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THE

AFRICAN REPOSITORY

AND

UN

COLONIAL JOURNAL.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE MANAGERS

OF THE

AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

WASHINGTON:

PUBLISHED BY JAMES C. DUNN.

1835.
Liberia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years ending</th>
<th>Slaves</th>
<th>Vessels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31st Dec. 1830</td>
<td>166,537</td>
<td>388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31st Dec. 1830</td>
<td>3,301</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th June 1831</td>
<td>8,432</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th June 1839</td>
<td>22,202</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th June 1839</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>185,331</td>
<td>499</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of whom 12,202 are reported to have died on the passage.

Note.—How many more slaves were introduced into other ports in the Brazils, we have no means of ascertaining. The above accounts were obtained from the Custom Houses of those ports, by the British Consuls resident there.

There can be little doubt but the mortality was considerably greater than reported, many vessels having simply given the number of slaves landed.

The number of slave ships employed in the Spanish slave trade, is said to be 127. Their slave markets are at Cuba, Puerto Rico, Brazil, French Colonies, and at Louisiana and Florida, in the United States. The demand for slaves is from 40 to 50,000 every year!

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Liberia.

In November, 1833, Beverly R. Wilson, a very respectable free man of colour, residing in Norfolk, Va., went in the ship Jupiter to Liberia, for the special purpose of personally examining the condition of the Colony. He recently returned to Norfolk for his family; and the Editor of the Herald has fully conversed with him on the subject of his visit to Liberia.

"His statement," says that gentleman, "is worthy of all credit; and we were happy to find that he fully confirms the accounts which we had previously received of the prosperity and steady progress of the Colony in all its civil and moral interests.

"He states, more particularly, that he found the town of Monrovia quite a thriving and flourishing place, containing about fifteen hundred inhabitants, with five houses of worship: one Presbyterian, two Baptist, and two Methodist, carrying on a prosperous little trade with the natives, and with foreign vessels, of which there are always seven or eight, chiefly French and English, and some of our own country, in the port. The houses are generally plain; but decently built, and some of the new ones are even handsome. It is in fact, he says, a prettier place to look at than our Smithfield, which we know is one of the prettiest villages we have, especially as it has the advantages of a fine bay before it with ships in the harbour.

"The people, with few exceptions, are sober, industrious, orderly, and well-behaved. They are generally merchants and mechanics, and appear to be doing well; some of them have made a clever little property, and have very comfortable establishments. They are, also, on the best terms with the natives, who come freely into the settlement for trade and other purposes, and have no apprehension of any future hostilities with them. He saw several of the petty kings of the neighboring tribes, who came to Monrovia while he was there, attended by their servants, and called on the Colonial Agent, who received them, of course, with due attention, and gave them the customary presents, with which they were much pleased. A number of the natives, both men and boys, (but no women,) are employed by the Colonists as servants or helps, in their families, work for wages by the month, or which they are always careful to demand at the day, and are very sure to get.

"The children (including some native ones) are taught in good schools, and seem to learn their books with eagerness. There is also a Sunday School which has a good many scholars, and is well supported."
"The climate, he says, is delightful. There is no winter, but the rainy season, which is, in fact, the most pleasant time. It does not rain constantly, but only a few hours in the day, with intervals of as many, and sometimes whole days, and several days at the time, and the weather is very rarely such as to interrupt either business or pleasure. The whole year is much more agreeable for people of colour than ours.

"The soil about Monrovia is not fertile, but there are good and rich lands about Caldwell, and some other settlements where the Colonists who cultivate the ground, easily raise cassada, potatoes, and other vegetables, and are beginning to raise rice, which, however, the natives can furnish, as yet, on better terms. The natural fruits of the country, such as oranges, plantains, and bananas, especially the last, are much finer than those of the West Indies.

"After this we are not surprised to hear, that the Colonists, with very few exceptions, and those easily accounted for, are not only satisfied, but highly pleased with the state of things about them, and full of courage and hope for the future, and we are truly glad to learn that they remember and often talk of their friends and benefactors in this country with the gratitude which becomes them, and which certainly entitles them to our best wishes for their continued prosperity and success."

