



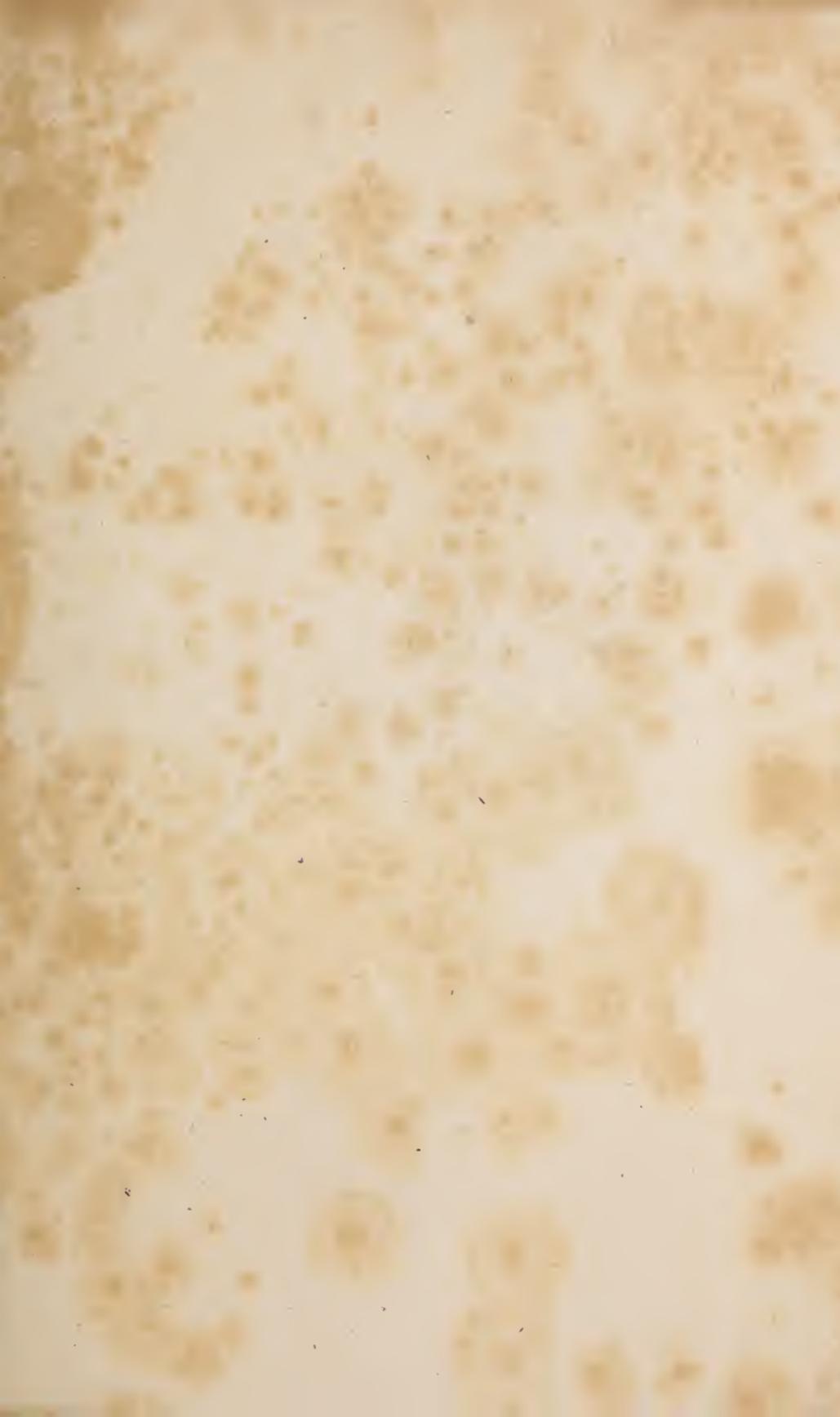
49-4

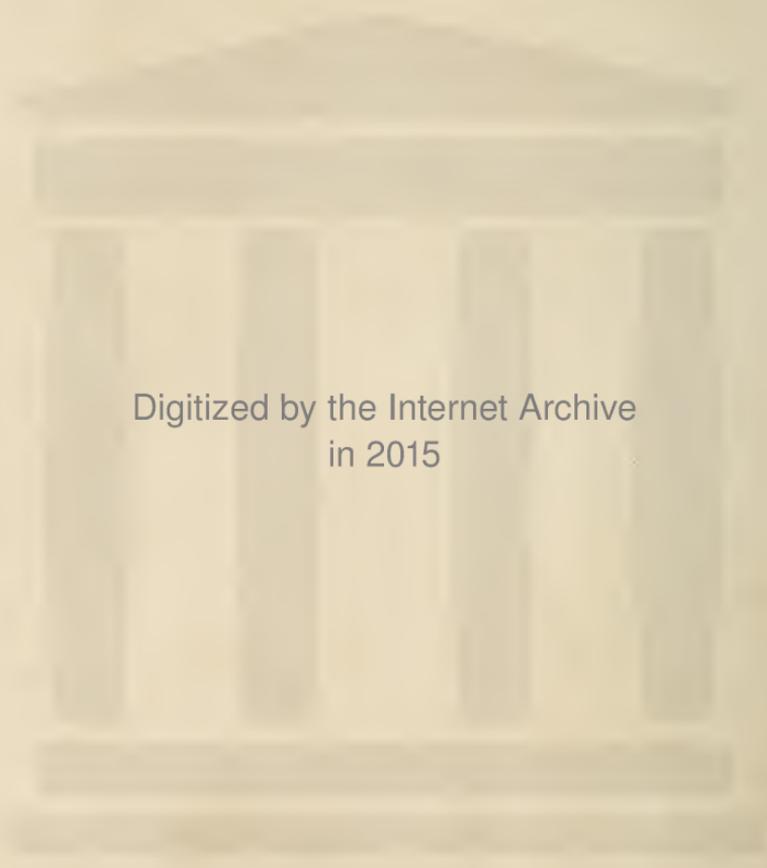
14

LIBRARY
OF THE
Theological Seminary,
PRINCETON, N. J.

Case, *Division* I.....
Shelf, *Section* 7.....
Book, *No.*.....

500
8628





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2015

THE AFRICAN REPOSITORY,

AND

COLONIAL JOURNAL.

VOL. XXI.]

WASHINGTON, JULY, 1845.

[No. 7.

Late Intelligence from Liberia.

By a late arrival at New York we received one letter and one newspaper from a private citizen in Liberia, dated the 15th March.* This is some two months later than any thing previously received. But we are unable to imagine the reason why we did not receive despatches from Governor Roberts, and other correspondents who are accustomed to embrace every opportunity of sending letters to us. As soon as the *Liberia Packet* commences running, which we presume will be next fall, we shall be certain of regular communication with Liberia at least twice a year.

From the letter and paper above alluded to, we gather the following facts:

Governor Roberts had returned from his visit to the leeward settlements, where he found things generally in a prosperous condition. *While at Sinou he completed the purchase of the whole Sinou country.* Our friends in Mississippi and Loui-

siana will be glad to hear of this, as it gives their settlement all the territory that is desired, and insures the settlement against the many interruptions to which it has been subject heretofore.

The health of the colonists was generally good. There had been considerable sickness on board the U. S. man-of-war "*Preble*,"—the last intelligence giving seventeen as her loss by death, and seventy still on the sick list.

The commissioners appointed by the Governor to settle some disputes between the various chiefs and head men of the Little Bassa country, and to negotiate with them for the purchase of their whole territory, had returned to Monrovia, having fully succeeded in carrying out their instructions. We have here another undeniable proof of the powerful and happy influence which the "Liberian settlers" have gained over the native tribes. But for this influence, a most bloody and exterminating

* For still later intelligence see on page 211, which has been received since the above was in type.

war would have raged among those *kindred* tribes. But now they are all at peace;—their troubles and difficulties are at an end; and *their whole territory* is now put under the government of the commonwealth of Liberia, *having been purchased at a fair price.*

We would call attention to the "Journal of these Commissioners," in another column.

Our friends will thus see that we are pushing ahead the purchase of the territory as fast as possible, although we are yet without the means of paying for it. Will they not be thus stimulated to make up "that \$15,000" without delay? Most of what is already pledged, remains totally unavailable to us, for the want of a few more names being added to the list!

We do not find any intelligence of the purchase of New Cesters; and from the entire silence on the subject, we fear that Governor Roberts was unsuccessful in his endeavors there. Still, we do not doubt the possibility of obtaining possession of it, and thus breaking up the slave barracoon established there.

The following remarks by the editor of the Liberia Herald, under the head of "OUR AFFAIRS," show that they understand the great fact, that the road to dignity and honor, and high national character, is open before them, and that by their own efforts they must push their way upward: that they never can be made great by others: that it is only

by toilsome efforts in resisting opposing circumstances, and by bold and daring energy in seizing upon the elements of life and power, that they can ever command distinction and acquire everlasting fame:

"OUR AFFAIRS."

"Our last letters from America present us with encouraging prospects in regard to African Colonization. Colonization appears to be attracting somewhat more of attention than was given to it the three or four years last past; and the attention now paid to it is of a more favorable character. Connected with this, however, is a fact of which the people of these colonies should never lose sight: and that fact is, that cautiousness should ever be observed in placing reliance upon a cause which depends for its onward movement upon a foreign popular favor. Such are the fickleness and versatility of the multitude—such their anxiety and burning for something new and striking—that many regard them unworthy and unsafe arbiters of even their own destinies. The object of ardent pursuit to-day, will likely be among the forgotten of the morrow. Colonization should not take these irregular and spasmodic impulses as the prelusive movements of a regular and abiding force, but should regard them as indicating for the time the direction of the public mind, whose most striking characteristic is ceaseless change. Whilst we should ever close our minds against the entrance of the conceit which would effect to disdain the sympathy and aid of others, let us remember that to expect to be made 'a people' solely by the efforts of others, or even to desire it, would prove *defacto* that we are unworthy of the boon we desire. A name and a place are among Heaven's brightest gifts, and Heaven rarely bestows its benisons upon the enervate and irresolute. While, therefore, we should never be insensible to the efforts of our friends abroad, nor to any indication of a favorable public regard of our cause and condition, but receive with grateful hearts every emotion of sympathy; let us yet recollect the heat and burden of the day are to be borne by us.

"The lesson fraught with the greatest blessing to us we have yet to learn. The bone and sinew are ours—others can only advise the direction of their movement. The eager anxiety and the numerous enquiries on the arrival of letters from America, to know what the Society is doing, indicates too truly, we fear, an unworthy and unmanly reliance on the efforts of

others; while the great objects to which our friends abroad direct our attention as the certain highway to independence, because they involve in their accomplishment difficulty and labor, are too systematically neglected.

"That we have recently made some improvements, and that there have been some development of capacity among us, there can be no doubt; but these have not been commensurate with our opportunities."

