the occasion by suddenly exclaiming, "What a fine night to set for deer!" That was the extent of his appreciation of the magnificent scenery above us; but *risum teneatis:*

"For Knowledge to his eyes her ample page,
Rich with the spoils of time, did ne'er unroll."

Having enjoyed our excellent coffee—a delightful prophylactic against hunger and cold—we felt prepared for the jaunt. The wagon was now loaded; bundles, boxes, tin buckets, trunks, *et id omne genus*, comprised the burden. Some of the boys, apprehensive that they might be called upon to "carry," kept packing every little article into the wagon, until an irritable fellow who was to render service in the harness cried out Bucka! Bucka! (*Oh! jam satis.*) The ladies were then requested to take their seats in the wagon, which they did. Col. Yates and myself walked

THE OLD FIELD.

Io triumphe! On we went across the old field—a pleasant land breeze blowing. On all sides the view was beautiful. The grass stretching out in every direction, having been refreshed by the recent rains, appeared of a charming verdure and luxuriance. The old field is not, however, as we had supposed, one extensive, uninterrupted plain of grass unrelieved by any shrub or tree. There are frequent depressions and elevations, and here and there, may be seen oases of large, stately trees, which, in the heat of the day, afford an agreeable and recuperative shade to the weary traveler. We did not find the walk as tedious as it had been represented; owing, however, no doubt to the early hour of the day. It was ten minutes after five when we left Mr. Barker's, and at a quarter after six we were on the other side of the field at the head of the

JUNK RIVER.

We were detained here a little while fixing the boat, and making other necessary arrangements. At ten minutes after seven we were fairly on the way to our destination; but we were interrupted, annoyed, and detained, during at least an hour, by the difficult narrows which we encountered. For more than a mile of the way, neither oars nor paddles were of any service. The boys were obliged to get into the water and tow the boat along over logs and old stumps. What a blessing it would be to the poor hard working men whose business compels them to travel this route, if these obstructions were removed! How would travelling in this direction be facilitated! What time and labor would be saved! After being delivered from these difficult places we entered the main branch of the Junk river, and proceeded quietly along until we came to what is called

THE "CUT-OFF."

This is a canal running across a peninsula formed by a horse shoe bend of the Junk river; and by passing through which three miles of the river are *cut off*, and at least an hour's pull saved. Through this canal the boys were again obliged to tow the boat, but we were soon once more in the river. Our course was now uninterrupted, and we glided pleasantly on the bosom of a broad, deep river, whose banks were margined now with the dense mangrove, and now with large magnificent trees. The Junk river, as the traveler leaves the intricacies at the head, begins gradually to enlarge in volume, until suddenly there breaks forth upon the astonished gaze a broad, bold current sometimes nearly a mile in width.

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E. W. Blyden.

From the New York Colonization Journal.

STATE OF SOCIETY IN AFRICA.

The Courier and Enquirer has given some facts within a few past weeks, to show that the state of society in some parts of Africa is far superior to that which it is generally represented to be, throughout the extensive regions inhabited by the black race, by those Americans who are now advocating the re-opening of the inhuman and piratical business of the slave-trade. The brief accounts which were then presented of the civilized habits which have prevailed in the powerful kingdom of Footah during centuries, including the general establishment of public schools and seminaries of learning, with the facts stated respecting the people of Yoruba, &c., offer sufficient grounds to pronounce an indignant denial of the sweeping charges made and repeated by selfish and hard-hearted men on this side of the Atlantic against the Africans, of being sunk in the lowest depths of barbarism. But we have other evidences, from other sources, well worthy of serious attention and practical application, two of which may be here briefly presented.

In the first place we learn from certain information that numbers of Africans, who have been recaptured within a few years by British cruisers from slave ships, and placed in the West Indies, under the system established by law, are acknowledged to be superior, physically and morally, to even the better classes of natural-born American negroes in the islands and on the mainland. This has been satisfactorily proved within a few years by practical tests, which no man acquainted with the circumstances and the highly respectable character of the testimony will undertake to question.

In the course of the various kinds of excavations, constructions, and other laborious employments required on the Isthmus of Panama, the capacities and characters of men of various countries and races have been put to the most severe and impartial tests; and, although the black race generally have been found to endure the climate best, and the native Jamaica negroes have been proved to be among the most able of these, there has been another set of men, of the same color, who decidedly surpass them in every respect as useful laborers. These are the re-captured Africans above mentioned, several hundreds of whom have been employed on the various kinds of works, and with uniform success. Of this the best evidence is found in the facts that they have the decided preference, and regularly command the highest prices, indeed higher than any other class of men. They are generally of a physical constitution decidedly superior, being tall, well proportioned, finely developed, of great strength and superior power of endurance. And in their character and habits they have equally the pre-eminence, being quiet, orderly, cheerful, patient at heavy and long continued labor, and decent and cleanly in their persons. They keep much by themselves, partly from their general ignorance of the languages spoken by others, and partly because they do not conform to the lower, more degraded, slothful habits so fixed upon the ignorant and degraded victims of hereditary slavery. A chief recommendation of these respectable strangers, however, is their prevailing morality. They are not addicted to the vices which so much prevail among the other classes of poor around them on the Isthmus, and are as much distinguished by their sobriety and decency as many others are by their intemperance and other vicious practices.

In intelligence and good feelings, also, these native Africans present themselves in an interesting point of view. In interviews which they

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