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FACTS

ABOUT

SANTO DOMINGO,

Applicable to the present Crisis.

AN ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL
SOCIETY AT NEW YORK, APRIL 3, 1862.

BY

JOSEPH WARREN FABENS.

ILLUSTRATED BY THE ONLY COMPLETE MAP OF SANTO DOMINGO AND HAYTI
THAT HAS YET APPEARED.

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SANTO DOMINGO.

INTRODUCTORY HISTORICAL REMARKS.

THE Island of Santo Domingo is the New World's classic land. Nothing in the records of remote antiquity fascinates us like the wonderful story of its discovery and first occupation by the white man. Every page of its early history is alive with stirring incidents and pregnant adventures, the strivings, achievements, failures, sufferings, and sorrows of bold spirits and soaring intellects; and, over all, magnifying their shadowy proportions, softening, too, their harsher outlines, lies the dim mist of centuries. Here was the chosen and cherished home of Columbus. Here the great discoverer enjoyed, for a time, the sweet fruition of those hopes which had been his only solace during years of wandering, anxiety, and many disappointments. For this he had been, as Irving says, "exposed to continual scoffs and indignities, being ridiculed by the light and ignorant as a mere dreamer, and stigmatized by the illiberal as an adventurer." For this, according to Clemencin, a Spanish writer, "he had waited in the corners of ante-chambers, confounded in the crowd of importunate applicants, melancholy and dejected in the midst of the general rejoicing." For this, one day, a stranger in a strange land, weary with travel and sad at heart, holding his little boy by the hand, he had stopped at the gate of the convent of Santa Maria de Rabida, and asked for bread and water for his child. But all this time, without a home, without money, and without friends, he bore about with him, smouldering in his bosom, the wealth of the great faith and hope which was here to be realized.

Here he established the first white colony on this side of the Atlantic, introducing also horses, cattle, and domestic animals of all kinds, grain, seeds of various plants, vines, sugar-canes, and many European grafts and saplings. "There was something wonderfully grand," says the historian, "in the idea of thus introducing new races of animals and plants, of building cities, extending colonies, and sowing the seeds of civilization and of enlightened empire in this beautiful but savage world. It struck the minds of learned and classical men with admiration, filling them with pleasant dreams and reveries, and seeming to realize the poetical pictures of the olden time."

"Columbus," says old Peter Martyr, who describes so graphically events at this period, "has begun to build a city, as he has lately written to me, and to sow our seeds and propagate our animals. Who of us shall now speak with wonder of Saturn, Ceres, and Triptolemus, travelling about the earth to spread new inventions among mankind? Or of the Phœnicians, who built Tyre or Sidon? Or of the Tyrians themselves, whose roving desires led them to migrate into foreign lands, to build new cities, and establish new communities?"

The theatre of the drama was worthy of the stirring events therein enacted. Glowing descriptions of its palmy groves, its lofty but luxuriant mountains, its pictured landscapes of rich smiling valleys and broad sweeping plains, its majestic rivers, flowing through aromatic forests to secure and spacious bays and harbors, its mines of gold and silver and precious stones, its numerous and beautiful birds, its abundant fishes, its manifold and delicious fruits, its fragrant flowers of perpetual bloom, its soft and voluptuous climate, the cordiality and gentleness of its simple-minded inhabitants; these went back to Spain, thrilling the public heart from Cordova to Barcelona and the shores of the little port of Palos, and, radiating thence, caused the pulse of enterprise throughout Europe to beat with liveliest throbs. Enthusiasts and adventurers flocked from all sides to visit these new-found regions of wealth and enchantment. Hidalgos of the highest rank, favorite officers of the royal household, Andalusian cavaliers, fresh and glowing with martial zeal from the Moorish

wars, pale students from the cloister, devoutly anxious to extend the dominions of the Church, together with traders, husbandmen, miners, mechanics, and servants, thronged the outward-bound ships and caravels. As we look back through the intervening centuries upon this crowd of actors, by the light of our later knowledge and experience, they pass before us with proud and stately tread ; but with remorse, and the sorrow which is often allied to greatness and enthusiasm, imprinted on their faces. Many were their misconceptions and terrible the mistakes and crimes which they committed ; but swift and righteous was the retribution. Columbus is ever the central figure of the group. With all his religious fervor and lofty purposes, he appears to have been wanting in a broad and earnest sympathy with his kind, and to have fallen into deplorable errors, till at length we are heart-rent at beholding him carried in chains from that land which but a few years previous had worshipped him as a god. Yet those chains, heavy and degrading as they were, which, his son Fernando tells us, were kept ever after hanging in his cabinet, and which he desired might be buried with him in his grave, were as nothing to the heaviness and bitter disappointment which weighed upon his soul. Far more inexcusable were the cruelties and indignities perpetrated by his companions and followers, and thorough and complete was the Almighty's vengeance. The simple-minded, long-suffering natives, on whom they delighted to place intolerable burdens, were taken from them to those mansions "where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest." The land withered beneath their iron rule. Their cities fell in ruins, the lizard and centipede crawled over decaying rafters and among noisome weeds in the corridors of their once splendid palaces. Their fields were abandoned for want of labor, and the wilderness came back to repossess the site of the garden. They perished from no visible calamity, but, as a recent writer expresses it, from an internal gnawing—a kind of dry rot. There is something inexpressibly sad and touching in the final exodus of the remnant of this haughty race, when, in 1795, having ceded the island to France, they gathered up the remains of their great admiral, and, bidding adieu to the land

which he so loved and they had so cursed with political and social misrule, "westward took their solitary way." If the active life of Columbus was rounded by sorrow, as Shakespeare tells us all our lives "are rounded by a sleep," so the island that was his best beloved—the Benjamin around which clustered the affections of his declining years—after three centuries of occupation by the Spaniards, centuries of oppression, bloodshed, and cruellest wrongs, during which the bones of its once numerous people checkered the greensward from Cape Tiburon to Engano, returned again to its former condition of savage innocence, of rude plenty, and the semblance of patriarchal repose.

To-day, on the same picturesque stage, amid the same bright surroundings of tropical enchantment, a new drama is being enacted, a drama of far greater significance than the old, in the events of which we are especially interested. In the west end of the island, in that comparatively small portion of its territory now known as Hayti, a free black republic exists, which is not a failure. In Santo Domingo proper, restored again voluntarily to the rule of Spain, but, as I shall hereinafter state more in detail, under very different auspices from the former, with the moral and political equality of the races guaranteed, and the fairest promise of a most liberal and enlightened policy of government, we are invited to try on an extensive scale the oft-discussed experiment of free black labor in the tropics. It is not likely that we shall disregard the invitation. The emergencies of the new era, on which, as a people, we have already entered, forbid the supposition. On the contrary, it is more than probable that we shall at once embrace the opportunity here offered us of solving one of the great industrial problems of the age.

