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1851.
before the Gospel light, and her long-shackled and benighted sons will stretch forth their hands to God, rejoicing in the light and liberty wherewith he makes his people free.

Truly and affectionately yours, in Gospel bonds.

A. BUSHNELL.

Bright of Biafra, W. A., Oct. 7, 1850.

Shape of Africa.

"AFRICA," says the learned Arnold Goyot, "is the most singular in its form, of all the continents. Its mass, nearly round or ellipsoidal, is concentrated upon itself. It projects into the ocean no important peninsula, nor any where lets into its bosom the waters of the ocean. It seems to close itself against every influence from without. Thus the extension of the line of its coasts is only fourteen thousand geographical miles, of sixty to the degree, for a surface of eight millions seven hundred and twenty thousand square miles; so that Africa has only one mile of coast for six hundred and twenty-three miles of surface!"

But when we glance at the map of Europe, we perceive the very reverse to be true. "Of all the continents, Europe is the one whose forms of contour are most varied. Its principal mass is deeply cut in all parts, by the ocean, and by inland seas; and seems almost on the point of resolving itself into peninsulas."

"The inland seas and the portions of the ocean which its outer limits enclose, form nearly half of its surface. The line of its shores is thus carried to the extent of seventeen thousand two hundred miles, an enormous proportion, compared with its small size: for it is three thousand two hundred miles more than Africa, which is nevertheless three times greater! Europe enjoys one mile of coast for every one hundred and fifty-six square miles of surface. It is thus the continent most open to the sea for foreign connections, at the same time that it is the most individualized in local and independent districts."

Letter from Thomas Rutherford, Esq.

RICHMOND, April 2, 1851.

MY DEAR SIR: Will you permit me, after the lapse of time, which has taken place, since I did myself the pleasure of addressing you in the months of September, October, and December last, to recall your attention to those letters. From their contents, you will find, that though as ardent as ever in my desires for the success of the schemes of the Colonization Society, I did not then anticipate much good from the project of the steamships to Africa. On this subject it is needless to enter into details, as the scheme never did please me in any respect.

I doubted whether the plan could be embraced under the provisions of our Constitution, and if it could, I thought it would be much more fit, that it should be managed by the Government, for the benefit of the nation, than by any company, who might be stimulated thereunto by such advantages or monopolies, as I thought it would be impolitic in our Government to grant. Seeing, however, that you entertained more favorable views than I did, I thought it my duty to wait the issue of the different projects which might be brought forward in Congress, before I would trouble you farther on the subject. Hence my silence until now. So far nothing has been done, and I am left to entertain the opinions which I did at the outset.

The agitation which has of late taken place on the slave question, has of course, occupied the minds of all who feel an interest in the welfare and quiet of mankind, and deeply it must be regretted by the friends of our Union, however strongly we may feel ourselves intrenched in the right, under the laws of God and man, that we should see a party professing themselves to be lovers of God, and to hold in highest veneration the laws enacted by God himself, but who pretend conscientiously to believe that they have a right
to scoff at all law, except such as they believe to be deducible from the word of God alone.

I say it is lamentable to think that such a party should prevail, as has been evinced in Massachusetts and elsewhere, as it may tend to keep up the inflamed spirit of our infatuated abolitionists, and prevent a peaceful settlement, perhaps for a long period to come, of this agitating question.

While, however, under the guidance of a gracious Providence, trusting in the uprightness of our intentions, we hold on our course, believing that all will finally be conducted to that end, which is dictated by Supreme Wisdom, it is in the mean time very consolatory to find that the affairs of the American Colonization Society have been carried on through the past year with a greater degree of success than usual. Its receipts and disbursements have both been larger than usual, and the conduct of the Government of Liberia seems to promise all, and even more than all, which could reasonably have been expected from a Government so lately organized.

Already has the independence of Liberia been acknowledged by France and England. Does it not then follow, that as these two wise Governments have seen it their interest to acknowledge the independence of Liberia, and to enter into treaties of amity and commerce with her, that we ought to do the same. Indeed it may be asked why this has been so long delayed: as it generally happens, that in forming treaties of commerce, the greatest advantages are obtained by those who enter first into such treaties.

Some regard to the share of health and strength, which by the blessing of God, I am still permitted, now in my 86th year, to enjoy, admonishes me that I must be more brief in the remainder of my letter, than it was my intention when I took up my pen to address you.

I will therefore now only say, that the Colonization Society has my warmest prayers for its success, proceeding from a conscientious belief I now entertain, that nothing has ever yet been manifested, as more likely to bring down upon human action the favor of God. It is, therefore, with regret, I now acknowledge, how long it was ere I took any part in the proceedings of this Society, but if it will be any amends, that I should now endeavor by future diligence, when my candle is almost extinct, to make up for past neglect, I would suggest the propriety of giving our utmost attention to the following particulars, with the least possible delay.

Let all due diligence be used to procure such an increase of pecuniary resources, as may be wanted for the accomplishment of its purposes, and with this, let all possible economy be used in the administration of its means, as will secure the confidence of contributors, that they are bestowing their means wisely, and for the most beneficent ends.

