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(From the Colonization Herald.)

Liberia.

DR. ROBERT MACDOWALL'S FIRST IMPRESSIONS ON VISITING LIBERIA.

I was one of a company of five persons who went out to Liberia, four years ago, as physicians, missionaries, and teachers, to aid in the cause of the colonization and civilization of Africa. The day before our departure we attended prayer meeting in Rev. Dr. McCauley's Chapel, in New York, kindly convened to bid us farewell. And here let me record my testimony to the excellent influence this demonstration of Christian sympathy and benevolence has on the missionary, who has left all to carry abroad the blessings he enjoys to those that are in darkness. On the minds of many of those who were present, the remembrance of that evening has probably long since passed away; or if at all distinct in the vista of past recollections, is only associated with a sense of duty, or a matter of curiosity. There were some, however, in whose eyes I could see the tear of sympathy glisten, when they were told that we were about to part from our home and friends on a dangerous mission, perhaps never to see them again, and were desirous of an interest in their prayers. Oh! it is only those who are placed in a similar situation, who can realize the good that is thus done. The heavy heart is lightened, the dark filled of their future labours is illumined. This shining out of the affections and feelings of the good, seemed like the rainbow of God's promise that we should not be overwhelmed. I never forgot, nor ever can forget, that affecting instance of Christian regard. Amid sickness and trouble and despondency in Africa, the remembrance of it strengthened my hopes, and sustained my exertions. What Christian, then, will refuse his presence on similar occasions? The missionary is encouraged, and his own heart becomes better, while he knows that he is assisting so good a cause.

But to proceed: after a pleasant voyage of 45 days, the dim coast of Africa rose up to our view. Africa! degraded, injured Africa! what tumultuous emotions arose in our bosoms, at the sight of thee! A deep, dark, moral blot in the map of our world's geography, shaded still deeper by enlightened human injustice and oppression. We were prepared from our earliest associations, and almost determined in spite of recorded testimony to the contrary, to find thee also a physical deformity.—Burning sandy deserts, disease and death, formed a fearful picture, which made our hearts throb at the uncertainty of our fate. A closer inspection of its landscape dispelled all these fears. We at once distinguished Cape Mesurado by a single tall tree, which stood up alone distinct on its rocky elevation, like a sentinel on the outlook.—Before sunset of the last day of July, we anchored in Monrovia Bay, and found the Cape clothed with a dense vegetation of deepest green, and saw the star-striped banner floating freely in the breeze. We retired to our cots once more, full of joyous and yet anxious anticipations. We rose and found a flood of sunshine poured over the scene, with the white houses of Monrovia peeping out from the depth of that tropical forest, which fringed the ridge of the cape upon which the town is placed.

The deck of the vessel was crowded with Kroomen earnestly showing their certificates of character, and offering their services to the captain; fine, tall muscular fellows, overflowing with spirits and health. It was highly interesting to see how perfectly at home these men seemed to be, whether in their canoes or in the water. In the rivalry of striving to gain the vessel first, many of the canoes filled with water, upon which they all got out into the sea, shook the water out of their light bark, and got in again as if nothing had happened, paddling away, and laughing in their turn at those who were similarly interrupted.