There are undoubtedly many in the commonwealth who have very inadequate notions of the immense responsibility which rests upon them, and of the "exceeding weight of glory" which awaits them if they prove faithful to their trust. They are not yet emancipated from that laziness, improvidence, and *mental* bondage which long depression in this country had brought upon them. They have not yet conceived ideas of their *national* redemption; they have not yet lifted their eyes to the orient star which already hangs over the place of their race's coming distinction on earth! But we are happy to know that this is not true of all the citizens of Liberia. They, in some good degree, appreciate the fact that they have been summoned by the providence of God, "to hold," as a friend has expressed it, "in rightful possession, the wide, magnificent, but depopulated, territory of their mother country, awe-struck by no superior power, subdued by no mighty competition, restrained by no force of prejudice, custom, or law, depressed by no sense of weakness or of wrong, and in the consciousness of freedom of all human power, to build up among barbarians the church of God and a republican

empire. Escaped from the despotism of the mind, they feel that liberty of soul, which is the parent of greatness, which turns adverse events, the rigor of discipline and the shocks of calamity, to the account of wisdom, and makes nature in all her forms tributary to its power; that mental liberty which admits in all their force the influence of all the motives which strengthen and ennoble our immortal faculties, give clearness and comprehensiveness to reason, vigor to imagination, and invincible energy to will:— which arm fortitude, elevate hope, make courage resistless, and, guarding and cherishing the domestic and social affections as the seeds of public virtue, by ties of patriotism, indissoluble because sacred, bind man to his country, and by the golden chain of an all-circumscribing philanthropy, link him forever to the destinies of mankind." They remained long enough in this country to learn something of the nature of our government and our civil institutions, and to become inspired with a laudable ambition "to make Liberia to their country what Plymouth and Jamestown have been to this! to do for themselves what all the world can never do for them! to do for their race what can only be expected from their prayers and their labors! They have gone to Africa for great purposes, to build up their own fortunes, redeem the character of their people, and thus command the respect of the world; to estab-

lish upon her shores civilization and free government; to lift the covering of night from her face, and call forth her ignorant, savage, enslaved children, from the desert where the lion roars, or the wilderness where he slumbers, from clay-built huts, from dens and mountain caves, to a purer, nobler life; to re-kindle the gone-out glories, to rear anew the prostrate, decayed, but giant monuments of her ancient might; to wave the torch of wisdom in the face of superstition and amid the haunts of ruin; to carve their names as benefactors in her eternal rocks, and bring back that quarter of the earth, long lost to science, liberty, humanity, and religion, to the empire of reason and God." They have gone to Africa, not to seek a life of ease in "the castles of indolence;" not merely to better their own individual fortunes and their children's; not merely to alleviate the general sufferings of frail humanity. No!—They have learned that—

"The drying up a single tear has more
Of honest fame, than shedding seas of gore."

And they have made up their minds to a life of toil, and energy, in laying deep and broad the foundations of republican institutions for their numerous but afflicted race! They know that "by toilsome effort only, do the bold and daring gain the Alpine heights, and the eye that thence sees the sun, hidden to all eyes below, beams as bright with health as honor:" and they are determined to make the efforts adequate to the

desired and glorious result! We may with appropriateness apply to their self-sacrifice and determination what was said of the "bounty" of another—

"There was no winter in't; an autumn 'twas
That grew the more by reaping."

They have shown no marks of discouragement, no disposition to resign the work in despair. And in their past history and present character we have the assurance that they never will! They are pledged to the work, and have no intention of losing the forfeit. They have put the armor on, and cannot be induced to put it off, till

"They their work have done
And rendered up account."

Here then is a strong appeal made to us for assistance. We are assured by their very character and present condition, that what we do for them will not be thrown away upon the recklessly indolent, and hopelessly inactive. They have about them bone and muscle and sinew; but they are yet in an infant state. Whatever of aid and assistance we now render them, will act as the best of food to nourish and invigorate a young but healthy constitution. We are called to help those who are willing and determined to help themselves. We have it in our power to afford them facilities such as they cannot otherwise obtain. They need increased numbers of intelligent, educated citizens, to add to their moral power, and enable them to spread more

rapidly the principles of civilization and Christianity among the natives; to act as teachers and preachers, and *helpers* in making and executing the laws of the commonwealth.

They need also the means of purchasing the remaining territory, lying within their extreme limits, as the only means of extending the influence of their government and the protection of their laws over the whole line of coast, and thus putting a stop to the slave trade along their borders, and compelling those who engage in lawful commerce to respect the laws and uphold the authority of the commonwealth. In reference to this subject, the editor of the *Liberia Herald*, in the article from which we have already quoted, holds the following language:

“The present position of the colony is one exceedingly perplexing and anomalous; and as if past annoyances, to which the colored man has been every where subjected, are not sufficient, foreigners are now wielding this anomaly greatly to our disadvantage. We have long seen the probability of this difficulty, but would not allow ourselves to believe we should be soon plunged into it. Professing, as the English do, so much philanthropy and so extended and high-toned benevolence, we hoped every thing from them: but Commodore Jones’s last letter to the Governor has dispelled the illusion, and warns us that we have most to fear where once we had indulged the most pleasing expectations. His diplomatic communication contains one sentence which we presume would find a place in a correspondence with no people on earth except Liberians. It is a kind of genteel braggardism; of diplomatic gasconade over a prostrate victim from whom nothing is to be apprehended. We have compared the style and spirit of this communication with the commodore’s correspondence with American commanders on this station, and we can find no escape from the conviction, that, when penning this letter, he kept distinctly before his eye the resources of the people he was addressing.

“It is clear we cannot exist if the British maintain the position assumed by the commodore, as we shall be exposed to incursions by every British trader that comes to the coast—to which if we dare oppose resistance, we shall feel the full vengeance of all-powerful England.

“But until it be denied that we are men, it will not be denied that we have certain rights—among these the right to breathe God’s free air—to purchase land from its rightful owners, to dig that land and eat its fruits—to govern ourselves on that land, and to adjust the conditions on which others shall come among us. These are altogether distinct, in our opinion at least, from international rights. The former are founded on the unavoidable wants of our common nature—that is, they are the gift of God, and therefore cannot be conferred by any people on another; the latter is founded on conventional agreement—the former is necessary to our existence, the latter not.

“It behooves us, therefore, to prove ourselves worthy of these rights, by our industry, perseverance, good order, and virtue. By clearing away these primitive forests and developing the rich resources of the unreclaimed country; by recovering these semi-savage tribes around us from their barbarism, and tutoring them in the arts and manners of civilized and Christian life, we will exhibit a claim to be let alone which no people who have any respect for justice will dare to disregard.”

The world ought to come forward and nobly sustain men actuated by such a spirit as that! We ought to cheer their hearts, and encourage them in their arduous work of planting a civilized state, suppressing the slave trade, establishing lawful commerce, imparting instruction in letters, the useful arts, and all the appliances of social life, to the native barbarous tribes, and endeavoring to bring up their country and their race from the wilderness of their long depression, and out from under the dark eclipse of ages, and causing her to take rank among the most favored nations, with honor on her brow and blessings in her hand!

Men, actuated by such a spirit and governed by such principles, must succeed. No earthly power can hold them back. The struggle may be long—the labor arduous; but the triumph is sure, and the victory will be glorious!

A little of encouragement now, some small assistance now, may be of vastly more benefit to them than the most full-hearted sympathy, and the most splendid liberality at some advanced period in their history.

To what does duty now urge the friends of this enterprise and of the colored race?

1st. To act with confidence in the practicableness of the scheme of colonization. In view of what has actually been accomplished, there should be no distrust in regard to the adaptation of the enterprise to produce the most splendid results! The facts in the case are enough to enlighten the understanding and convince the reason of any man. Its beneficent aspects, and its saving influences, are demonstrable every where. There is, also, an inherent energy and vitality in Liberia itself which bids fair to live to a splendid manhood and a ripe old age. There is no power that can restrain its growth, short of some divine interposition.

These things should be fully believed. Entire confidence in final success should take possession of every heart. There should be no paralysis of despair—no doubting that every effort now made will as-

sist in hastening forward the wide and general triumph which we anticipate!

2d. Duty calls upon all who understand this subject to make others alike sensible. A little effort on the part of the friends of the cause would diffuse knowledge and information all through the land. Our agents all tell us that the people need “*indoctrinating*;” that the publications of the Society ought to be circulated every where, and that the facts of the present position and future prospects of Liberia ought to be spread abroad and “kept continually before the people.” And they all tell us, moreover, that when this is done, prejudice expires, opposition dies away, and the former enemies of the Society become its friends. This clearly indicates our duty in the premises. Men must understand the reasons for giving, before they will give of their substance to carry on any enterprise.

3dly. Duty calls upon us for enlarged contributions. Without this the work cannot be carried forward in a manner commensurate with the demands. The indispensable necessity of securing the *territory*, has diminished much from the amount of funds for the general objects of colonization. We were compelled not to send any expedition to Liberia with emigrants last spring, in order that we might husband our resources to secure the other important objects before us. But we must send a vessel with emigrants this

fall. We cannot longer delay it. Some of the persons who want to go then, will revert back to hopeless bondage, if detained longer in their present condition.

But we need not enumerate. The

demands for funds, greatly enlarged, meets us on every hand. Oh that all our friends were impressed with a sense of the grandeur of the enterprise, and would bestow upon it that bounty it so richly deserves!

Capture of the *Spitfire*.

WE give below all the facts in relation to this vessel, of which we are in possession. We anxiously await the result of the trial in Boston, to know whether justice can be done in such a case, even in the capital of New England.

CAPTURE OF THE SPITFIRE.—The following letter is from an officer of the U. S. brig *Truxtun*, which captured the slaver now awaiting condemnation at Boston:

U. S. BRIG TRUXTUN,
(off Sierra Leone,)
March 29, 1845.

Here we are, in tow of the British man-of-war steamer *Ardent*, bound into Sierra Leone with a prize. We received information, at Monrovia, that a schooner named the *Spitfire*, of New Orleans, was lying some few miles up the river Pongas, waiting for a cargo of slaves.

Upon examining into the subject, we found that this same vessel was built in Baltimore and named the *Caballero*; and that in March, 1844, she made a voyage to this coast under the American flag, to this same river Pongas; there she was transferred to a man named Faber, a Virginian and a notorious slave dealer, for \$10,000. From his slave factory she took on board 346 negroes and sailed for the island of Cuba,

hoisting no flag and with the name on her stern erased. About thirty miles from Matanzas she landed 339 slaves, and was resold to Spanish owners.

Of these facts we are certain, because the mate who was in her is now on board this vessel and has made oath to them. Having ascertained beyond a question that the same vessel, under another name and wearing our flag, had arrived upon the coast, we sailed for the Pongas and anchored off its mouth. Finding the British steamer at anchor there, the two vessels dispatched six boats, well armed and manned, all wearing the British flag. They met the *Spitfire* about fifty miles up the river, she hoisted the American flag for protection, and was instantly seized by our officers. In an hour after she was sailing down the river. No slaves were found on board, but 300 were confined in the barracoon, waiting for the rainy season, when they were to be taken on board. These slavers prefer the rainy season, as the winds are fresher then and they have a better chance of escaping the men-of-war.

The captain is now on board here, a prisoner, but of course allowed every privilege; his name is Flowrey; he is a citizen of New York, and has commanded many vessels from that city:—the *Moro Castle* and others. He seems a very quiet,

respectable man, and is both master and owner of the schooner. He had also a Spanish captain on board. Twenty-six casks full of water were waiting to come on board. Her men are all ready to testify against her, and I do not see how she can escape condemnation.

She is a very beautiful vessel of 100 tons burthen, and sails like a witch. If she is condemned we shall get little or nothing from her; with a miserably niggardly policy, our Government only allows captors one-half the value of a prize;—the British and all other governments give them the whole—a very poor compensation for the suffering and disease always attendant on a boat expedition up these pestilential rivers. The loss of life attendant upon them is often dreadful.

The British boats also brought down a prize, a Spanish brig, and the steamer is at this moment towing the Truxtun, the Truxtun's prize, and her own, at the rate of six miles an hour. We receive every possible attention and assistance from the British here; their squadron on the coast numbers now thirty vessels, many of them steamers, and is to be increased greatly soon. The slave trade is by their efforts vastly diminished, and the risk run by the slavers is every day increasing.

It is difficult to see how 350 human beings could, by any possibility, be crammed into a vessel of less than a hundred tons; and when it is remembered how much even of this small space must be occupied by the officers and men of the vessel, and by the provisions and water necessary for the support of so many people, you can form some idea of the sufferings of the blacks during their thirty-five days' passage to Cuba. The Spitfire is about one hundred feet long, and between decks there is just height enough for a man to

sit down if his head is bent a little forward. Imagine three hundred and fifty men, women and children, confined for thirty-five days in such a place and in such a position!

The food allowed them is one pint of rice per day, and no more; a pint of water each is also given them daily; a few are occasionally allowed to come on deck for a little air, but not often; those who evince any disposition to rebel or make trouble, are confined in irons. The average cost of a prime negro, between 20 and 30 years old, at the slave factory, seldom exceeds \$15; at Cuba the same slave will sell for \$100. Their value at the West Indies, however, has much diminished and still continues to diminish daily. No money is paid here for the negroes who are brought from the interior. Cloth, rum, muskets, cutlasses, powder, and such articles as are adapted to the wants and wishes of the natives, are given by the slave factor in exchange.

