the customs, a sufficient amount is not realized from other sources to support even the class of schools now existing.

A proper dissemination of knowledge may awaken the masses to this obligation, and I would remark that it would at least show the further interest of the Government in this respect if the suggestion offered by Ex-Secretary Dennis in his report in 1873 to support six

lads taken from the several counties as students in Liberia College, were adopted.

MILITARY.—Late events clearly demonstrate the necessity of some measures being adopted to improve the military department, a subject to which on more than one occasion I have directed your attention.

RETRENCHMENT.—The subject of retrenchment has been so often presented to you that I deem it unnecessary to add anything on this head.

CONCLUSION.—And now, gentlemen, in conclusion I have only to impress upon you the present condition of affairs so loudly demanding the most patriotic actions and best energies of the country, and to assure you of my hearty co-operation in any measure tending to the improvement thereof. And may we be guided in the proper discharge of our duties by Him who rules both men and nations.

J. J. ROBERTS.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
MONROVIA, *December 17th, 1875.*

LIBERIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Our recent advices from Liberia are very full, embracing the minutes of the Conference held in Monrovia, beginning January 13; Daniel Ware presiding, and J. H. Deputie, Secretary. The report on the state of the work says:

“During the year nothing has occurred to change the general features of our work, except that produced by the rebellion in Maryland county, by which our mission station in that county has materially suffered. No general or extensive revivals resulting in the conversion of many souls have blessed our field. But the Lord has blessed the churches in gracious outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and we indulge the hope that some at least of the messengers of Christ have received fresh anointing, while the membership have been quickened to holier living.”

Of Mount Olive, our most prominent station among the natives, the committee say:

“If we are interested in the evangelization of the heathen here, let the Liberian Annual Conference show it. About four miles from Mount Olive there is a point called Galilee. No Christian can stand upon the top of Mount Galilee and cast his eyes over millions of acres of land, and thousands of souls, without a feeling of heart and resolution of reconsecration to the work of a Christian missionary. Providence is here, as in other parts of our work, pulling down the barriers in the way of civilization and Christianity.”

On extending the work, they say:

“If it required thirty-two thousand dollars some thirty years ago to

keep up healthy mission operation in Liberia, what can eight thousand five hundred dollars do in 1876, especially when we take into consideration that it has not been until our day that the doctrine of supporting, as regards the mission fields, was taught; since which we have one self-supporting church, the effects of this teaching, within the last sixteen years. We say that this matter of self-support formed a very small part of the teaching of former days. Are we responsible? Should the living energies of this youthful membership of this Liberia Annual Conference be cramped? Should their desire to rank heads and shoulders with other missionaries of the age be crushed for the want of confidence in our ability to do, ere we are tried? Should we be suffered to hear the thunders about our ears and in our hearts to extend, our hearts beating in unison, and we not permitted to go or to extend our borders? If the Church and the Board means that we shall extend, may the great Head of the Church give them the hearts and the means, and the men to act; so vigorous prosecution of the work committed to us may be our motto."

The Conference reports one hundred probationers, two thousand one hundred and fifteen members, forty-four local preachers, thirty-three churches valued at seventeen thousand two hundred and twenty-three dollars, six parsonages valued at six thousand and seventy-five dollars, thirty-eight Sunday-schools, two hundred and forty-nine officers and teachers, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one scholars, and thirty-three dollars raised for missions.—*Missionary Advocate.*

PROPOSED MISSION AT CAPE MOUNT.

The Spirit of Missions, organ of the Board of Missions of the Protestant Episcopal Church, thus announces the intended founding of a station in Liberia:

The attention of our readers is specially called to the article which follows. The subject of it is one of more than ordinary interest in its relation to missionary work among the natives of Africa. Plans for such work are being matured by the Foreign Committee. While our brethren of the Church of England are entering upon such grand and noble enterprises from the East of Africa, we earnestly hope that our Church will make a beginning at least of a similar work from the West.

About forty miles northwest of Monrovia, the Capital of Liberia, there juts out into the sea a bold promontory fifteen hundred feet high, known as Cape Mount or Grand Cape Mount. It is a termination of a mountain range or plateau which extends far inland, and which forms a pleasant and extensively used highway to the interior.

Bishop Payne, in his Report to the Board of Missions at its session

in October, 1870, wrote: "A mission establishment on the top of this mountain would have all the advantages of elevation that Bohlen station has eighty miles interior, with the further very great blessing of a constant fresh sea-breeze."

Upon the slope of the mount and in the country adjacent to it is the Vey tribe. The Rev. J. Leighton Wilson, D. D., visited this tribe, and in his *Western Africa, its History, Condition, and Prospects*, thus writes:

"The Veys have recently invented an alphabet for writing their own language, and are enjoying the blessings of a written system, for which they are entirely indebted to their own ingenuity and enterprise. This is undoubtedly one of the most remarkable achievements of this or any other age, and is itself enough to silence forever the cavils and sneers of those who think so contemptuously of the intellectual endowments of the African race. The characters used in this system are all new, and were invented by the people themselves within the last twenty years. They have continued to labor at it, and have brought it to a state of sufficient perfection for all practical purposes."

Dr. Wilson then states that metallic types have been cast in London with which several little books have been printed for the use of the people, and he regrets that there are no Christian schools and Christian missionaries in a field which is so inviting, and which has been opened up in so remarkable a manner. He says the Veys occupy all the country along the seaboard from Gallinas to Cape Mount. It is not known how numerous they are, but they probably do not exceed fifty or one hundred thousand. In stature they are about the ordinary height, of slender but graceful figures, with dark complexions, but large and well-formed heads.

By means of the highway to the interior from Cape Mount the Veys hold constant intercourse with the Congoes, Bonzies, Mandingoos, and other influential tribes, and Mr. Anderson, a Liberian explorer, states that the Vey language serves as a medium of communication with several of these interior tribes.

Great indeed are the advantages of Cape Mount for the present headquarters of a Mission to one of the most interesting of African tribes, and subsequently for a base of more extensive operations in the interior, and no wonder that Bishop Payne and others who have visited it strongly advocated its occupation. In the report already referred to the Bishop wrote: "For this interesting region I earnestly urge the erection of a new Missionary Jurisdiction, to be called The Missionary Jurisdiction of Cape Mount and parts adjacent."

CHANGE OF POLICY IN THE EPISCOPAL MISSION.

During the last year, and especially within the last six or eight months, the question of the need of a change of policy in: he conduct

of the work in Africa has urged itself with far more than ordinary force upon the attention of the Committee.