Apart from the story of Santo Domingo, I find but little information of an accurate character prevailing with regard to the island. Let us cast a glance at its geographical position and topographical character, and consider a few facts relative to its climate, soil, and productions. I shall pass by the rose-tinted descriptions of those magniloquent adventurers who found here cataracts of wild honey flowing over precipices veined with gold, and saw on every side the wealth of Ophir and the aromatic

spices of the Moluccas, and give only the well-authenticated facts of reliable residents and travellers, combined with the results of my own observation. It will be seen that the land is to-day as rich, and the field of labor as inviting, as when, according to some of the old writers, Hispaniola exported twenty-five millions of gold per annum, and the magnificent palaces erected by Charles V. at Madrid and Toledo were said to have been built of the sugar of its production.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION.

The Island of Santo Domingo lies between the eighteenth and twentieth parallels of north latitude, reaching quite up to these limits in a large portion of its boundaries, overrunning them, even, in one point southward, and extends from near the third to near the ninth parallel of longitude east from Washington. It lies midway between the fine islands of Cuba and Porto Rico, and its relative position in the great Archipelago of the West Indies, as well as toward our own shores, and the coasts of Central America and the Spanish Main, is peculiarly advantageous and commanding. It may be said to lie on the western confines of the north-east trade-winds. The seas in its immediate neighborhood are remarkably free from dangers, while its bold headlands and lofty inland mountains afford well-marked beacons to the navigator. Hence the native Indians had given to it the name of Hayti, or Highland—and Quisqueya, or Mother of Lands. Columbus made it his head-quarters, not merely because his dearest hopes were centred in its welfare, but because it was a convenient stopping-place for him in his voyages of discovery amongst the other islands, and to the Main. "It was," says Valverde, "as a centre, whence sailed all the expeditions by which was discovered, conquered, and settled, the fourth part of the world, we may say half the globe. For these and other motives it was distinguished from the first by the family name of Spain, as if it were the heart of the country, from which its people overflowed upon the other innumerable isles and the vast continent, proceeding even to the ocean of the Pacific, and the Southern seas."

“Its situation,” says the old Padre Charlevoix, “relative to the other islands and Costa Firme, could not be more advantageous, for it is surrounded by them, as it were, and may be said to be placed in the centre of this great Archipelago to exercise jurisdiction over them. The other three great Antilles of Sotavento, namely Cuba, Porto Rico, and Jamaica, appear particularly disposed to recognize this superiority, and their own subordination, for toward each of these three islands it extends a cape or point. Cape Tiburon, which forms its southwest extremity, is not more than thirty leagues from Jamaica, and, according to Oviedo, only twenty-five. Point Espada is distant from Porto Rico but eighteen leagues, and it is but twelve leagues from San Nicholas to the coast of Cuba. No other position,” observes this writer, “will enable Spain to establish a solid footing in these waters, for none is so capable to maintain the respect and superiority of the nation, as well in the islands and continents which she possesses, as in those which foreigners have usurped in these dominions. Its location to windward, the great number and convenience of its ports, its contiguity to Cuba and Porto Rico, with other advantages, render it the centre of navigation and key of New Spain. To whatever part our fleets and squadrons may sail, they are allured hither by safe roadsteads, abundant supplies, and secure seas, whether voyaging to or from Europe, or returning from the Indies, or navigating from whatever motive in the waters of this Archipelago.”

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION.

The surface of Santo Domingo is exceedingly broken and diversified. Hills and mountains rise in massive and irregular piles in all directions, but they look down on smiling valleys and broad plains where majestic rivers flow through dense forests, and past lands of the richest pasturage. Two principal ranges of mountains run in nearly parallel lines through almost the entire area of the island, observing a general direction from east to west. They lie at an average distance of some ten leagues from the coast. These ranges have many spurs and auxiliary chains, as it were, taking quite eccentric paths, and agreeably diversify-

ing the aspect of the intervening country. It is owing, perhaps, in part to this great topographical feature, that an impression prevails in some minds that the wooded and arable land of Santo Domingo is somewhat limited, but a closer investigation will dispel the erroneous idea. "This is the reason," says the author of ^{some} a recent work entitled "The Gold Fields of Santo Domingo," (which contains some very interesting facts, particularly those concerning the geology and mineral resources of the country,) "why, on approaching the island, it appears rugged and mountainous beyond all description, impressing the spectator with the belief that it is a mountainous waste, utterly destitute of any agricultural susceptibilities, while it is, in fact, thickly interspersed with the richest valleys, plains, slopes, and savannas, where the vegetable kingdom perennially reproduces itself in a thousand forms, and in riotous profusion, the mountains themselves being covered with the darkest forests and the greenest foliage, to their very tops."

M. Moreau de St. Mery, in his carefully prepared work on Santo Domingo, thus alludes to the fertility and hidden resources of these mountain ranges: "If we may judge of them," he says, "by the stoutness of the trees and the thickness of their foliage, they must be extremely fertile. Some of them, however, have a rugged and sterile appearance, but this is almost always the effect of some mine, of which there are many in these mountains, of various sorts and various fecundity. The mountains of the Spanish part are high enough to attract the rains that furnish the water with which the Spanish part is more amply supplied than the French. It is they that preserve that perpetual verdure, that coolness so delightful in a hot climate, and the enlivening beauty of all the vegetable creation."

In Irving's "Columbus" we have the following description, made up from the papers of the great Admiral himself. Speaking of the magical effect of the island's first appearance, as it rose upon his vision from tropic seas, green and distinct in the pure air, and beneath the serenity of the deep blue sky, he says: "Under these advantages the beautiful island of Hayti revealed itself to the eye as they approached. Its mountains were higher and

more rocky than those of the other islands, but the rocks rose from among rich forests. The mountains swept down into luxuriant plains and green savannas, while the appearance of cultivated fields, of numerous fires at night and columns of smoke by day, showed it to be populous."