It is extremely difficult to get up these rivers to the places where the slavers lie. The whole coast is intersected by innumerable rivers, with branches pouring into them from every quarter, and communicating with each other by narrow, circuitous, and very numerous creeks, bordered on each side with impenetrable thickets of mangroves. In these creeks, almost concealed by the trees, the vessels lie and often elude the strictest search. But when they have taken on board their living cargo and are getting out to sea, the British are very apt to seize them, except, alas, when they are *protected by the banner of the United States*. Then the British, of course, have no authority to detain them.

This vessel continues healthy. Nine names are on the sick list today, of which six are cases of fever.

[From the (Boston) Mercantile Journal.]

A SLAVER CAPTURED.—Schooner *Spitfire*, (of New Orleans,) has arrived at this port a prize to the U. S. brig *Truxtun*, in command of Lieut. Washington Reid; Samuel Wilcox, midshipman. The *Spitfire*, Peter Flowrey, master, was seized in the Rio Pongo, coast of Africa, at the slave factory of Paul Faber, March 26, on suspicion of being engaged in the slave trade, by the boats of the U. S. brig *Truxtun*, in the charge of Lieut. Simon F. Blunt, co-operating with the boats of H. B. M. steamer *Ardent*, under the charge of Lieut. Johnson. The boats went along-side under English colors, and ordered the schooner to show her colors on the penalty of being seized as a pirate. The American ensign was then hoisted at her gaff, and the colors immediately shifted in the boats, and the schooner taken charge of, evidence having been lodged against her as having already made a successful trip from the same place to the island of Cuba, with 346 slaves, under the command of Capt. Gordon, lately in command of the *Manchester*, by Thomas Turner, who served in both vessels as Capt. G.'s mate. She was known by the name of *Caballero*, and was built in Baltimore, whence she sailed via New York, in 1842. She was afterwards sold, and her register returned to Baltimore. Her present crew also testified as to her intention of receiving slaves.

Some of the *Spitfire*'s crew were very troublesome on the passage, and two of them, a Spaniard and a negro, who quarrelled, were brought in ironed. Lieut. Reid found it necessary to use the utmost vigilance, and has not been undressed since he took command of the vessel. The prisoners were committed to the U. S. authorities, and the proper measures taken for their arraignment.

It will be recollected by our readers that the schooners *Manchester* and *Devereux* were detained and searched at this port, last season, previous to their departure for the coast, on suspicion that they were intended for the slave trade, but were at last allowed to depart because sufficient evidence to procure their condemnation could not be obtained. Faber, who owns the slave factory on the coast, went out as a passenger in the *Manchester*. Capt. Gordon, the commander and ostensible owner of the *Manchester* and *Devereux*, died recently of the coast fever, as did also Capt. Gordon of the *Devereux*.

The *Spitfire* is a clipper-built schooner of about 130 tons. She is flush on deck, has two small houses aft, one on each quarter, and a small trunk to the cabin. Her bulwarks are high for her size, and she has a tier of ports on each side, but no guns mounted. Outside she is painted a shade whiter than blue, and inside buff color. Her cabin, which has not accommodations for more than six white persons, we understand contained, at one time, fifty female slaves!

[From the Boston Traveller.]

Indictment of Captain Flowrey, of the schooner Spitfire, for a misdemeanor.—The grand jury of the U. S. Circuit Court, on Saturday returned a bill against Capt. Flowrey, of the slaver *Spitfire*, but not against the crew, there being no reason whatever for supposing that they knew of the object of the voyage when they shipped at New Orleans. Capt. Flowrey was arraigned in the U. S. Circuit Court this morning, but no day assigned for his trial. The bill found by the grand jury was for misdemeanor in fitting out the vessel with intent to carry slaves, and he was ordered to recognize

with sureties in the sum of \$5,000. His defence will be conducted by Col. J. P. Rogers, and P. W. Chandler, Esq.

[From the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.]

THE SLAVER SPITFIRE.—The officers and crew of this vessel were before the U. S. commissioner at Boston, on Thursday, for examination. Their names are—Peter Flowrey, captain; Ferdinand Wultz, William Otters, Henry Tangerman, William Turner, William Pense, Frederick Ennes, Antonio Del Mijo, and Ebenezer Jackson.

Four others—Robert Smith, Thos. Turner, J. C. Parker, and William Dawson, being part of the crew of the schooner *Manchester*, which sailed from Boston last year for the coast of Africa—were brought home in the U. S. brig *Truxtun*, which captured the *Spitfire*, as witnesses. They were also before the commissioner, who committed them for want of bail to appear and testify.

The charge against the officers and crew of the *Spitfire* was, that they shipped on board the *Spitfire*, at New Orleans, on the 10th of last December, knowing that she was to be engaged in the slave trade, and took part in fitting her out for that purpose. To this charge they pleaded “not guilty.”

In support of the charge the following deposition was read, having been made by Thomas Turner, one of the four men from the *Manchester*:

“August 6, 1844, at Baltimore, Turner shipped on board the schooner *Manchester* as mate, under the command of Morgan S. Gordon; was to serve not exceeding nine months, and perform a trading voyage on the west coast of Africa. Sailed from Boston, September 22, with a trading cargo; had no handcuffs on board. Touched first at

Pongo river—remained there three weeks. The *Manchester* was wrecked at Cape Mount, west coast of Africa, on the 24th February. I knew a vessel, built in the United States, named the ‘*Caballero*.’ I knew her in Baltimore, November, 1843. I saw her on the 11th of February last, in the river Pongo.

“The last time I saw her she had painted on her stern, ‘*Spitfire*, of New Orleans.’ I saw landing from her water cask staves. I supposed her business was to take on board a cargo of slaves, because—1st, she had two captains, an American captain and a Spanish captain; 2d, all her goods were consigned to the owner of the slave factory off which she was moored; 3d, her appearance was that of a vessel built for speed rather than cargo; 4th, her having water cask shooks on board. The owner of the factory at Rio Pongo was P. Faber.

“I entered on board the schooner *Caballero* at Baltimore, Md., on the 11th day of November, 1843, in the capacity of seaman and carpenter, to perform a voyage to the west coast of Africa; having been assured by Morgan S. Gordon, then master of the *Caballero*, that she was to make a trading voyage to the coast. Not being able to procure a clearance from the Baltimore Custom House, we sailed to New York with a ‘coasting license,’ having on board all the cargo intended for the African coast. At New York the *Caballero* was cleared for the coast of Africa. We sailed from New York on the 27th day of November, 1843, and arrived in the Rio Pongo, west coast of Africa, in the latter part of December.

“We ascended the Rio Pongo to Mr. P. Faber’s slave factory, where we discharged all the vessel’s cargo, and took in water and ballast. We sailed from the Rio Pongo and pro-

ceeded to Prince's Island, where we took on board 18 casks of about 120 gallons each, called palm oil casks, and returned to Rio Pongo, touching on the way at Grand Bassa. On arriving in the Rio Pongo, the vessel was again moored near Mr. Faber's slave factory. Preparations were then made to take on board a cargo of slaves, by filling the so called palm oil casks, and 35 other casks, with water,—these having been brought from the United States in shooks, a part of the Caballero's cargo—getting on board wood, rice, &c. During the time of these operations, the Caballero was under the American flag.

"She was then sold to Mr. P. Faber for the sum of \$10,000, and her name was scratched off her stern. She then went down the river and anchored just inside the bar. At this anchorage we took on board 346 slaves; then got underway and proceeded immediately to the island of Cuba, and landed the cargo of slaves at a point about 30 miles to windward of Matanzas. From the time of the vessel's sale to Mr. P. Faber up to this period, no flag was hoisted on board her, and she bore no name on her stern. After the slaves were landed the vessel was delivered over to the Spaniards where she lay.

"The vessel I left lying in the Rio Pongo, on the 11th of February last, named the *Spitfire*, of New Orleans, and supposed to be lying there now, is the same vessel whose slaving voyage to the West Indies I have described above. The said vessel always hoists American colors when the British man-of-war boats come in sight of her."

At this stage of the proceedings Mr. Chandler, of counsel for the prisoners, said he would at present interpose no objection to their being committed to await the action of the

grand jury; and the commissioner so disposed of them. The Boston Post says:

"Captain Flowrey, rather a short man, is apparently about fifty years of age, and belongs to New York. The other prisoners are young men; six of them are Germans or Dutchmen, and the other two half-breeds—Mijo is half Spanish and half Indian, and Jackson half Spanish and half negro. The white men appear as respectable as any company of foremast hands that may be met with on board any vessel."

In the Boston Atlas we find the subjoined letter from an officer of the *Truxtun*, giving the particulars of the *Spitfire's* capture:

"U. S. BRIG TRUXTUN,
(off Sierra Leone River,)
March 29, 1845.

"Here we are, in tow of Her Britannic Majesty's steamer *Ardent*, with an American schooner our prize, and a Spanish brigantine, prize to the steamer, captured in the Rio Pongas, one hundred miles to the northward. We had good information, when we left Monrovia, that there was a vessel in the Pongas, waiting a cargo; and on our arrival off the river, finding an English man-of-war steamer, arrangements were made to send a combined boat expedition to make captures for both vessels.

"They proceeded about fifty miles from the anchorage outside the bar, carrying English colors all the way. On coming in sight, our little schooner ran up the American ensign to protect herself from any suspicion; when our own boats, after running alongside of her, changed their ensigns and produced the stripes and stars, much to the astonishment of those on board. She proved to be the *Spitfire*, of New Orleans, and ran a cargo of slaves from the same

place last year; of only about 100 tons, but, though of so small a size, stowed 346 negroes, and landed near Matanzas, Cuba, 339.

"Between her decks, where the slaves are packed, there is not room enough for a man to sit, unless inclining his head forward. Their food, half a pint of rice per day, with one pint of water. No one can imagine the sufferings of slaves, on their passage across, unless the conveyances in which they are taken can be examined. Our friend had none on board, but his cargo of three hundred were ready in a barracoon, waiting a good opportunity to start. A good hearty negro costs but twenty dollars, or thereabout, and is purchased for rum, powder, tobacco, cloth, &c. They bring from three to four hundred dollars in Cuba. The English are doing every thing in their power to prevent the slave trade, and keep a force of thirty vessels on this coast, all actively cruising. This large force is to be very much increased shortly.

"*April 4th.*—Our prize is all ready, and sails for Boston to-morrow, under charge of Lieut. Reid, with all the necessary papers and documents to condemn her. I am glad that the ice has been broken, and that we have been the ship to do it.

"I have been frequently on shore here, and received every attention from the people. I mean the white residents. We are all well on board, including all those who were engaged in the boat expedition.

"It was expected that many would be taken down; but our good fortune has sent us here during the healthiest season of the year, and we have been favored every way since our arrival on the coast. We leave to-morrow, also, for the Cape de Verds, and a pleasure excursion among the Canary Islands, returning

to Port Praya in fifty days from our departure. We are in great hopes that we have seen the last of the coast, as all are heartily tired of it, and anxious to get home. Our prize may hasten us, as we believe the captain intends to defend himself."

Public attention being thus again drawn to the slave trade and the manner in which it is carried on, some interest may attach to various items of intelligence which we are enabled to supply, having before us the *Sierra Leone Watchman* of February 19.

The first article under the editorial head refers to the case of schooner *Enganador*, which was captured near the close of last year, by the British sloop-of-war *Growler*, having 300 slaves on board. When captured she had neither flag nor papers to show her nationality, but was represented to be Spanish. But it was ascertained that she had for some years been sailing out of Sierra Leone as the *Sherbro*, and belonged to a resident of that colony—one Daniel Coker. This man nominally sold her to one Thomas Caulker, by whom she was immediately transferred to a noted slave dealer at Sea-bar, named Luiz. No doubt was entertained that the sale to Caulker was merely a blind, and that Coker knew, when he made the sale, that Luiz was to be the real purchaser.

