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king to build a school-house, he being not only willing to do this, but also to support the scholars who may be instructed, at his own expense. I learn also from Mr. Wilson, who has lately visited the town of Kay, distant about twenty-five miles, in a north-east direction from Cape Palmas, and never before visited by a white man, that Feddah, of that place, and king of the Bolobo country, is anxious to have schools established amongst his people. Thus the committee will perceive that for some reason, what it is we know not, every king within our range of thirty miles from Cape Palmas, express a willingness to receive the messengers of salvation by Jesus Christ. An unbounded field opens itself to christian effort. Thousands are hungering and dying, yet with outstretched hands imploring those who in spiritual privileges are in want of nothing, for the 'bread of life.' Oh, could christians at home realize these things as those do who are compelled hourly to behold these poor miserable beings, how much more fervently would they pray, and how much more liberally would they give, to save them from misery and death!

(From the New York Observer.)

Letter from the Governor of Bassa Cove, to the Rev. Dr. Proudfit, *Agent for the Colonization Society of the City of New York.*

Bassa Cove, *Western Africa,*
August 16th, 1837.

Rev. and Dear Sir:—We left Cape Henlopen on Saturday morning, of the week we left Philadelphia, with a fair wind,—and after two or three days of sea sickness, which nearly all of us experienced, we had a pleasant run of twenty-five days to the Cape de Verds, St. Jago. After stopping about twenty-four hours to obtain a little water, for which privilege the custom-house required of the Captain some twenty-seven dollars, we arrived at Monrovia July 28th; making our voyage forty days from Cape Henlopen to Cape Monsterado.

We found all in good health in Monrovia, but in want of supplies. The Lieutenant Governor, Williams, is well adapted, in my opinion, to his office.

I found the colonists, who were destined for Bassa Cove in a late expedition, had all landed at Monrovia, and were being acclimated, and doing tolerably well.

The copper coin I have received, for which an order is sent. I send also, a specimen of Monrovia paper money. At present, I can give no opinion about a bank or paper money, unless payable at home, as suggested by Mr. Buchanan; that plan would aid us much.

In one day after leaving Monrovia, which was on the 3rd of August, we arrived at Bassa Cove; in the morning following the night of our arrival, we landed under a salute from our little guns on board, and heavier artillery on shore. The military men were out, and received us quite *en militaire*,

I found Dr. McDowell well, and the colonists generally; the governor's house but partly finished, and the store empty. The carpenters are engaged on the former, and as you may judge, the latter being filled.

Agriculture is attended to better than heretofore, the other day I saw a fine field of rice of ten acres.

Mr. More, a very respectable man, told me that in a season of great scarcity, he supplied the whole colony with vegetables from only one acre of land; so productive is the soil if well cultivated. The public will ask, why then, do the colonists often suffer for the want of food? We reply that many of them are not industrious; and without labour we can live no where.

The society, they will allow me to say must be particular in the selection of at least a majority of the emigrants, or we shall advance but slowly in carrying out the great objects of the colonization society.

The gardens look well; here and there you see a plantation with fruit. A bunch of cotton now lies before me, which I took from a tree in the garden of one of the colonists. Bassa Cove is a most beautiful settlement; Edina equally so. The government house is in a most delightful and picturesque situation; it stands on a mound of about an acre, commanding a fine view of the ocean, of the town of Edina, and of two fine rivers, as wide as some parts of the Delaware; between Trenton and Philadelphia. On the banks of the Benson, in the rear of the house, are a few of as tall trees as I ever saw, affording a beautiful shade; indeed I must do Mr. Buchanan the justice to say that he has shown great taste and judgment in his selection of a spot for both town and government house.

On the 4th inst. I went over to Edina, and met the citizens in the Methodist church; after they had appointed a chairman and secretary, I stated to them my instructions in relation to the traffic in ardent spirits, and that, if they were not prepared to abandon it, it would be no use to deliberate a moment about coming under our government, as we could not receive them unless they complied with that condition. They at length, after some deliberation, resolved on attaching themselves to the government of Bassa Cove, (with the exception of a few, which have since come into the measure; I having informed them that they could not reside within our territories without taking the oath of allegiance.) I administered the oath and returned, and shall, as soon as convenient, organize them according to our laws.

