Coffee.—Mr. C. pays much attention to the production of this article, and gives a description of the African plant or tree.

"Coffee trees grow well on this clay soil. They were in bloom, and yet the coffee from last year's bloom was ripening to pick next month. The blossom comes out for the next crop either above or below, as the case may be, where the coffee berries are ripening from last year's blossoming. The trees are planted from May to October. Three hundred and twenty trees can be profitably put on an acre of ground, which is fifteen feet apart. The tree bears in three years, and continues to bear in greater quantity to its seventh year, when it is in its prime. If the trees were trimmed, and not suffered to grow so high, (some of them grow to the height of thirty feet,) no question they would yield better; and certainly the coffee could be gathered cheaper in time and labor. There are two kinds raised in Liberia; but I think the difference is mostly in the size of the coffee, and the color of the shell. It blooms every new moon in January, February and March, and blossoms slightly in April, May and June. The chief of the blossoms put forth in January and February, and in these months the heavest gathering of coffee are made. Owing to the trees blossoming other months than January, February and March, there will be coffee on the trees almost every month in the year. Eight to ten pounds can be taken from a tree five years old that is well attended to. Some say they have taken twelve pounds from a tree. The coffee is of the very best kind. Coffee can be raised in Liberia at eight cents per pound, at great profit. What is wanted in Liberia in regard to raising coffee is better tillage of the ground, more faithful picking of the coffee, a machine that will separate the shell from the coffee, and merchants who will buy all that is brought in for sale. At present there is no inducement held out to the farmer to gather what his trees *do yield.* The merchants give fourteen to eighteen cents a pound for what little they buy. They do not buy to send to our market, because of the price that Rio and West India coffee will command in our markets. In other countries they put out five hundred and thirty to six hundred trees to an acre, but the yield is not as great to the tree as in Liberia. In Java the yield to a tree is estimated at two and a half pounds; in Venezula, two pounds; in Jamaica, one and a half pounds; St. Domingo, one pound, and in Rio-Janeiro, two pounds. The Java coffee (the coffee to which that of Liberia is compared in size and quality) can be raised for five cents per pound." [*Encyc.*]

Why he says above, that "At present there is no inducement to the farmer to gather what his trees do yield," we are at a loss to imagine, for he immediately afterwards adds: "The merchants give from fourteen to eighteen cents per pound for what little they buy." Again, in another place, he says: "If merchants would buy coffee—for example, giving eleven cents cash for it—it would, no doubt, make a change in the agriculture of this land." We hesitate not to guarantee twelve and a half cents, cash, for all good clean "Liberian Mocha coffee," that from the large tree described by Mr. C., to be received and paid for in any port in Liberia, from this time onward, and we have many times paid twenty cents per pound for it.

Mr. Cowan also visited President Benson's coffee farm:

"The farm has its greatest interest in the fact that it is the largest coffee farm in Liberia. It is estimated there are over ten thousand coffee trees

on the farm. Perhaps not more than fifteen hundred are good bearing trees. The trees looked healthy, the orchard was clean of grass and weeds, and the sand was white, with a very slight appearance of mold. The coffee looked well, and the kernels fine and large. Children were hired to pick the coffee from the trees. The gentleman who had charge of the farm, was very polite and attentive in showing us the grounds. He found it difficult in getting a *clean* pick of the coffee from the trees. He showed to us the mill used to separate the shell from the coffee. It was similar to a fanning mill, except the fans were taken out, and a cylinder, eight inches in diameter, covered with a piece of tin punctured like unto a grater, was in their place. In front was an inclined board, with a similar piece of punctured tin, which inclination was so brought down as to leave a space large enough for the coffee to pass through rasped, if I may so term, it, out of the shell. It served a good purpose, but left particles of the shell on the husk of the coffee, in proportion to their dryness when thrown into the hopper."

Near the close of his book, Mr. Cowan remarks: "Many of the statements we have had about her agricultural state have been too high colored." This we acknowledge, as one who has *made statements* about Liberia, but we claim it for ourself, and for others to whom the remark may, with the same justice, be applied, that we have erred more in saying what *might* be done and what we *hoped and believed would* be done, rather than in telling what had been done. We mean to say, for ourself, at least, that we have not knowingly or wilfully misrepresented or overcolored. We were led to make the quotation above, and these remarks, as prefatory to an extract we now make from Mr. Cowan's book, from which we conceive he runs about as deeply into it, as have any of his predecessors. He speculates as to what can be done so easy, under certain circumstances, but, in our opinion, a little less likely to be fulfilled to the letter, than that the Yorkshireman could "drive his pig straight through Lunnun."

"2. What an emigrant can have for his support in Liberia. It is due to Liberia to state what she will do for an *industrious settler* on her soil. He arrives in Liberia with his family with $200. During his first week's residence in the Receptacle he makes a selection of his ten acres of land, and gets his certificate for it. He buys a yoke of cattle for $35 00, and with his family force he commences to clear an acre of land. In three weeks he has burnt off the wood, and with an outlay of $20 00 he has the acre cleared and a house put up that will answer his purpose until he is better able to put up a better building. During this month he has boarded with his family in the Receptacle. And during this time his family has planted corn, cassada, sweet potatoes, yams, beans, peas, cabbage, eddoes, and melons of different kinds, in their due proportion; and they have placed here and there, near to the house, a few plantains, bananas, chiotes, pawpaw, granadilla, and sour sop cions, with two cions each of mango plum, orange and ocra. He moves into his house, and draws rations for himself and family for each week for five months to come, to be cooked by his family or used as he shall judge best. What he does want he eats; what he does not want he sells, or barters for what he wants, whether it be work or articles of Liberian growth. He puts on his place hens to furnish him in due time with eggs and chickens, and a sow that will present him in due time with a litter of pigs. His outlay

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XII. Newspapers
A. Maryland Colonization Journal

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

1858