

(From the Token for 1838.)
AUTUMN.

BY MRS. SIGOURNEY.

'Has it come, the time to fade?
And with a murmuring sigh
The maple in his motley robe,
Was the first to make reply;
And the queenly dahlias drooped
Upon their thrones of state;
For the frost king with his baleful kiss,
Had well forestalled their fate.

Hydrangia, on her telegraph,
A hurried signal traced,
Of treason dark, that fain would lay
Bright summer's region waste,
Then quick the proud exotic peers
In consternation fled,
And refuge in their green-house sought,
Before the day of dread.

The vine that o'er my easement climbed,
And clustered day by day,
I count its leaflets every morn;
See how they fade away!
And as they withering, one by one,
Forsake their parent tree,
I call each one and yellow leaf,
A buried friend to me.

'Put on thy mourning,' said my soul,
'And, with a tearful eye,
Walk softly mid the many graves
Where thy companions lie;
The violet, like a loving babe,
When vernal suns were new,
That met thee with a soft, blue eye,
And lip all bathed in dew.

The lily, as a timid bride,
While summer suns were fair,
That put her snowy hand in thine,
To bless thee for thy care;
The trim and proud anemone;
The daisy from the vale;
The purple linc towering high,
To guard her sister pale.

'The ripened rose,—where art thee now?
But from the rifled bower,
There came a voice,—'Take heed to note
Thine own receding hour;
And let the strange and silver hair,
That o'er thy temple strays,
Be a monitor to tell,
The autumn of thy days.'

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

THE EXPEDITION TO BASSA COVE.

On the 11th inst. the Charlotte Harper left this port for Bassa Cove, the place of her destination. The circumstances and scenes of her preparation and departure will not readily be forgotten. A family of colored persons, consisting of between forty and fifty, was emancipated in Tennessee, with the privilege and means of going to Africa. These were secured, and through the kind agency of the Mississippi and Louisiana Colonization Societies transported to Bassa Cove. They left New Orleans on the 29th of April last, and before this time have we trust, reached their new homes. To supply our colonists with the comforts of life and proper persons to watch over and promote their interests, it became necessary to hasten an expedition from this place. To accomplish this desirable object, great efforts have been made for some time past. These efforts, through the aid of friends and the smiles of a kind Providence, have resulted in the preparation and departure of a vessel with a cargo of no ordinary value. For she carries not merely boxes and barrels, but dear friends who have devoted themselves to the advancement of the highest interests of the colored race. These consist of nine white persons, who are to occupy different stations and be employed in various avocations in Africa. Rev. John J. Matthias is the Governor elect of Bassa Cove, and is accompanied by his wife. Dr. W. Johnson is appointed assistant to the Governor; Davis Thomas is to superintend and direct in the construction and erection of mills and machinery. The materials for constructing a saw mill, grist mill, and shingle machine, he carries along with him. Miss Sarah Annesley is sent out by the ladies of New York as a teacher to Bassa Cove. Dr. Gohen is a physician to be employed especially in attending the missionaries of the Methodist Church. Mr. Mandeville is employed for the purpose of locating a college and preparing suitable buildings. Miss Ann Wilkins and Lydia Ann Beers go out as teachers. A few colored persons, as only a few could be accommodated, go as colonists in the same vessels. Every thing that was deemed important to promote the health comfort and happiness of this company has been provided for them. Several interesting meetings have been held in this city during their stay among us, and just before the vessel left an interesting meeting was held on board. The novelty of the occasion, and the peculiar circumstances of the case may have added much to the scene, still the season was one of deeper interest than we have ever witnessed before of a similar kind. The religious services on board were appropriate, solemn, and affecting, and when the moment of parting came, it was gratifying to the friends of the cause to observe that those who were about to depart were most joyful and in the highest spirits, and they left behind their warmest thanks for all the kindness shown them, and for all that benevolence and Christian liberality, the evidence of which they bore away to the land of future labours.—*New York Colonization Herald.*

PROCEEDINGS OF THE AGENT AND COUNCIL.

HARPER, CAPE PALMAS,
April 24th, 1837.