The public farm, for want of public funds and the sickness of the overseer, is not in the most properous way. I saw a few coffee plants, a few hills of Indian corn and considerable cassada; the latter doing well. Our farmer is engaged in sowing and planting the seeds we brought.

I was amused the other day, by the simplicity of a Krooman. The captain asked, if any brandy and rum could be had on shore. He replied, 'no, he not live there.' One thing is certain, we have no intemperance *here*.

I find upon a cursory examination, that we have much to do here, and we shall want resources—the board may be assured that the means we have already shall be appropriated in the best manner that we are able.

I am informed by Dr. McDowell that up the St. John's river about six miles, is a fine healthy place for a settlement. I shall, by divine permission soon examine it, and if it is suitable, hold a palaver with the king who owns it, and purchase it, as I have understood he was willing to sell it.

I take the liberty to suggest to the board, now our territory is enlarged, a name which will embrace it all. Bassa Cove is a name for a single place - Grand Bassa would embrace all our territory, but perhaps a name more agreeable to American feeling would be preferred.

If another expedition is not sent out before you get this, I respectfully request the board not to send them without provisions for their support at least six months.

King Freeman, of Young Lestors, dined to day with us, and I am informed that the neighbouring kings are waiting till we get settled, to pay their respects. Freeman wanted rum very much, he appeared very much surprised, to find it not *American fash*, thought it not good fash—says he will send his son and daughter to learn book. He remarked that the good Spirit had given us and not black man the book. We took occasion to show him, that God loved him as much as the white man, and that he had sent the white man to teach black man the book.

As you are doubtless aware there are but few, if any time-pieces in the colony, excepting among the whites, and if these get out of repair they must remain so, as we have no watch-makers; and as the horn only is used to call people to church; a *bell* to announce the hours of worship and other times, would greatly oblige us.

Some of my abolitionist friends expressed a desire to hear from me, doing me the honour to say they would believe *me!!* If the information is worth giving, you will please say, that now I see with my own eyes, and hear with my own ears—that instead of changing my views, I am more a colonizationist than ever.

Give us some of your best coloured men—men of some property, religion, and enterprise, and I would answer for the cause of colonization. What could not a little yankee enterprsie, industry, and economy, do here? What a garden might this country become? How soon would civilization and the gospel spread until,

'The dwellers in the vale and on the rocks,
Would shout to each other, and the distant mountains,
Catch the flying joy.'

I am instructed by the board to keep a colonial journal, and transmit quarterly, copies of it to the boards, which if God spares my life and health, I will do with pleasure. And now, my dear sir, I must bid you farewell, earnestly soliciting an interest in your prayers. You find these despatches imperfect, they have been written and copied in the midst of a pressure of other duties, I must therefore beg your indulgence.

My very respectful and affectionate salutation to each member of the board of managers.

With great respect, I am yours, &c.

John J. Matthews.

(From the Liberia Herald.)

THE RIGHT WAY TO INDEPENDENCE.

Monrovia, *May*, 1837.