The subjoined Address by Mr. Wilson, from the Norfolk Beacon, is introduced by the following remarks of the Editor of that paper:

"The letter of Beverly Wilson, in this day's Beacon, gives an interesting account of the physical and moral condition of this promising Colony. The statements of the writer are worthy of entire confidence. Wilson has lived many years in this borough, and has always conducted himself with great propriety. He is a good mechanic, and is also a minister of the Methodist persuasion. The style of the letter is quite impressive, and the writer himself takes the advice which he gives."

TO THE FREE COLOURED PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

Norfolk, June 5th, 1835.

After a residence of rather more than one year in Liberia, I have returned to the United States. As my object was to satisfy myself respecting the condition of the Colony, previous to emigrating thither, I sought every opportunity of acquiring information, and flatter myself that I am in the possession of every fact that is at all calculated to excite interest or even to gratify curiosity. The result, in part, I lay before you simply for the reason, that very many conflicting reports have been in circulation, so much so, as to render it a most difficult matter to determine whether or not, a settlement thither would result advantageously. In consequence of this, many, very many, I am induced to believe, have been deterred from emigrating, and the Colony thereby has sustained considerable injury. Some of the communications have presented a fair and candid expose of things as they exist; others possessed and prejudiced in favor of the Colony, have given altogether too favorable an account; while a third with a heart bending for the loss of a valued friend, or chagrined at the loss of property (occasioned by imprudence in overtrading,) have wielded their pens with the avowed design and intention of blasting its prospects and bringing the whole scheme into disrepute. Should this communication correct these erroneous statements, my object shall have been accomplished. Liberia for eligibility of situation is not often excelled, and the facilities held out for a comfortable living rarely equalled; industry and economy are sure to be rewarded and crowned with a generous competency, for proof of which I cite you to a Williams, to a Roberts, to a Barbour,—and to a number of others, who, a few years ago, possessed very limited means, but who now live in all the affluence and style, which characterize the wealthy merchant and gentleman of Virginia. The successful prosecution of any enterprise in Africa, (as in America,) depends to a very great extent upon the amount of capital invested,—money is power everywhere, but particularly so in Africa, and he who emigrates thither with capital, possesses decided and very great advantages over every other class of emigrants; a small capital I esteem of paramount importance, and would by all means persuade my coloured friends, who intend to emigrate, to provide themselves with the means to commence business previous to going. This I esteem of vital importance, and ought not to be neglected.
The soil of Africa is exceedingly fertile, and will produce as much to the acre as the famous lands of the great valley of the Mississippi. Fruits of several kinds are abundant, and from experiments made, most of the tropical fruits succeed as well as in their native clime. But little attention thus far has been paid to Agriculture, owing to the fact that but few emigrants possess the means to embark in it. The cultivation of the land is attended with the same expense there as here, and the same obstacles present themselves to persons destitute of money.

Timber of various descriptions abounds, some of which would not for beauty and durability lose by a comparison with the Mahogany of St. Domingo, or of any other country. I have seen articles of Cabinet Ware manufactured in Monrovia that would grace our most fashionable houses, and would vie for beauty and taste with most of the same articles made in this country. As it regards the health of the Colony, I consider it as good as that of most of the Southern States. The aborigines live to an advanced period, and are unquestionably the most athletic, hardy race of men that I have ever seen. They are remarkably shrewd and cunning, and are very far from being those "dolts" or "idiots," which they have been represented to be; many of them read and write, and are very frequently an over-match for the Colonists in trade.

The African fever (the great humbug in this country,) is very similar to our Ague and Fever. It attacks the patient precisely in the same way, and its effects are pretty much the same, with this difference, however, that after the first paroxysm, you are apparently restored to health, and thus continue for 16 or 20 days, suffering no inconvenience from the attack but slight debility, and an appetite bordering upon that of a vulture's. This respite is deemed the most critical time, and the severity or otherwise of the 2nd attack depends upon your attention or non-attention to diet and exercise—during this respite, if proper attention is paid, the attack is slight, and you will in fact so far have recovered as not to regard the 3rd or 4th attack much. The morals of the Colonists I regard as superior to the same population in almost any part of the U. States. A drunkard is a rare spectacle, and when exhibited is put under the ban of public opinion at once. To the praise of Liberia, be it spoken, I did not hear, during my residence in it, a solitary oath uttered by a settler; this abominable practice has not yet stained its moral character and reputation, and Heaven grant that it never may. In such detestation is the daily use of ardent spirits held, that two of the towns have already prohibited its sale, or rather confined the sale to the Apothecaries' shops. In Monrovia it is still viewed as an article of traffic and merchandise, but it is destined there to share the same fate. The Temperance Society is in full operation and will ere long root it out.