And again, of the north coast he says :

"It was lofty and mountainous, but with green savannas and long, sweeping plains. At one place they caught a view up a rich and smiling valley, that ran far into the interior, between two mountains, and appeared to be in a high state of cultivation. The coast abounded with fish, some of which leaped even into their boats. They cast their nets, therefore, and caught great quantities. The notes of the bird which they mistook for the nightingale, and several others to which they were accustomed, reminded them strongly of the groves of their distant Andalusia. They fancied the features of the surrounding country resembled those of the more beautiful provinces of Spain, and in consequence the Admiral named the island Hispaniola."

The slopes and plains of the south side, intersected as they are by frequent rivers, which afford special facilities for communication with the coast, offer perhaps the best field for immediate colonization. This portion of the country is well divided into wood, tillage, and pasture lands. From the boundary line with Hayti to the city of Santo Domingo, there is a succession of these lesser plains and valleys, possessing a salubrious climate, a soil of great productiveness, and a most desirable location. Both Valverde and Moreau speak particularly of these inviting tracts, and make some interesting statements as to their extent and agricultural capacity.

"The valley of Neiba, which is the westernmost of these southern slopes," says Moreau, "contains about seven hundred square miles. The Neiba River and some mountainous parts separate it on the east from the plains of Azua and Bani, and to the west it is bounded by the river of Dames, and the lake of Henriquilla. It is extremely fertile, and well adapted to commerce, on account of the largeness of its river. The chase there is both useful and agreeable. The birds multiply exceedingly

fast. This seems to be the chosen spot of the flamingoes and pheasants, which keep in flocks, and are found in every part of the plain, particularly in the watering-places. This plain," adds Moreau, who seems to have quite a predilection for the sugar culture, "would be a commodious and eligible situation for more than a hundred and fifty sugar manufactories or plantations; an opening to which would be very easy by means of this great river that has long been the boundary of the French possessions." Notwithstanding its excellent position, and the abundant fertility of its soil, it is to-day little better than a desert.

At the old port of Azua there were formerly shipped large quantities of excellent sugar, raised in the immediate neighborhood. This valley contains about 1,300 square miles. According to Moreau, the sugar-canes in this district grew to the height of nineteen feet, and produced six successive years without renewal. "Every production of the canton of Azua," he says, "excels by its quality and exquisite taste; it furnishes the whole year round a great abundance of the finest oranges, and so sweet and pleasant as not to leave the least tartness upon the palate.

"The mountains of this district are covered with fustic of superior quality. It is reputed extremely healthy. The inhabitants are tall and well built, and more industrious than those of other parts. This tract," adds Moreau, "might certainly have four hundred sugar plantations, and furnish employment for eighty thousand negroes.

"The bay of Ocoa, near Azua, is capable of containing the largest squadrons. The landing is so good that the stoutest ships may approach near enough to fasten their bowsprits to the shore. The elevation of the coast on each side, sheltering the bay from the wind, renders the sea always calm, and makes it a most excellent anchorage. This happy site," observes the same writer, "seems to invite inhabitants. The sugar formerly made here was of excellent quality, and the land yielded abundantly."

Next comes the fine rolling ground of Bani and Palenque. "To the west of the capital," (Santo Domingo City,) says Valverde, "is the rich and fertile valley of Bani, which extends from the Nisao River to Ocoa, abounding in excellent pasturage and all

kinds of cattle, whose flesh is of the most delicate flavor, and who rejoice in milk and fatness. It is not easy to conceive any position more desirable than that of the fine arable land in the vicinity of the port of Palenque, and the rich pasture grounds of Savanna Grande adjoining, where the Nisao River finds its outlet in the sea, after flowing over sands of gold and copper, and through forests of the most valuable dye and cabinet woods."

To the east of the capital are immense meadows, called by the generic name of los Llanos, or the Plains, extending from the Ozama River to the easternmost point of the island. These are skirted on the south side by timber of the same desirable kinds as is found elsewhere. In the time of the early Spaniards there were many valuable sugar and tobacco estates in this district, which is now unoccupied save by a few cattle ranges. Riding, as I have often done, the day through, across these monotonous plains, tenanted only by the drowsy herds—a placid, slumberous sea of grass—I have thought yearningly of what a few artistic touches of human dwellings and human cultivation would do, lighting up the scene, endowing it with a living, breathing soul. Methinks the woman poet of England must have had a landscape like this in her mind's eye when she wrote the *Emigrant's Song* :

“Round our white walls we will train the vine,
And sit in its shadow at the day's decline,
And watch our flocks as they roam at will
O'er the green savannas so broad and still.”

The great plain or valley of the island, however, far excelling all others in beauty and fertility, is the Vega Real or Royal Meadow. This renowned tract is situated in the centre of the island, between the two great chains of mountains, and is watered by the numerous streams which flow thence, forming the very important rivers Yaque and Yuna, the latter of which empties into the famous bay of Samana, and the former into the lesser but well-sheltered and spacious bay of Mansanilla. This plain, which Charlevoix estimates at eighty leagues in length by ten in width, is probably not far from two hundred miles long, with an

average width of twenty-five miles. "This magnificent valley," says Mr. Courtney, a recent traveller, "for fertility of soil, salubrity of climate, and its exuberant productiveness of all tropical fruits, flowers, and vegetation, is perhaps not equalled by any in the world." It was here that the charming enthusiasm of Columbus and his companions seemed to culminate, when their eyes rested for the first time upon its vast extent and vivid beauty. "Here," says Irving, "a land of promise suddenly burst upon their view. It was the same glorious prospect which had delighted Ojeda and his companions; below lay a vast and delicious plain, painted and enamelled, as it were, with all the rich variety of tropical vegetation. The magnificent forests presented that mingled beauty and majesty of vegetable forms known only to these generous climates. Palms of prodigious height, and spreading mahogany trees, towered from amid a wilderness of variegated foliage. Freshness and verdure were maintained by numerous streams, which meandered gleaming through the deep bosom of the woodland, while various villages and hamlets, peeping from among the trees, and the smoke of others rising out of the midst of the forests, gave signs of a numerous population. The luxuriant landscape extended as far as the eye could reach, until it appeared to melt away and mingle with the horizon. The Spaniards gazed with rapture upon this soft, voluptuous country, which seemed to realize their ideas of a terrestrial paradise, and Columbus, struck with its vast extent, gave it the name of the Vega Real, or Royal Plain."

I remember well, indeed I never can forget, the impression produced upon me by the first sight of this same fascinating landscape. I was alone, and had been travelling northward for half a day, through almost impenetrable thickets and over rocky and rugged mountain paths, when suddenly, on reaching the farthest ridge of the southern chain of hills, the broad and pictured scene burst full upon me. Fatigue and the loneliness of the journey were forgotten, and I was content in the enjoyment of such a vision of natural beauty as I had never before imagined, and of which, perhaps the world cannot produce a rival.