The prime object of the mission, viz, *the giving of the Gospel to the heathen*, asserted anew its claims. While at Cape Palmas and in parts immediately adjacent the mission has accomplished results of vast importance to the further prosecution of the work among the natives, in the stations along the Coast above Cape Palmas, even including Monrovia itself, comparatively little has been done in this direction. This fact indicated the importance of a change.

Furthermore, past experience has shown that the climate at the Coast stations is most unfavorable to the white man, and as his services, in the judgment of the Committee, cannot yet be dispensed with, it is regarded by the Committee as exceedingly important to establish, as soon as may be, Mission stations on the highlands, where it is thought a far better climate may be found, and where the opportunity for efforts devoted to the heathen will be greatly augmented.

This whole subject was referred in February last to the Sub-Committee on Africa for consideration and report. By them was recommended a discontinuance at the close of the year of the stations on the Coast above Cape Palmas, in Sinoe, Bassa, and Montserrado counties; and with reference to a more concentrated effort among the natives, and that, too, where it is hoped there will be found the advantages of a better climate, the report of the sub-committee was as follows:

“This subject has from time to time enlisted the deepest interest in the hearts of the members of the Foreign Committee. Especially was this the case in the years 1870-'71, upon the report of Bishop Payne, made in the former year to the Board of Missions, and upon facts presented soon after in letters from Africa, which facts were published in *The Spirit of Missions* and subsequently in pamphlet form in the spring of 1871. A copy of that pamphlet, entitled ‘Remarkable Condition of the West African Field,’ has, within the last few days, been sent to each member of the Committee, and none, the sub-committee think, can fail to be struck with the earnest call which the facts therein presented seem to address to the Church to carry forward the work in the direction thus indicated.

“The sub-committee recommend that two points on the Liberian Coast be selected as *points d'appui* for the missionary operations proposed; that one of these be Cape Mount, which an examination of the map will show to be remarkably well situated for reaching interesting portions of the field. Bishop Payne, in his report to the Board of Missions (1870) above referred to, says: ‘Cape Mount presents by far the most eligible position for the proposed mission. Here is the most northerly of the Liberian settlements lying around the base of a mountain rising out of the ocean to the height of fifteen hundred feet. A mission establishment on the top of this mountain would have all the advantages of elevation that Bohlen Station has eighty miles in-

terior, with the further very great blessing of a constant fresh sea breeze.'

"The Vey tribe, inhabiting the country immediately around Cape Mount, is the most intelligent by far of any on the West Coast. It was this people who, some fifteen years ago, invented a syllabic alphabet. They hold constant intercourse with the Mandingoes and other Mohammedan tribes far in the interior, and those intelligent neighbors are fast converting them to their false faith.

"The second point on the Coast which the sub-committee recommend as a base of operations is Cape Palmas, embracing a sufficient line of Coast above the Cape as the character and condition of the Coast tribes in that region shall seem to require, and extending east to the Cavalla river.

The mission there (*i. e.*, Cape Palmas District) has been so far successful as to gather in a goodly number of the natives, one hundred and forty-one of whom are reported as communicants and two in orders, and among the natives in that region there is, it is said, great respect for the Church, which has given to them all that they know concerning Christianity.

"The sub-committee have already mentioned certain considerations of importance which led them to conclude that Cape Palmas was a point to be retained and made the base of operations towards the interior, and its importance in this respect is seen moreover in its probable fitness for reaching portions of that vast and inviting field among the Barline and other tribes, of which the pamphlet sent to the members of the Committee gives such interesting accounts. There is the added consideration that Cape Palmas, and parts immediately adjacent, have been the chief seat of the mission hitherto; here has been the largest measure of success, and within it lies the dust of many who labored and suffered and died there for this holy cause. It is for the Church the most sacred spot in all the Continent of Africa.

"The sub-committee thus indicate what seems to them to be the proper course to be pursued in the further conduct of the mission. If the plan suggested be adopted, there must of necessity follow the study and adjustment of details, the presentation of the subject to the Church at large, and the faithful endeavor to obtain the men and the means needed for this great enterprise."

The Foreign Committee unanimously adopted the foregoing report of the sub-committee on Africa.

It is proposed to proceed, as soon as circumstances will permit, in the establishment of a Mission station at Cape Mount, giving to it the form of an Associate Mission, with suitable buildings for the accommodation of the mission family. From that point, which will be regarded as the common home of the missionaries, and probably the residence of the bishop, the laborers will go forth to do their appointed work, extending the bounds of their operations as God shall prosper them.—*Annual Report, October, 1876.*

MISSION WORK AT GABOON AND CORISCO.

The last Annual Report of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions thus speaks of the work of the Gaboon and Corisco Mission, on the West Coast of Africa, near the equator :

The various departments of work have been conducted with fidelity and with much encouragement. To the churches a goodly number of communicants have been added, viz: In Gaboon 24, of whom 16 were received on profession of their faith, making 90 in all; in Corisco, 12 on profession, making 79; and in Benita, 12 on profession, making 74. The moneys contributed by these churches were, respectively, \$236, \$59, and \$32, which must be regarded as liberal gifts, in view of the very small pecuniary means of most of the donors. In the schools are reported 35 boys and 52 girls in Gaboon, all boarding scholars, except 10 boys and 12 girls; in Corisco, 30 boys and 22 girls, all boarding scholars, and 22 women in an industrial class; and in Benita, 15 boys and 17 girls, all boarding scholars, and 30 women taught, besides a class of six young men receiving instruction to fit them for usefulness, three of whom hope to become ministers of the gospel. These returns show that an important educational work is in progress.

The work of the native brethren at Mbangwe and Nengenenge has been conducted with some encouragement, though the "wars" or petty conflicts of native towns that so often occur have hindered the labors of the licentiate preacher at the latter station. At the former, Mr. Ibia is endeavoring to foster habits of industry among his people, as well as to give them the gospel. He spent a part of the year at Benita, and still visits that station, supplying the lack of service of a foreign minister. While there he received several persons to the communion. Africa seems to be opening to the light. From various quarters, chiefly from the Eastern Coast, important movements are made to establish missionary stations inland. Similar movements, if not on so large a scale, should be made from the Western Coast. It is the hope of such interiorward influence that gives chief interest to the missions of the Board, both in Liberia and in the Gaboon and Corisco regions—a hope long deferred—but soon to be fulfilled, as the Church may now believe.

THE VOICE OF GOD ABOUT AFRICA.