The Sabbath is rigidly observed and respected, and but few cases occur of disorder, and they are confined to the baser sorts, a few of which infest Liberia.

Religion and all its institutions are greatly respected; in fact a decided majority are Religionists, and by their pious demeanor are exerting a very salutary influence, not only upon the emigrants, but also upon the natives, among whom, a door has been opened for the propagation of Christianity. Several have already embraced the gospel of Christ, and many others are anxiously desirous for an acquaintance with the Word of Life.

Day schools under the superintendence of competent instructors, are in successful operation. The advantages of education are properly appreciated, and considerable progress has been made, not only in the elementary but in some of the higher branches of an English education.

Sabbath Schools are attended to, and much good has already resulted from this pious enterprise.

Having written more than I designed, I conclude by saying, if you desire liberty, surely Liberia holds out great and distinguished inducements. Here, you can never be free; but there, living under the administration of the laws enacted by yourselves, you may enjoy that freedom which in the very nature of things, you cannot experience in this country.

Liberia, happy land! thy shore
Entices with a thousand charms;
And calle—his wonted thralldom o'er—
Her ancient exile to her arms.
Come hither, son of Afric, come
And o'er the wide and weltering sea,
Behold thy lust yet lovely home,
That fondly waits to welcome thee.
Yours, &c.

BEVERLY R. WILSON.

N. B.—In one or two months I return to Liberia.

The Commercial Advertiser of New York states that one of the Colonists, formerly a barber in Virginia, recently arrived at that port from Liberia, with a cargo of camwood, his own property, and sold it for a sum between five and six thousand dollars.

"We know," adds the Editor of the Commercial, "of many other instances in which coloured men, who, while in this country were not worth a shilling, have already realized a comfortable independence in Africa. It cannot be that with such facts before them, the free coloured population of the United States will long prefer the indigence, ignorance, and wretchedness, which must forever be their portion here, while such a field of successful enterprise is open to them in Africa."

School for Orphans in Liberia.—The Ladies' Society of Richmond for promoting female education in Liberia, have lately received letters from Mrs. Cyples, the coloured female employed by them to teach an Orphan School in Monrovia. She states that she instructs 32 girls between the years of 4 and 14 in reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, plain sewing and marking.

Contributions are requested to be sent to Mrs. Charlotte Armstrong, Secretary, or Miss Ann Elizabeth Poore, Treasurer.

Another Missionary for Africa.—Mr. William Mylue, of the Baptist Church, was ordained to the work of the ministry on the 15th of June; and on the 23rd of that month, at the Second Baptist Church in Richmond, he was solemnly set apart to the work of Missions in Africa. Mr. M. together with his wife, sailed on the 11th of July in the brig Susan Elizabeth, from New York.

The same vessel carried out the Rev. John Seky, his wife and three youngest children, the Rev. Mr. Crocker, Dr. Skinner who goes as Colonial Agent for the present, and his daughter.

A Testimonial.—The following is extracted from the New York Evening Star, a print which, we believe, had not before taken part in the question of Colonization:

The friends of the Liberia scheme of emancipating the blacks, have really cause to be pleased with the experiment. It does seem to get on in a very flourishing and satisfactory manner. It goes on slowly it is true; but while the slave trade is very nearly ended on the one hand, the emigration to Africa increases on the other, and in time all who wish to go can go and carry with them the improvements of the age and the lights of civilization and religion. What a vast, benighted continent it still is—how little we know of it—how much remains yet to be done. The work can proceed gradually, but with certainty, and the American Government can make liberal appropriations in aid of the benevolent object in view. We read with pleasure the letters which coloured emigrants write to their friends in this country in favor of their new and natural home: they feel free, and are free in fact. If they will only adopt wholesome checks and restrictions, encourage temperance and industry, that country may yet be a most valuable asylum to the unfortunate.