Among the negroes found on board the *Enganador* were three who had been formerly liberated from a slave vessel and taken to Sierra Leone; and their depositions are given, showing how they were again reduced to slavery. From these it appears that after living several years at Sierra Leone they were kidnapped, within the bounds of that colony itself, and sold to Luiz.

It is added that the slave traders at Sea-bar and in the River Gallinas had been much emboldened by the

prosecution of Captain Denman, in England, for his summary destruction of sundry barracoons, and openly asserted their determination to seek redress in the English courts if they were again molested in their operations.

Next follows a letter from the Rev. William Raymond, the missionary who went from this country with the Africans of the Amistad. It is dated at the Mendi mission-house, Little Boon River, January 8, and gives a melancholy picture of Mr. Raymond's trials.

It seems that Mr. Raymond had been the bearer of a letter from the Governor of Sierra Leone to the king of the Mendi country, by which that personage was greatly angered, as well as by various hostile demonstrations of the British against the slave establishments at Sea-bar; all of which he imputed to the agency of Mr. Raymond. He said that if the English wanted to destroy the slave trade they must destroy one half of Sierra Leone, for half of Sierra Leone was engaged in it, &c.

After much talk of this kind, in which the king inveighed bitterly

against the English and their attempts to destroy the trade, he told Mr. Raymond that he must go; and finally gave him a written notification that he must "clear out" before the 7th of February.

This king bears the name of Henry Tucker, but it does not appear whether he is an African with an English name, or actually a white man. Mr. Raymond ascribes his conduct to the instigation of Luiz and other slave traders. His letter—which is addressed to the superintendent of the Wesleyan mission at Sierra Leone—asks for advice as to the course he had better pursue; whether he should go away or remain and trust to the aid he might receive from the men-of-war, &c.

The Watchman says that Commodore Jones had resolved to protect Mr. Raymond and suppress the traffic by all the means in his power. That he had burned the factory of Luiz at Sea-bar, and several other establishments at Gallinas.

There is another letter from Mr. Raymond to his wife, but neither of them makes any mention of the Amistad Africans.

Prejudice.

In the address to the Clergy in our number for May, it was said of the colored people of the United States: "In this country they can never rise above the very lowest grade of society. You may say that this state of society is all wrong; may call it *prejudice* that keeps them down; and all this may be admitted, without improving their condition in the slightest degree. The facts still remain the same."

There are not a few, however, who maintain that prejudice, being sinful, must and shall be overcome; that by taking for granted the continued existence of this prejudice, and making arrangements for relieving the colored people by withdrawing them from the sphere of its influence, we are guilty of sinful yielding to it, and that instead of pursuing such a course, the Christian community ought, with united voice, to

condemn this prejudice, and crush it under the overwhelming weight of public reprobation.

There is in this feeling an appearance of valor for the cause of truth, which deserves respect; but there is also a remarkable forgetfulness of the strength of the adversary that is to be overcome. Those who may be expected to renounce prejudice from religious considerations are not numerous enough to answer the purpose of such sanguine calculators. Let us look at the numbers on each side:

The late work of Dr. Baird on "Religion in America," gives a sufficiently favorable, and probably as correct an estimate as can easily be obtained.

Dr. Baird estimates the population of the United States in 1844 at 18,500,000; communicants in evangelical churches of all denominations, 2,864,848; non-communicants, 15,635,152; less than three millions against more than fifteen millions! Less than one to five! If this prejudice, as it is called, were wholly extinguished in every communicant in all our evangelical churches, public sentiment would still be more than five to one in its favor.

There are doubtless some in churches which Dr. Baird does not class as evangelical, who might be expected to overcome prejudice from a sense of religious obligation. But there is doubtless an equal number in the evangelical churches, whose

religion is a mere profession, and will never subdue a prejudice.

The vote is, after all, more than five to one in favor of the prejudice.

Nor can any thing be gained by saying that this prejudice is confined to the white population of about 15,500,000. The proportion is still overwhelming; still more than four to one, even if we count all the communicants as whites. In reality, communicants are about as numerous among the colored people, in proportion, as among the whites; so that by leaving out the colored people, the number on both sides are diminished about equally, and the vote still stands as before—more than five to one: that the community of the pious, guarded by truth and sustained by Omnipotence, will, at some future period, subdue prejudice, and make public sentiment throughout this land and all lands, almost if not altogether, what it ought to be, is a most cheering hope; a hope of most salutary influence. The three millions of the pious may be the means of imputing their piety to other millions, and they to others, till our people generally shall have religious principles that are stronger than prejudice, and able to overcome it. But while outnumbered as they are now, it is absolutely impossible for them to pull down a prejudice by declaring, or even by proving, that it is sinful. With an overwhelming majority of our countrymen, the known sinfulness of a practice or a feeling, is no sufficient reason for renouncing it.

Every grown man in the nation, doubtless, knows that duelling is sinful; and yet there are multitudes who have no thought of abstaining from it on that account.

The testimonies of the pious against sin, pass by such men "as the idle wind!"

We may rest assured, therefore, that the pious cannot, with their present strength, change the position of the colored man in American society, however great the sin of denying him social equality, and however

well known to be sinful, it will continue to be committed, and to be sanctioned by public sentiment, till the amount of religious principle is increased at least three-fold. Meanwhile shall he not be allowed, if he desires it, to escape to a land where no such prejudice shall obstruct his elevation, where his talents and his virtues may have free scope, and where, by showing that he is in the best and highest sense, a *man*, he may shame the world for treating him like a beast of burden!

[From the National Intelligencer.]

The Colony at Liberia.

MONROVIA, LIBERIA,

December 20, 1844.

Messrs. EDITORS:—Notwithstanding enough may have already been written by different persons who have visited or resided in the colony of Liberia, relative to the condition and apparent prospects of those who emigrated from the United States to this part of the world, and who have adopted this as the place of their future residence, yet I have thought that a plain, unvarnished statement of facts from one who has resided upwards of a year in the colony, and who, during that time, has had good opportunities to become conversant with the state of public affairs, and with the situations of nearly all the colonists, may be acceptable to many of your readers, and may tend to shed some additional light on subjects which may be interesting to those especially who are desirous to receive information, from various sources, respecting the success of the great

scheme of colonizing the free people of color of the United States in the land of their forefathers.

That portion of the peninsula of Africa which has received the appellation of Liberia, embraces a tract of land on the western coast, extending from the Gallinas river on the north to Cape Palmas on the south, between the latitudes of $4\frac{1}{2}$ and 7 degrees north. Only about one-third of this territory, however, has been purchased by the Colonization Society; consequently, the colonial government does not extend as far as might be inferred from an examination of the usual maps of Africa. There are nine settlements in the colony. Of these Monrovia is the largest, containing a population of about one thousand. On the St. Paul's river there are two settlements, Caldwell and Millsburg; the first about ten miles and the second about twenty miles from Monrovia. On an arm of the St. Paul's river, called Stockton creek, is New Georgia, the settle-

ment of those recaptured Africans who were restored to the land of their nativity by the United States Government, and who have taken up their residence in the colony, and have adopted the forms and habits of their civilized neighbors and become identified with them as members of the commonwealth. At the mouth of the Junk river is the settlement of Marshall, about thirty-five miles by sea south of Monrovia. On the St. John's river are the settlements of Bassa Cove, Edina, and Bexley, about seventy miles from Monrovia. Further down the coast, at the distance of about one hundred and thirty miles by sea, is the settlement of Greenville, at the mouth of the Sinou river. Besides these, two other points have lately been settled; one on the St. Paul's river, above Caldwell, and the other on the Sinou river. The former was settled principally by those persons who formerly belonged to Mr. McDonogh, near New Orleans; and the latter by those who were liberated by the late Mrs. Read, of Mississippi.

These settlements are not compact, although they have received particular names. The houses are generally separated by intervening lots or small farms; so that the towns generally occupy a space of from one to five or six miles in extent. Monrovia, which has more the appearance of a town than any of the others, is the metropolis and seat of government, at which place the legislature, composed of ten representatives, elected by the people, meets annually. The form of government, is similar to that of the state governments in the United States. The colony is divided into two counties—Montserado and Grand Bassa; in each of which courts are regularly held, as in counties in the United States.

In visiting the legislature and the different courts during their sessions,

any unprejudiced individual cannot fail to be impressed with feelings of respect for the authorities of the colony, and with a conviction of the fact that in a country in which the mind as well as the body is unfettered, the power of self-government does not depend on the color of the skin. And when we take into consideration the fact that the majority of the colonists were brought up in slavery and came to Liberia without any education, our surprise will not be that the colony has not advanced more rapidly, but that it continues to exist at all.

The soil of Liberia is generally very good, and it will produce freely most of the productions of tropical climates. It is different in different parts of the colony. Near the sea coast the soil is light and sandy, and yields sweet potatoes, cassadas, and most of the garden vegetables that are usually raised in the United States. On the banks of some of the streams, the soil consists of clay more or less mingled with dark loam. In more elevated positions we find a reddish clayey soil, producing a luxuriant growth of forest trees and shrubbery. This last is the most favorable for the cultivation of coffee. The richest and most productive soil, however, is a deep, loose, dark mould, extending back from the banks of the rivers, and free from stones and gravel.

Most of the usual productions of tropical climates thrive well in Liberia. The coffee tree will grow as freely and yield as abundantly as perhaps in any other part of the world. And I am glad to see that the colonists are beginning to appreciate the advantages that may result from attention to the cultivation of this useful and profitable article. At some future period no doubt coffee will be the principal staple production of Liberia, and the most profitable article of exportation. The trees attain a much larger size than those in the West

Indies, and they bear much more abundantly. They do not require much cultivation; indeed they frequently grow wild in the woods on this part of the coast.

The sugar cane grows luxuriantly; but, at present, sugar cannot be made as cheaply in the colony as it can be purchased from abroad; and I am apprehensive that the colonists never will be able to compete with some other countries in the production of this article. If they had the necessary apparatus, however, they could easily produce enough for home consumption at less expense than it now costs when purchased from trading vessels.

At present very little rice is raised by the colonists, as it can be bought from the natives for less than the cultivation of it would cost.

Indian corn can be raised in the colony, not very plentifully, however; but in sufficient quantities, I think, to supply the families of those who will take the trouble to cultivate it.

Sweet potatoes can be raised in the greatest abundance during any season of the year, and on almost every kind of soil; I have seen them growing freely in the sand within sixty yards of the ocean. I have scarcely ever dined in Liberia without having this excellent vegetable on the table.

Cassadas and yams can be produced in almost any quantities; and when properly prepared for the table they are very good and nutritious vegetables.

Plantains, bananas, and all other fruits peculiar to tropical climates, thrive well in Liberia. Tomatoes, egg-plants, okra, beans, and nearly all the other usual garden vegetables can be raised easily. Irish potatoes are, however, out of the question; nor do cabbages thrive well. We have plenty of greens, but few cabbage heads.

Although very little cotton has yet been produced in the colony, yet it has been clearly ascertained that, with proper cultivation, the cotton tree will grow well and yield abundantly. Several kinds of cotton trees grow wild in the forests.

In regard to the *climate*, I may say that it is altogether very pleasant. The temperature is exceedingly uniform; and the warmth of the atmosphere is generally much less than I have frequently experienced it in the District of Columbia. I have scarcely ever known the mercury in the thermometer to rise above 86 degrees. The extreme limits may be set down at 72 and 87 degrees of Fahrenheit. I have never known the mercury to sink below the former nor to rise above the latter number. The variation in the heat, as indicated by the thermometer, is seldom more than four or five degrees, during the twenty-four hours of a day.

There is properly no real distinction in regard to seasons. But as more rain falls during the half of the year beginning with May than during the other half beginning with November, the former is usually called the wet or rainy season, and the latter the dry season. There is not, however, any month during the whole year in which we do not have more or less rain; nor is there any month in which we do not have some fine clear weather. I have seen garden vegetables perishing for the want of rain during the months of July and August, and I have seen pretty copious showers of rain during the months of January and February. During what is called the rainy season, the temperature of the atmosphere is generally five or six degrees less than during the dry season: the thermometer usually standing at from 76 to 80 degrees during the day in the rainy season, and from 80 to 86 degrees in the dry season.