Agriculture.—There is nothing to which we advert with greater pleasure, than to the subject of agriculture, and to the sense of its deep importance to our welfare as a community, with which the people of Liberia seem at length to be impressed. An unfortunate concurrence of circumstances has hitherto sustained the erroneous opinion, that farming, even on a limited scale, is altogether impracticable, by the amount of means in the possession of any colonists. Alarming difficulties were supposed to attend the very commencement of farming, and to oppose its progress throughout every stage; and should these formidable difficulties be overcome, adequate returns for the labour and money expended, were thought by no means certain. With all the evidence which the face of the country spontaneously furnishes, of its fertility and productiveness, in every thing that is good for food, and many that are good for commerce too, the wonder is, not that impressions so erroneous, should retain their hold on the public mind so long, but, that they should ever have been received at all. The laziness of the natives is proverbial, yet they raise an abundance of rice for their own consumption, after extensively supplying foreign vessels. Coffee, cotton, and sugar-cane are natives of the soil, and are found in spontaneous abundance in the mountains and forests, while the meadows and plains teem with all the choice productions of the tropics. Yet in the face of this accumulated evidence—evidence which we could not but see whenever we cast our eyes around, we have without an effort contented ourselves with the belief that we cannot *live by farming*. Happy are we indeed, that we are at length convinced we cannot live without it; for we are firmly of opinion, that so soon as the conviction becomes general, the supposed difficulties and hazards, (the enervating offspring of irresolution, to use a modest term,) will vanish; agriculture will receive a new impulse, and want with its train of wretched concomitants, will forever flee the colony. An agricultural company has lately been formed in the colony, as will appear from its constitution in this number of the Herald, with a proposed capital of $5,000. The object of the association being clearly set forth, in the preamble to the constitution, renders it unnecessary for us to say anything about it here. The committee appointed to select a suitable tract of land for the purpose, have not as yet, fixed their choice upon any spot. Millsburg has been mentioned as possessing superior inducements to those of any other place yet known. Among these, an elevation, a short distance in the rear of the settlement, is by no means the least. This eminence, overlooking the surrounding country, offers a convenient location for a wind-mill, which in the operation of cane-grinding, would greatly reduce the expense which must necessarily be incurred if the process was carried on by animal power. It gratifies us, to be able to state that many of our most enterprising citizens have entered heartily and enthusiastically into the scheme, under the conviction that it is not only practicable, but comparatively of easy accomplishment. If any should sneer at the amount proposed to be raised, we would have them recollect that $5,000 bear as great a proportion in a numerical point of view, to the number of inhabitants of Liberia, that $20,000,000 do to the population, white and black of the United States. We would farther remind such of the age of the colony, of the pecuniary embarrassments under which the people have had to labour, and the numerous disadvantages with which they have had to contend ever since their arrival here; and we feel confident, that by every candid and liberal mind, this beginning will be considered as reflecting honour on those engaged. However, it may be in reality considered, the amount is by no means considered as immovably fixed. On the contrary, it is intended to be increased as soon as our long-tried, constant, and warm-hearted friends and patrons in America, shall extend to this specific object, the helping hand, either in the way of donation or by becoming interested in the scheme as stockholders, for which the constitution of the association makes provision. We are rendered confident in our expectations of assistance, from the conviction that no other scheme, promises more speedily the accomplishment of the great object of colonization, and the wishes of the friends of Africa, than a plan similar to the above. It will combine in itself all those energies and functions, which in the successful employment of other means must be separately and individually exerted, and that by an extended and continued expense. The scheme which is now proposed, combines the important considerations of enabling the friends of the colony to enlarge their benevolence, and of indemnifying them against pecuniary loss, in the large returns, which on the most moderate calculation will result from it. With a view to obtain the great object, many plans are proposed. Among them is an association in America, with commercial views, with a proposed capital of $25,000, to be denominated the African Association. For this and for all other assistance, to extend our trade and commercial connections, we feel grateful; but this, like all other schemes, as yet contrived, will fail to be of public and general good. Excepting those who may be personally engaged in the business, but few may be benefitted. To be benefitted by commerce, our circumstances like those of all other people, require that it should be supported by agriculture or manufactures. It would be visionary to think of the latter; and to carry on trade without the former, would be to prepare for the whole community a grave of bankruptcy. With our opinion therefore, on the subject, the result of a long residence in Africa, and some little attention to events, if we might venture to suggest to our friends the way in which they can the most easily arrive at their object, we would humbly recommend in place of a commercial, an agricultural association; and if separate and independent action should be preferred, send out from America, responsible men, acquainted with the cultivation and preparation of tropical productions. To them the property of the association might be confided, as well as the entire supervision of its affairs; let a suitable tract of land be obtained in the limits of the colony, commence the cultivation of the soil, on an extended scale by the employment of colonial and native labour, and then an important step will be made toward the great object in view. By this plan the poor labourer and mechanic would find employment, the wild and untutored African would learn the habits and arts of civilization, his mind from constant association with others of a different mould, would undergo an insensible assimilation, and be gradually weaned from heathenism, and a new life would be infused throughout all ranks of the community, by the inspiring example thus set before them.