After breakfast an invitation came off to us to come on shore, written by the Lieutenant Governor, the Governor being absent. On reaching the wharves we were still more favorably disappointed, in beholding the industrious bustle which was going on. Four or five small schooners built on the spot, were quietly riding on the smooth waters of the Mesurado river. Others were on the stocks building. The wharves and river were crowded with canoes of colonists and natives, mingling the noise of broken English and native jargon. We were welcomed on the wharf by some of the colonists, who conducted us up to the government house, where we were warmly received by Mr. McG———, the Vice Agent, and were soon set down to an excellent dinner of the tropical luxuries of the season. There were chickens, African kid and mutton, which is allowed to be the best flavored in the world, cooked plantains, desert of bananas, and papaw pies, which last so deceived me, that I asked where they got the green apples of which the pies were made. Our company consisted of the elite of the place. Officers of the forces, magistrates, members of council, and ministers of the Gospel, all of whom contributed their quota of conversation and remarks, characterised by great good sense and good breeding. The topics being, besides those naturally arising out of their situation, all the popular novelties in science, art, and politics, occupying the attention of the enlightened reading world, showing plainly in the shrewdness of their conclusions and observations, that they had inquired, and profited by the inquiry, of what was expected of them in their present responsible situations. As to the causes which induced them to choose their new abode, it is creditable to their feelings and spirits as men, to state that they did so, not because the strictness of the laws in relation to many of their brethren in the United States, bore heavily on themselves as individuals, but that they could not thoughtlessly and indifferently look on their more unfortunate brethren around them. They left comfortable houses, to seek in Africa freedom for themselves, and education for their children. They nevertheless could not but feel that the proposed object of the Abolitionists to make them elevated and comfortable in America, accorded strongly with their own wishes. America was still the place of their birth; there they had received much kindness, and who does not cling strongly to the scenes and associations of childhood, whatever the circumstances be; still they are willing to admit that the obvious distinctness of their race, and the degrading associations connected therewith, placed almost impassable obstacles in the way of any benevolent plan which would put them in possession of all the rights and privileges of freemen.—They acknowledge that under all the circumstances of the case, the Colonization Society had taken the only present practicable mode of benefiting them, but could not help deploring the necessity which gave rise to it.

After dinner we walked out to examine the settlement. Many of the houses were large, pleasant, and comfortable, well and rather tastefully furnished. The streets were wide and well laid out, but from the strong productive power of the soil and climate, a great number of plants were growing luxuriantly, among which some species of senna and indigo were abundant, which, although requiring continued labour to keep the streets clean, afforded a strong evidence of the strength of the soil and the facility of agriculture. They pointed out to us the spot where the devoted Ashmun, and his little band, gallantly defeated the savage multitude that would have exterminated them. We ascended the Cape, and there lay spread out before us a panorama of as quiet beauty and repose as you could desire. At a lower elevation lay Monrovia, with its many curling wreathes of smoke, its churches, and many little white houses, its vessels, river and warehouses. It was touchingly interesting to behold this first inroad of civilization on the borders of nature's wildness; and to observe the peaceful security and prominence with which it stood forth from boundless plains of uninterrupted vegetation. On our left, as we looked landward, the coast swept round into a spacious bay. Behind, and on our right lay the ocean we had just crossed; afar off, near the verge of the horizon of which, might be perceived the fast sailing slave vessel, sneaking past as if she would not be seen from this prospering attempt to remedy the evil she was still endeavoring to perpetuate. In the harbor might be seen waving, side by side, the flags of England, America, and France.

On enquiring of the colonial officers into the state and influence of the slave trade around them, they replied that it was still carried on at some distance north and south of the colonial territories, over which they could exercise no jurisdiction; and from the profusion with which the slavers supplied the natives with goods, they valued the friendship of the colony less. Thus its moral influence is weakened by this counter agency.—Whenever that nefarious traffic shall be totally suppressed, the natives will turn their attention to the products of their country, to exchange with the colonists

All the well dressed, respectable looking colonists we met and conversed with, assured us they were contented, and centred all their hopes in the prospect of leaving their children in the enjoyment of more freedom and knowledge than had fallen to the lot of their fathers. Others, whose appearance bespoke much of poverty, said they liked the country, but they could not get such work as they wanted. There was no currency in the colony, and they could not get enough of 'hog meat' to eat. To them freedom has nothing compared to the flesh pots of America. There were numbers of the recaptured Africans, also, from New Georgia, who came and offered us their hands, saying, 'glad for see you;' exhibiting in their eye superior intelligence and energy, while the tattooed marks on their faces, showed at once their tribe, and their direct African origin.

We visited the cemetery, too, and there we silently gazed on the little mounds of those who had fallen martyrs to the cause of African Colonization, quietly resting below the shadowy trees, with no epitaph to record their names or virtues. They live alone in the memory of their surviving friends; their record is on high, on the tablets of Him, who said blessed are the dead that die in the Lord. Yet there they are indisputable evidences of devotion to Africa, and their language was 'let thousands perish ere Africa be abandoned.' What need have they of a perishing marble monument? We felt that we too could take up our last abode with them, could we but see Africa arising out of her thraldom. Two of our little party are there now.

