SKETCH OF SIERRA LEONE.

Colonization in Africa, with reference to civilization, appears to have been contemplated in England as early as 1775 or 1780. A definite plan was projected by Dr. H. Smithson, who had spent some years in Africa, in his letters to Dr. Knowles, in 1783. The first removal to Sierra Leone was in 1787. The people from Nova Scotia, who were once slaves in the United States, were removed in 1791, and the Maroons from Jamaica, it is believed, in 1805. The liberations from slave-ships have been wholly since the abolition of the trade in 1807. The colony was supported by the Sierra Leone Company, until 1808, when it was taken under the patronage of government.

The colony is situated on the south bank of Sierra Leone river, in latitude 3 deg. 30 min. north. The original purchase was ten miles square. Freetown is the principal town, standing on St. George's Bay, six miles from Cape Sierra Leone. There are five villages, between two and seven miles distant, in different directions from Freetown, called Regent's, Gloucester, Wilberforce, Leicester, and Kissey Towns. The local situation of the colony is admirable for health and commerce. The sea-breeze has free access; the mountains are high, and the river is navigable by the largest ships.

The population exceeds twelve thousand. These are the first settlers from England and Nova Scotia, Maroons from Jamaica, those who have been liberated from captured slave ships, and a few hundreds from the adjacent tribes. All these are people of colour. To these may be added about fifty Europeans, who are civil and military officers, religious ministers, merchants, and mechanics. The colonists sustain most of the subordinate offices.

The schools are very flourishing. Nearly 2,000, including some adults, enjoy daily instruction. The children, who have been born in the colony, are active, intelligent, and healthy. Those who passed their first five or ten years without instruction, and then endured a period of confinement, famine, and disease on board of slave ships, need some months or years to acquire the health, animation, and intelligence which they might otherwise have possessed. They are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic; and some of them, the rudiments of English grammar and geography. The Church Missionary Society has extended this colony its kindest regard and liberal aid. Several chaplains and school masters have been furnished and supported, at different periods, through their agency. The Christian Institution, established on Leicester Mountain, accommodates about two hundred children, who are mostly named and supported by benefactors in England. These are children once destined to foreign slavery, now fed, clothed, governed, and carefully taught in the Christian religion. Assembled in the church to worship God, they are a spectacle of grateful admiration, and their state happily exemplifies the divine origin and holy principles of the religion in which they are taught. At Regent's town, which has a population of thirteen hundred, the agents saw two hundred children in the schools; and on the sabbath, more than one thousand of the children and people were present in the church, neatly dressed, sober, reverential, attentive to hear the word of God, and uniting their voices to sing his praise. The sabbath is observed through the colony, with the exception, perhaps, of some Europeans and the Kru-men. Freetown has five religious teachers, (three Europeans and two men of colour,) Leicester mountain has two, and each of the villages has one. These are all men of Christian character.

Freetown makes a very decent appearance; the streets are at right angles, wide and neat; fruit trees grow about the town; the houses formerly built were small, but those now building are of stone, two stories high, airy, and convenient. The colony is advancing in wealth with sufficient rapidity. Trade has been chiefly pursued, but agriculture begins to have a share of attention.

Extract from the Sierra Leone Gazette of the 3d January, 1818.

This day ten years this colony was transferred from the Sierra Leone Company to his majesty's government; and by a return published in the then Gazette, the total number of births in the year 1807, were fifty-seven; deaths, thirty-six; and marriages, fourteen. We hope to be enabled to give in our next the return for the year 1817; and, as an evident proof of the better state of morality in the colony, we are bold to say, the marriages frequently exceed in one week the number of one year in that time.

We ought, then, to begin 1818, by rendering thanks unto Him to whom all thanks are due. Let us compare the present state of the colony with the rank it held even so late as 1803. The number of the youth of both sexes attending schools in Freetown and the other towns, actually exceeds by hundreds the whole population of that year. We have
encountered some difficulties. Our progress for a few years was slow: some of our friends have even affirmed that we were not only stationary, but actually retrograding. We are now happy to state, in defiance of those friends and of our opponents, that greater progress has been obtained, in all the branches of civilization and moral improvement, in the short space of three years, in this very colony, so much extolled, abused, traduced, and envied, than in any other part of his majesty's dominions.

We have much satisfaction in calling the attention of our readers to the fourth quarterly examination of the scholars of the Colonial Free-School, which took place on Monday the 22d ult., before his excellency the Governor, the honourable the Chief Justice, and the members of council. From the quarterly report of the schoolmaster, it appears that some of the scholars have quitted the school in the capacity of shopkeepers' clerks; but, that notwithstanding this, there is an increase of seventeen in the whole number of boys since the last quarter. The number of girls is the same. Though in consequence of the holiday season and other accidental causes, there was a much thinner attendance (particularly of girls) on this, than on former similar occasions, it gave us great pleasure to observe that considerable improvement had taken place among the scholars in reading, since the last examination; and several of them recited pieces of poetry and portions of scripture, very correctly.

On the whole, we may congratulate our readers on the promising state of the schools. Several boys now hold situations, for which, but for the school, they would have been totally unfit: this affords great encouragement to proceed.

Extract from the Sierra Leone Gazette, of the 10th Jan. 1818.

On the 31st ult. an examination of the school was held at Regent's town, before his excellency the Governor, the honourable the Chief Justice, the members of council, and most of the principal inhabitants of the colony.

The appearance of the whole of the scholars (male and female) was equally creditable to their teachers and themselves. The sight of a well-regulated school has ever been interesting to a feeling heart: we own that to us it was most peculiarly so. We had seen, but a short, very short period before, those beings, now so cleanly clad, so decent in their appearance, no way inferior to our promising country boys and fair country lasses—we had seen them brought to this colony naked, without any idea of the true God, yoked together as the brute beasts employed by man for the labour of the field—and we thanked God for the change.

