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1836.
LATEST FROM LIBERIA.

The Brig Luna, Captain Bears, which left Norfolk for Monrovia on the 3d of March last, with eighty emigrants and two female recaptured African children, has returned to the United States. She arrived at New York on the 13th inst., bringing letters from the Colonial Agent, Vice-Agent, and others. Among her passengers, is Mr. HILARY TEAGE, Colonial Secretary, and Editor of the Liberia Herald. Our readers will be pleased to learn that the emigrants by the Luna had safely arrived. When this vessel left Liberia, a portion of them had been located, and the residue were expected, at a new and eligible settlement called Marshall, after the late Chief Justice of the United States, and in pursuance of one of the Resolutions passed by the Managers in July 1835, in honor of that illustrious friend of African Colonization. This settlement, which is about twenty miles from Monrovia, is supposed to possess peculiar advantages in point of salubrity and in other respects. It enjoys from its situation the constant benefit of the pure breeze of the sea, and is separated by a considerable expanse of water, for a distance of at least three miles, from any swamp or marsh in the general range of land breezes. The nearest marsh is about one mile north of the settlement; and it seems secured from the deleterious effects of this marsh by the intervention of a considerable eminence, and the infrequency of land breezes from that direction. The Colonial Agent expresses his regret that the emigrants by the Luna could not have been landed immediately at Marshall. This was prevented by an objection on the part of the Captain, arising from the terms of the charter party. Two vessels, however, were immediately procured, in which a portion of them were conveyed from Monrovia to Marshall, and the residue were expected to embark for the latter settlement on the day when the Luna sailed. The accounts by this vessel are encouraging. Agriculture is rapidly advancing. The citizens of Monrovia, so long unduly and injuriously partial to commerce, seem at length to be convinced that the cultivation of the soil is the true source of their individual and collective prosperity. So much zeal is now felt on this subject, that the Liberia Herald hazardsthe prediction, that if the spirit of agricultural industry continue for five years to come what it has been for one year past, tropical productions raised in the Colony, will then be exported to a considerable
amount. The colonists themselves begin to look back with amazement at their former insensibility to the remarkable aptitude of their soil and climate for farming enterprise. It is stated, in illustration of this characteristic, that coffee trees of different sizes and ages may be easily transplanted, and in the greatest abundance, from the woods between Monrovia and the Junk, and that they require no working: afterwards. The only caution requisite in removing them, is that they should be taken at the proper season. The consequent practicability of establishing a coffee farm is as obvious as its prospective utility. One of the colonists, Randolph Cooper, has six thousand corn hills on his farm; and besides raising watermelons, cassava, &c. in considerable quantities, has cultivated potatoes to such an extent as to reduce the price in market fifty per cent. since the last crop. The Herald remarks that it is shown by experiment that an agriculturalist, commencing with spirit, and setting out fifteen or twenty thousand coffee plants, may calculate, with a near approach to certainty, on a large quantity of coffee in three years. He would thus be enabled always to supply himself, and would possess an article which is always in demand, and which could be at all times exchanged for any other articles wanted by him.

The mules which it was expected would have been purchased at the Cape de Verd Islands, were not obtained, the price exceeding that to which the Captain had been limited. A supply of those useful animals will be procured as soon as possible. Mr. Teage, with whom the Managers have had an interview, states that oxen can be got in sufficient quantities from King Boatswain and from the leeward.

This officer has communicated many interesting facts, to which we may hereafter particularly advert. The Luna having arrived after the present number of the Repository was prepared for the press, and nearly all of it in type, it is with difficulty that room is made for any portion of the information which she brings. Mr. Teage is of opinion that the causes of insalubrity at the Colony are regularly diminishing as the country becomes cleared and opened, and the local diseases better understood. There are, he states, nine schools in Liberia, of which three are at Monrovia, two at Caldwell, and one each at Millsburg, New Georgia, Edina, and Bassa Cove. He estimates the population of the Colony at about 4000; assuming as the data for the calculation the result of the last census taken at Monrovia and Millsburg, of which the further progress was prevented by the outbreak of the natives on Bassa Cove.