“No thoughtful person in these days can have failed to notice by what a singular concurrence of forces various causes have conspired to rivet the attention of civilized men upon Africa. I know not from how many quarters the interest has been aroused and fed. First of all we have it in consequence of the ever-memorable work of patient,

heroic explorers, with Prince Livingstone at their head. There are political causes that have brought Africa much into the foreground. You have had war on the east and war on the west. Swift, short wars, thrusting like rapiers into the side of the continent; and if we regret their dire necessity, we may yet at least be thankful that England has been enabled, in connection with those two wars in Abyssinia and Ashantee, to show that when she has achieved the purpose for which the sword was drawn, she can put it again into the scabbard, and go home with her work accomplished. Then we have had the slave trade, and slave circulars issued and withdrawn, and issued again; then the purchase of the Suez canal; then our interference with Egyptian finance; then we have had grand engineering proposals, and I wish them Godspeed. There is one that seems very feasible, that of joining the two rivers, the Congo and the Zambesi, with a suitable canal. Then there is a grander proposal than that—a proposal to fertilize the great desert heart of Africa northward, and turn the Sahara into a new African Eden, by bringing in the superfluous water of the great Atlantic ocean. But then, last and best, comes a thought of missionary work.—*Address of Rev. Dr. Edmund.*

COMMANDER CAMERON ON TRADE WITH AFRICA.

A crowded audience assembled in Social Science Congress Hall, Liverpool, at noon of October 4th, to hear an address from Commander Cameron, R. N., the distinguished traveller, on "Trade with Central Africa." Mr. Shaw Lefevre, M. P., presided, and briefly introduced the speaker. Commander Cameron said that the trade of Central Africa is now virtually confined to two things—ivory and slaves; and, owing to the difficulties of transit, the whole of the ivory is carried to the Coast by porters. Owing to this the Arab traders and others were compelled to buy slaves to carry their goods. Central Africa was naturally capable of becoming one of the greatest producing countries in the world, and, as such a producer, of taking a large quantity of the manufactured article in return for the raw material. At present the Arab traders from the east had penetrated about half way across the continent till they were met by the Portuguese traders on the west. The cost of carriage of ivory to the Coast was now so great as to absorb nearly all the profits, although a hundred dollars' worth of ivory could be bought in the interior for a pound weight of beads. The mineral resources of Central Africa were very great, including coal in large quantities, iron, copper, gold and silver. The oil palm existed over the entire continent to the height of 2,600 feet above the sea; and nutmeg trees grew wild. He had walked for 200 and 300 yards at a time through nutmeg groves, the ground being literally covered with the nuts, all

going to waste. At present nobody knew their value; they sought only for ivory, and thought of nothing else.

In order to develop trade in these rich districts, one thing was essential—proper means of communication must be established. There were already three great water highways—the Nile, the Congo, and the Zambesi. Of these the most important is the Congo, by far the largest river in Africa. Its mouth does not now belong to any civilized country, like the Nile, or Zambesi; and whilst the journey by the Congo to the heart of Africa would be only 500 to 600 miles, the like journey by the Nile would be 3,000 or 4,000 miles, and on the route they would everywhere find the Egyptian traders in conflict with the natives. In fact, no expedition could now make its way into Africa from the north by means of the Nile except by means of armed force. From the Congo to the head-waters of the Zambesi a canal of twenty to thirty miles in length across a level country would connect the two systems and provide an uninterrupted water communication across the entire continent. By means of the northern affluents of the Congo they would afford easy water carriage to the Coast from other extensive districts. The mouth of the Congo had no bar, and was not difficult of approach. There were some rocks in the stream, but such as steam navigation would easily deal with. At one place there were cataracts, but a portorage of about thirty miles would enable travellers to reach the upper waters of the Congo. The Lualaba, which nobody, he thought, now doubted was the upper Congo, was a splendid stream. At one place he measured it, and found it 1,080 yards across, with an average depth of one fathom, but with three channels of over three fathoms' depth; and as this was the dry season, it was clear that the stream was navigable all the year round. By sending out steamers to be taken to pieces at the rapids, and put together again above them, they could force their way right into the continent, and get access to Lake Tanganyika. Of course human portorage could not compete with steam carriage; goods would be brought to the Coast cheaply, and thus one great blow would be struck at the slave trade. Already on Lake Nyassa the Scotch missionaries had a steamer, and if they could only get steam on the Tanganyika, they would get command of the whole of that splendid water to its southern extremity.

The King of the Belgians had been talking of getting up an international scheme for exploring and civilizing Africa. His idea was to form stations right across the continent, and so form a great trunk road; and as the continent at that part was only 1,600 to 1,700 miles across, it was quite possible to establish such a line of communication. Commander Cameron advocated the establishment of a great company which should be upon the model of the East India Company, because no capitalists would risk their money unless protected from the inroads of others who would otherwise reap the benefits of their first labors and expenses. He described the climate of the highlands of Central and Lower Africa as being very healthy, and similar to that of Southern

Europe. The opening out of the whole region, which was accessible in several ways in addition to the water highways described, was most desirable in the interests of the whole world. The true way in which it could be done was to give a charter to some great company, a condition being that they should do their utmost at first to abolish the traffic in slaves, and hereafter, as the people became more educated and civilized, to do away with domestic slavery.—*The African Times.*

THE OIL RESOURCES OF AFRICA.

For miles along the West Coast of Africa, extending between Cape Blanco and St Paul de Loando, are vast forests of palms, the oily fruit of which has for centuries rotted unused upon the ground. The palm forests back of the Coast line, between Cape Palmas and Elmina, are said to be practically inexhaustible; and so also, in the neighborhood of Fernando Po, immense tracts are covered with the trees. The total export of the palm oil to England exceeds, it is said, 50,000 tuns, or a value of \$10,000,000 per annum; but this represents an exceedingly small commerce compared to what might be the case were the enormous resources fully or even moderately utilized.

The fruit from which the oil is obtained grows in the form of a large cone, about the size of a man's hat. It is covered with long spines which protect the nuts, the latter being about the size of a large olive, and of a deep golden color. The palm-tree forests, in the midst of which most of the factories exist, are said to be very picturesque. The trees, which tower to an enormous height, are as thick as it is possible for them to be, forming in some places large and impassable clumps, and in others, opening in wide and tortuous vistas. The trunks are often covered at the lower part with tufts of lovely fern, the emerald green of whose long fronds, as they droop gracefully to the earth, forms a beautiful contrast to the sombre brown of the trunks which they ornament. In the open spots in the forests, the factories, mere collections of huts, are built. In Dahomey, the nuts, when gathered, are thrown into a trough formed by making off a small area about six feet square, beating down the earth to form a floor, and inclosing it in a wall about eighteen inches high. Into this receptacle the husks are thrown, to be trodden under foot by women until the husks and the oil, which exude together, form a kind of putty. The mass is then thrown into vessels of hot water, when the oil rises to the top and is skimmed off. In Fernando Po, it is the practice to let the nuts rest in heaps until almost putrefied; hammering with stones follows, and then simmering of the pulp in a kettle, after which the women squeeze out the oil with their hands. The men do not engage in the manufacture, their labor ending with climbing of the trees and shaking down of the fruit. It will be observed

that the outside of the nut only enters into the process. The kernel separately yields a so-called black oil, and forms the staple of a trade with England, where the hard portion is subjected to the action of powerful crushing machines.