In reading, the adults have made considerable progress since the last examination; the boys and girls have kept pace with them. The examination was very properly concluded by singing the boys and girls in chorus) of hymns in praise to our Redeemer. The singing was executed with infinite taste and good voices. Well might they, and well may we, sing praise to the Lord.

Here we might expatiate with delight on such a scene, and in such a place. Three years are scarcely elapsed, and a wilderness, known under the vile name of Hogbrook, is changed into a Christian and romantic spot, inhabited by upwards of thirteen hundred British loyal subjects.

The company were hospitably entertained by his excellency, at the parsonage-house, erected within the last year, and newly finished: it is the residence of the Rev. William Johnson, the present worthy chaplain and superintendent. That house, the church, other public buildings, and indeed the private houses (now building by subscription among themselves,) were and are raising by those very beings whom the traffickers in human blood have so long calumniated and oppressed. The whole of those buildings are in a most elegant style; and we have been assured, as before stated, built by captured negroes, a few soldiers of the royal African Corps, and an European artificer attached to the engineer department. The day was ended as begun, in innocent hilarity, and will undoubtedly be long remembered by those present. The British flag was lying on the tower of St. Charles's church, the first stone church erected on the west coast of Africa, in 1816. His Excellency is now encouraging it; and when completed, which will be in the course of one or two months, it will accommodate thirteen or fourteen hundred persons.

Extract of the Sierra Leone Gazette of the 17th January, 1818.

On Tuesday the 6th inst. the school at Leicester Mountain was examined, in presence of his Excellency the Governor, the Hon. T. S. Buckle, &c. &c. The children appeared as might have been expected, from their being under the special care of the "Church Missionary Society." The examination was, with very great propriety, begun and ended by singing hymns in praise to God, and prayer.

The boys (two hundred) and girls (fifty) went through their different exercises in a manner creditable to themselves and their teachers. The examination took place in the
Extract of a Letter from his Excellency the Governor of Sierra Leone, addressed to the Secretary of the African Institution, dated Government House, 6th March, 1818.

I shall avail myself of an early opportunity to forward the return of the schools. The number of scholars of both sexes in the country towns has increased, and the grand total of men, women, boys, and girls, now attending schools on the Peninsula, does not fall short of two thousand. The inhabitants of the colony have so very frequently experienced the interest the friends of Africa take in their prosperity, that I feel it a most pleasing part of my duty to be enabled to prove, by incontrovertible documents, the very great improvement in the commercial importance of this colony. The enclosed returns prove, that during the year 1817, the amount of merchandise imported into the colony exceeds that of 1816 by 39,286l, and the number of vessels fourteen. I doubt not but you will observe with pleasure, that this increase is on the British goods. The prospect of our export for the present year is highly flattering; the wood for shipbuilding having been so successfully tried in the Royal dockyard. One vessel has already sailed, in January (the Pyrenees), the brig Mary sailed this day with the same; the Magdalen is loaded in the harbour, on the point of sailing; the ship Preston is loading near Rance Island; several vessels are expected. The rice harvest has been abundant; preparations are making for cleaning that article, so as to render it fit for the West India market; and if the experiments of rice mills, which I understand are now making at home, should succeed, I have no doubt but from the neighbourhood of this very colony, so frequently traduced, a great proportion, if not the whole, of our West India islands, could be supplied with food procured by British merchants, and with goods the produce of the mother country, or of her East India empire—and the adjoining rivers would thus be amply repaid for giving up the slave trade.
EXاوPTS for the Year commencing 1st January, and ending 31st December, 1817.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. Vehicles</th>
<th>Tonnage</th>
<th>Camwood</th>
<th>Plumbago</th>
<th>Gun Cotton</th>
<th>Palm Oil</th>
<th>Rice</th>
<th>Rice</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2,870</td>
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Custom House, Free Town, Sierra Leone, 1st January, 1819.

(Signed) J. REFFEL, Collector.

ACCOUNT of the Captured Negroes in the Colony of Sierra Leone.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOWN and its Vicinity</th>
<th>SUPERINTENDENTS</th>
<th>Living as Free Servants or Apprentices</th>
<th>Living within the Colony, or Country People</th>
<th>Attriting School</th>
<th>Employed Trading or Working in the Colony, or fled to the Woods</th>
<th>Born in the Colony</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>GRAND TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Free Town, and its immediate Neighbourhood</td>
<td>Rev. L. Kutscher, and Mr. and Mrs. Horst.</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leicester Town,</td>
<td>Rev. W. Weismann</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gloucester Town,</td>
<td>Rev. W. Weismann</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bethel Town,</td>
<td>Rev. W. Weismann</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leeds Town,</td>
<td>Rev. W. Weismann</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waterford Town, and its Vicinity,</td>
<td>Rev. W. Weismann</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Koni-Town, and its Vicinity,</td>
<td>Rev. W. Weismann</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spread over the Province,</td>
<td>Rev. W. Weismann</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No settled place of Residence,</td>
<td>Rev. W. Weismann</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: | 105 | 205 | 105 | 205 | 105 | 205 | 105 | 205 | 105 | 205 | 105 | 205 |

(Signed) C. M'CARTHY.

REMARKS:
- Government and Private Apprentices (boys) attend the Colonial School morning and evening. Girls, the Sunday School. The Boys and Men learning arts are Government Apprentices.
- Living under the superintendence of the Church Missionary Society; several of the boys work at various trades.
- Adults taught Christianity and Agriculture.
- This town has lately had a Superintendent and an Assistant. Adults and children attend evening school.
- These People live in huts and huts within huts.

This is only a supposed number, there being no means of gaining a correct account.