Should an extensive emigration take place to the island of

Santo Domingo, it would unquestionably find its way to the great valley watered by the Yuna and the Yaque. Admitting the productive resources of this famous valley to equal those of the Island of Barbadoes, and there is no doubt they are much greater, it would of itself support a population of four millions.

CLIMATE.

Regarding the climate of Santo Domingo, much might be said, for much has been said by travellers, and of an apparently conflicting character. While hardly any two sojourners have had precisely the same experience, or arrived at the same general conclusion, it also happens that the natives and old settlers do not agree about the comparative healthfulness of different sections, each taking care to claim that his particular locality is superior in this respect to all others. The residents on the north side will tell you that the south side is sickly, and so *vice versa*. In the small towns, as is sometimes the case in small towns in more advanced portions of the globe, considerable rivalry of a petty nature exists, and manifests itself in disparaging statements regarding the climate of its neighbors. Thus, at San Christoval I have been told that Bani was a perfect graveyard, although I previous'y knew that it was considered by the people of Santo Domingo City a very healthy place, and was on that account often resorted to by invalids. An old resident at Bani once told me, treating of his somewhat straitened circumstances, that he had been blessed with seventeen children, and added, as a melancholy fact, that none had ever died, whereas, if he had resided at San Christoval, he would without doubt have been relieved, in a great measure, of his expensive progeny, through the merciful interposition of a kind Providence. At Savanna-la-Mar, on the south side of Samana Bay, I was advised not to proceed to the town of Samana on the north side, as I should be sure to take the fever, and probably die ; but when I reached Samana and informed certain anxious inquirers that I had spent the night at Savanna-la-Mar, I was warmly congratulated upon having escaped from that pest-hole with my life.

Of course, from the peculiar and irregular formation of the island, a diversity of climate exists. It is not to be denied that in the low lands, and particularly where the fresh-water rivers form a junction with the sea, there is more or less bilious or intermittent fever, at certain seasons. Our seafaring friends, whose fortune it is to seldom visit other localities, and who are not proverbial for their strict observance of the laws which regulate physical health, are apt to receive unfavorable impressions from their personal experience, which they are not at all backward in disseminating. Santo Domingo City, I believe, is admitted to be the most unhealthy portion of the island, but during a three-years' residence there, I have known but one death among the shipping, and that was caused by an internal injury received on shipboard, and in nowise attributable to any malady of the country. The city is built on the old Spanish plan, with houses of thick adobe walls, narrow streets, without drainage, and is full of ruins, where the rankest vegetation is allowed to grow, and which are the receptacles of all kinds of filth. Add to this that the people use no precautions, either in clothing, diet, or personal habits, against the effects of change of weather or seasons, having no fireplaces in their houses and no fires in the dampest and chilliest weather, living, too, as many of them do, in huts with no floor but the damp soil, and if there are no causes for the sickness which sometimes prevails in all this, then it may be set down to the mysterious influence of the climate. On the plains and in the highlands the air is pure and bracing, and the nights are often cold. The mahogany choppers who spend months together in the forest, sleeping in their blankets on the ground, or swinging their hammocks under trees, tell me they feel no ill effects from the climate. In January last I met a party of Cornwall miners about thirty miles from the capital, who informed me that not one of their number had had a day's sickness since their arrival in the country, more than two years previous. The salubrity of the climate was matter of surprise to them.

Valverde says: "From the organization bestowed by nature upon this favored isle, there proceeds a variety of climate not easily found elsewhere;" and he further observes: "in general the

temperature of our island is that of a perpetual springtime. Its nights are cool and refreshing, and its mornings, up to the hour of eight or nine, are the most delicious that can be imagined."

Irving says, speaking of the astonishment of the Spaniards at finding in December the trees in leaf, the buds in flower, and the birds in song : "They had not yet become familiarized with the temperature of this favored isle, where the rigors of winter are unknown, where there is a perpetual succession and even intermixture of fruit and flower, and where smiling verdure reigns throughout the year."

"Notwithstanding," says Mr. Courtney, "the highly exaggerated and almost wholly fallacious belief to the contrary, which unfortunately prevails pretty extensively in the United States, Santo Domingo is as healthy as any country in the New World. Some districts are peculiarly healthy and conducive to longevity, among which may be mentioned Monte Christi, at the mouth of the Yaque, on Monte Christi Bay, Santiago, Mocha, La Vega, and the Royal Plain on the north portion of the island, and San Juan, Maniel, Azua, and Banica on the south portion, and even at Port-au-Platte cases of sickness rarely occur, and there is not now a physician in the place, although it numbers over 4,000 inhabitants. The valleys and plains high up in the mountains are unexceptionally and uniformly healthy, the air being as fresh and bracing and pure as that of the mountains of Scotland."

Mr. Harris, a colored gentleman, who has recently travelled in Santo Domingo, gives his testimony to the same effect. "Many persons," he says, "attribute the cause of the island's decline from its ancient splendor, and the supine indifference of the natives, to the enervating influence attending all tropical climates, and without prejudice I believe such would be very greatly the case in a large portion of the tropical world, but it is a libel on Hayti and Santo Domingo. The country is as healthy as Virginia, and, except in its excessive beauty and fertility, resembles much the State of North Carolina." Said a Protestant clergyman to Mr. Harris, at Port-au-Platte : "A man who would find fault with this climate, would find fault with paradise."

SOIL AND PRODUCTIONS.

The soil of Santo Domingo is fertile to an extraordinary degree. The superior quality and great variety of its productions we find to have been a subject of remark from its earliest records. It was this wondrous wealth of vegetation which so captivated the Spaniards. There was nothing in the Old World like unto it. The lavish profusion with which the Almighty had showered the choicest natural blessings upon this land of perpetual sun and verdure filled them with awe. Yet they had but a feeble conception of its real wealth. They dreamed not that the palaces of kings and nobles should be adorned with new beauty from the heart of these old woods; that the robes of haughty dames should wear new colors from their dyes; that, knitting the solid frames of ships with firmer grasp, their century-during timber should float wherever white sails voyaged, time-defiant alike

“Beside the frozen Hebrides,
Or sultry Hindostan.”

FORESTS—MAHOGANY, LIGNUM-VITÆ, OAK, DYE-WOODS, ETC.