Oil from the palm nut is, however, by no means the only fatty product to be obtained from rank African vegetation. No one has ever estimated the vast resources of this description which abound in the countries bordering on the river Niger; and it is only in the shape of experimental and comparatively small exports that we get a glimpse at them. From Senegambia and Guinea come Touloncuma oil, used by the natives for anointing their bodies, and for burning in lamps, and Galam oil, a natural vegetable butter very much used in Africa for preparing food. The castor-oil plant grows wild with great luxuriance in Senegambia; and throughout West Africa there is an immense yield of pea or ground nuts, which already has given rise to a large commerce. In the northern part of the continent, and especially Algeria, there are enough olive trees to supply, if fully developed, the demand of all Europe. The province of Kabyle is an enormous olive-tree forest. The cocoanut palm grows in immense forests in Zanzibar, where its fruit is exported to France and England for making stearine for candles. The *trichilia capitata* on the Zambesi, produces small black seeds, which contain a large quantity of solid fat. The "forna" nut of Central Africa yields an excellent oil for culinary purposes, and is cultivated by the natives. A tree discovered by Dr. Kirk on Lake Nyassa also gives a rich oil, which even the natives have not utilized.

There is no doubt but that, in the gradual progression of commercial colonies for the development of the resources we have indicated, the most rapid means for opening up the interior of Africa will be found. Such expeditions as those of Stanley and other isolated explorers, though they may add to our knowledge of other resources, do nothing toward their utilization, but rather only show us how great is the task which civilization sooner or later must accomplish, in overcoming the natural obstacles of a neglected continent.—*Scientific American*.

LIBERIA AT THE CENTENNIAL.

What the people of Liberia have done in the way of establishing and developing commercial relations with the outside world is shown in the well-arranged exhibit of natural products displayed in Agricultural Hall.

The agricultural resources of the Republic are very rich. The soil is fertile, the forests contain abundant woods suitable for building; rich deposits of iron are found through the country; the sea and rivers yield a constant supply of fish, while in the forests are ivory-producing or fur-bearing animals.

The most important product of the country is coffee, and it is held that nowhere else throughout the entire world does the berry attain to such perfection as here. Next to coffee, palm oil is the most important article of export, both in a crude form and as manufactured into soap. Sugar and cotton, while not very prominent at present, seem destined to be important factors in the sum of Liberia's eventual success. Excellent sugar, and cotton of tough, smooth fibre, are among the exhibits. Iron ore is shown, of rich quality, some of it smelted by the crude process in use among the natives. Of ivory a handsome display is made, the tusks ranging upwards from a couple of feet long to a pair more than eight feet in length. Arrow-root, indigo, and native gums are also exhibited, together with camwood, bastard-mahogany, and various hard woods suitable for cabinet making. Arrow-root, indigo, and gums are, to a small extent, exported.

An interesting exhibit is made of articles of native production. The most civilized of these is a loom—very primitive in form, yet showing a certain amount of nicety of finish—upon which is woven a coarse but strong cotton cloth. There are also fish-nets of grass, some nicely plaited mats, and a few pieces of neat basket-work. The most striking of the native works is a dug-out canoe, some fifteen feet long, which strongly resembles those in use among the Indians of Puget's Sound. In iron weapons considerable skill is manifested. The largest is a well-made heavy spear, some four feet long, wrapped about the center with antelope skin. There is a broad, flat sword, rather clumsy, but capable of efficient execution; a short dagger, slightly curved, the haft and the sheath of leather, and an extremely wicked-looking knife, a cross between a Malay creese and a butcher's cleaver.

The oddest articles exhibited in the native group are small leather pouches, about four by six inches square, which we are given to understand are mail bags. Who writes the letters they are intended to convey is not mentioned. Taken as a whole, the Liberian exhibit is a gratifying and encouraging proof of what intelligent negroes can accomplish in the way of self-government and self-support.—*National Baptist.*

From The (London) African Times.

THE LIBERIAN COFFEE TREE.

CAPE COAST, September 16, 1876.

SIR: I was attracted by an advertisement occupying a column of the *Times* in the month of June last, setting forth the description of what at first appeared to be a new kind of coffee, termed "*Coffea Liberica*," and from the account given of it I suspected it was nothing more or less than the Liberian coffee tree, having visited Liberia some

twenty-six years ago and taken notice of the *tree* and the large size and light color of the bean. At that time a parcel was shipped to Philadelphia, where it was pronounced to be equal to the finest Rio, and fetched two cents a pound more than that quality.

My doubts were cleared up on perusing the accompanying article in the Trade Journal of August 1, which may interest your readers, and will inform them where they can easily and quickly procure plants of this highly-prized "*Coffea Liberica*."

A gentleman of distinction at Winnebah, who takes a great interest in the welfare of his country, was about to send to England for some plants, but I told him what my impression was regarding the "*Coffea Liberica*," which has turned out to be correct, and he will now be enabled to get as many as he pleases from Liberia to stock his domains on the banks of the Ayensue.

I may add, by way of encouragement, that in a conversation I had recently with a missionary gentleman who has been nearly forty years on this part of the Coast, he remarked that at one season he obtained as much as thirty-four pounds of coffee from a single Liberian coffee tree.

LIBERIAN COFFEE.—A new species of the coffee shrub, *Coffea Liberica*, to which attention has recently been drawn, should certainly have an interest for all who are connected with coffee culture. It used to be supposed that of the known species but one, the *Coffea Arabica*, possessed valuable properties, and it is this plant which yields those immense quantities of coffee which are required for the world's consumption. But it is not likely that it will continue long to monopolize the exclusive attention of planters, for the Liberian kind possesses recommendations which cannot fail to induce its extensive cultivation, sooner or later. It is stated to be much more prolific than the Arabian variety, and Mr. Cruwell, a gentleman who went out to Liberia some short time ago with the express object of investigating its claims to the notice of coffee growers, made the important statement that an estate of twenty or thirty acres well looked after would yield as much coffee as one of two or three hundred acres planted with *Coffea Arabica*. The beans yielded are, it seems, about double the size of those obtained from the latter variety, and in point of flavor they are said to be greatly superior. We know as a fact that those small supplies of the new coffee that have reached the American market have realized prices greatly in excess of those usually paid, and this is the best evidence of its superior quality that could be offered. Up to the present time no opportunity has been afforded the coffee trade in this country of judging of the new growth, but it may be anticipated that Liberian coffee will before long be placed on the English market. Its culture is yet in its infancy; but once the prejudice which more or less always attaches to new introductions has been overcome, the cultivation will grow apace. Already the *Coffea Liberica* has taken root in the greatest coffee garden of the world, Ceylon. Owing to its compara-

tively hardy constitution, the Liberian coffee shrub will thrive where cultivation of the Arabian kind would not succeed, and it is not too much to expect that it will be naturalized in some of our colonies, and add considerably to their material prosperity. For, immense as is the present production of coffee throughout the world, it is not adequate to the demand, as is attested by the rise in price which has of late been witnessed. There is undoubtedly abundant room for the profitable extension of coffee cultivation, and it will be interesting to watch the results which must follow the introduction of a plant so full of promise as the *Coffea Liberica* appears to be.