In fine, we were satisfied—favorably disappointed, with the colony, and assured that 'the Society had demonstrated to the world, the soundness of the views with which they appeared before it in 1816—'17, without funds, patronage, or a precedent in the annals of the human race.'

R. McD.

(From the Friend.)

Havana—The Slave Trade.

Should the enclosed, written at Havana during the last winter by a young member of the Society of Friends, be deemed worthy of an insertion in 'The Friend,' it is at the disposal of the editor.

Seventh Month 11th, 1838. W.

HAVANA, 1838.

At a time when the all-engrossing subject of slavery within our own borders occupies so large a share of the public mind, it may not be inappropriate to relate a few facts drawn from personal observation during a short sojourn in the island of Cuba, and if possible to direct the attention of the philanthropist from the vexatious and delicate subject of an existing evil at home, to the more glaring and increasing traffic in human flesh, the source of so much misery, the African slave trade, which, it may not be generally known, to the disgrace of the civilized world, is at this very moment carrying on to an alarming extent, almost within sight of our own shores.

In the beautiful harbor of the Havana, the practised eye of the seamen detects at a glance, from a midst the large fleets of vessels from all quarters of the world, some half dozen or more splendid brigantines, which for elegance and symetry of model, breadth of beam, and lightness of rig, are unsurpassed by any vessels in the world,—sharp fore and aft, and lying low, they seem only to touch the water, and as if a zephyr would put them in motion. These beautiful vessels, which do credit to the skill of the architect, and, as I was informed, were chiefly built at or near Baltimore, are slavers,—deceitful in appearance as the unruffled bosom of the ocean on which they glide,—their holds are the abodes of wretchedness, disease and death.

In the ports of this Island slavers are fitted out openly and without molestation, lying almost side by side with British, French, and American vessels of war; they dare not molest them unless taken on the high seas, and in the very act of carrying a cargo. With the existence of slavery in these islands, or in the southern states of our own confederacy, in making this communication, I have nothing to do; on the contrary, I can bear frequent testimony to the lenient treatment of slaves, and their apparent content on estates it was my fortune to visit. I have generally found it acknowledged an evil, but one for which it appeared difficult to devise a remedy; but that the American government should remain idle, when every year thousands upon thousands of the human family are carried into bondage, is most astonishing; while their brethren of England, with an example worthy of all praise, have for years been working, and are even now braving climate and disease almost alone, against the nefarious practice.

To the British navy alone be the honor of affording almost the only check to this inhuman traffic; their vessels are ever on the alert, both on the African coast and in the West Indian seas; and surely if any thing will open the eyes of the American people to the magnitude with which this trade is carried on, the fact of four captures having been made within six months on the southern coast of this island, and the arrival in sight of this city, and within four days of each other, of two slavers with full cargoes of human beings, ought to do it. During the latter part of December, the 'Eliza Bellita' slaver was captured by H. M. ship 'Sappho,' and carried into Port Royal, Jamaica, having on board 260 unfortunate Africans, scarcely one of them over fourteen years of age! In the harbor of St. Jago I saw a small clipper-built Guineaman, that I was informed had realized over two millions of dollars in the slave trade; she was very fleet, had been often pursued but never taken.

In company with an English naval officer, I made a visit across the bay to several of these vessels. We were permitted to walk over them, but no particular attention was paid to us; on the contrary, we were looked upon with suspicion, and received short and unsatisfactory answers to our questions; in general all attempts to enter into conversation with those on board appeared useless. With one however, we were more successful; an old weather-beaten Spaniard was walking the deck—although an old pirate, his expression of countenance was fine,—taking a seat under the awning on the quarter deck, offering him a bundle of cigaritas, and lighting one ourselves, by degrees induced him into conversation, and in the course of one hour or more, I learned from him some horrid truths. He told us that in four voyages he had brought, in the vessel upon which we then were, sixteen hundred human beings; his was a fortunate vessel, and seldom lost more than half a dozen a voyage; once, however, he told us he was not so lucky—a malignant disease broke out on board soon after leaving the coast, and of three hundred taken in Africa, but ninety-five were landed more dead than alive on the island!