The rivers in Liberia are comparatively small; and although some of them are of sufficient size to admit vessels of eighty or a hundred tons, yet, in consequence of the difficulty presented by the bars at their mouths, they are seldom entered except by the small crafts belonging to the colony. The land bordering on the rivers in the vicinity of the ocean is generally low, and in some places very swampy; but towards the headwaters of the rivers the land is elevated and covered with large forest trees.

In regard to the influences of the climate on the physical system, I may remark that my experience and observations in reference to myself and many others, have confirmed me in the opinion that the climaterial influences are less deleterious to human health than is generally supposed in the United States. Every person who emigrates from a temperate climate to this country must experience some acclimating process, which may or may not be attended with much fever, according to circumstances—to constitutional predisposition, previous habits of life, &c. In some cases the acclimating fever is violent and fatal in its effects, but in the large majority of cases it is mild in its form and yields readily to appropriate treatment. Very few persons die during the first attack of fever; the principal danger is in consequence of relapses, which, in nineteen cases in twenty, are the results of personal imprudence, and not the effects of the continued injurious influences of the climate. I find that those persons who have resided in the colony one year or more, and who are able to live comfortably, generally enjoy very good health. The principal cases of sickness are among those who are in indigent circumstances, and in whom poverty and indolence are often associated.

In concluding this perhaps already

too lengthy letter, I cannot forbear an expression of my feelings relative to the kind of immigrants who are best calculated to build up and sustain this interesting little republic; which, if properly sustained and fostered, will no doubt become a mighty nation, shedding the lights of civilization and Christianity far into the interior of this land of ignorance and superstition. The Colonization Society should exercise greater discrimination in the kind of people whom they send to Liberia, or the advancement of the interests and blessings of the colony will bear but a faint comparison to the number of immigrants. The great scheme of colonization, as I understand it, is not designed simply to rid the United States of the colored population, but to establish in the land of their ancestors a colony of free colored persons, for the two-fold purpose of promoting their own happiness and of extending the benign influence of civilization and Christianity to those who are grovelling in the darkness of heathenism. I think that the colony has not yet arrived at that point which renders it a fit receptacle for all kinds of characters—a place of refuge for all kinds of slaves who may be “manumitted for Liberia,”—or an asylum for those whose constitutions have been broken down by hard labor or old age. It is important that men of sterling integrity, of industrious habits, and of some degree of intelligence at least, should combine their efforts to overcome the many obstacles that may be presented to the accomplishment of any grand design—to the achievement of any bold and hazardous enterprise. This is equally true in regard to the maintenance of a republican form of government in any country, especially in a new country, the aborigines of which are in a state of barbarism, and the subjugation of whom depends in a great measure on

the introduction of habits of civilization among them.

It is true that the colony of Liberia has already been established on a basis which is impregnable to the assaults of a savage foe; yet it is essential that men of intelligence, of upright moral character, and of habits of industry, should unite in adding additional strength to the foundation, or I am fearful that the beautiful fabric which is now being erected, will totter beneath its own weight, and perhaps finally fall from the contin-

ual additions of rubbish which are being heaped upon it.

I would not write disparagingly of the present condition and prospects of the colony; for, although much remains to be done, yet a great deal has been accomplished; and, taking every thing into consideration, the colony of Liberia is justly entitled to the respect as well as to the sympathy and admiration of the world.

J. W. LUGENBEEL,
Colonial Physician.

Journal of Messrs. Teage and Brown.

“HAVING been joined with friend James Brown in a commission to settle some matters with the kings and chiefs of Little Bassa, from which place we returned on the 17th ult., we give below an extract from our journal:

“Wednesday, 13th, made arrangements with Mr. Jonas Carey for his canoe and six boys to accompany us to Bah Gay's, and having furnished ourselves with supplies as far as Messrs. Jones and Carey's stores would enable us to do so, we left at 8 A. M. for the king's residence. Our route was along a beautiful river studded near the coast by numerous islets mantled in the deepest green. The river here is exceedingly beautiful, and expands itself almost into a bay. Bah Gay lives about seven miles from the embouchure. Reached there about 10 o'clock. He appeared much pleased to see us, and granted us a gracious reception with—eh, how doo my friend! and a loud and sonorous snap of the finger. After mutual enquiries about *old friends*, his majesty retired, rather unceremoniously we thought. He returned soon after, and we discover-

ed why he had gone. He went to adjust his wardrobe. We found him in his undress—that is, with only a part of his haunches covered. He now had his whole person wrapped in blue cotton from his shoulders to his heels.

“We announced to him at once the object of our visit, and enquired where we should hold the palaver. He said the chiefs would not come to his town, and he would not go to theirs. We must (continued he) have de palaver for beach at you (Teage's) factory. We saw at once there was jealousy and suspicion among them. In fact Bah Gay showed symptoms of apprehension unworthy of a personage of so high standing. He has for two or three years suffered with some mesenteric disorder, which no *gregree* has been able to correct; and, as usual in such cases, the *dottor* has concealed his ignorance by assuring his majesty that he is *witched*. This important fact having transpired, it was sustained by evidence in the Harem. Two of his majesty's wives voluntarily came forward and assured their lord that they had *witched* him by putting the

gregree into his chop; and, moreover, that they had been induced to do so by one Bey, a chief in the country. Bey's name having been mentioned in connection with the king's sickness, he avoided his majesty's vengeance by flight. The chiefs of the country, who have been long jealous of Bah Gay, and desirous of an opportunity to reduce him, took up the fugitive Bey as a convenient tool for their purpose, and persuaded him to call a devil palaver. His Satanic majesty, always to be found by those who seek him, granted a ready audience and took up the case. The time for the ghostly consistory was fixed, and the intended victim summoned to attend. Bah Gay saw at once the snare spread for him, and knew that once in the toils his fate would be inevitable. He therefore returned for answer—] no go. Again the women of his town were made to tremble by a ghostly voice sounding in the bushy suburbs the fatal summons. Again Bah Gay refused; and knowing the next notification would be the ring of the musket and the whoop of savage war, he dispatched with all speed a letter to Gov. Roberts imploring his interposition. We arrived just in time to arrest the blow.

“Dwah-Will, one of the chiefs, is the head devil of the country. We have not seen his excellency, but if he be more of a devil than some we have seen in that country, then he is truly all sorts of a devil. This devil-palaver seems to be a politico-religious institution, and is the highest tribunal known amongst them. When any one under accusation desires the decision of the devil, he goes to Dwa-will, the ‘devil’s mate.’ He then confers with his superior, and fixes the time and place of the audience. They usually select for the purpose a dark and gloomy forest, suited to the genius of the infernal

arbiter. When preliminaries are arranged, a messenger is dispatched to notify the appellee to attend. The messenger, disguised by a hideous visor rudely carved and painted to caricature the human face divine, wends his way through the woods, avoiding roads lest he should be seen, and so regulates his speed as to reach the residence of his victim at night. Then, when sleep has buried all the inhabitants in soft oblivion, he raises his awful voice and startles them with the dreaded notice. The messenger is always a ventriloquist, and the sound comes as from the bottomless pit. The women wrap their children up and cover their faces. The men turn out and signify by significant noises their audience of Diabolus’s legate. Should the individual summoned to attend, fail to appear at the proper time, the message is repeated with threatenings of vengeance. No other indulgence can ever be granted. If he continue disobedient, the messenger is sent the third time; but he now carries with him three or four masks similar to those he wears on his face—called by the natives *devil*—and creeping up to the town at night, he throws these visors or masks into it and retires. All the inhabitants are *de facto* placed under the ban of the country. They can be captured, sold or slain, and their property confiscated by any and every one. Indeed they are then lawful prey, and seeing they lie under the malediction of the devil, in whose good graces all these people are fond of securing a place, the whole country will eagerly combine against them. Under any circumstances it is death for a woman to see the devil, and the man who should show a woman one of these devils would surely have to give the devil satisfaction for exposing him to the curious gaze of a female. African devils are like devils

everywhere else. However they may simper, and smile, and flatter, when they have no power, they are terrible when once they have infixed their claws. We once witnessed a devil-palaver from which the victim escaped only by the payment of twenty slaves; and although the amount was paid by Bah Gay, the man to release whom it was paid is now leagued against him. We resolved at once to go on to the beach, and made a requisition on our baskets for strength for the task. Bah Gay promised to follow us to-morrow. Having *dashed* the king a few bars of tobacco and piled our baggage on the *boy's* heads, we commenced to trace a path which we had been told was 'good too much and have no more one water to cross.' This latter we soon found to be nearly literally true. The path a great part of the way is neither more nor less than a gutter which the water has made for itself, in which it lay in filthy alliance with its own depth of black mud, threatening indelible darkness to whatsoever may come in contact with it. We enquired whether there was any way to avoid the water, when being assured there was not, we trudged on affecting no little fun in wading. The path lay along a ravine which was, in days of yore, an extensive morass, but now partly filled up by decayed vegetation and debris from the adjacent elevations. These lowlands offer excellent sites for plantations of rice and all kinds of succulent vegetables. Emerging from this gloomy and filthy canal, we found a firmer dry path forming all sorts of angles through a forest of ancient trees, whose abundant drapery completely canopied us and concealed the sun from our view. About two miles brought us to a grass field, where we were exposed to the full force of a fiery sun. Such

was the fury with which Sol shot his beams upon us, that it seemed as if he was paying us for the shelter we had just enjoyed. Perhaps it was the sudden transition from the invigorating shade of embowering trees, to exposure to the direct rays of the sun that rendered the heat so oppressive.

"We could now distinctly hear the surf beating its everlasting symphony upon the beach, and knew therefrom that 'we close ketch em,' and a walk of fifteen minutes brought us in full view of the old Atlantic.

Roll on, thou deep and dark blue ocean—roll!

Ten thousand fleets sweep over thee in vain;

Man marks the earth with ruin—his control

Stops with the shore;—upon the watery plain

The wrecks are all thy deed, nor doth remain

A shadow of man's ravage, save his own,

When, for a moment, like a drop of rain,

He sinks into thy depths with bubbling groan,

Without a grave, unknelt, uncoffined and

[unknown.]

"We turned our eyes in the direction of the factories, and there they were, basking in the sun, at a distance of about two miles. Inspired by the sound of the surf, and refreshed by the spray which was continually thrown upon us, we soon measured the distance, and reached the factories about 5 P. M. Anxious to execute our mission, we dispatched a messenger to each head man—and to each we sent a little tobacco and a fathom of *white* cloth, charging each one to say 'Mess. Teage and Mess. Brown give you sarvice. Dey come for bring Gubnor word—dey want for see you beach to-morrow.'

"Having done Mr. Ferguson, whose factory was our hotel, all the harm we could by eating one-half of his fowls for supper, and threatened him with eating the other half 'to-morrow,' we then betook ourselves to *mat.*'"

Despatches from Liberia.

SINCE the preceding pages were in type, we have received still later intelligence from Liberia, by the arrival of the "Medonna" at New York. No person can fail to be interested in the following communications from Gov. Roberts, Dr. Lugenbeel, &c., exhibiting, as they do, the general prosperity of the commonwealth, and many highly encouraging facts connected with the various settlements, and the extension of the colonial influence. Our friends and patrons will not fail to notice the purchases of territory which have been made, and also the obstacles which were in the way of the purchase of New Cesters.

The letter of Gov. Roberts, dated 17 April, and the one from Major Benson, relating to the seizure, by the British, of the schooner "John Seys," belonging to Benson, a colonist, cannot fail to attract attention. We give the facts just as we have received them, preferring not to make any comments until we hear again from Liberia on the subject and learn the *finale* thereof.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Monrovia, March 18, 1845.

