good an anchorage ground and river entrance. The Cavalla River is navigable some 60 miles inland, and its banks support a large native population, with whom a greater amount of trade may some day be done, than on any other in the whole extent of Liberia, but constant wars between Tribes, have thus far and probably will for years, prevent its becoming all that is desired. The natives are not yet kindly disposed, and it seems imprudent to make a permanent settlement at the mouth of the River, until Cape Palmas becomes strong enough to protect herself, and afford protection to another. Little and Grand Taboo are both good trade points, and at one of them the Episcopal Missions had, and may yet have a small School, but it is too far from Cape Palmas to admit of its being settled at present, though the natives are considered more gentle than those at Cavalla, but their late seizure of an English merchant schooner and subsequent murder of nearly her entire crew, does not argue much in favor of their gentleness.

Little and Grand Bereby are also important places, but the people are an unruly set, and capable, unless restrained by fear, of any deed of barbarity.

The visit of Commodore Reed, to Little Bereby some years ago and the punishment then inflicted upon the people for having murdered the crew of an American schooner, the Mary Carver, rendered them somewhat more docile, but in 1849, I found them not at all agreeable companions; especially was this the case at Grand Bereby, although no personal violence was offered, yet they seemed as wild and savage as any I have ever seen, even about the river St. Andrew, where foreigners seldom venture to pass the night on shore. Most of the trade at these points is monopolized by foreigners, but should Cape Palmas be made a port of entry at which all vessels trading within her territorial limits, must enter and pay duties, it might soon fall into posession of the Colonists, even without imposing upon foreigners any other restrictions. Indeed, in justice to the natives more should not be done, as the Colonists have not yet the capital and means of keeping the trade, were it now placed in their hands. This policy has been successfully adopted by the Republic, although many short sighted people were, and are still actuated by enough of the dog-in-the-manger spirit to oppose it. But intelligent and well informed business men, are fully convinced that the result has been beneficial to Liberians, who, while purchasing from the foreigners, can successfully compete with them, owing to their vessels sailing at so much less expense. When Liberia first declared her independence, the coastwise trade was carried on chiefly by foreigners, who seldom traded at ports of entry, and therefore paid no duties. Soon after the commercial treaty with England was consummated laws were made prohibiting their trading any where except at ports of entry, but though the provisions of these laws were such as to render them a mere formality, it was soon found necessary to alter them, and to place both citizens and foreigners upon an equal footing; yet for all that, many have closed their business with the natives, (if having a large amount of debts which it will be impossible for them ever to collect, can be so called,) and gone to other parts of the coast, so that now there are scarcely enough Liberian and Foreign vessels employed to supply the wants of trade. But the truth is, the trade is not sufficiently profitable to admit of vessels whose daily expenses may be from $25 to $50 per day, to pass days and weeks at anchor off native towns. It has in years past, been the custom of all foreign traders to be eight or twelve months in filling up their vessels with produce, but in those days, goods were sold at treble their present rates, and opposition was not so great. First class ships were not sent and as produce commanded a good price, the business paid well, notwithstanding the vast amounts thrown away in presents to the native Kings and head men. Now opposition has reduced prices, especially as the natives have no other means of

knowing the value of any article than that founded upon the price they have been accustomed to pay. The amount of dashes required, has not been lessened, neither has the increase of trade been great enough to permit of cargoes being collected, much more rapidly than formerly and the danger of loss by crediting has increased with opposition. A native rarely hesitates to sell his employers produce to any one who will give him ready money, his object being generally to make an additional profit for himself, by purchasing other produce previous to his employers return. But should he not succeed in again purchasing the same quantity before his arrival, it matters little, for the more a native owes the less likelihood there generally is of his failing to receive additional credit, for to cease crediting him, is almost to give up any claim to what he owes. 'Tis true that traders can and do retaliate upon each other, but opportunities for doing so are not always to be found, and herein lies the advantage of the Liberian, who is ever on the spot. At some points civilized men are employed as factory keepers, but that is scarcely a better plan than crediting a native, for the latter asks no pay, depending entirely upon profits gleaned from the bush people, presents and stealing; whereas the civilized man demands wages, and is obliged to dash the head men more and oftener than the other; and being necessarily a man of small ambition, (for none other can often be induced to fill such situations,) easily falls into extravagant habits peculiar to low minds. If a white man is employed, a sudden illness or death is likely to place his entire effects into the hands of the natives.

The Liberian having small boats, which can be cheaply manned, and only manned and in use when they can be profitably employed, to transport produce in small quantities from their native towns to their ports of entry—can make the business profitable. It matters but little whether he credits a native or not, so 'tis done with discretion; because he is looked upon as one who is ever to be at home, and one to whom payment must eventually be made, or the debtor be seriously annoyed; for should he, while owing a colonist, visit his place of residence to see relations, or to *made stranger*, as they term it, he would very likely be seized and lodged in jail, until friends at home made arrangements for the payment of his debts.

But when Cape Palmas makes these laws, can she compel foreigners to obey them? 'Tis doubtful if she can previous to making treaties with those governments whose citizens may find it for their interest to break them. To make such treaties would necessarily involve expense, and perhaps require in foreign countries the presence of a more capable man than the little State at this time possesses. If our government, notwithstanding the constant importunities of distinguised men, occupying high positions, both as philanthropists and politicians, has so long turned a deaf ear and refused to recognize the independence of Liberia, how can it be supposed that she will pursue a different course towards Cape Palmas; and will not the English, French and Prussian Governments, who have so cheerfully and promptly extended the hand of fellowship to Liberia, be ready to exclaim against the absurdity of there being two Republics in so limited an extent of territory, especially as the people of both have the same mother country, the same language and institutions, having escaped the same servitude and been planted there by associations so similar as to be called by one name, both having for their sole object, the elevation of the colored race? Well indeed might they do so.

When the Liberian Government was first established, it was done upon consolidated principles, none other could guarantee success, a majority of the people were not accustomed to mingle in politics and those who were, had merely experience enough to render them wayward and unsafe guides,

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