following fact: "In removing our school establishment up to Cape Mount, I had upwards of forty natives to carry my baggage, and though they had every opportunity to commit depredation, nothing was lost except *fifteen spelling-books*." At the departure of Mr. Ashmun for the United States, the whole government of the colony devolved upon Cary, and he conducted himself with such energy and wisdom as to do honor to his previous reputation, and fix the seal upon his enviable fame. His death, greatly lamented, was premature and unexpected. He was killed by an accidental explosion of powder when preparing to defend the colony from the hostility of natives and the slave-trader.

From the death of Cary, in 1828, till the arrival of Thomas Buchanan, in 1839, four gentlemen were sent from this country charged with the administration of the government—Dr. Richard Randall, Dr. Joseph Michlin, Jr., Rev. J. B. Pinney, Rev. Ezekiel Skinner, M. D. Dr. Skinner, whose impaired health obliged him to return to America in 1836, left the administration of affairs in the hands of a colonist, Rev. A. D. Williamson, who retained it for three years. During all this time, not only had emigration increased, but valuable accessions of territories had been made and new settlements commenced. In 1833, a valuable tract was purchased on the St. Johns River, and a settlement commenced at Edina.

In 1834, Cape Palmas was settled under the superintendence of Dr. James Hall, of Baltimore. In 1835, a settlement was made at Bassa Cove, and in 1836, Marshall, at the mouth of the Junk river, was commenced. The same year a tract of land was purchased on the Sinou river, and a settlement commenced under the auspices of the Mississippi Colonization Society, and in 1838, on the same river, five miles from its mouth, was commenced a second town.

The year 1839 was a new era in the history of Liberia, when the different colonies, except that of Maryland, were united under one government, styled the "Commonwealth of Liberia," and Thomas Buchanan appointed Governor, an office which he executed with dignity and usefulness for two years and a half. It was in discharge of duties connected with his honorable office that he lost his life. Deep was the sorrow of the Society at hearing of it, deeper still that of the Liberians as they laid in their own soil, beneath the tall trees, under whose shade in life he has often sat, the form of this noble man, whose life was the embodiment of his own words, "The work is God's to which I go, and is worthy of all sacrifice."

At the death of Buchanan, the government devolved upon General J. J. Roberts, the Lieutenant Governor, who was immediately appointed, by the Society at home, Governor. Mr. Roberts is a colored man, and emigrated to Liberia from Petersburgh, Va., in 1829. With dignity of manner he possesses great politeness, and with his intelligence is joined a becoming modesty and refinement of feeling. The dangers of his life have proved him brave. The perplexities of his position have assured us of his wisdom, while his entire successful career has marked him out as worthy of the high office to which he was inaugurated on the 3d of January, 1848, as President of the Republic of Liberia. This high office he still holds. Beloved and honored by his people, he claims the respect of nations. During his administration, native wars have been quelled, new towns and districts settled, and territories acquired. Three hundred thousand natives are, by treaty, brought within the influence of the Government, while ten thousand Liberians, living happily and religiously under a government modeled after our own, give promise of future greatness unequalled in the history of the colored race.

And here let me speak of Liberia *as it is;* for I am not a stranger in that *land of the free*. My vocation has called me to labor for four years on its shores.

Including the Maryland colony, its territory extends from the Shebar river on the north (near the British colony of Sierra Leone) a distance of about six hundred miles toward the south and east between the parallels of 4½ and 7½ degrees north latitude. Perpetual verdure clothes the ground, while the face of the country is diversified with gentle hills and sloping valleys. South of the Junk river are two remarkable peaks with a depressed ridge between, called Saddle Hill, towering above the sea of verdure and measuring one thousand and seventy feet in height. Along the Bassa coast, a range of hills, about twenty miles interior, is observed, while further below are hills and peaks, the highest of which rises eight hundred and eighty feet. The trees are covered with the richest foliage, while vines of luxuriant growth hang gracefully from the branches. Along the coast the country has been under native cultivation at different times, and after yielding its first crop it is abandoned, and a new clearing made for the succeeding one. Thus few remains of the primitive forests can be found till you ascend the rivers; here they are seen in all their grandeur and beauty. Says Bishop Scott: "The climate, in my opinion, is healthy, much more so than that of our southern coast. I never saw a more vigorous and healthy people than the natives, nor did I ever see the human form better developed. The acclimated colonists, too, enjoy excellent health. As to emigrants from another clime, they must pass through a process of acclimation which will, in general, be severe or otherwise, according to their own habits."

Between twenty and thirty rivers, flowing into the Atlantic, water the country, the chief of which are the St. Pauls, the Junk, the St. Johns, the Michlin, the Sinou, and the Cavally. Almost all are obstructed by bars at their mouths, and I know of none navigable, except for boats, more than thirty or forty miles. Yet access is thus afforded to the interior, and the valuable productions of the country may thus be easily brought to the seaboard. Most of them flow through lands rich and fruitful, though untouched by the hand of civilization and industry. Not so with the St. Pauls, a beautiful stream, deep and placid, whose banks are studded with comfortable dwellings, many of which are of brick. About four hundred farms are located on the river, on which reside more than three thousand cultivators. Land is sold at forty and fifty dollars per acre. The soil is a loamy clay, equal in fertility to the best sugar lands in Brazil. In 1852, about 9000lbs. of sugar were made on the St. Pauls; it is of good quality, light in color, and well granulated as the best Porto Rico. This present season, fifty new sugar forms were to be laid out, and large corn fields may now be seen waving in every direction.

But the most important article that can be raised, and that which will probably become the great staple of the country, is *Coffee*. It is an indigenous plant, and can be cultivated to any extent; it is of excellent quality, equal to the Mocha. Beyond keeping the land clear when it is planted, it requires comparatively little care; it is beginning to be extensively cultivated, particularly at Bassa, many of the Liberians having from 1,000 to 15,000 trees. *Cotton*, too, of various qualities, can be raised to any extent. The English are encouraging its cultivation, and have an agent on the coast with a small vessel at his command, going from place to place distributing seed and urging its culture.

To the agriculturist, Liberia presents an inviting field. Besides these great staples, sugar, cotton, and coffee, there can be raised to an indefinite amount, rice, cocoa, ginger, pepper, groundnuts, and arrow root. The plant from which indigo is made is one of the commonest about the country.

Besides nearly all our garden vegetables, those peculiar to the tropics may be abundantly cultivated.

Maryland Historical Society

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