SIR:—On the eve of my departure for Grand Bassa and New Cess, as intimated in my last communication to you, Capt. Bruce, of the United States Brig Truxtun, arrived here from Port Praya, bound on a cruise to leeward, and very kindly offered me a passage to Sinou, which place I had been anxious to visit for some time, to settle some disputes that had

arisen between the colonists and natives, in consequence of some thefts that had been committed by certain Fishmen, residents in the Sinou country; and particularly to arrange and settle the difficulty caused by the improper interference of one Captain Tasko, a British trader, who disputes the rights of the colonial authorities to impose custom duties on foreign merchandize imported into the colonies, upon the ground assumed by Com. Jones; and particularly at Sinou, as a balance of the purchase money for the territory occupied by the Americans remains unpaid. To enlist the natives on his side and array them against the colonists, he refused to credit them with goods, as he had been in the habit of doing, unless they would insist that the Americans suffer his goods to be landed free of duty. This of course was refused; he then instigated the natives to make a demand for the immediate payment for the balance due them on account of the territory; and if not settled forthwith, which he knew could not be done, to draw a line just above the settlement, limiting the colonial jurisdiction to not more than one mile of sea coast, which he told them was equal to the amount of money they had received on the purchase, and that the colonists should not be permitted to interfere with goods landed beyond that line. This done, Tasko proceeded to land goods at Fishtown, some two hundred yards from the settlement, notwithstanding the remonstrances of the colonial authorities at Greenville, and, as I am informed, armed the natives and encouraged them to resist any attempt on the part of the authorities to seize them. In this state matters remained until my arrival, 13th February.

After much delay and trouble, I succeeded in assembling the kings and chiefs of the Sinou country in grand council, to adjust and settle all palavers existing between the colonists and country people.

The chiefs and people complained much of the inconvenience they had been compelled to suffer in consequence of the nonfulfillment of the contract for the territory purchased by the Mississippi colonization society in 1836, and felt that they were under no obligations to protect the colonists from frequent depredations, committed by Fishmen, resident in the Sinou country, upon their cattle and farms.

I am happy, however, to be able to inform you, that I succeeded in settling amicably all difficulties, and restored confidence on all sides. The Fishmen, a restless and ambitious people, who have given us more trouble than all the tribes along the coast together, and who, backed by one or two designing foreigners, have been the principal agents in causing all these difficulties, (except twenty-six, who were permitted to remain at the request of the king, who pledged himself for their good behavior) have been required to leave the country, and I feel satisfied that the good understanding now established will be permanent.

I have agreed to pay, in a few days, the balance due on the purchase of territory, (some \$500,) for which, and in consideration of certain presents, privileges and protection, granted to the Sinou tribe, the kings and chiefs have ceded to the American Colonization Society the entire Sinou country, (see accompanying document marked A.) This may be considered quite an acquisition to the colony, and we hope soon to conclude a purchase for the Ground Butau country, now in progress, which will give us an unbroken line of said coast of some forty miles from the

S. E. end of the Blue Barra country to the N. W. extremity of the Little Butau country—and I hope will secure us from any further interruption from foreign traders, at least within that line of coast. The following is a copy of an agreement entered into between the colonial authorities and the king and chiefs of the Sinou country, viz :

“Be it known to all, that the colonial authorities of the commonwealth of Liberia, and the king and chiefs of the Sinou country, having met in grand council this 24th day of February, 1845, to settle all difficulties existing between the American settlers at Greenville and the Sinou tribe, have adjusted all misunderstandings and agreed to the following terms :

“1st. The Sinou people agree to pay to Stephen Young as a compensation for certain articles stolen from said Young by one Pine, a Sinou man, the following: 2 Bullocks, 10 Kroos Palm Oil and 1 Goat.

“2nd. The Sinou people cede to the American Colonization Society their entire territory, and incorporate themselves with the American colonists, forming an integral part of the government, and subject to the laws of the commonwealth of Liberia.

“3rd. All difficulties arising between colonists and natives, shall be adjudicated and settled by the authorities at Greenville, subject to an appeal to the Governor of the commonwealth.

“4th. In consideration of the grant of territory to the American Colonization Society, or to the commonwealth of Liberia, the colonial authorities promise to protect the Sinou people from the aggressions of the other tribes, as far as can be done consistently with the peaceable policy of the government of Liberia.

“5th. It is agreed that the government will employ and encourage Sinou people as laborers, when it can

be done on as favorable terms as other natives are willing to be employed at.

"6th. It is further agreed and understood, that for the considerations mentioned in the 4th section of this instrument, the Sinou chiefs or people are permitted to trade with natives of other tribes, with colonists or foreigners, without being required, as are the American colonists, to obtain from the government a license to prosecute such trade. It is understood, however, that all goods or merchandize landed from foreign vessels, to natives within the Sinou territory, shall pay the lawful duty at present of 5 per cent. *ad valorem*, and shall be landed under the inspection of the collector of customs or his deputy.

"Done at Greenville, Sinou, this 24th day of February, 1845.

[SIGNED] J. J. ROBERTS,
GEO. SANDS,
SOLDIER KING,
PETER KIMO,
KING WILLIAMS,
DAVIS & NINNEY."

I spent eighteen days at Sinou, surveyed and run off the lots at Greenville which had not been attended to heretofore; and the farms on which the Reid people are situated, some five miles back from the coast, on the N. W. bank of the Sinou river. I was exceedingly gratified to find those Reid people so comfortable and happy; for the time they have been in the colony, I think they have made decidedly greater improvements than any set of immigrants we have ever had. On entering the settlement I was struck at once with the air of comfort and neatness that seemed everywhere to abound, not excelled, I am certain, if equalled, in any other settlement. Coming from Mississippi, they had very little sickness after their arrival, and entered immediately on their

farms and commenced operations, assisting each other until each family had a comfortable house, and some four or five acres of ground planted; they live in perfect harmony, looking upon each other as members of the same family. During my stay, I succeeded in making arrangements to put the settlement in a pretty good state of defence. There is, however, a deficiency in small arms; one hundred good United States muskets would place them in a position to defend themselves successfully against any attack that might be made by the natives. At present, however, no such event is expected; still it is vitally important that they be prepared for any emergency, particularly the people up the river.

I found at Sinou a quantity of lumber, that Mr. Murray had received in exchange for extra supplies furnished the destitute emigrants by the "Jane," and some assistance granted those by the "Lime Rock." It occurred to me, that no better use could be made of this lumber, than to have erected, without delay, a suitable building for the accommodation of emigrants, and a depot for emigrants' stores, and other property belonging to the Society at Greenville. It will also be a great saving to the Society, and will pay for itself in the accommodation of two expeditions. At Sinou we find considerable difficulty in procuring suitable houses for the accommodation of emigrants and stores, and only at extravagant rates.

The U. S. ship Jamestown, bearing the broad pendant of Commodore Skinner, arrived here on the 1st inst., and remained a week. I had not the pleasure of seeing the commodore, being absent at the time of his arrival. I hope, however, on his return from the leeward, to have much conversation with him respecting our affairs, and to secure his countenance and protection during his stay on

this coast. He is friendly to the cause of colonization, and I have no doubt will do all he can to further the interests of these colonies. I leave to-morrow for Grand Bassa, and shall be absent some ten or fifteen days. I hope, however, to return in time to give some account of our doings in that quarter by Capt. Brown or Lawlin. Your letter by the Jamestown is received, but I have not time now to reply to it, but will do so by the next opportunity.

I am, sir, respectfully,

Your ob't servant,

J. J. ROBERTS.

REV. WM. McLAIN,

Sec. Am. Col. Soc'y,

Washington City, D. C.

BEXLEY, LIBERIA,

April 12th, 1845.

REV. AND DEAR SIR:—You are no doubt aware of the circumstances which brought me to this place. If I am not mistaken, I wrote to you immediately before I left Monrovia; and as you may wish to know something about my “wanderings on the seas and shores of Africa,” since the date of my last letter, I will give you a short sketch. You are aware that I came to this little interesting settlement in charge of a company of twenty-one emigrants, who were liberated by Mr. Wilson, a philanthropic gentleman of Shelby county, Kentucky. I left Monrovia in company with those people, on the 1st of January, in the brig “Chipola,” and on the 3rd we arrived at Grand Bassa. In a few days after, I succeeded in getting the people comfortably situated at this place; and I have been with them ever since. They have all had one attack or more of acclimating fever, and some of them have been very sick. Two of them have died; and unfortunately they were both men. I tried very hard to save them, but all my efforts proved unavailing. There were pe-

culiar circumstances connected with both these cases, which tended to counteract the efforts which were made for their restoration to health; but as they died in Africa, of course it will generally be supposed that their death was altogether the result of the “dreadful African fever.” One of these persons was undoubtedly very much diseased previous to his arrival in this country; as was clearly exhibited in the examination of the body which I made after his death. Another of these immigrants, who has not suffered much with fever, is in a declining state; and from present appearances I am apprehensive that he cannot live many days. He is evidently laboring under that fatal malady, pulmonary consumption, developed no doubt by the change which his physical system has been undergoing since his arrival in this country.

Persons who are strongly predisposed to any such disease, or whose systems have been much impaired by sickness in America, ought not to come to Africa; for I am satisfied that the whole physical system must undergo a thorough change, before a person from a temperate climate can enjoy good health in this country; and in undergoing this change, if any part of the system has previously become enfeebled by disease, the individual is more liable to protracted suffering, and to death. The person to whom I have alluded as being the victim of consumption, suffered very much in the United States from frequent attacks of pluresy, according to the statements of his companions; and notwithstanding he seemed to have a slighter attack of fever than most of the others, yet from the first, I could clearly perceive that there was very considerable irritation of the lungs, which I vainly endeavored to overcome by cupping, blistering, &c.

I mention these circumstances to

call your attention to the fact, that Liberia is not the place for any person whether white or colored, who cannot come with a pretty good constitution, as well as with a cheerful mind.

In regard to my own health, I may remark, that I keep about nearly all the time; but sometimes it requires vigorous mental exertion to set the languid muscles in motion, and to rise superior to the debilitating influences of a vertical sun, and to shake off the chills or drive the fever through the pores of the skin. But I do not feel discouraged. I still think that I shall be able to live in Africa at least a year or two longer.

Yours truly,

J. W. LUGENBEEL.

Rev. WM. McLAIN.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Monrovia, April 2, 1845.

SIR:—In compliance with a resolution of the legislature at its last session, I appointed Messrs. Teage and Brown a commission to proceed to Little Bassa, to adjust and settle certain difficulties existing between king Bah Gay and certain other chiefs in said country, (the particulars of which have been transmitted to you at Washington,) and if possible to effect a purchase of the remaining unpurchased portion of the Little Bassa territory. They proceeded on their mission early in March last, and succeeded in assembling the chiefs of the country in “grand palaver.” It was, however, soon discovered that Prince and Salt Water, the opposing chiefs, had no real cause of complaint against the king, but seemed determined to sacrifice him to their own selfishness, and set up for themselves an independent sovereignty. After much palavering to bring about a reconciliation without effort, the commissioners gave Prince and Salt Water to understand distinctly, the relation

existing between this government and king Bah Gay; that he was bound under a solemn treaty, which was known to them, not to engage directly or indirectly in any war without the consent and approbation of this government, and that Bah Gay had twice asked permission of the colonial authorities to chastise them, which had not been granted, in the hope of effecting without a war, an honorable reconciliation. In this, however, they had failed in consequence of their own stubbornness. Nevertheless, Bah Gay would not be permitted to make war upon them except in self-defence, and that any aggression on their part tending to disturb the peace and quiet of Bah Gay or any of his people would be punished severely. By the accompanying deed you will perceive that the commissioners succeeded in the purchase of the territory, which extinguishes the native claim, and gives to the Society an unbroken line of sea coast from Diggby on the N. W. to Grand Bassa Point on the S. E. In order to make some observations respecting the force of the country, the quality of the soil, &c., &c., and if possible to ascertain the real state of feeling among the people towards Bah Gay, I passed through the Little Bassa country on my way to Grand Bassa, taking in my route Bah Gay’s principal town. No mention of my intention to visit Bah Gay, having reached his town, I found his majesty in the midst of preparations for a journey to Monrovia. He was to have set out the following day; my arrival, however, deranged all his plans and delayed his visit for two weeks. He will probably be here to-morrow. I learned from Bah Gay, that soon after the departure of the commissioners, Prince returned to his allegiance, but Salt Water remained obstreperous and seemed disposed to give him considerable trouble. Some two

weeks prior to my arrival, Salt Water had visited his town and he was disposed to treat him civilly, but the boy (as he calls him) behaved so rudely and uttered such treasonable language, that he was compelled to confine him, and would have taken off his head but for the solicitation of Prince. He discharged him under the promise and invocation, (according to a certain country rite of taking a draught of a decoction extracted from certain charms,) that he would demean himself in future as becoming a good subject. Bah Gay gave us to understand that the object of his contemplated visit to Monrovia, is to incorporate himself and people with the Americans, to subscribe to the constitution and laws of the commonwealth, and become *de facto*, citizens of Liberia. He says a large majority of his people have been urging him to this course for some time, as the only means of quietly and forever putting at rest the desire of a few reckless and abandoned individuals of his tribe, among whom Salt Water stands most prominent, to renew the slave trade by transporting them to New Cess.