The material, such as hand cuffs, chains, and even the lower decks are taken out, stowed in pieces as cargo, and are fitted up on the coast of Africa. We saw the apertures in the decks to admit the air, and as we were leaving the brig in our boat along side, the captain told us exultingly, that he knew we were officers of the British sloop of war, pointing to the 'Champion,' that was riding at anchor at a little distance from us; but, added he, 'you are welcome; I yesterday showed your captain (meaning of the Champion) all over my trim vessel—I have nothing to conceal—you dare not touch me here, and once outside, (with an expressive shrug of the shoulders) you may catch me if you can.'

About a league from the gates of Havana, situated delightfully upon a gentle eminence, shaded by groves of the palm and the cocoa, overlooking the Paseo Tacon, and the governor's Casadi Campo and gardens, is a tienda or a receptacle for newly imported slaves; it is one of the many that abound on the island. In the cool of the evening we made a visit to this bazaar. A newly imported cargo of two hundred and twenty human beings were here exposed for sale—they were crouched down upon their forms around a large room; during a visit of more than an hour that we we were there, not a word was uttered by one of them. On entering the room, the eyes of all were turned upon us, as if to read in our countenances their fate; they were all nearly naked, being but slightly clad in a light check shirt, upon which was a mark upon the breast; with few exceptions they were but skin and bone; too weak to support their languid forms, they were reclining on the floor, their backs resting against the wall. When a purchaser came they were motioned to stand, which they obeyed, although with apparent pain; a few were old and grey, but the greater proportion were mere children of from ten to thirteen or fifteen years of age: when they stood, their legs looked as thin as reeds, and hardly capable of supporting the skeletons of their wasted forms.—The keeper informed us they were of several distinct tribes, and that they did not understand one another; this was apparent from the formation of the head. While we were there five little boys and girls were selected and bought to go into the interior; no regard is paid to relationship, and once separated they never meet again. We left the tienda, and turning through the gateway we saw some who were laying under the shade of the plantain, whose appearance told that they, at least, would soon be liberated from bondage by death,—they were those who had suffered most during the voyage,—their situation was most melancholy. I offered to one the untasted bowl of cocoa milk I was about drinking; she motioned it away with a look that even from a negress was expressive of thankfulness, and which seemed to say how unused she was to such kindness. We left this wretched abode, and in a few minutes were upon the Paseo, where all the beauty and fashion of the city were driving up and down in their volantes, as if all, far and near, were happy. What a contrast!

Upon another occasion, as I was riding one evening alone, along the rocky and barren shore that extends for some miles to the eastward of Havana, covered with the cactus and prickly pear, I came suddenly upon a troop of slaves—men, women, and children. I drew up by the way side until they passed; three horsemen were driving them; they were manacled, chained by the ancles, barefooted, and almost naked; they proceeded in silence, which was interrupted only by the rustling of their chains. Under the plea of lighting a cigar, I accosted one of the horsemen; he told me they had just landed in a small inlet on the coast, were one hundred and ninety in number, and were wending their way to one of the receptacles spoken of above. With feelings of pity for the lot of these poor wretches, I rode on for some time, when turning my horse to take a last view of the beauty of the evening sky, for the sun had sunk some time, I again saw the melancholy troop crossing the distant hills, their tall black forms strongly contrasted against the brightness of the western sky,—what were their feelings thus in a strange land and stranger language, unknowing of their fate, as they were under the shadow of night thus driven into eternal bondage?

An expression of opinion upon the subject of slavery in the Spanish islands is dangerous to a stranger; depending upon this traffic to cultivate and people the vast regions of rich and uncultivated land in the island of Cuba, and deriving as it does from the produce of this island its very existence, the Spanish government do all they can to prevent molestation of their subjects or the Portuguese in the slave trade,—and although an apparently attentive ear is given to the repeated and urgent remonstrances of the British government against this traffic, it is rather secretly fostered than frowned upon. While I was at Matanzas, a slaver from the Gold Coast arrived off the harbour of Havana at broad noon; and right under the guns of the Moro castle, hailed and stopped the 'Almendares' steam packet as she was going in, contracted with the captain to land his cargo, which after running into Havana and landing his passengers, he did; having come out, taken off all the slaves, put them on shore in an inlet on the coast about three miles from the harbour, and returned to the city before night.