AN OLD RESIDENT AND WELL-WISHER TO AFRICA.

AFRICAN DESTINY.

Neutrality is out of the question. We must say yea or nay. There is a great deal of twaddle about this matter of God's fatherhood and man's brotherhood. We all know that to deny these is to deny the Christian faith. But what has that to do with we negroes being content that our white brothers should have all the excellence and all the power; and we sustain the relation to them of servants in particular, and slaves in general? The very fact that we are the white man's brother should urge us to contest with him for our rightful share of the inheritance. Who ever heard of a younger or an older brother surrendering the parental estate without a murmur? Nor should we. To do so, and then apologize for it by throwing up the hat when some numbskull talks the "man and brother," is simply to call things by the wrong name—to call shiftlessness magnanimity.

Now what we negroes ought to do is to have a hand in the matter of possessing Africa. To stand by and see other people possess it is simply to exhibit our want of the pluck that is *peculiar to the common family*. We should strengthen Liberia, not by any wholesale exodus, but by men of business going thither and engaging in the cultivation of coffee and cotton. Let no mention now be made of acclimatization. White men think of this only when they meditate going as missionaries. When it comes to business it is never mentioned. Nor should we mention it. Life is as secure in Liberia as it is in America. The ratio of deaths there is by no means as great as it was among the first Christian settlers of America; and if it were twice as great, for the sake of possessing ourselves of a rightful share of the common patrimony, we should be willing to do and dare. God has no special smiles for those of His children who do nothing. His word is "subdue the world and possess it;" and we should be willing to at least attempt it for the sake of getting our share. To content ourselves with crumbs is alike dishonorable to us and to our family.—*Christian Recorder*.

CHRISTIAN HEROES IN AFRICA.

Modern Africa has its record of the heroic struggles of Christian missionaries. Their apostolic labors and successes have been chronicled in Heaven though often unheralded on earth. Men of highest culture and deepest consecration have gone thither from all Christian lands—from England, Scotland, Germany, Switzerland and America. They have toiled and triumphed, whether living or dying, and, while many have fallen, the success of their labors is attested in the founding of many Christian churches and schools and in a promising civilization begun in different parts of the continent.

Portions of Africa are as healthy as America, but over the larger part malaria reigns unchecked, and joins hand in hand with heathen barbarism in disputing every inch of ground with the missionary of the Cross. Western Africa is the special home of this malarial foe, yet even here, while some have died, others have labored with success for many years. Of forty-nine missionaries sent thither by the American Missionary Association, sixteen have died in the field and thirteen returned within a year on account of ill health; but, on the other hand, one of its missionaries has remained twenty-four years, one nineteen, and two others seventeen years, with occasional respite of return to America; and one remained twelve consecutive years and two others five.

But still the refrain comes to us of Africa's deadly climate. When the Christian martyrs sunk in death at the stake or in the arena of blood it was but the signal for the bolder avowal of Christ and a fresh marshalling of those ready to peril their lives for His sake. In the heroic martyr age the thought was not of the fagot or of the fang of the wild beast, but that the world must be conquered by the Cross. And now in this case Africa must be won to the Saviour. *It will be won.* The danger must be met. The climate must be braved. There can be no delay till commerce or civilization has drained these swamps or cleared the jungle. Christianity must take the lead, and, as the co-worker with civilization, must bring religion, health, and the new life to Africa.—*American Missionary.*

FACTS FOR LOVERS OF FREEDOM.

The slave trade is now being carried on at an annual cost of at least 500,000 African lives—70,000 reaching the Coast and the remainder massacred.

There are five routes by which slaves are taken from Central Africa: 1, through the Sahara Desert to Tunis and Morocco; 2, down the Nile, *via* Khartoum, into Egypt; 3, down the Nile, turning off before reaching Khartoum, for the seaports on the Red Sea; 4, direct to the Zanzibar Coast, for Zanzibar, Pemba, &c.; 5, two routes

from Lake N'yassa to the Mozambique Coast, for Madagascar and the North.

The treaties with Zanzibar do not really prevent the traffic as the Seyid has no power to enforce these treaties. The English cruisers capture only a fraction of the dhows engaged by the Arabs in the slave trade. It has now become necessary to seek directly, by all justifiable means, to abolish *slavery* in Egypt, Turkey, Persia, Zanzibar, Madagascar, Tunis, Morocco, Cuba, and Brazil.—*Illustrated Missionary News.*

LIBERIA-MOCHA COFFEE.

Liberia coffee is rapidly growing in demand, especially in Europe, where it has been longer and is better known than in this country. A leading African merchant in Liverpool says that he has received applications for Liberia seed coffee from various parts of the world, including Ceylon, Natal, Barbadoes, and Arizona. The gentleman alluded to, Mr. James Irvine, offered a few months ago a prize of £20 and a silver medal to the Liberian planter who should send him a ton of the best Liberian coffee, the quality to be decided upon by two competent judges in Liverpool. Mr. M. T. Decoursey, of the St. Paul's river, is adjudged the successful competitor, and Mr. Irvine has already sent him the £20, and is having the medal, in solid silver and exquisite workmanship, now prepared. The medal will have on one side the Liberian and English flags across each other, with the motto above, from Proverbs, xxviii: 19, "He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread." On the other side the following: "Prize won by M. T. Decoursey, Esq., Monrovia, for the best growth of Liberia Coffee during the season of 1876. Presented by James Irvine, Esq., Liverpool." This will no doubt stimulate the interest now being felt in Liberia in the growth and cultivation of coffee. By agriculture, not commerce, is Africa to be elevated. It is believed that a mine of wealth lies, not at all concealed, in the culture of coffee in Liberia, and beautiful homes may be enjoyed on coffee plantations in that prosperous Republic.

EXPEDITION FOR LIBERIA.