Extracts of a letter from Dr. F. Skinner, Colonial Agent, to the Rev. R. R. Gurley, Secretary of the American Colonization Society, dated Monrovia, April 1836.

Dear Sir: I received yours of February, 1836, yesterday. I have so much of importance to write to the Board and to others in America, and so little time to write, that I know not where to begin.

I have just recovered from my fourth attack of the fever since my arrival here the last time; one single paroxysm only has been severe. You would be astonished that I was alive, if you knew all the circumstances and exposures through which I have passed; and eternity only will be sufficient to express to my Redeemer that gratitude I owe to him for the goodness with which I have been surrounded amidst all my privation and suffering since I arrived here last. Since my last, Death has made no inroads on our numbers. My daughter has been severely sick at Bassa, where she resides. She has recovered, and recommenced her school on Monday last. I left there on
Tuesday morning, having heard a report of the arrival of the long expected emigrants, Mr. Buchanan and Brother Grocker being sick, but I hope not dangerously; walked the beach eighteen miles to Little Bassa, having had a paroxysm of fever the preceding night and taken a light and early breakfast. I travelled sixteen miles of this distance without a drop of fresh water, except what I drank once out of a single leaf, about a spoonful, and once out of a piece of a canoe in a state of decay, the result of a shower the preceding night, and eat nothing but a piece of raw cassada. At the end of this distance, I drank not less than two quarts of cold and good water in the space of 30 minutes, travelled two miles further and put up for the night with Mr. Shaw, an American trader. The next morning I pursued my journey to Junk, sixteen miles, stopping at a salt town about six miles on the road, and the last after leaving Little Bassa, to get water. On my repassing the town from the place where they get water when they reside here for boiling salt, I passed a native armed with a long knife; John, a recaptured man, being just behind me. After traveling a mile or more, I looked back and missed John; he had the Society's compass, my sack of clothes, a pair of my boots, and a musket belonging to the Society. I soon found myself pursued by a native walking very fast. I had no weapon except my umbrella and the standard of the compass, and was at the time under a paroxysm of fever and a burning meridian sun. As he quickened his pace, I quickened mine; and after a pursuit of about two miles, he turned back and I pursued my journey, expecting John was robbed and murdered. Arrived at Crootown, about two miles from my expected night residence, at four; could obtain nothing to eat but a roasted plantain; the fever still continuing, it was probably for my good that nothing more substantial could be obtained. I arrived at Marshall, on the west bank of Red Junk river, at seven; supped on palm oil and rice, and fried plantains, and the worst of Bohea tea. And here let me stop to give you a description of this most beautiful spot of creation. A poetic imagination might conceive it the ancient site of the Garden of Eden; for here, but for the point of land lying between the two capacious bays formed by the united branches of Red Junk and Junk rivers, four rivers would meet to form one bay entering the ocean by a common outlet, which was evidently the case but a few years ago. The point between these two rivers, is sandy and free from swamps; there is not a mangrove swamp across which the land breeze blows within three miles; and it must pass over open spaces of water of at least one and a half miles before it reaches the village. The sea breeze is perfectly uncontaminated. The town plot is one mile and one rood square, containing seven squares each way, and an intervening high way of three roods width; each block is 90 roods each way, and contains eight lots; so that there are 49 blocks, or 392 lots of 50 rods each; Water street ranging Northeast and Southwest by the compass. We have four entire blocks cleared; and the recaptured Africans, with several of the old settlers who had drawn farm land at Junk, have drawn lots, cleared their grounds, and some of the recaptured have houses in which they live—all done since my last communication from the Board. There cannot be a healthy
situation in any tropical climate, if this is not one. It rises gradually from the side next the sea, forming a higher and higher bank at the Northeast of the town, and is not less than 30 feet high. I had called it Ashmun, but to redeem the pledge of the Board, have changed it to Marshall. May its citizens, for integrity, industry, and uprightness, do honor to the illustrious name after which it is called! On this ground, and in the houses erected by Mr. Pinney, I hope in the course of the next week to have all the new emigrants except a very few, and shall be there myself to take the charge of them and the goods.