At a meeting of the Agent and Council, December 4th, 1836, it was resolved that Charles Scotland be appointed Commissary; with the proviso that the said Charles Scotland shall devote as many hours each muster day to the duties of his office as the men may consume in drilling.

At a meeting held on the 18th March, 1837, the following resolutions were adopted, viz:

1. Resolved, that the Military of the Colony shall consist of Artillery and Infantry. They shall always hold themselves in readiness to perform any military duties, or fatigue, which the defence of the colony may in the judgment of the Agent require, at a moment's warning.
2. Resolved, that the companies shall parade every other Saturday at the time and place appointed by the commanding officer, and all persons neglecting, or refusing to appear on parade, armed and equipped according to law, shall be fined at the following rate; privates fifty cents, non-commissioned officers one dollar twenty-five cents; commissioned officers three dollars. All laws or ordinances to the contrary notwithstanding.

3. Resolved, that each Company Parade shall not be less than three hours, nor more than four.

4. Resolved, that every officer in command of a company, for neglect in notifying the said company to parade, or neglecting to parade himself, shall be fined not less than five dollars nor more than fifteen dollars. Notice of parade to be at least three days previously.

5. Resolved, that there be a company court martial consisting of one commissioned and two non-commissioned officers, held monthly, for the trial of delinquent members, and that the several fines levied by the said court, be placed by the officer in command, in the hands of the sheriff for collection.

6. Resolved, that there be held a quarterly parade of the different military companies of this colony, on the last Saturday of March, June, September, and December, for the inspection of arms, between the hours of five o'clock and ten, A. M. on which occasion the senior officer present shall take command of the line; until the appointment of a major.

7. Resolved, that there be held a court martial on the Monday immediately succeeding the quarterly parade, composed of commissioned officers, for the trial of all commissioned officers who may have failed in the performance of the necessary duties required by law.

7. Resolved, that the senior commissioned officer in command, shall be president of the quarterly court martial with the privilege of nominating a judge-advocate, until the appointment of an adjutant, which court shall have the right of trying all delinquents or persons failing to turn out armed and equipped as the law directs, on the quarterly parades, except in case of sickness.

JOHN REVEY, Col. Secretary.

The above Resolutions are a true copy from the Records of the Council.

JOHN REVEY, Col. Secretary.

[The two following communications were sent us by the Niobe, for publication in the journal. We presume they are from the pen of the Rev. Mr. Revey, colonial secretary, to whom we feel thankful for the interest which he manifests for the cause.]

For the Maryland Colonization Journal.

SASS WOOD PALAYER.

Sunday, April 30, the little village of Harper was all serenity. Every body was strictly observant of the Holy Sabbath. The bell had rung to give notice to prepare for morning service, when Cape-town, the adjacent native village, governed by king Freeman, appeared to be in an uproar. It was evident that something serious was the matter. The most doleful cries were heard from several directions of the town. The general inquiry was, what is the palaver? They have given three men 'sassy wood,' and they are dead, and the soldiers of the town are in pursuit of others to serve in the same way. The governor, Mr. Russwurm, sent a messenger to the king in order to put a stop to such murderous conduct,—but the king had disappeared, and but few of the head-men could be found. They were, however, induced to stop for that day. It seems the natives believe that no man among them dies a natural death, and when one dies he has been bewitched or poisoned. On such occasions, the great or head doctors among them, are sent for and consulted, who, after working with his fetish or greegree, and using several ceremonies, fixes on some individual or individuals in the town, or perhaps in the nearest town, persons as guiltless as to the supposed crime, as I am this moment in which I am writing, who is forthwith brought to trial, and openly and positively accused of having made witch. In vain he pleads innocent. In such a case the accused has no way to test his innocence but to submit to drink the sass wood, as an ordeal. It is said by some of the first settlers here, that the practice is dying away, and that scenes like this when the colony was first settled were of quite frequent occurrence—and that Dr. Hall, the former governor and founder of the colony, had rescued several miserable victims who were doomed to drink this mortal poison, as well also as the Rev. J. L. Wilson, Presbyterian missionary, resident here. It is therefore beyond doubt, that before the light of civilization the dark practices of the native must recede.

Harper, Cape Palmas, June 8th, 1837.

For the Maryland Colonization Journal.