Among the trees we must give preëminence to the Mahogany. This is found in all parts of the island. We meet it on the plains, clustering around the unfrequented springs—among the thick woods on the banks of rivers, and high up on the mountains. It grows tall and straight, with a long clean trunk, being, when full grown, from twelve to twenty feet in circumference, and from thirty to fifty feet from the soil to its lower branches. The mahogany wood is well known to commerce. It is the great staple cabinet wood of Europe and America. The south side Santo Domingo wood is considered the best in the world. Its finest qualities are shipped to England and the Continent, where it brings fabulous prices. I have known wood shipped at Santo Domingo City, to have been sold at the London Docks at four dollars and seventy-five cents the superficial foot. The cutting and shipping of mahogany probably employ not less than one-tenth of the present working population of the island. More

than one-half of the bulk of the cargoes despatched from Santo Domingo City per annum, are made up of this valuable wood. Yet it is far from being exhausted. Indeed, I believe that in a great portion of the Spanish side of the island the forests are as innocent of the axe as at the time of the discovery.

Next, perhaps, in value to the mahogany comes the Oak. This tree does not reach the large proportions of the mahogany. It is, however, a very solid and durable wood. Oviedo testifies that he had seen pieces seventy to eighty feet in length, squared up with a circumference of sixteen hands. Some of it is handsomely flowered, bird's-eyed and mottled like the finer qualities of the mahogany, and is manufactured into articles of furniture, but for the most part it is used in Santo Domingo for the framework of sugar mills, and for keels, stern-ports, ribs, &c., in ship-building, for which latter purpose it is said to be unrivalled.

The Capa is a tree found in great abundance on the south and east sides of the island. It is smaller and more crooked than the oak, but it is compact and strong as iron, bearing to this wood perhaps about the same relation that our southern live oak bears to the pasture oak of the North. It is esteemed invaluable in Santo Domingo for the knees and other parts of ships requiring great strength and durability.

The Satin-wood tree is more rare than those already named. Still it is of frequent occurrence, particularly on the south side. This is a valuable wood, and is well known to the commerce of America. From its comparative scarcity it commands a higher average price than the mahogany, but its finer qualities do not bring the enormous rates paid for the best mahogany. It is often used in cabinet work to relieve other and darker woods, and being susceptible of a high polish its delicate yellow presents quite a pleasing contrast to the brown and black rosewood or the rich purple-tinted mahogany.

The Santo Domingo *Lignum-vitæ* is famous the world over. I have known picked lots sold in the London market at one hundred dollars per ton. It is used for gun carriages, blocks, and pins of ships—and has recently been substituted for iron in some parts of machinery. There is still an abundance of this wood upon the island.

Among dye-woods the Fustic and Campeachy, commonly called Logwood, are the most abundant. The latter, indeed, is found in almost inexhaustible tracts upon the south side. The Brazil-wood is also said to exist here, but it has not been found as yet in sufficient quantities for any considerable exportation.

There are many other valuable trees, such as the Locust, Yellow and Black Cedar, Brazillito, Ceiba, Cabilma, Pitch Pine, Mamey, Almiendra, Tamarind, Mango, and Palms and Orange trees of many varieties. Many of these are very useful in the country, although their wood is not so well known to commerce as those which I have more particularly cited above.

The palm tree, however, from its useful character, which is by no means generally appreciated, as well as from its poetic associations, seems to deserve more than a passing word. There is an oriental majesty and charm about it, "the royal palm," as the distinguished author of "Two Years before the Mast" describes it in Cuba, "which is to trees what the camel or dromedary is among animals seeming to have strayed from Nubia or Mesopotamia."

Every one who has sojourned long within the tropics can testify to the delicious character of the palm cabbage. The oil from the palm nuts is an article of considerable importance. These nuts, of which the palm bears immense quantities, furnish in Santo Domingo the principal sustenance of the wild hogs that constitute the wealth of the mountaineers. The leaves of the smaller varieties, known as the cane and fan palms, are used to a great extent in covering houses. Hats of fine quality, and also baskets, saddle-panniers, and ceroons are made from the veins of these leaves. Although the inner portion of the trunk of the tall palms is of a soft and spongy character, and comparatively worthless, yet there is an exterior coating, about an inch in thickness, when trimmed up, which is used chiefly for weather-boards, and which, for consistency and durability, defies alike the heaviest rains and hottest suns. These palms also produce near their top layers of an external covering, called yaguas, which are used for covering the roofs of houses, answering admirably the purpose of our shingles.

The cocoa-nut tree is also useful, furnishing to the natives oil, milk, and solid food.

There is another tree worth mentioning—of which Moreau says: “I shall notice that tree, the utility of which can never be enough extolled, which furnishes the poor African with plates and bowls that he may renew at pleasure and without expense, and the means of carrying and preserving what he could not enjoy without the vessels which the calabash tree gives him with prodigality.”

In speaking of the products of Santo Domingo I have given the first place to the forests, because they furnish the principal articles of export, and because the wealth to be derived from them would probably attract the first attention of colonists. In this respect Santo Domingo has a great advantage over other tropical countries in our neighborhood. Here is a resource that may be made available at once.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS—TOBACCO, SUGAR, COFFEE, COCOA, COTTON, ETC.

Among the other articles of natural production, or which are raised or prepared for export, may be named tobacco, sugar, coffee, cocoa, cotton, gum guaiac, honey, beeswax, hides, goat-skins, and fruits both natural and preserved.

Tobacco was found in use here by Columbus, and has to this day been cultivated to more or less extent in all parts of the island. It is generally of excellent quality, but suffers somewhat from the natives' lack of skill in cultivating and preparing it for market. The best tobacco is raised on the great plains near Cotvy and La Vega, whence it is taken to Santiago for sale, and afterward transported across the mountains to Port-au-Platte, and there shipped mostly to Germany, where it is made into cigars, and sold on the continent as genuine Havana. This is the great staple of export from the north side. This year the crop will probably amount to 125,000 quintals. The cultivation of this article can be greatly extended, and with large profits to the planter, as there is an abundance of virgin soil in Santo

Domingo fit for this kind of cultivation, while it is well known that the soil of the best vegas in Cuba is mostly exhausted. On my return from Santo Domingo, *via* Havana, two years ago, I happened to have with me a few leaves of tobacco which I had picked up in a merchant's store in the town of La Vega. I exhibited these to a New York dealer in tobacco, who was on his return from purchasing his stock in the island of Cuba. He examined them, tested them by lighting, observing the odor of the smoke, color of the ashes, etc., and informed me that tobacco of that quality would be worth in New York one dollar and forty cents per pound. He supposed it was Cuba tobacco, and was quite surprised when I told him where I had obtained it. I do not presume there is any considerable quantity of tobacco of that description now raised in Santo Domingo, but I do not know any good reason why tobacco equal to the very best of Cuba cannot be cultivated there.