At Grand Bassa I found, under the judicious management of Judge Day, the affairs of the country progressing steadily and in regular order. Immediately on my arrival, I proceeded to obtain an assemblage of the chiefs of the surrounding country, to adjust and settle the difficulty with Bob Gray and Young Bob; Peter Harris and Young Bob soon made their appearance; Bob Gray, under a consciousness of his guilt, and a conviction that he would be punished according to his desert, absconded from his town immediately on hearing of my arrival. If he will remain at a distance from the settlements, perhaps it will be well; should he return, we shall be compelled to take measures to bring him to justice.

Young Bob was very penitent, and

willing to submit to any terms we might think proper to propose. He attempted many apologies for the conduct of his people, and charges all upon Bob Gray. He paid the first instalment of the indemnity for the articles stolen from Factory Island.

Some three months ago six slaves escaped from a town bordering on the New Cess country, and found their way to Edina, and subsequently to their own country; one Sosly John, a native chief, who claims them as his property, three or four weeks ago seized and detained in custody, a colonist from Edina, charged him with encouraging and assisting said slaves to escape to the American settlement. Judge Day dispatched Messrs. Harrison and Fuller to Sosly John, to ascertain the particulars and procure the release of the man. Upon examination, no proof (not the slightest) could be produced to convict him of rendering any assistance to the slaves, or even of possessing any knowledge of their intention to escape. Sosly John nevertheless insisted that he was guilty, simply on the ground that this man had been trading in his town, and left for Edina at or about the time the slaves escaped; consequently must have had some knowledge of their intention, and no doubt assisted them in their flight; he should therefore hold him until the slaves were recovered, or their value in merchandize, and if any attempt should be made by the colonists to release him he should be put to death. Sosly John, without the remotest idea of carrying this threat into execution, used this strong language for effect. It had the effect intended. Messrs. Harrison and Fuller became alarmed for the man's safety, and pledged the commonwealth, unauthorized, of course, for the payment of some one hundred dollars to procure his release.

I gave them to understand distinct-

ly that no such terms could be agreed to by the commonwealth :

1st. That no proof existed to convict the man of any participation in the escape of the slaves ;

2nd. That Sofly John is under certain treaty stipulations with this government, to refer all matters of dispute that may arise between himself or any of his people and colonists, to the colonial authorities for adjustment and settlement, and therefore this act of Sofly John's is a violation of said treaty, and subjects him to certain penalties ; and further, such a policy would be fatal to the future peace and prospects of these colonies ; establish the president and every petty chief to extort money from the government, would be detaining colonists wherever found in the country.

I sent a message to Sofly John to request him to meet me at Bassa Cove, to talk his palaver. His highness declined an interview, unless I would furnish him with certain articles of dress, suitable to his standing as a prince, viz : a shirt, coat, boots, and an umbrella, which would enable him to make a decent and respectable appearance ; being altogether unprepared to grant this modest request, I had not the pleasure of meeting prince John ; I however sent him word that the seizure and detention of a citizen of these colonies, passing quietly through the country could not be tolerated ; that if this man had wronged him as he supposed, it was his duty to have delivered him to the officers, and made application to the colonial authorities (as he had done on former occasions, and obtained satisfaction,) for redress, and that we shall hold him responsible for the violation of his treaty and good faith with the colonists, and that the privileges of trade and intercourse heretofore enjoyed by his people, would be withheld until full reparation be made. I

requested Judge Day to visit Sofly John as early as convenient, and make known to him fully the feelings of this government in regard to his conduct, and to arrange the misunderstanding, which I feel confident can be done without difficulty.

I am sorry to inform you that an effort in regard to the purchase of New Cess failed. The slaver established there has not failed to exert himself in every possible manner to foil all our attempts, and so far has succeeded. He has for some time been dealing out, and continues to deal out large presents to their chiefs and people, and tells them he will pay for the country, if they insist upon selling it, one thousand dollars more than we are willing or able to pay. So long as he continues thus lavish of his means, we shall not be able to do anything.

The prospects of the people in Grand Bassa, those of Edina and Bassa Cove particularly, I think were never better than at the present time. They are turning their attention, with but few exceptions, almost exclusively to agriculture. The culture of coffee they have commenced in real earnest, and in a few years will be able, no doubt, to export some considerable quantity. Mr. Moore is now gathering in his crops, and notwithstanding he expects to loose at least 25 per cent. for the want of force and machinery to gather and clean it, still he will save several thousand pounds of clear coffee. I was astonished, however, on visiting Bexley, where a year ago every thing appeared so flourishing, and the prospects of the people so flattering, to find that such little improvement had been made, particularly on the farms, during the past year. Notwithstanding much praise is due to a number of enterprising citizens of that settlement, it was nevertheless mortifying to me to see what I considered a year ago several of the

most promising farms, if not altogether abandoned, shamefully neglected. Their owners not content with pursuing the slow but sure and certain road to independence and wealth, invested their means in merchandize, (thinking to grow rich more speedily,) and commenced (what they knew nothing about, as the result has proved,) an itinerant traffic with the natives of the country. They have, however, discovered their error, and I am happy to find out, are making preparations to return to their former pursuits; I hope others will profit by their experience.

Of the emigrants by the "Chipola," two have died; the others, except one, who is laboring under some chronic disease and will probably die, are convalescent, and commenced operations on their farms which have been assigned them in Bexley. Dr. Lugenbeel, Judge Day and others, speak of them as a very interesting and industrious set of people; they appear much pleased with their new home, and will no doubt do well, and be a great acquisition to the colony.

Commodore Jones has made no further communication respecting British claims, nor has he visited the colony since my return. I understand an officer of the British navy not long since made a proposal to the chiefs of New Cess to enter into some treaty, the particulars of which I have not been able to learn: some say for the acquisition of territory, others say for the suppression of the slave trade and establishing legitimate commerce. I will give you the earliest information of their movements. We are looking anxiously for the proceedings of the annual meeting of the board of directors, to learn the result of their deliberations on the subject of Commodore Jones' communication.

We are proceeding with the building for the United States government

with all possible dispatch. The unusual quantity of rain that has fallen this season, unparalleled in the history of the oldest inhabitants, has retarded very much our operations. It shall be completed, however, just as soon as possible.

I am happy to find, sir, that you are succeeding so well on the fifteen thousand dollars subscription. If we had the funds, I have no doubt that in less than one year we could effect a purchase of almost the entire coast between this and Cape Palmas. Several important points, viz: Nau-nakroo, King Willey Town, and Tasso, are now offered, but we have not the means.

I am, sir, most respectfully,
Your ob't servant,
J. J. ROBERTS.

To Rev. WM. McLAIN,
Sec. and Treas. Am. Col. Soc'y,
Washington City, D. C.

"DEED OF THE PURCHASE OF THE
LITTLE BASSA TERRITORY.

"Know all men by these presents:

"That I, Bah Gay, king of the Little Bassa country and people, for and in consideration of the sum of four hundred dollars paid by the commonwealth of Liberia, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, have granted, bargained, sold, aliened, enfeoffed and confirmed, and by these presents, do give, grant, bargain, sell, alien, enfeoff, and confirm unto the said commonwealth of Liberia forever, a certain lot or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Little Bassa country, and bounded as follows: commencing at Junk Point on the southern side of the Junk bar or river's mouth, running thence in an easterly direction to a purchase recently made of a portion of the Little Bassa country by Gov. Roberts from Zoola, Lewis Crocker & Brother, thence along and in a line with said purchase as far into the interior as the site of the town former-

ly occupied by the late king Bassa, thence bending around at a right angle and running in the direction of Junk until it strikes the Junk river, thence along the line of our former purchase from the said Zoola, Lewis Crocker & Brother to the place of commencement, said description of above boundary is intended to include the territory known by the name of the Little Bassa country, over which Bah Gay is king, and no more, to have and to hold the above granted and bargained premises, together with all and singular the buildings, improvements and appurtenances thereof and thereto belonging, to the said commonwealth of Liberia. And I, the said Bah Gay, king of the Little Bassa country, do covenant to and with the said commonwealth of Liberia, that at, and until the ensealing hereof, I as king of Little Bassa territory had good right and lawful authority to sell and convey the aforesaid premises in fee simple. And I, the said Bah Gay, king of the Little Bassa country for myself, and my heirs, and successors, will forever warrant and defend the said commonwealth of Liberia against any person or persons claiming any part or parcel of the above named premises.

"In witness whereof I, Bah Gay, have set my hand and seal at Marshall, this fifteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-five.

BAH GAY, his X mark. [SEAL.]

"Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of

A. B. HENDERSON, J. P.

JAMES J. POWELL, J. P.

JOHN B. WOODLAND.

A true copy,

J. N. LEWIS, *Col. Sec.*"

"PROCLAMATION.

"To all to whom these presents may come :

"KNOW YE, That this day king

Bah Gay, rightful sovereign of the Little Bassa country, until relinquished to the commonwealth of Liberia as per deed dated at Marshall Junk, 15th day of February, 1845, has this day subscribed to the constitution and laws of this commonwealth, thereby incorporating himself and people with the people of these colonies, and entitled to the care and protection of this government.

"Be it therefore understood, that any improper interference either by colonists or natives, calculated to disturb the peace and quiet of the said Bah Gay or any of his people, will be promptly noticed and punished by this government.

"Given at Monrovia, this the fifth day of April, 1845.

J. J. ROBERTS.

A true copy,

J. N. LEWIS, *Col. Sec.*"

"PURCHASE OF THE SINOU COUNTRY.

"This Indenture made this 27th day of February, A. D., 1845, between Joseph J. Roberts, agent of the American Colonization Society and Governor of the commonwealth of Liberia, on the one part, witnesseth, that in consideration of the one thousand dollars paid to the Sinou chiefs, by certain commissioners in the year 1836, and for certain presents, and the protection extended to the Sinou people, we, the undersigned king and chiefs aforesaid, do by these presents confirm the purchase of certain territory by the Mississippi state colonization society in the year 1836, and by this instrument do further grant, cede and transfer, and by these presents have granted, ceded and transferred to the American Colonization Society, the entire Sinou country without reservation, to have and to hold forever, viz: commencing at the entrance of the Sinou river, and running along the sea beach in a northerly direction

about fifteen miles, thence easterly into the interior about thirty miles, thence southerly about fifteen miles, thence westerly about thirty miles to the place of beginning. To have and to hold forever the aforesaid territory, and to exercise political power and control over the persons and property of whatever description within said territory, and we the undersigned bind ourselves, our heirs and assigns forever, to warrant and defend the said American Colonization Society or the commonwealth of Liberia, against any person or persons claiming any part of said territory.

“In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals the day and year first above written.

“Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of

THOMAS WILSON,
RICHARD E. MURRAY.

GEORGE SANDS,	his X mark.
SOLDIER KING,	his X mark.
PETER,	his X mark.
KIMAR,	his X mark.
COON or BLACK WILL,	his X mark.
KING WILLIAM,	his X mark.
DAVIS,	his X mark.
NIMNEY,	his X mark.

A true copy,

J. N. LEWIS, *Col. Sec.*”

SEIZURE OF THE SCHOONER JOHN SEYS.

BASSA COVE, GRAND BASSA,
April 16, 1845.