Celebration of the third anniversary of the Colony of Maryland in Liberia.

On the 22d February, 1837, pursuant to previous arrangement of the agent and council, at sunrise three large guns were fired, and at noon thirteen, the original number of the United States, and at sunset one. The principal officers of the colony, civil and military, met at the agency house at 10 o'clock, and forming in procession, marched off, escorted by Latrobe's artillery, under command of Lieut. Benjamin Johnson, to the Methodist chapel, in the following order—orator, agent and vice agent, counselors, high sheriff, colonial secretary, acting, physician, clergy and others, in citizens dress—where a very appropriate and eloquent discourse was delivered by the Rev. Francis Burns, missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church, followed by the Rev. Squire Chase, missionary of the same church, who had lately visited the colony to reconnoitre the missionary field in Africa, with the intention of returning to America for his family. Mr. Chase, though labouring under the enervating effects of the fever, was nevertheless energetic. His remarks were well timed, and to the point. With the solemnity and dignity of a man of God, yet with the pathos and diction of an orator, he endeavoured to lead the minds of the colonists to a grateful recollection of the guidance and protection of that God, 'from whom comes every good and perfect gift,' who had led them across the great Atlantic by the hand of a Moses, and had 'given them rest in a goodly land.' And now that they were in the enjoyment of those privileges, civil and religious, of a free people in the land too of their forefathers; he admonished all to take diligent heed to the law of God, and to love him and to walk in all his ways and commandments. And while laying before them the various duties incumbent on every good citizen, and exhorting them to cultivate union and a friendly feeling among themselves—to avoid as ruinous, the least appearance of faction and party spirit, and to a strict and scrupulous observance and obedience of the laws of the colony. As if to increase the mingled emotions of joy and gratitude, who should arrive in

the harbour at the time, but Dr. Hall, the first and former governor and founder of the colony, in the brig Niobe, from the windward, who also remembering that it was the anniversary of the colony—that on that day three years ago he first laid the foundation of Maryland in Liberia, saluted the town with two guns.

The occasion was one of the deepest interest. Three years past and the very spot on which we were assembled, was in a rude and uncultivated state. It was a wilderness, a covert for wild beasts; but the forest had now by the hand of industry been made to disappear. Neat and comfortable dwellings had been reared. A commodious house dedicated to the name of the true God had been built. Nor was this all: to it the untaught native African repaired to learn the way to heaven. Schools under the support of the Presbyterian, Episcopalian and Methodist missionary societies have been opened for the instruction of the heathen. And here live a plain, moral, industrious, and in many respects, a happy people, the descendants of those whom avarice dragged from Africa, now in the possession of the blessings of liberty and equality.

Services at the meeting house being concluded, the procession again formed in the same order as at first, and returned to the agency house—where the citizens, after partaking of a little plain refreshment, prepared previously by the direction of the agent, in the form of a luncheon, were dismissed for the day. The writer would here beg leave to remark, that though but recently arrived in the colony, he felt delighted with every thing around him, and cordially participated in the good feelings of the citizens—convinced of the excellency and wisdom of the plan of making temperance and agriculture the motto of the colony; he would heartily congratulate the Maryland State Colonization Society in the success that has attended its operations in the establishment of their growing and prosperous settlement at Cape Palmas

[The following is a letter, taken from the New Orleans Observer, is from Dr. J. L. Blodgett, the gentleman lately sent out by the Mississippi Colonization Society, as a physician to the colony which they are now establishing in Liberia.]

GREENVILLE, Miss. Africa, }
MR. LAWRENCE: }
Aug. 5, 1837. }

Dear Sir:—We arrived at Monrovia on the 8th of last month, making a passage of eighty-eight days from New Orleans. We met with nothing unusual on the voyage. In the Gulf stream, the weather was calm and sultry a few days, which made the time pass rather unpleasantly. No sickness, however, occurred until we reached the higher latitudes, beyond the Bermudas, when the temperature of the atmosphere was occasionally so much diminished on the prevalence of northerly winds as to be uncomfortable. Intermittents began to seize the emigrants at this time. Mr. Finley and myself also suffered from the fever. In some instances, it assumed a continued form, and required very active treatment. Most of the cases, however, soon yielded to medicine; and all perfectly recovered as we approached a milder climate. One person died during the passage. It was an infant. We buried it upon the bank of the Mississippi. One also, died two days after our arrival at Monrovia, a woman of thirty years; she was helpless when she embarked at New Orleans, and she continued so throughout the passage. The remainder of the emigrants landed in good health at Monrovia.