Of sugar there is but little raised, but the amount is steadily increasing. There is no steam mill on the island, and, I believe, not more than half a dozen mills with iron crushers. The others are made of the hard wood of the country. There are several small proprietors in the vicinity of San Christoval, Palenque, Azua, and Maniel, who cultivate their own patches of land, and pack their sugar in ceroons on their own mules, carrying it to Santo Domingo City for sale. There were about 3,000 ceroons brought in for sale in this manner, between the 1st of December last and the 1st of January of this year. The cost of this sugar to the planter, with his present facilities, is about two cents per pound on his estate. It is a good quality of sugar, of coarse and lively grain, and worth at present in this market about six and a half cents per pound. I do not think, however, that it is so desirable a culture for proprietors of small means as some others, for instance, coffee or cotton. As Mr. Dana observes in his work on Cuba, "Sugar-making brings with it steam, fire, smoke, and a drive of labor, and admits of and requires the application of science. Managed with skill and energy it is extremely productive; indifferently managed it may be a loss. The sugar estate is not valuable, like the coffee estate, for what

the land will produce, aided by ordinary and quiet manual labor alone; its value is in the skill and character of the labor." What the island is capable of in this respect, under a suitably organized system of labor, may be inferred from the records of the early Spaniards and from the present production of the neighboring island of Cuba, which exceeds 400,000 tons per annum.

Of coffee there is, at present, hardly enough raised to meet the consumption of the island. Yet the soil, and particularly that of the mountain sides, is well fitted for this culture. In the days of the former occupation by the Spaniards there were many fine coffee estates in the immediate vicinity of Santo Domingo City, which are now entirely overgrown by the encroaching forest. The tree produces heavily in certain districts. Being at Cotvy in the winter of 1860, I saw a coffee tree in the garden of the priest of that village, from which he had, a few days previous, obtained nine pounds of hulled coffee. I have seen coffee from Bani, which in its rich aromatic flavor fully equalled the far-famed Mocha. The carrying on of a coffee estate requires no large outlay of capital; a few hands are sufficient to tend the trees and gather the crop, and no expensive machinery is required to prepare it for market. It is by the coffee culture more than any thing else, that Hayti is to-day rich and prosperous. I am told that the value of the coffee exported from Hayti this year will exceed in value 8,000,000 of dollars.

From coffee we come naturally to cocoa. As coffee is said to require shade, particularly in its infancy, and as the cocoa tree furnishes this requisite, they are often planted together and can be easily and advantageously taken care of at the same time. In all Spanish tropical countries we find the cocoa tree, at least in sufficient quantities to provide for the consumption of the inhabitants. According to Valverde, in the time immediately succeeding the discovery, the cocoa was, after the mines and sugar, the most abundant source of riches to the colonists. In the 16th century there was no other cocoa imported to the continent of Europe than that of Santo Domingo, which furnished an abundant supply. The cultivation of it has since been aban-

done, and only here and there is it to be met with in the gardens of the more populous districts. There is no doubt that the culture of coffee and cocoa in Santo Domingo by parties of small means, who would give it their personal attention, would yield very satisfactory results.

Cotton is an article of spontaneous growth. It grows upon small trees somewhat resembling the peach tree in form. These trees bear annually an average of about two hundred bolls. It grows well in the poorest soil, and sprouts up even in the crevices of rocks. My friend General Cazneau has recently sent a sample of the bolls and ginned cotton to Prof. James J. Mapes, of this city, who will show it with pleasure to any parties interested. This sample was taken from a tree which had sprung up by chance from the thin soil in the hollow of a limestone ridge on the General's estancia, adjoining the walls of the Capital. I am told by the Professor that the staple is both fine and strong, although I do not consider it by any means a fair specimen of the wild cotton of the island. At Higney, near the east end of the island, the staple is said to be much finer and longer. In the time of Columbus cotton yarn was found in great abundance both here and in Cuba. The natives would exchange large balls of twenty-five pounds weight for a bit of broken glass or the merest trifle. At one place in Cuba, the historian states, they saw vast quantities of cotton, some just sown, some in full growth. There was great store of it also in their houses, some wrought into yarn or into nets of which they made their hammocks. In 1494, when Columbus adopted the system of imposing tribute on the natives, in those districts which were distant from the mines and produced no gold, each individual was required to furnish an arroba or twenty-five pounds of cotton every three months. This cotton has shared the fate of all other branches of industry in the island, and been entirely abandoned, except so far as the actual wants of the inhabitants are concerned. In the present state of excitement about cotton-growing it will probably be renewed, to the great profit of all interested.

Besides these products there are annually exported, as I have already stated, considerable quantities of the gum of *lignum-*

vitæ, known in commerce as gum guaiac, honey, beeswax, hides, and goat-skins.

As Santo Domingo produces an immense profusion of flowering trees, shrubs, and plants, bees are found in proportionate swarms. They make their hives in hollow logs, in the crevices of rocks, and sometimes in holes in the ground. In many parts of the island it is only recently that the honey has been saved in consequence of the scarcity of suitable vessels in which to bring it to market. The wax is cleansed in the rivers and afterward run into cakes and brought to the seaboard for sale. This branch of business is, however, attracting more attention than formerly, and some persons are even making bee-keeping a speciality. I believe the export of honey this season from Santo Domingo City will exceed 100,000 gallons, which probably is not one-tenth part of the production of the south side of the island.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

Of fruits there is a great variety, the principal of which are oranges, cocoa-nuts, pineapples, bananas, plantains, alligator pears, chimetes, sapotas, mangoes, limes, grapes, guavas, &c. Most of these are found in great abundance, and some of them could be exported with profit.

In field and garden vegetables it is hardly necessary to particularize. Except the Irish potato, onion, beet, and cabbage, I believe all or nearly all the kinds common to temperate as well as tropical climes, are here produced or may be successfully cultivated.

Besides the various productions to which I have alluded, there are many others to which the early settlers gave their attention, and the vestiges of which are still occasionally seen, such as the annotto plant, which produces a fine dye-stuff, called by the French *rocov*, and cultivated on a large scale in Brazil and French Guiana; the indigo, which at the close of the 16th century was exported to the mother country in considerable quantities, but which now is only noticed as a weed troubling the planters in their feeble agricultural efforts; the ginger, which was

originally brought over from the Moluccas, and was esteemed to possess medicinal virtues in the days of herbs and simples—and others of less repute.