According to my mind, Liberia stands more in need of assistance in the following particulars at present, than of an enlarged emigration, which might prove rather injurious than otherwise, if without having made timely preparation for the reception of an increased emigration, a sudden increase were to be thrown upon her shores.

I have seen that some discussion has taken place on the subject of education: surely nothing can be of more importance than to give primary attention to this subject, it being of the first necessity to the educated, that their instructors shall have been well qualified to teach.

We find amongst the various classes of men, some inspired by the glory alone of doing good, and others actuated by a desire to transmit their names with honor to future generations, and for that cause, in the mean time, willing to submit to all the privations which a rigid fate may impose.

I am, therefore, disposed to believe that Liberia has many zealous friends amongst the whites, willing to encounter all hazards in the prosecution of so glorious a cause; neither can I doubt, under present circumstances, when it is seen that several of the Legislatures of the different States of the Union are about adopting such measures, as must tend more and more to cramp the energies of those of the colored race, who still remain free amongst us, and must render their stay still more and more uncomfortable, but that a portion of them, who may have had a better education than common, will be stimulated by a desire to render themselves illustrious in the eyes of their fellows, by devoting themselves to the glorious object of giving intellectual light and life to the blind and dead.

When in addition, I see it stated, that after having left the sea-shore for a distance of from fifty to sixty miles inland, situations may be found, not unpropitious to the health of the white man, I am filled with the idea that the time is not far distant, when that most difficult problem will be solved, and that it will no longer be a question, how education is to be communicated to the people of Africa.

If with the troublous time we have experienced during the agitations which have
prevailed, we yet see cause to place our reliance on the Almighty, let us not despair of the issue, but trust in his inscrutable wisdom to bring all to a favorable end.

After seeing that due care has been taken for the promoting of the great cause of education, so necessary to secure well-founded institutions for the government of our infant Republic, it appears to me of the next importance, that we should turn our attention to the procuring of such territory, as may be necessary to secure us against the recurrence of that abominable trade, the slave trade.

If we have not already succeeded in this, I think no time ought to be lost in procuring whatever further territory may be wanted to effect this object, whatever may be the cost, and that everything ought to be done in the most effectual manner to guard against any irritations which may be attempted from any of the barbarous on the coast, if any there may be still remaining.

I do not enter into any inquiries as to the probability of a termination of slavery at any given period, believing that inscrutable Wisdom reserves that knowledge to Himself, though I incline to the opinion with Mr. Clay, that when this country is filled up, as in all probability it soon will be, with emigrants from different parts of the world, we may then look for an extinction of slavery, as no longer can it be profitable for slave owners to keep them, when their support would in all probability amount to as much as the value of the produce of their labor.

Having already mentioned that I intended to make my further observations brief, I will only add that I would gladly hear that all possible diligence was used in preparing suitable buildings for the accommodation of emigrants during their acclimating season, as even a knowledge of this would doubtless have a tendency to relieve the minds of many, who may be apprehensive of the dangers attending the acclimating season, and may therefore be disposed to delay the entering upon an enterprise, which otherwise might appear so desirable to them.

Conscious of my inability to throw much light on the subject, or to promote the cause by any use I could make of my pen, I have hitherto rather desired that my name should not be used in any correspondence I might have with you on the subject; but as I consider it my duty not to withhold my testimony at this late day, when my tongue must soon be forever sealed, I leave you to make such use of this letter as you may think proper, in which I now enclose you here with my check on the Bank of Virginia for one hundred dollars, as my contribution for the present year to the funds of the Society.

I pray you to present my respects to Mrs. McLain, who had the goodness to send me an orange, the growth of Liberia, which I preserved on my mantle-piece as long as it could well be kept, and to believe me, with sentiments of affectionate regard, your very sincere friend,

THOS. RUTHERFORD.

To the Rev. WM. McLAIN, Sec. A. C. S.

Letter from Capt. Andrew H. Foote, of the U. S. Navy.

The following copy of a letter from Capt. Foote, of the United States Brig Perry, now cruising on the coast of Africa, to a gentleman of New Haven, was sent to us from Monrovia by President Roberts, with the approbation of the writer. It was received in the month of February, but was unavoidably crowded out of the subsequent numbers of the Repository.

U. S. BRIG PERRY,
Monrovia Roads, Liberia,
Dec. 18, 1850.

MY DEAR SIR: In this letter I propose giving an account of the political, religious, and social condition of Liberia. Its natural history and geology, its agricultural character and general resources, are not yet sufficiently developed, or at least I am not sufficiently familiar with them to express an opinion.

Liberia has an extent of three hundred miles of seacoast, with a prospect of soon extending it to Sierra Leone, an additional distance of two hundred miles, and an average of fifty miles in the interior, with a population at this moment of one hundred and fifty thousand souls. When we consider that the colony has been established but a quarter of a century, and that the number of emigrants from the United States have not exceeded seven thousand, we see that the annexation spirit has been rife to a degree beyond that prevailing among the Anglo-Saxon race in the United States, impelling them towards the fulfillment of their manifest destiny.

In 1847, Liberia declared its independence, and has been acknowledged by Great Britain, France, and Belgium. The Government is modeled upon that of the Uni-