The critical reader is ready to exclaim, oh, a "Colonization Agent," then his testimony goes for nothing. Not so, and the one who so thinks, knows not the author and has not read his book.

Mr. Cowan is a very peculiar man, and one not at all likely to bepraise his own cause or his own works, rather the reverse. He says he has "labored for twelve years in the Colonization cause, with mind, heart and body;" but Mr. C's labor in Colonization could not be called *associated labor;* rather like the Yankee soldier, he has generally fought on "*his own hook.*" He is a straight forward matter-of-fact man, clear-headed but somewhat pragmatic and opinionative, not likely to adopt another man's views or follow his lead, unless he saw clearly that all was right. He never seemed to us, to be entirely satisfied with Liberia, with what had been done, or with what was being done. The conflicting reports from the other side, of agents, emigrants, missionaries and others, served much to confound and disturb him, and at times raised doubts in his mind, if the cause or the Republic were really worthy of his labor and care. He seemed to be involved in a kind of moral thimble-ring game, and was determined to go and satisfy himself where the little joker really was.

Mr. C. must therefore be considered as an impartial observer, rather disposed, or we should say, prone, to find fault than approve. Of his ability to examine into and judge of matters affecting the interests of a cause so important, and the existence and permanency of a Government, one must know the man or read his book, in order to be able to decide; but twelve years labor, procuring and despatching emigrants, receiving their reports of success and failure, wants, content or dissatisfaction, would prepare one for going to work understandingly, and would enable him to investigate all matters in regard to which there existed doubts and difference of opinion. Mr. Cowan therefore went to Liberia *prepared* for observation, as a lawyer or physician examining a case in which he is well read, or a naturalist a specimen with the qualities of which the books have before made him acquainted. He went there with an intelligent, honest, unbiassed mind, determined to see and examine for himself, and truly to report what he saw, and *this he has done.* More than this: his work evinces not only intelligence and honesty, but industry almost incredible. He not only tells the truth, but the *whole* truth. As accompanying and confirmatory evidence of truthfulness, he gives names, dates, localities, and every minute circumstance in detail, as the temperature of the air, of the water in the various springs and rivers; the kinds and qualities of food eaten each day, the dimensions, to inches, of the different animals, the height and diameter of trees, in fact, all the minutiæ of events and things attendant upon a six weeks visitation of the Liberian coast and daily rambles on shore among the people. Mr. Cowan also availed himself of all means of obtaining statistics of every kind, from the different officers of the Government, and from those of the petty towns and districts; he also had recourse, on his passage out and home, to the Ship's Library, containing Colonization Reports, a file of the African Repository, Encyclopedia, works on Natural History, &c. From all

which sources he has condensed about as many facts, important and trivial, into his little volume, as 180 pages could well contain.

Yet with all our confidence in the ability and integrity of Mr. Cowan we do not vouch for the entire correctness of all his statements, whether derived from his own observation, that of others, or the official statistics which he so freely quotes. Although figures, of themselves, will not lie, yet they are not always so placed as to tell the truth, and no doubt, many of the records from which he copies may have been carelessly made up, yet, as a general rule they are probably correct. So of his statements from personal observation, we notice many trifling errors and inaccuracies, possibly typographical in part, but just enough to answer two purposes, viz. to act the part of exceptions to a general law, proving its correctness in the main, and to show Mr. Cowan that the discrepancies in the writings and reports of his predecessors implied not necessarily wilful misrepresentations.

Treating Mr. Cowan as fairly as he has the Liberians, we will notice a few errors which occurred to us on first reading his book, most of them trivial to be sure but still errors. Taking them in order in which they occur, on page 10, in speaking of the allowance for emigrants, he gives, "each one in the mess a pint of molasses or a pound of sugar each day." We trust emigrants will not claim this liberal allowance hereafter. On page 11, in speaking of the Cape de Verd Islands, he says, "only two of them are seen on the passage," implying that those two are always seen, whereas, others or none, may be made or seen, according to the general course of the vessels. On page 10, "St. Jago de Cuba is an Island in this cluster;" again, on the same page, Fuego or Fogo is canonized as St. Fogo—not, we presume, from any tendency to Catholicity in Mr. Cowan. On page 14, he places the territory of the Kroos in Bassa County, whereas, it is below Sinou. The rate of salaries of officers of the Society is rather loosely given on page 17. "The American Colonization Society pays from $1200 to $1500 dollars to the Doctor, the Agents and Nurses who attend every emigration that occupies the Receptacle for six months." Is this $1200 or $1500 to one or all, for one year or six months? On page 24, "perhaps more rice is raised back of Cape Mount than in any other district in Liberia;" not so, Cape Palmas and its vicinity is the great rice growing region. In times of the slave trade, vessels loaded here with rice for Gallinas and the vicinity of Cape Mount. On page 55 our old friend Zion Harris is located and killed by lightning, in Caldwell, whereas, he was one of the founders of Clay-Ashland, and there lived and was there killed. Mr. Cowan makes the peach tree twelve feet high—he might as well have measured a native boy and said, the Native African is two feet long, for the tree bearing the fruit he describes, called the African peach, grows to the height of sixty feet or more, and is not unlike our maple in size. "Lagos," says Mr. Cowen, "lies on the southern coast of Africa, four hundred miles from Cape Palmas." It lies in the Bight of Benin, and over one thousand miles distant. On page 77, in speaking of the Harmattan winds, he says that "they blow at the time the land breeze blows, and rarely much

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XII. Newspapers
A. Maryland Colonization Journal

2. June 1841 (n.s. I, 1)--May 1861 (n.s. X, 24)

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