ANIMAL KINGDOM.

In the animal kingdom Santo Domingo presents a respectable appearance, but not that patriarchal air of flocks and herds which we should expect from the records of the first Spanish settlers. "The Spanish part of Santo Domingo," says Moreau, "abounds in horses, asses, oxen, cows, sheep, goats, and hogs, which have been propagated in a manner that drew a sort of admiration from the old writers on America." Oviedo said that in 1535, forty-three years after the discovery of the island, the cows, the first of which were brought from Spain were at so early a period in such numbers that many ships returned to Europe laden with their hides, and that five hundred of them were killed at a time with lances only for the sake of the hides. For a half-penny one might buy four pounds of meat, a cow with a calf for a dollar and three-quarters, and a wether for the eighth of a dollar. The same writer further says that he sold those of his plantation still cheaper, and that many flocks of sheep and goats and several droves of hogs had become wild in the woods. This abundance and cheapness do not now exist, but with the exception of sheep, which have disappeared, there is no lack of the animals above cited, and their prices may be quoted at about one half of the value of the same descriptions in this market. Fresh beef is sold in Santo Domingo City at eight cents per pound. In the country, of course, it is much cheaper. Turkeys, guinea hens, pigeons, and domestic fowls are abundant and cheap. In speaking of the present comparative scarcity of cattle it must be remembered that there has probably been no pains taken to improve or continue the breeds, and that there has been a constant drain for the markets of Cuba and Porto Rico. That colonists can employ themselves profitably in raising cattle there is no manner of doubt.

MINERAL RESOURCES—GOLD, SILVER, IRON, COPPER,
COAL, ETC.

In mineral resources the island of Santo Domingo enjoys a famous reputation. Indeed, if we may give full credence to the universal statements of writers upon this branch from the earliest dates down to our own time, it presents itself before us with the aspect of another California. I am not sure, however, in my own mind, that these inducements will be likely to attract the most desirable class of colonists, and furthermore, as I do not intend to be held responsible for any possible shortcomings of the island in this particular, I shall here content myself with presenting a few brief extracts from some of the leading writers above referred to.

Valverde says that the mineral resources are without doubt equally rich with the vegetable; "but," he very justly adds, "there are many mountains and dense woods, which have only been visited by fugitives from labor and outlaws, and others, it is safe to say, where the foot of man has never trod."

"In the mineral kingdom," says Moreau, "there is a good deal of analogy with the Old World. There are mines of iron, copper, and lead, but there are besides mines of gold, silver, and precious stones, and even of mercury, and here the island has a real superiority."

In speaking of the country about La Vega and Cotvy the same writer remarks:

"The name of 'Mines' was first given to it, because there were mines in its territory, and many gold ones were working at the time. But from the year 1520 workmen began to be wanted here, as at the mines of Buenaventura. In the mountains of Maymon there is a very abundant copper mine. In the same neighborhood there is also pure iron of the best quality.

"Eight years after its foundation La Vega was already a city of importance. Sometimes during the year there were two hundred and fifty thousand dollars minted here. This gold was part of the products of the mines of Cibao, at a time when metallurgy was in no great perfection, and consequently when the loss was excessive. The persons concerned in the operation hid a great

deal of the gold, and did not count that in grains or scales, but only that in the lump.

“The territory of Santiago is very fertile in mines. In the first place the Green River has grains of gold among its sands, and there was on one side of this river a mine of gold, the principal vein of which was three inches in circumference, very pure, and unmixed with other matter. Originally the town of Santiago was peopled almost altogether with goldsmiths, which circumstance alone is sufficient to show the abundance of the mines.

“The sand of the Yaque is also mixed with gold, and according to Mr. Buttet, there was found in 1708 a lump of nine ounces. Almost all the rivers that fall in from both banks of the Yaque, wash down gold from the mountains which are as yet hardly known. Twelve leagues to the south of Santiago, at Bishop’s Stream and Piedras, there are mines of silver. To the west, in the district called Tanci, the abundance of such mines caused these cantons to be looked upon as a second Potosi. Lastly, at Yasica, twelve leagues from Santiago, on the bank of the river, there is a little hillock abounding in silver. There is copper also in the territory of Santiago, and mercury at the head of the river Yaque. In the region above Maniel every thing seems to bespeak mines of gold, and gold sand is seen in the waters of every stream.

“Between the rivers Nisao and Haina, lies an extensive and fertile plain, which was originally a most abundant source of wealth to the colonists. The quantity of gold that was dug from its cavities, with its sugar, cocoa, and indigo, paid duties to a greater amount than that now paid by all the Spanish part of the island put together. On the banks of the Haina, near Guyabel, there is a rich silver mine, which was once worked, but afterward abandoned in consequence of eighteen negroes having been killed by the falling in of the earth. On the same river, near Buena-ventura, was found the famous lump of gold spoken of by the Spanish writers, and especially Oviedo, who says that it weighed three thousand six hundred Spanish dollars, without mentioning many others, that were also of remarkable size. The gold found here and near Bonao is very pure and fine. Valverde says, that

in 1764 it was asked at the central office whence came the gold of the buckles that were brought thither to be weighed, and that it was asserted that none had ever been seen so fine."

The historian Herrera says that there was a mint at Buena-ventura, which annually coined from 225,000 to 230,000 dollars per annum, and another at La Vega, which coined from 230,000 to 240,000 dollars per annum.

Oviedo testifies that the government royalty of one-fifth yielded annually six millions of dollars to the national treasury. Some other writers state the amount at five millions.

The author of the "Gold Fields of Santo Domingo," who seems to have studied this subject pretty thoroughly, observes: "If we carefully examine all the histories now extant and accessible, of the colony during its prosperous mining years, and attentively consider the geological and topographical characteristics of the island, we cannot fail to be duly impressed with the fact, that the island of Santo Domingo is one immense gold field from one extremity to the other. There is scarcely a district of any extent, or a mountain of any magnitude, where gold has not been and is not now found, and so far from its auriferous resources having been exhausted by the Spaniards, they scarcely began to be developed. The California miner going over the same diggings to-day, would make them pay perhaps equally as well as they originally paid his awkward predecessor."