About 10, John arrived. He had been assaulted by five men, one of whom caught hold of his gun, and another one boot. He cocked his musket and brought the muzzle to bear upon the leader, on which he ordered the man who held the barrel to let it go. On this he kept the dastardly cowards at a distance. After a sleepless night and a breakfast of palm oil and rice, I pursued my journey up the river; being determined, if possible, to reach home that night. About 15 miles up the river, called at a native town under Comacree; got a roasted cassada, and bought a few cassadas and plantains; proceeded up the river, and was stopped by a shower of rain about two for near an hour, and then proceeded. This was the last native village on the river, except one about five miles up, that had been destroyed for a year and but one house standing in it which would shed rain, and this without walls. One mile before we reached this place, a most violent thunderstorm commenced, and we were in a moment as wet as though we were in the ocean, with a very great change of air. Our only alternative now was to lie out all night or seek shelter in the above village. We chose the latter, found the house named, and soon struck fire and roasted and eat some plantains. We had no water except what we caught in a pint bowl. Here I lay down, wet as I could be, on the naked ground, still hungry and thirsty, while the clouds poured down torrents, and the most tremendous peals of thunder shook the earth on which I lay, sincerely blessing God for the comfortable asylum his Providence had cast in my way. I soon fell asleep and slept quietly until morning, when I found myself dry and the heavens clear and serene. I then pursued my journey about ten miles to the head of Junk river, passed over to Mesnrado, stopped at a native town, eat a roasted plantain, got a canoe, and arrived here at three in the afternoon. I have had no fever since. *

In respect to native cottages in the interior, they would not, I conceive, have any advantages at present over the spot I have chosen. The expenses and danger of forwarding supplies would be immense, and it would be scarcely possible to place them in a state of security from native robbery and murder. They would need a fortified spot and an armed force during their acclimation. Advantages would no doubt result from a mountainous district, and the earliest opportunity shall be embraced to ascertain the nearest and most eligible spot for such a settlement. In the meantime I declare, that I should not have the least fear, had I a convenient house at Marshall, to bring out the remainder of my family, or to take under my care at that place any American for acclimation. I shall ever regret that the present emigrants will not afford a fine experiment.
The Captain of the Luna has arrived without mules, being restricted, as he says, to less than half their value in the Cape de Verds Islands. I could procure native oxen had I the means, but I have not. Just so soon as the means are furnished by the Board, no effort on my part shall be wanting to carry into effect the desires of the Board in this respect; but I shall be under the necessity of stopping our present united efforts on the farm for want of funds. I cannot pay more than half the amount due for the Junk purchase and the ground on which the town of Marshall stands, and supply the emigrants until it is possible to receive supplies from America. Our assortment of goods is bad for the payment of this debt, or for native trade. Had I a full store of proper goods, I would pledge myself to prepare proper places for five hundred emigrants each year. Mr. Willis, of Millsburg, a first-rate farmer, and who would work himself when not otherwise engaged, might be employed at five hundred dollars a year. He is a man of good constitution, industrious habits, upright moral deportment, and has recently made a public profession of religion, and gives evidence of that piety that prepares the man for either life or death. He has the advantage of being thoroughly acclimated. But I need not repeat the only reason that puts it out of my power either to employ him, or labourers in any other work of improvement. Mr. Teage, who leaves in the Luna for America, would be of great benefit to the Board if he could be employed to make a selection of proper goods for this market. He will bear these despatches, and will visit the Board; and you will receive from him the most correct information on any point you may wish to inquire.

The agricultural spirit of the Colony is evidently advancing. Bassa Cove is re-established, and a very handsome location, but not equal to Marshall. Both places abound with good oysters, but those of Junk are superior in size and goodness. I obtained at this place not less than three bushels for two heads of tobacco, which were caught by a native boy in less than two hours, and which wanted nothing but good butter to make them equal to any ever caught in America. I regret that there is not that regard to the rights of the natives in many of the settlers which justice and policy demand.