DEAR SIR:—I feel myself constrained to forward you a few lines, *by express*, in order to inform you of the state of affairs down here.

Judge Day has no doubt wrote you of the intelligence brought by Captain Cortland, and Mr. Davidson, of the Little Ben, from Sierra Leone, to wit: that Commodore Jones instructed them to pay no more

harbor duties, nor comply with any commercial regulation exacting money from Englishmen. Davidson having refused to pay anchorage, the collector seized goods sufficient to satisfy the law, and he left here on the 14th, of course to report to some man-of-war he may fall in with, while on his way to Monrovia or Sierra Leone. Yesterday, the 15th, a three-masted man-of-war boat (English) came in our harbor, took possession of my schooner, the “John Seys,” and after sporting with her by sailing up and down in our harbor, yesterday afternoon, and running races with their own boat, as if, seemingly, to aggravate and defy us on shore, they then ran out some distance, anchored for the night, and this morning they are bearing her off for the leeward. I had my papers all on board, and the Colonial flag flying, all of which they disregarded. There was nothing on board to amount to suspicion that she is a slaver. She has in a great many oil casks, all of which have had oil in them, and some are now full; moreover I had just put a fine cargo of English and American goods on board, and she was to have sailed to leeward on a trading voyage this day. I am pretty certain they will bring her back so soon as their spree is over; but then is it not likely she will be robbed of every valuable thing, for which English tars are famous? They forbid to let the captain go on board yesterday, and though they were told by the mate that *he was* the captain, that he was astern in the canoe, yet they refused to let him on board; two of them took aim at him with their muskets, and he was obliged to return or could not get his crew-men to venture further.

I would like to be advised what to do if they return here. Should I receive her, and as I know she will be robbed of every valuable thing on

board by them, how shall I proceed in this particular?

Please excuse me for writing so badly, I have a great deal to write, in a few hours, and can't take due pains. I will let you know in future what is the result of my tour to Young Sess, from which place I returned last week. Please return me a few lines by the Krooman.

Your ob't servant,

STEPHEN A. BENSON.

His Excellency, J. J. ROBERTS.

A true copy,

J. N. LEWIS, *Col. Sec.*

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

Monrovia, April 17, 1845.

SIR:—Mr Davidson, of the English schooner *Little Ben*, of Sierra Leone, arrived here last evening from Edina, and, I understand, (I have not seen him,) complains that the collector of Grand Bassa seized a few pieces of cloth to secure the *harbor dues of said* schooner, which Davidson refused to pay, on the grounds, he says, that Commander Jones has given notice to British traders on the coast, that such charges are illegal, the colonial authorities not possessing sovereign and independent rights, are not authorized to impose custom duties; therefore they should be resisted. He has left for the windward, I am told, to report the case to Commander Jones.

I hope by the first vessel from the U. S. to receive something definite from the Board, in regard to the subject.

April 18th, the crisis has arrived. Information has this morning reached us of the seizure, in the *harbor of*

Grand Bassa, by an English man-of-war cutter, of the colonial schooner "John Seys," owned by Major S. A. Benson, of Bassa Cove; for particulars, as far as they came to our knowledge, I beg to refer you to Mr. Benson's letter to me, a copy of which is herewith inclosed.

What pretext they will offer, in justification of this gross outrage on the property of inoffensive and defenceless people, is impossible for us to conjecture. I presume, however, it will be put on the footing of a reprisal for the seizure of the goods mentioned above: if so, how contemptible the conduct, and it proves to a demonstration, the existence of a plan to draw us into collision with the British people.

An English trader, as admitted by himself, is instigated by a British officer, to come among us, to violate our laws, and if any attempt is made to enforce them, they make it a pretext to seize a vessel and cargo worth several thousand dollars, as an indemnity for goods valued at twelve dollars, and without making any application to the authorities for redress. What is their ultimate aim, unless to put an end to colonization, to effect the destruction of the colonies, destroy our commerce along the coast, to give British merchants the monopoly, which is very likely, or to drive us from the face of God's earth, I cannot imagine.

I am, sir, respectfully,

Your ob't servant,

J. J. ROBERTS.

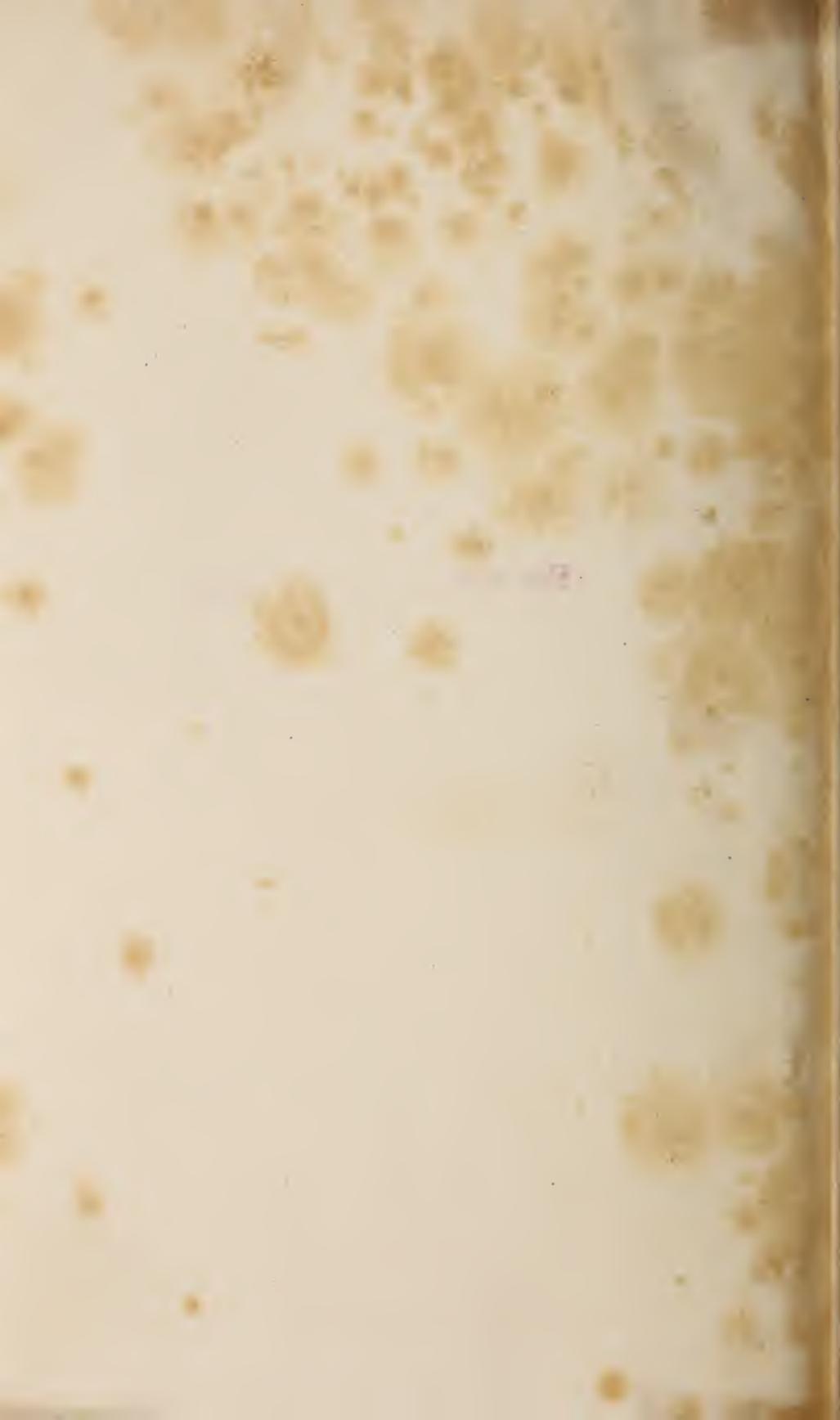
REV. WM. MCLAIN,

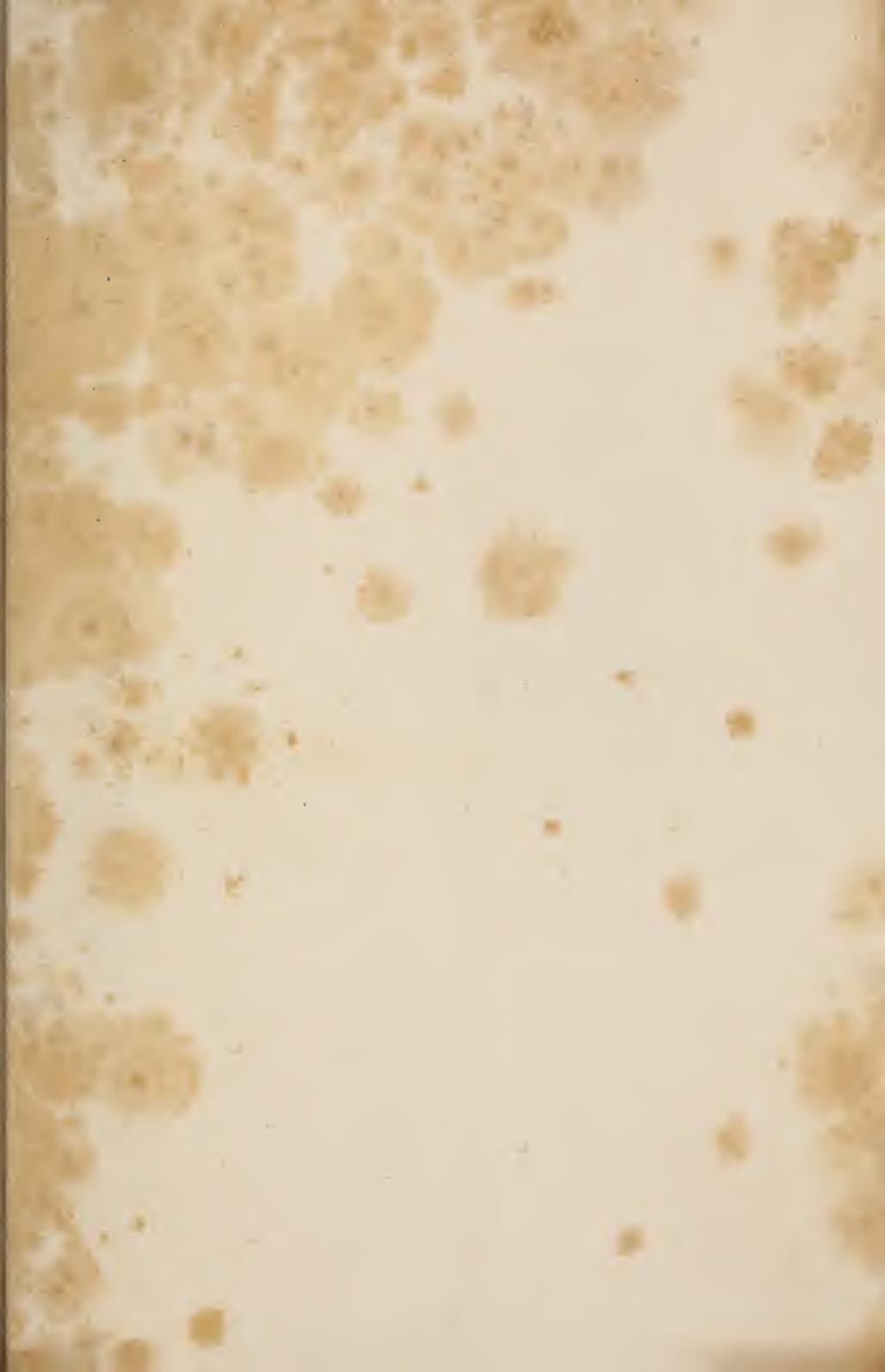
Sec. Am. Col. Society,

Washington City.

NOTES.—In order to make room for the above interesting letters, we have deferred the receipts of the past month to the next number.

For the letter of Commander Jones, referred to in the letters of Governor Roberts, see the 3d page of the cover.





I-7 v.20/21
African Repository and Colonial Journal

Princeton Theological Seminary-Speer Library



1 1012 00307 2115