The first land that we saw on this side of the ocean, was Sherbro island. Off the southern point of this island we discovered a sail standing down the coast. It was a schooner, well built, trim and neat, of seventy or eighty tons. She was manned by Africans. She hoisted Liberian colours; and bore up. We spoke with her captain. She was from Sierra Leone, where she had been for cargo, and was bound to Monrovia, where she was owned. The sight of this vessel, to me, was the harbinger of prosperity—a good omen of the industry of the colony to which we were going. The colours hoisted were new to me. Stripes like the American, with a cross instead of stars. It was the emblem of a people emancipated from thralldom—of a nation just born. May it yet waive with magnanimity and respect, in every sea and clime, a protection to the oppressed, and a terror to the oppressor. A good breeze being after us, the next day we were snugly at anchor in the bay of Liberia. I had little time for observation at this place, and it has been so often described, that it seems unnecessary to say much about it. Cape Montserrat, however, we must not pass without notice; it is a promontory, about two miles in length, composed of green stone. At its north-western extremity, it terminates in a bluff of, perhaps, three hundred feet elevation. This bluff looks out upon the ocean with bold, and rather precipitous aspect; upon the top, stands the flag-staff, also a battery constructed by Ashmun, to awe the Spanish slavers, who used to be troublesome in this vicinity. The green stone frequently exhibits the prismatic form; the fragments are always irregular; the number of angles varying from three to seven. In some places the rock shoots up in the form of spires, or aricular prisms, that give to it quite a gothic aspect. In all places, and especially where the proportion of felspar is large, the surface is much worn by the attrition of water that falls in rain upon it. I noticed considerable bodies of the rock that were filled with cavities, giving it an amygdaloidal appearance; iron, and, in places, crystals of hornblende entered into the composition of this variety. It appears to be rapidly decomposing into a reddish gravel. The gravel already forms the greater proportion of the soil resting upon its surface.

For a considerable distance back from the coast, in the neighbourhood of the Cape, the general aspect of the country is level. A few insulated elevations of moderate height, however are scattered here and there, within range of the eye. They are probably composed of the same kind of rock as the Cape, for their form is conical; an almost sure indication of green stone, when thus situated. I hope, hereafter, to have opportunity to examine them.

The soil about the Cape is exceedingly fertile; the ground is loaded with dense vegetation. The botanist enters, as it were, upon a new creation; a vast variety of plants are to be numbered, that would be quite new to a person from the states; I recognized a few, however, as old acquaintances, but they belonged principally to the fern and gramineous plants. The genus cyperus appears to have been planted with the same individuals in Africa as in America.

In sailing down the coast, I did not get much view of it until we arrived at Grand Bassa. We did not stop at that place. The settlement at Bassa Cove, however, made a fine appearance from the ocean, and strongly reminded me of the villages that I had seen springing up on the shores of our western lakes. The country in the vicinity presented more interesting scenery than I had before seen on the African coast. In the immediate vicinity of the settlement, the country was spread out like a plain; farther back it was much diversified with hills; while beyond these, the distant mountains that bounded the view, rose in lofty perspective.

The coast from Bassa to Sinoe is, much of it, rocky. In some places, for a considerable distance, the rocks that border the ocean rise, not only above it, but also above the country directly behind them; they are natural dikes, and seem formed on purpose to resist encroachments of the sea.