There is a copper region commencing on the Haina, about ten leagues distant from the capital, and extending westward, which is said to promise equally well with the copper district on the south side of Cuba. A portion of this tract is now being worked, and as I am told very successfully, by an English company under the direction of Colonel T. F. Heneken, a gentleman well known from the valuable notes which he furnished to Mr. Irving for his history of Columbus.

With regard to the coal beds on the shores of the bay of Samana of which we have heard so much, I have observed a statement in the "Courier des Etats Unis," of the 18th of February last, as follows:

"There have been discoveries of immense beds of coal in the

bay of Samana, and the Brigadier Buceta, who was sent to examine them, reports that these mines are of incalculable production. The coal is found near the surface, and is easily mined and with little expense. The analogy which these deposits present to the famous English mines of Cardiff is said to be extraordinary. The steamer Fernando Cortes has already taken a portion on board and tested it, and the captain pronounces it the best coal he has yet tried."

Such then, at a glance, are some of the more prominent material advantages which Santo Domingo presents to attract the attention of colonists. To give a more accurate and detailed account would require a volume; but I think enough has been said to show the field to be sufficiently fertile and inviting.

POLITICAL ASPECT.

Let us now see what other inducements of a direct and special nature are offered by the people and government. As I have already stated, the people of Santo Domingo having experienced several different forms of government, since their separation from the mother country in 1795, and, from various causes, not having prospered under any, on the 18th of March, 1861, returned again voluntarily to the rule of Spain. In their attempts at a republic, partly from their isolated position and partly from their own inherent weakness, they had failed to establish a government efficient at home and respected abroad. Few in number, not reaching in the aggregate 150,000 souls, spread over a territory of more than 20,000 square miles, without roads or postal facilities, and totally ignorant of the various mechanical inventions which assist labor and add to capital, they saw themselves not merely despised but liable at any time to be treated with indignities which they could not avenge. They had, indeed, returned to a state approximating the patriarchal condition in which Columbus found their ancestors; but they had acquired aspirations which forbade them to be content. They looked abroad for aid. They stretched out their arms imploringly to the great powers of Europe and America, but only

from the mother country was there any sympathetic response. True, there was a kind of semi-recognition of the Dominican Republic on the part of France, England and the United States; but it was used mainly to effect the payment of certain claims of rather a questionable character. They always looked to the Great Republic of the North as their natural friend and protector, but we have never been quite ready to stand up to our high-sounding professions of principle, and continued to give them the cold shoulder. They had not forgotten Spain; they saw on every side the stupendous ruins of the cities she had built; tradition told them how her ships had lined their shores, and how she had brought the arts and sciences, and social amenities of civilization to their midst. They were proud of her daring ventures and splendid achievements. They had not forgotten her subsequent oppression and cruelties, but perhaps with the softening lapse of time they had forgiven them. They had heard, as we have all heard with lively pleasure, that the Spain of to-day was a very different people and government from the Spain of the 16th century. They had heard of her railways and steamships, of her encouragement of popular education, of the repeal or relaxation of her old oppressive laws regulating commerce and industry, and how, strong in her sympathy with popular freedom, and with a revenue of ninety millions per annum, she was now claiming a place among the first powers of Europe, and they asked to be participants in the benefits of her liberal and enlightened policy.

INDUCEMENTS FOR COLONIZATION.

With very natural feelings of pride young Spain has accepted the charge, and whatever ulterior designs she may harbor, she has at least begun well. Let us give her all the credit to which she is entitled for this. She has declared slavery abolished forever throughout the island, and threatens with severest penalties any who may suggest the reinstatement of the system. She has declared the perfect political equality of the races, and pronounced emphatically in favor of the most thorough religious toleration.

She has begun to clean up and rebuild her old ruins, to open roads and establish postal communications. She promises to reduce the duties on imports, and to repeal altogether the duties on exports. She is about to establish public schools. It is under consideration to open in the bay of Samana a free port for all nations. (Vessels touching for coal may now enter free of all port charges.) She has thrown open her doors, and invites colonization from all quarters. To facilitate this end, and with the special view of encouraging immigration from the United States, she has decreed that vessels coming with colonists shall be admitted free of all duties and port charges whatsoever, and that the household effects of immigrants, as well as tools, agricultural implements, machinery of all kinds, plants, seeds, domestic animals, printed books, and ready-made houses, shall also be admitted free of duty. And she has furthermore agreed to exempt from taxation for a period of fifteen years, the lands and products of the lands owned or occupied by the said colonists.

In this how grandly she offsets the record of the old conquistadores! *They* sought to degrade the people of the lands they conquered. Deluded by a false national pride, and led astray by pretexts of a most uncatholic religion, they sought to destroy all vestiges of existing nationalities, and in their place to substitute the name, the arms, and religion of Spain. To-day she seeks to ameliorate, but not by violence. She recognizes, and manifests a desire to preserve the leading features of the nationality she absorbs, and rises to the dignity and triumph of a true conquest by withdrawing from the incorporated people no vital or inherent rights, and extending over them the more enlarged freedom and beneficent institutions of the mother country. In the benefits to be derived from this progressive and enlightened system she invites the world to share.

How suggestive these facts! What amazing significance in them! Young Spain, breaking through her traditional meshes of intolerance and oppression, at one bold leap, as it were, and here in this beautiful island of the tropics, where Las Casas, through a mistaken idea of philanthropy, first introduced in the New World the accursed system of African bondage, decreeing,

as her very foremost act after annexation, the chains of the slave broken—and broken forever. Over our fair land dark clouds of the Almighty's displeasure, lowering thick and heavy, whence are

“Loosed the fateful lightnings of His terrible swift sword,”

and there His own bright bow of peace and promise spanning the ever green land. Here millions of a degraded race—scourged, crushed, treated as the very Pariahs of civilization, drivelling away their lives in the noisome Ghettos of our Christian country, free as well as bond, the free even more than the bond; and there a land as beautiful as Moses saw from the top of Pisgah, hill-sides blossoming in eternal summer, and valleys of more than oriental beauty and fertility, happy valleys, such as the author of *Rasselas* never dreamed of, awaiting them, inviting them, offering them homes of comfort and independence. There is something more than poetical justice in this. We feel the presence of that invisible Hand which blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning. Who shall fathom His purposes? Who shall prophesy what is hidden in the future of His mysterious providence? Who shall say that in the new land to which they go, this restored people, in the fulness of their redemption, may not one day rival the glories of that dusky race who dwelt in Egypt in the gray dawn of civilization, and reared the pyramids, temples, and colossal statues that still stand in wondrous majesty, along the valley of the Nile?





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