In advertting to that part of your letter which relates to Factory Island, I feel sensations which I cannot describe. A little more than one year ago, I first set foot on that beautiful spot. The first thing that struck my eye was the ruins of an ancient wharf. My mind run upon the origin of its name. I fancied before me a store of goods, filled with rum and other things to excite war and purchase human flesh; the barricade, the clinking chain by which human beings are fastened to each other by the neck, were present before me. I heard or fancied I heard the groan of the husband torn forever from his wife and family, and that of the despairing wife and mother was a reality to my imagination; every degree of family connexion torn asunder by the monster slave trade, I fancied before me the blood-stained soil of Africa and the blazing native village. I traced the evil to the whole of the slave ship, and the watery grave that swallowed its thousands, and thence to the slave market and slave plantation, and the course of hereditary slavery. I thought of the black cloud that hovers over
my country, and saw all this evil embodied in the name Factory Island, and almost wished that the Island and its name were annihilated together. I inquired what is Factory Island now? A beautiful Island! Its former visions of horror all passed away; the song of birds and a solitary white eagle was all that met the eye, or struck the ear; and the river covered with the canoes of the natives: and my soul said, Oh! what a change! and to what has it been owing?—when my mind ran to your Society, and its illustrious founders, as the cause of this wonderful change. In a moment a new train of thoughts, as if impressed by the Spirit of God, took possession of my mind, and my soul was wrapt in visions of the future, like John on the Island of Patmos. I felt that the ground on which I stood was holy, as that on which Moses stood before the burning bush in presence of the great I Am. The name and Island both were sanctified and set apart for God. And my soul said this shall be Factory Island still, a factory where the naked native boy shall be transformed into the pious, meek and lovely Christian, and where the darkest shades of moral and mental ignorance shall be removed, and the mind be led through all the steps of art and nature up to her Creator.

I engaged whilst in America that benevolent man Cortland Van Rensselaer, whose name I never hear but with the most heartfelt respect, to aid by his liberality and personal effort in an enterprise, the object of which is to furnish the colonists with a finished education in every department of science, and the advanced native in the same school. Whilst in the same establishment and in proper buildings the native savage boy is brought forward and fitted for the finishing polish of a finished education, from such a Seminary from 10 to 30 native boys may be sent forth yearly to enlighten Africa whilst a school of a similar character ought to be established for the education of females, to be their help mates in renovating Africa. The four Islands above would afford a favorable site for all these operations. Brother Crocker has formed an alphabet of the Bassa language, and we shall soon have it in a printed form. Were Mr. Sheldon's views to concur with mine, the only objection would be the size of the Island, which is 304 rods long by 82 wide, and contains about 83 acres. Better land does not exist. The thousand acres might be laid off on each side the river opposite the Island, and it lies in the heart of a most fertile country. I would merely say with respect to the High School, should not Mr. Sheldon's views accord with mine, I will on information immediately proceed to select another spot for him, though without giving up my own object, for the regular organization of which, as well as for the purpose of bringing out my family, I beg leave of the Board to return to America a year from this present time, should my life be preserved until then and the Board wish still to continue me in their service.

I shall not fail to correspond with the Secretary of the Navy upon the subjects which you have mentioned in your letter. I have forwarded with these despatches a regular account of my transactions since my arrival, and shall endeavor to have all the accounts regularly kept; but as to what is passed, neither the books nor any man on earth is able to lessen the darkness that hangs on this whole subject.
To convince you of this truth, I have forwarded the books for your inspection. As to the books you speak of, as having been sent out, no one knows anything about them; they never have been received. As regards the timber sent out for the saw mill, I believe I have already informed you that it has become totally unfit for that object by its decay. It had lain so long that it could be of little use for any object. I have saved from its ruins what I could. I would say that a saw mill would be of no use either to the Colony or Society, unless we had a steam mill at the mouths of our rivers, where logs might be floated down from every direction, or had oxen or other animals to draw loads. It would cost more to get a log to the mill, of any considerable size, at the distance of 20 rods, by the mere exertions of men, than the boards it would make would be worth. I wish that for the information of the Board upon this subject, I could at this time forward the bill of the expenses of removing the log for the mast of the Margaret Mercer from about 12 rods of the water to the water's edge. We will take due care of the pattern sent out.

In relation to those African girls, I will use my utmost exertions to place them in a situation where they may receive a suitable education. Accompanying these despatches, you will receive a copy of the Laws that have been passed by the Agent and Council since I entered the Agency. We have been unanimous in our opinion; and they are now submitted to you, to decide whether they shall remain our laws or not.