We reached this place the 22d of last month, and were much astonished and encouraged to find that so much improvement had already been made for us. We found a store-house of ample dimensions, two stories high, covered with shingles, enclosed with boards sawed at this place, already completed—buildings also for the reception of emigrants; a blacksmith shop; a barrack; a garden planted with various fruit trees, and vegetables; a farm planted with cassada; cattle, three pair of oxen lustily tugging in the yoke, and lastly, a schooner of thirty tons, more than half finished. Mr. Johnstone has done this within eight months. When we consider the inadequate means, and the discouragement which this gentleman has met with from people living at the Cape; the opposition and almost open hostility of the natives, instigated by the Spanish slavers, and the menacing conduct of the slaves themselves, we must say that he has accomplished more than one could possibly suppose. The natives have two or three villages near us; they have lately become friendly. It is said the slavers are unusually numerous this season. I think the location of this place is excellent. It cannot be otherwise than healthy; no swamps, no stagnant water—the people here have, thus far, enjoyed good health. We have good anchorage in the bay, in eight fathoms; there is eight feet water on the bar, at the mouth of the river at low water—sometimes there is eighteen feet. The river banks are high, rocky, and romantic. The rocks are composed of granite. The river itself is beautiful, deep and large, about the size of the Connecticut river, and equally clear. It has been sounded eight miles from its mouth, with from three to four fathoms all the way; it probably holds this depth to the rapids, fifteen or twenty miles. Beyond the rapids, the natives say that it is a big river. The soil in this neighbourhood cannot be exceeded in fertility. The forests are lofty and dense, affording a great variety of timber. The trade is in rice, oil, cattle, canwood, and ivory. I landed here last Saturday, sick of the African fever. I now feel myself perfectly recovered. Mr. Finley has just recovered also. I think Mr. Finley's fever was occasioned by over-exertion; he is anxious to accomplish much.

Yesterday, in walking out, I discovered the India Rubber tree, growing in abundance at this place. With my knife I cut a few incisions, collected the sap, and manufactured a few specimens, which I sent to New York, one of them directed to yourself.

Mr. Finley is too feeble to write; he sends his respects. My best wishes to yourself and family.

Yours sincerely, J. L. BLODGETT.

(From the Colonization Herald.)

A letter from Miss ANN WILKINS, who sailed in the Charlotte Harper, with Mr. Matthias, says that the passage was a very pleasant one, and the kindness of Capt. Curtis to his passengers worthy of all praise. The writer adds, the Rev. Mr. Seys was absent when we arrived, and still is, but we had a hearty welcome from our beloved sister Seys. If we had been meeting an affectionate mother or sister in the flesh, from whom we had been separated many years, we could not have expected a more warm and loving reception than we met with from sister S. And now that four weeks of my sojourn with her are on their flight, I see her the same heavenly-minded disciple of the Lord Jesus.

It is evident from the expressions of the people, that brother and sister S. possess their warm affections; they tell with enthusiasm of the good they have done. I am delighted with these people. The society here seems to be in a prosperous state of religion, though temporal want pinches them on every side; from which many are suffering very severely. Rice, which is their main dependence, has failed this year, which renders it almost impossible to obtain a subsistence.

I am told that at Caldwell there has been an out pouring of the holy spirit, in the conversion of about forty souls. Brother Brown, from that place, has been here since our arrival, and gave a heart-cheering account of his school, in which he had about eighty scholars, who are advancing rapidly. Many, he says who commenced in the alphabet since he commenced teaching, are now decent readers in the New Testament, and quite good writers, and are studying grammar, arithmetic, &c. He said he could have many more native children than are now in his school, if he could support them. The parents of as many as twenty native children, had offered to bind them to him on any terms, if he would only take them under his instruction. Brother Brown told us that the people of a native town near him, are very anxious for teachers. A native town, called Jack's town, near Monrovia, at which brother S. had visited and taught the people; it is said, is advancing toward christianity and civilization, inasmuch that they have renounced their 'gree gree' and refuse to sell and buy on the Sabbath. To these might be added many more very interesting particulars if I had time, and did not fear being or appearing to be officious.

CADETTOUC.—We have received from Mr. J. L. Blodgett, Surveyor and Physician for the Mississippi Colony in Africa, which is situated between Liberia and Cape Palmas, some specimens of caoutchouc, or Indian Rubber, found in that vicinity, which appear to possess all the valuable properties of the article in common use. 'I obtained them,' says Mr. B. 'from a tree growing abundantly in this place. I discovered it a few days since, in taking a walk. With my knife, I made a few incisions, and thus obtained the few specimens which I send. I think it may be procured in quantities for exportation.'