(From the Colonization Herald.)

LIBERIA.

The great fertility of the soil and the prolific and continuous vigour of the climate causes a remarkable growth of vegetation in all its endless variety of form. An African forest is thus not only an object of great beauty, but it abounds in the material of wealth, as the large exportations of its gums, spices, and dye-woods have already shown. Before I proceed to speak particularly of these, however, I must notice a circumstance which has led some careless observers of the country into ludicrous errors respecting the appearance and natural productions.

Most of the country lying near the sea has been at one time and another cleared of its wood, and for a season brought under the rude culture of the natives: but as a rapid growth of vegetation immediately supervenes upon the removal of their crop, and covers the field with grass and bushes, it is always abandoned after the first season and a new clearance made in the woods for the next crop. In a few years the deserted farm becomes a tangled thicket of trees and shrubs bound together with the interminable lacings of a thousand vines, and almost impenetrable.

Thus a great part of the coast stripped of its ancient forest exhibits the appearance of a dense and matted shrubbery with here and there a scattered tree of partial growth, but wholly destitute of its original characteristics. As we ascend the rivers, however, an entirely different scene presents itself. The primitive forest in all its native grandeur covers the earth; the graceful palm tree waves its feathery branches in the breeze and the lofty wismoe and huge mahogany rear high their towering heads to heaven; among the green foliage is seen the gay colouring of flowers which bloom on many a stately tree, and give a magic-like variety to the deep embowering wood

The *Palm* is perhaps the most valuable tree found in Africa, certainly more various in its uses than any other. The leaves afford an excellent covering for the simple hut of the natives, and also furnish the material for cordage and cloth. Its juice is a pleasant and refreshing drink, called 'palm wine;' the nuts which grow in large clusters form an article of food extensively used and highly nutritious—oil is also made from them by expression, which besides supplying all the demand for home consumption is exported in large quantities to Europe and America; and to complete the manifold excellences of this invaluable tree its heart when boiled, forms an agreeable and wholesome vegetable resembling cabbage in its flavour, from which it is named 'palm cabbage.'

The *Camwood* must be ranked next in importance to the palm tree. This is one of the most costly kinds of dye-wood, and is an article of exportation from western Africa. That found in the Bassa country is considered much superior to that of the windward coast. About thirty miles inland from Bassa Cove commences the camwood country par excellence, where for a distance of fifty miles or more, scarcely any other kind of tree is found. When roads shall be opened to this region and the wagons of the colonists be substituted for the burden-bearing shoulders of the indolent savage, a rich mine of wealth, now nearly unavailable, will be added to the great resources of Liberia, and a new impulse be given to the enterprise of her citizens.

Barwood, and other kinds of dye-wood are found in different parts of the colony, though in much less abundance than camwood.

Teak grows in great perfection along the coast and in the interior; it is considered quite equal to live oak for ship building, and is exported for this purpose in large quantities from Sierra Leone to England. The trees are large and of a beautiful appearance.

Mahogany of a quality somewhat inferior to that of St. Domingo is found in considerable abundance. This tree may be appropriately styled the monarch of the forest: it lifts its vast body in stately pride among the neighbouring trees and spreads its magnificent branches abroad in all the pomp of majesty.

Redwood, or as it is called by the natives fancy wood, is a fine and beautiful wood susceptible of a high polish, and much esteemed for elegant cabinet work. It abounds throughout the coast, and is one of the finest trees of the country.

The *Tamarind*, is a lofty tree of very rich foliage, and is valuable as well for its ornamental appearance and fine shade as for its pleasant fruit. I have seen it flourishing in great perfection and laden with fruit in the gardens of Monrovia.

The *Cocoanut* tree is a species of the palm: though common on some parts of the coast, I have never seen them in Liberia, except in a few instances where they had been introduced by the colonists. They are tall graceful trees and make a fine appearance along the side of a walk or street.

Caoutchouc, or the India rubber tree is common about Bassa Cove and with a little attention may be rendered an important article of export.

Gum Senegal and *Copal* are abundant; great quantities are exported from different parts of the coast.