Twenty-seven emigrants from New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans, and Columbia, S. C., embarked on the "Jasper," which went to sea from New York on Wednesday, November 1, direct for Monrovia. They were sent by the American Colonization Society, and

are those who, by their industry, intelligence, and honorable conduct, had won the respect of their fellow-citizens. Of the adults fourteen were communicants of the Methodist E. Church, and two each of the Baptist and Episcopal Churches. The males were chiefly farmers, with one carpenter. Since the close of the war the Society has given passage to more than three thousand persons.

Among the cabin passengers by the "Jasper" were Bishop Gilbert Haven, who is under appointment of the Methodist E. Church, to preside at the Liberia Annual Conference in January; Mr. W. J. Haven, nephew and Secretary of the Bishop; Rev. J. T. Gracey, formerly a missionary in India, who takes the voyage for the benefit of his health; Rev. David A. Day and wife, returning to the Lutheran Mission on the Saint Paul's river, and Mr. W. H. Litchfield, of Philadelphia, who goes to engage in mercantile affairs in Liberia. Also, Hon. Thomas G. Fuller, a citizen of that Republic.

The *New York Herald* says: "The colored emigrants were chiefly from South Carolina and of both sexes. They wore homespun clothes and appeared a hardy, healthy set of people. They seemed to be rather glad at leaving this land of liberty and equal rights, and no doubt their minds pictured a future of glowing and perennial happiness on Afric's sunny strand. Bishop Haven was in fine spirits. He spoke enthusiastically of the destiny of the colored race—of the day when, in educated numbers, they would return to their natal soil and redeem a great continent from sterility and barbarism. He dwelt fondly on the prospect he hoped to see arise of great fleets leaving the ports of America laden with intelligent and Christian negroes carrying the torch of civilization and religion into the haunts of superstition, vice, and heathenism."

AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

The Sixtieth Annual Meeting of the AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY will be held in Metropolitan Methodist E. Church, Washington City, on Tuesday, January 16, at 7½ o'clock P. M., when addresses may be expected from Hon. John H. B. Latrobe, of Baltimore; Rev. Alexander T. McGill, D. D., of Princeton Theological Seminary, and William H. Allen, LL.D., President of Girard College.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS will meet the same day at 12 o'clock M. at the Colonization Building, 450 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington City.

ROLL OF EMIGRANTS FOR LIBERIA.

BY BARQUE JASPER, FROM NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 1, 1876.

From Columbia, S. C., for Arthington.

No.	NAME.	AGE.	OCCUPATION.	RELIGION.
1	Allen Brisbane.....	28	Farmer.	Methodist.
2	Sarah Brisbane.....	23	.....	Methodist.
3	Betsy Brisbane.....	6		
4	Maria Brisbane.....	3		
5	Arabella F. Brisbane.....	1		
6	Eli Brisbane.....	49	Farmer.	Methodist.
7	Maria Brisbane.....	45	.....	Methodist.
8	Eli Brisbane, jr.	22	Farmer.	Methodist.
9	Caroline Brisbane.....	15		
10	Abram Brisbane.....	11		
11	Jennie Brisbane.....	8		
12	Jennie Chestnut	50	.....	Methodist.
13	Della Chestnut.....	20	.....	Methodist.
14	Sarah Chestnut.....	2		
15	Jackson Caldwell.....	30	Farmer.	Methodist.
16	Betsy Caldwell.....	40	.....	Methodist.
17	James Wilson.....	22	Farmer.	Methodist.
18	Simon Martin.....	24	Farmer.	Methodist.
19	Samuel Dooley.....	21	Farmer.	Methodist.

From New Orleans, La., for Monrovia.

20	John H. Dorsey.....	43	Carpenter.	Episcopal.
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From New York City, for Monrovia.

21	James G. Williams.....	50	Farmer.	Episcopal.
22	Charles Scott	39	Laborer.	Baptist.
23	Mrs. H. K. Farrow	40	.....	Baptist.

From Philadelphia, Pa., for Cape Palmas.

24	Maria Dent.....	58	.....	Methodist.
25	Catharine Dent.....	26	.....	Methodist.
26	Francis F. Dent.....	23	Farmer.	
27	James Dent.....	21	Farmer.	

NOTE.—The foregoing named persons make a total of 15,125 emigrants settled in Liberia by the AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

THE PIONEERS OF LIBERIA.

BY HON. HENRY W. JOHNSON.

Ex-Attorney-General of Liberia.

Boldly came that self-sacrificing band,
 A love for freedom led them ;
 A desire to rear in their fatherland
 A home—this nobly urged them.
 And they launched forth on the billowy wave,
 Fierce storms and tempests braving,*
 They had no fear of the raging sea,
 For they felt that God was with them :
 They felt that He their guide would be,
 Their aid in the work before them ;
 And boldly they came, up the rocky strand
 Where ocean's dark waters were laving.

Amid the gloomy wilds of Afric's land,
 With the canopy of Heaven above them,
 On their bended knees, did this pious band
 Give thanks to God who had brought them
 Through the dangers of the briny deep,
 And their haven in safety reaching ; †
 God heard their prayers, for He gave ear ;
 In their arduous task He blessed them ;
 When hopes seemed fled, He then was near,
 His aid was ever with them ;
 And they persevered in their noble work—
 The heathen around them teaching.

They toiled on, this courageous band,
 Though many trials beset them ;
 They faltered not, when called to stand
 And meet the foe before them.
 Their task begun, they worked with a will,
 A home for their children rearing ;
 The forest fell, the gloom disappeared,
 And nature smiled around them.
 A home they had, to them endeared

* The ship *Elizabeth*, the "Mayflower" of Liberia, sailed from New York February 6, 1820, with eighty-six emigrants. Commodore C. Vanderbilt, who then rowed a boat between New York and Staten Island, cut the ice which detained the vessel, and thus enabled the ship to proceed to sea.

† The first settlement on Sherbro Island was not satisfactory ; but the beautiful location on Cape Montserrado, where Monrovia now stands, was obtained by treaty December 15, 1821, and the American flag raised there April 15, 1822.

By a hope for the future before them, †
 Their efforts crowned, they were willing to die,
 For they felt that the time was nearing.

They are gone, all gone, that noble band,
 But they've left their names behind them ;
 And their children now enjoy the land,
 Which their labors have built for them.
 Long may we their memory keep ;
 In their example ne'er grow weary ;
 Like them persevere in the arduous task,
 In the work which lies before us ; ‡
 And receive our reward, when called at last,
 To Him who ever rules o'er us,
 There to meet in Heaven above,
 The Pioneers of Liberia.

ITEMS OF INTELLIGENCE.

ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE.—Wednesday, July 27th, at the noonday meeting in the hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, Philadelphia, special reference was made to the twenty-ninth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, proclaimed by the people of Liberia on the 26th of July, 1847. Remarks were made by Rev. Thomas S. Malcom in regard to the religious progress of the new interior settlement of Arthington, on the St. Paul's river. Mention was also made of the remarkable opening for settlers and for missionary laborers since the recent peace among the tribes in the region of the Cavalla river. The anxiety to settle in Liberia is rapidly spreading among the freedmen in consequence of the favorable letters received from friends who have gone there. The demand for Liberia coffee, in consequence of its large berry and excellent flavor, should lead to the formation of companies to plant coffee on a large scale. It is stated on good authority that an investment of fifty thousand dollars in coffee plantations would yield a return of eight hundred thousand dollars within twelve years.

REVIVAL IN LIBERIA.—There are in progress throughout Liberia great revivals of religion. Monrovia, Bassa, Sinou, Cape Palmas, and many intermediate points are having seasons of refreshing. Sinners, old and young, civilized and half-civilized, are being converted to God. Backsliders are being reclaimed, and the heathen are becoming more and more interested about the salvation of their souls. God is with us, and that to bless.—*Letter of Rev. J. H. Deputie.*

† The people, in Convention assembled, declared themselves a "free, Sovereign, and Independent State, by the name and title of the Republic of Liberia," on July 26, 1847. The flag of the new Republic, with one star and eleven stripes, was raised August 24, 1847, with demonstrations of joy and gratitude.

‡ The territory owned by the Liberian Government extended six hundred miles, fronting the Atlantic Ocean, and the native title has been finally purchased.

VISIT OF A LIBERIA MERCHANT.—Reginald A. Sherman, Esq., a prominent merchant of Monrovia, visited Philadelphia recently. He went to Liberia from Savannah, Georgia, in 1856. The taxes on property in Liberia are only half of one per cent. on a moderate valuation. Public schools are established in each settlement. English steamships stop weekly, and returns from Europe can be obtained in six weeks after goods are shipped. Coffee, sugar, ginger, arrow-root, and palm oil are exported. The desire for passage to Liberia is spreading among the freedmen. The last company sailed on the 1st of November.—*Philadelphia Telegraph*.

A BETTER FEELING.—A missionary writes: "I believe that our Heavenly Father is bringing much good out of the late war at Cape Palmas. The people are more industrious. More land is being cultivated. One of the Greboes of influence told me that their wealth lay in the soil, and that they must dig it out—plant coffee trees, sugarcane, &c., export the produce, and so have money for themselves, their schools, and their churches."

MARRIAGE AT MONROVIA.—Married, on the evening of the 31st of May last, at the commodious dwelling-house of the bride's father, in Ashmun street, by the Rev. C. A. Pitman, pastor of the Methodist Church, Monrovia, Florence Irene, eldest child and only daughter of the Hon. J. T. Wiles, Secretary of the Treasury, Republic of Liberia, and Jesse Randolph, eldest son of the Hon. Henry Cooper, merchant, of Monrovia. One of the happiest gatherings of the rising Republic contributed to the felicities of this sacred union. Among the guests were President James S. Payne and wife, the Secretary of State and wife, and the Hon. C. B. Dunbar, M. D. and wife. The early part of the evening was most agreeably spent; music and song, and the manifest care, forethought, and solicitude of the host and hostess for the perfect enjoyment and gratification of their guests, rendering everything delightful. The nuptial rites being ended and followed by a sumptuous and more substantial repast than the preceding varied and delicious dainties during the evening, dancing under the graceful leading of the bride and bridegroom and bridal suite, succeeded and was continued with refreshing intervals throughout the lovely moonlight night long after the youthful bride had departed to her new-made home, and the bright morning star sparkingly pellucid in rapt serenity bespoke the approach of day.—*African Times*.

THE CONGOES.—Several years since there were nearly 5,000 Congoes rescued from slave ships by American men-of-war, who were landed at Liberia. They have been civilized, and very many have made a profession of religion. In some cases well conducted churches have been formed exclusively of Congoes. It has been suggested that some of the most promising of them should be sent as missionaries to the Congo country whence they were taken by the slavers. When it is considered that these heathen Congoes numbered one-third as many as all the Liberians, it speaks well for the missionary spirit of the Liberian churches that such good results should have so speedily followed. Liberia deserves the name of "the Missionary Republic."

LIBERIA BAPTIST MISSION.—At the recent anniversary of the American Baptist Missionary Union held in Buffalo, a committee on African Missions was appointed, consisting of Rev. W. W. Everts, D. D., of Chicago, Rev. J. F. Brown, D. D., of New Jersey, etc. They deprecated the abandonment of African missions and proposed cor-

respondence with the Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and with the Colored Baptist Convention to agree upon some plan by which the entire denomination in the United States may co-operate in this work.

FOURAH BAY COLLEGE.—Next year the Fourah Bay College at Freetown, Sierra Leone, will be half a century old. It has from the beginning been very ably conducted by the Church Missionary Society. The first pupil on its roll was Samuel Crowther, the energetic bishop of the Niger Mission. Men educated in this institution have, as pastors and teachers, been a blessing to various parts of the West Coast of Africa. This year the College has been reorganized on a wider basis, such as the advanced condition of the Sierra Leone Colony requires. Studies have been added to the course, the teaching staff has been increased, and the scale of fees has been arranged. The institution is still to furnish facilities for the training of missionary agents, but is the same to serve as a high school for the youth of the colony. For this purpose the College has been affiliated with the University of Durham, so that African students may receive their degrees without being obliged to leave their own country.

YORUBA MISSION.—During the recent visit of the Bishop of Sierra Leone several ministers were ordained and 483 candidates were confirmed at Abeokuta, the capital, where seven years' exclusion of foreign missionaries has not damped the ardor of the native church. During the Yoruba troubles many of the Abeokuta Christians fled to Ebute Meta, where a new church has now been erected and 77 persons confirmed. At Lagos, the English seaport town of the Yoruba country, the work is very flourishing. On the occasion of the Bishop's visit 301 candidates were confirmed and the three churches of the town were united under a native church committee, such as exists in several parts of Southern India and in Sierra Leone. In this way the energies of the native Christians are developed through self-direction.

THE FOULAHS.—This energetic and interesting race of North Africa have received but little attention from the Christian Church. They reside in the extensive district of Senegambia, which lies between the Gambia and Senegal rivers. The country is in the hands of the French, who call the Foulahs, Toucouleurs, because they differ so greatly amongst themselves in complexion. They have a tradition that they are descended from Phut, the son of Ham (Gen., x:7.) They prefix the word Futa to almost every district of any extent which they have occupied.