In the nineteenth century, with the word liberty upon every tongue both in Europe and the westen hemisphere, will it be believed, that the most profitable commerce is that of human flesh. Can there be no stop to the transportation from Africa of human beings? As an evidence of its extent, slaves can be had in Cuba for the small sum of $300!—'tis true those that are acclimated and speak the language are worth more. When this is the case, it is in the power of every one to judge if the commerce is not a thriving one.

(From the Baltimore Clipper.)

Abolition.

This question has long agitated the public mind. Many of our states have, in the wisdom of their legislative bodies, banished slavery from their statutes. As to the right of their actions, is a question which can be referred to no higher earthly tribunal for decision—they are both the law and the judge. One thing, however, is perfectly clear, that there is no man or set of men who have the right to interfere upon the broad question of abolishing slavery, but those who are regularly empowered by and through the will of the majority of the people. Going upon the principles of republicanism, we place men at the head of goverment, in whom we repose confidence, to legislate and administer laws, such as under existing circumstances, will meet our peculiar wants. If with them it shall seem prudent and expedient to abolish that law which now holds the African in a certain relationship, we are bound to presume them right, until such act be made null and void through the instrumentality of some more wise and deliberative body, who, in the order of things, shall in a legislative capacity, succeed them. Every good republican citizen will evince no other disposition than a submission to the jurisdiction of his country's laws. The life and destinies of a criminal are placed in the power of twelve jurors. If they decide upon his guilt or innocence, he must abide the decision, because there is no other source from whence he can hope for greater justice. If in a case thus legally pending, some misguided philanthropist were to insinuate his influence to retard the course of justice, turn it from its proper channel, thereby bringing difficulty upon many and a reproach upon the very laws by which he himself is protected, would he, and ought he not to be estimated as dangerous and punished for the offence? So with the citizen who professes allegiance to his country and constitution, were he do that diametrically opposed to his country's weal.

All will admit that slavery as a principal is wrong, and that its abolishment should be effected at the most practicable period. But because an evil exists is no argument that a more alarming one should be brought on in endeavoring to correct it. An unguarded administration of deadly poison would not effect a cure. If it be given at all it must be with the greatest of caution, by a skilful hand, and that too by degrees, so that the desired object in due time shall be accomplished. The spirit manifested, the endeavours also, and the language used by the misguided abolitionists of the north and east, are to the well being of our nation as the deadly poison is to one prostrated upon the bed of sickness. They are worse than the foul incendiary who, with his torch in the dark shades of midnight, steals to the abode of happiness and in an hour when all are wrapped in dreams and slumber, causes the devouring element to destroy unconscious innocence. Their movements in no feature bear the character of philanthrophy—they are traitors in the full sense of the term, and as such should have meted out their punishment. Principles and institutions based upon the purest feelings of benevolence are daily receiving their slanderous attacks. Men of unapproachable virtues, have they endeavored to stigmatise through the instrumentality of their scurrilous publications. Endeavours have also been made to insinuate their corrupt principles into the question of politics; but the most loathsome and unnatural dissensions is that of *amalgamation*. It is not only repulsive to the white population, but meets the disapprobation of even the filthiest negro in christendom.

When the actions of men prove their motives to be pure, an excuse may be formed, if perchance, they make a misstep; but when the whole tenor of their procedure (like that of the abolitionists) goes directly to the reverse—showing that the motive itself is corrupt, they should be discountenanced by all who have the general welfare of their country at stake.

It is not the abolishment of slavery that will benefit either the white or coloured population of the United States. The African will and must be in a state of subjugation to a certain extent while we exist as a republic. The only effectual means, and that which will be beneficial to both, is distinct separation, to accomplish which the great cause of colonization promises to be most successful. Indeed it is the only resort—and would that its importance were pressed home to the functionaries of our government and the people in general more effectually. Africa is the only inviting home to the African. There he can have liberty and be respected, but here he cannot—he must be convinced of this fact. Being so then, and our citizens of the propriety of colonization, let those means be used which the necessity and importance of the case imperiously demands.

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