The *Watervine*—One of the most remarkable provisions of Providence in adapting his bounties to the wants of his creatures, is found in this singular vine which abounds every where in the woods. It is hollow and full of pure cold water, which runs out in a stream when the vine is cut. In the dry season when many of the springs and small streams are without water, the thirsty traveller is always certain of a plentiful supply by applying his knife to the vine.

Coffee, of which several kinds are indigenous, grows every where throughout the country. Every one who has tasted the coffee of Liberia, pronounces it superior to the best Java or Mocha. This valuable article is beginning to receive the attention it deserves from the colonists, and in a few years it will undoubtedly become an important source of wealth to them. Within two or three last years, many persons have made plantations of considerable extent in nearly all the settlements.

Cotton, of a beautiful staple is indigenous. Instead of being as elsewhere an annual, this plant is here of perennial growth. It bears crop after crop, in regular succession, for twelve or fourteen years, when it begins to degenerate and needs replanting.

Sugar-cane, in several varieties is indigenous, and may be cultivated to any extent with very little expense and manifold profit. Within a few years this valuable article has excited considerable attention throughout the colony, and recently a company with a capital of $5,000, has been organized at Monrovia, for the prosecution of this business more vigorously. So we may hope to see Liberian sugar in our market before long.

Oranges, Limes and Lemons, of a quality superior to the West Indian, are abundant, and may be raised in any quantities with scarcely an effort.

Plantains and *Bananas*, of uncommon size, and great richness, grow plentifully in all parts of the country.

Pine Apples are among the most abundant productions: every where along the coast they are found covering whole tracts of land. They are very large and of a delicious flavour, superior to any I ever tasted elsewhere.

Malaguetta pepper, the red pepper, cinnamon, ginger, and many other spices grow plentifully.

Indigo, of a very excellent quality, grows wild and in great abundance.

Pawpaw, Sousop, Guava, the *Maunna apple*, and many other pleasant and useful fruits might be added to this list, already I fear too long for the patience of your readers. Before I close, however, I must mention some of the most important productions of the garden and the farm, together with the principal articles of commerce, not already enumerated.

Rice is the universal grain of the country. From the luxuriance of its growth, and the great quantities produced in the vicinity of Bassa Cove, that part of the country has obtained the name of 'the grain coast.' In its cultivation there is an irrigating process necessary, as in America; it grows equally well on high and low land and requires no care when once sown until it is ready for the sickle.

Cassada.—Next to rice this is the article of food most common among the natives. Indeed, though less prized as a luxury, it is more generally depended on as an article of permanent and substantial use. This is chiefly on account of its easier cultivation, not requiring to be replanted oftener than once in three years. It resembles the Irish potato somewhat in flavour, and is very nutritious.

Yams grow in great perfection, and constitute an important item of African horticulture.

Sweet Potatoes of a large but inferior kind are indigenous, but the Carolina potato introduced by Gov. Pinney, is even better than it is found in that country.

Indian corn, millet, peas, beans, tomatoes, beets, carrots, radishes, melons, cucumbers, squashes, pumpkins and cabbage, are cultivated by the colonists, and brought rapidly to perfection. The Lima bean continues bearing like the grape for several years in succession. I have eaten beans from a vine which had been yielding its regular semi-annual crops for four years, and at this time gave promise of many more fruitful seasons.

Ivory is one of the principal articles of commerce and is procured in considerable quantities throughout the whole western coast.

Hides are occasionally brought to the colonies, but as a general thing the natives, particularly those in the Bassa country, prefer eating to selling them. About the Gambia and Pongas rivers great quantities are exported.

Gold abounds to the northward of Liberia, and also to the eastward along the gold coast, but as yet none has made its appearance in our villages as an article of traffic. At Sierra Leone an extensive trade has been carried on for some time in it. Some years their exports of this metal have amounted to $60,000.

The natives manufacture rings and other ornaments of gold, which at times exhibit great taste and skill.

Iron ore of a rich quality is found in the high lands a few miles back from the coast. The natives of the interior manufacture their own iron, which is wrought into implements of domestic and warlike use. They have a method of tempering their blades admirably. T. B.