SOUTH AFRICAN HOLYOKE.—The Free Church of Scotland supports an important school in South Africa known as the Lovedale Institution. It has 417 scholars under instruction, of whom 244 are natives. Two theological students have been licensed to preach. Good reports have been also received from the industrial school where wagon making, blacksmithing, and carpentering are carried on.

MOHAMMEDAN AGGRESSIVENESS.—REV. DR. JESSUP writes from Beirut: "The Moslems in Constantinople are forming a society to send missionaries to Ugaga and prevent King Mtesa from accepting Christianity. They have Stanley's letter, and are determined to lose no time in saving Ugaga for Islam. What a lesson for us all! Some of the Constantinople Moslems have given £100, others £50, etc., etc., and made it a permanent endowment for aggressive work in Central Africa."

RECEIPTS OF THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY

During the month of October, 1876.

CONNECTICUT. (\$25.00)		gar, \$10.....	\$110 00
<i>New Milford</i> —Miss. C. E. Boardman....	\$25 00	<i>Camden</i> —From a family.....	25 00
RHODE ISLAND. (\$120.00.)		PENNSYLVANIA. (\$30.00.)	
<i>Bristol</i> —Mrs. M. A. DeW. Rogers,		<i>Philadelphia</i> —FRANCIS G. SCHULTZ, to	
Miss C. DeWolf, ea. \$50.	100 00	constitute himself a Life Member....	30 00
<i>Newport</i> —Miss Ellen Townsend.....	20 00	AFRICAN REPOSITORY. (\$8.00.)	
NEW YORK. (\$60.00.)		<i>New Hampshire</i> , \$4; <i>Pennsylvania</i> , \$2;	
<i>Brooklyn</i> —Miss Margarette Dimon.....	50 00	<i>North Carolina</i> , \$1; <i>California</i> , \$1....	8 00
<i>New York City</i> —A. Kirkham.....	5 00	RECAPITULATION.	
<i>Penn Yan</i> —Cash.....	5 00	Donations.....	370 00
NEW JERSEY. (\$135.00.)		<i>African Repository</i>	8 00
<i>Newark</i> —Rev. Dr. William H. Steele,		<i>Rents of Colonization Building</i>	198 08
Daniel Price, ea. \$50; Henry Con-		Total Receipts in October.....	\$576 08

During the month of November, 1876.

MAINE. (\$5,000.)		NEW YORK. (\$184.00.)	
<i>Freeport</i> —Legacy of Mrs. Sarah A. Ho-		<i>New York City</i> —Mrs. Mary L. Sheafe,	
bart, by Dr. E. Wells, executor....	\$5,000 00	James Brown, ea. \$50; Burr Wake-	
NEW HAMPSHIRE. (\$10.00.)		man, \$25; Mrs. Horace Holden, Mrs.	
<i>Mount Vernon</i> —A friend.....	10 00	Jona. Sturges, ea. \$10.....	145 00
MASSACHUSETTS. (\$20.00.)		<i>Yonkers</i> —Joseph Masten, \$25; J. & G.	
<i>Newburyport</i> —Ladies' Colonization So-		Stewart, \$10; G. P. Reeves, Mrs. C.	
cety, Mrs. H. Sanborn, Treasurer....	20 00	B. Aborn, ea. \$2.....	39 00
CONNECTICUT. (\$107.00.)		NEW JERSEY. (\$5.00.)	
<i>Bridgeport</i> —N. Wheeler, \$10; Edward		<i>Jersey City</i> —Governor Bedle.....	3 00
Sterling, Mrs. A. Bishop, J. C. Loomis,		<i>New Brunswick</i> —H. H. Palmer.....	2 00
Capt Brooks, ea. \$5; Mrs. Ira Sher-		AFRICAN REPOSITORY. (\$4.00.)	
man, \$2.....	32 00	<i>New Hampshire</i> , \$2; <i>North Carolina</i> ,	
<i>Norwalk</i> —Rev. C. M. Selleck, \$20;		\$1; <i>Georgia</i> , \$1.....	4 00
William S. Lockwood, \$10; Stiles		RECAPITULATION.	
Curtis, George Kissam, ea. \$5; Asa		Donations.....	326 00
E. Smith, William B. Lockwood, ea.		Legacy.....	5,000 00
\$1.....	42 00	<i>African Repository</i>	4 00
<i>Stamford</i> —Mrs. George Brown.....	3 00	<i>Rents of Colonization Building</i>	150 08
<i>Greenwich</i> —Miss Sarah Mead, \$20;		Total Receipts in November....	\$5,480 08
Oliver Mead, Mrs. Augustus Mead,			
ea. \$5.....	30 00		

During the month of December, 1876.

VERMONT. (\$2.00.)		NEW JERSEY. (\$20.00.)	
<i>St. Johnsbury</i> —Mrs. A. F. Kidder.....	\$2 00	<i>Newark</i> —Joseph N. Tuttle, F. Walcott	
MASSACHUSETTS. (\$321.00.)		Jackson, ea. \$10.....	20 00
<i>Boston</i> —P. C. Brooks, \$100; John A.		PENNSYLVANIA. (\$860.00.)	
Burnham, George H. Kuhn, T. Wig-		<i>Philadelphia</i> —Pennsylvania Coloniza-	
glesworth, Amos A. Lawrence, ea.		Society, Rev. Thomas S. Malcom,	
\$20; J. C. Braman, \$15; Edward		Corresponding Secretary and Assistant	
Wheelwright, Peter Butler, H. S.		Treasurer, to defray expenses of emi-	
Chase, Edward Lawrence, Henry		grants to Liberia and complete basis	
Lyon, Miss A. B. Newman, ea. \$10;		of representation.....	860 00
Rev. A. P. Chute, R. Frothingham,		AFRICAN REPOSITORY. (\$6 20.)	
James Adams, George Hyde, J. F.		Connecticut, \$2.20; <i>Pennsylvania</i> , \$1;	
Hunnewell, T. T. Sawyer, ea. \$5....	285 00	<i>Maryland</i> , \$1; <i>Georgia</i> , \$3.....	6 20
<i>Worcester</i> —David Whitcomb, \$20;		RECAPITULATION.	
Isaac Davis, H. W. Miller, Asa		Donations.....	1603 00
Walker, ea. \$5; Daniel Ward, \$1....	36 00	<i>African Repository</i>	6 20
CONNECTICUT. (\$75.00.)		<i>Rents and Interest</i>	625 09
<i>Stamford</i> —Charles J. Starr, \$50; Ira		Total Receipts in December....	\$2,234 29
Bliss, \$25.....	75 00		
NEW YORK. (\$325.00.)			
<i>New York City</i> —Miss C. L. Wolfe, A.			
K. Ely, H. K. Corning, ea. \$100;			
Mrs. A. F. Jaffray, \$25.....	325 00		

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