I have made two purchases of land; one at Edina, of Bob Gray. The purchase of Edina embraced but a small tract of land on the point between the west end and the outlet bay of St. John's river and the sea; the northern boundary a tree standing on the margin of the bay, near the mouth of Meclhin's river, from which the line proceeded W. N. W. to the sea, not over three-fourths of a mile. The street is laid out N. 8° E. and W. 8° N. The town was laid out beyond the line of purchase, so that the entire front of two lots, the whole of one of them, and part of two others deeded to the citizens, were on Bob Gray's land. There was a beautiful hill between Edina and Bob Gray's town. This spot the Baptist Missionaries wish to obtain for the establishment of a Mission School on the Manual Labour plan, and which would at once accommodate the children of Bob Gray's town and those of Edina with a School. Bob Gray was in favour of the School, and engaged to send the children of his town, and to keep them steadily in the Common School and also in the Sabbath School. Between the hill above named and his town is a hollow, from the lowest part of which my purchase commences, by a line running E. 8° South until it strikes Meclhin's River, and W. 8° N. until it either hit the sea or the former line of Edina. The purchase was made for two muskets and five bars—whole expense about $15. I have by this purchase cleared the land which had been deeded to the citizens, added eleven town lots to Edina, granted to the Mission 83 acres, for which they insist on paying the whole amount of purchase, and have not less than 50 acres left to be appropriated to other objects. I have sold one of the water lots that was on Bod Gray's land previous to the purchase, for $15, and have an offer of $15 each for two more. The Baptist Mission have paid me. The Board will say whether I shall
refund to them the money or not. My second purchase has been at Junk. The last purchase made by Mr. Pinney from Prince Will, is disputed by the Junk people as illegal. Prince Will had been driven from Junk by them previous to his sale of the land; they have since killed him, and dispersed his people. No part of the purchase money had been paid. The spot on which Marshall stands, which was vastly the most eligible spot for a settlement, was embraced in this contested title. Without inquiring into the right of Prince Will to sell the land, I thought it important that in establishing an infant settlement, there should no cause of contention exist between them and the surrounding natives. On this account I entered into an agreement with Grando, to whom the land lying between the left hand branch of Red Junk and the sea belonged, as far as Kimircrees point, not less than 12 miles of seabeach extending toward the Cape to King Gray's territory, and up the said left hand branch for at least an equal distance; the land will probably average five miles wide, and there are on it heaps of oyster shells enough to supply the Colony with lime for at least a hundred years to come: This purchase was made for two hundred bars; though Grando now desires 29 bars more for four or five native houses which he has given up to us. He is a second Bob Gray, is fully acquainted with Junk bar, and calculates to establish himself in our territory and in our vicinity. He is employed by the headmen at Junk as their interpreter and principal speaker in all their palavers. His friendship is of considerable importance to us.

Extract of a letter from James Brown, Liberia, April 24, 1836, to Mr. Gurley.

I have had a great opportunity of seeing the country since I wrote you last; having been sent by the Agent to try to settle the war between the Kings of the Dey country, which is now settled. I also went to Cape Mount, to make arrangements to settle the war between King Boatswain and Jenkins; but I was taken sick, and the mission has been broken up for the present. The more I see of Africa, the better I like it; and, as I have said in my former letters, we only want a little good management to make this a most desirable place. But such management has not yet come to hand. I am sorry for it—truly so; because this is, and must be, the place for the coloured people in the United States. I am doing all in my power to improve and advance the Colony. I am now trying to raise a committee of respectable persons, to hold a regular communication with different persons upon different matters—such as farming, live stock; planting, raising, and care to be taken of fruit trees, medical plants, &c.; the best time of the year for new comers to come to Liberia advising them what and what not to bring with them. Many come here, who bring with them highposted bedsteads, large tables, sideboards, &c. If these were sold in the U. States, and the money turned over to something else, would it not be better, because they can be made here as cheap as in the U. States? In regard to live stock running, you have no idea of the great increase. Mr. Philip More told me, that one goat gave him five kids in eight months. Our goats and sheep always have two and often three at once. Mr. More also told me that he has cut bunches of plantains, some weighing from sixty to seventy pounds.