Committees, of a large profusion of plaintain, bananas, oranges, plums, cocoa-nuts, and various fruits of less importance.

There were several specimens of chocolate richer than any of foreign manufacture, but not having that fineness of preparation for which the latter is remarkable.

ROPE FROM A NATIVE PLANT.

Col. Yates exhibited some of the material, and some of the rope of his own manufacture, from a leaf called by the Kroomen, *caffier*. This leaf is from a plant growing on our beach, the root of which is used for bait by the fishermen, and the fibre of the leaf is very long, strong, and of a flax appearance. It must necessarily become an important article of domestic use, and if very abundant, one of commerce.

PRODUCTS OF THE LOOM.

Last year, a few yards of cloth woven from African cotton by a Liberian lady were exhibited at the Fair. This year, several pieces of cotton cloth, twenty yards each in length, and of the same material, were exhibited, woven by different ladies, and also pieces of carpet. Besides this, pantaloons, coats and vests were exhibited, which were the product of persons who grew the cotton, cleaned it, made the cloth and the clothes. The looms on which the cloth was woven were made by our own Liberian mechanics. It is very pleasing to know that, in the event of any difficulty that might occur to prevent for a time the intercourse of foreign nations, we might fall back on our own manufacturing resources.

CABINET FURNITURE AND MACHINERY.

In the mechanical department there was a very large wardrobe, made of different kinds of fine and beautiful grained wood of our Liberian forest, executed in a style and finish equal to some of our best imported furniture. There were also bedsteads, chairs and other articles of furniture, as well as many specimens of machinery for different purposes, which, from their apparent utility, gave much credit to their inventors. These were evidences that there was among the people a mechanical inventive genius, which needs only the encouraging and fostering hand of patronage, to enable it to produce the most astonishing results. There can be scarcely a doubt that there are mechanics amongst us not inferior in their line to the best in America.

LADIES' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FAIR.

The contributions of the ladies with reference to domestic economy, formed a department in itself equally interesting. There were vests, collars, capes, caps, bonnets, quilts, skirts, and various minor articles of the toilet and paraphernalia of the ladies, skillfully embroidered, tastefully and elegantly wrought, evincing not only their ability and skill, but their patriotic and common interest in whatever pertains to the prosperity of the sterner sex, and the success and good fortune of our common country. Our hard-working mechanics and farmers have reason to thank the Government that it has induced the ladies to discover their latent powers and capacity, by which they will be able to produce, by their own industry, in future, many costly articles which they formerly demanded from abroad.

The ladies also produced several kinds of preserves, of fruits from our own gardens and forests, and some good articles of wine, cordials, candies, and pickles.

CATTLE, SWINE, SHEEP, AND FOWLS.

The exhibition of cattle, swine, sheep, goats and fowls was not what it would have been, if the Committee had thought in time to appoint a special day for that purpose. The want of this arrangement prevented many persons who had prepared to exhibit, from getting their animals to the Fair.

PRESSED BRICKS.

Mr. Roe exhibited some of the finest specimens of pressed bricks that have ever been made in this country, others exhibiting good qualities of common brick.

MINERALS.

There were some specimens of iron ore, weighing one hundred and fifty pounds, supposed to be the best ever found in this vicinity.

There were other mineral specimens, about which, the Committee, for want of a better knowledge of mineralogy and chemical philosophy, have not ventured an opinion.

COUNTY REPORTS.

It may be proper to state here, that for reasons unknown to us, there was no report received from the Agricultural Committee of Maryland County. The reports from the Committees from Sinoe and Grand Bassa are stated in order under the list of premiums which accompanies this report. We also beg leave to refer your excellency to the list of premiums for the enumerations of the several awards, made according to our judgment in accordance with the Act, as well as those left to our discretion. The entire number of articles exhibited was ———, on most of which premiums of a greater or less amount were awarded.

GOOD EFFECTS OF THE FAIR.

We could not feel that we had discharged our whole duty, if we failed to acknowledge our firm conviction that the National Fair has created a new epoch in the history of agricultural, scientific and mechanical industry in Liberia—that it has aroused the slumbering energies of the people, and inspired them with new motives and impulses to generous action—that it has settled many disputed questions in regard to the fertility of the soil and the capacities of the people—that it has, in fine, accomplished the great purposes which the Legislature, your excellency, and the officers associated with you, aimed to effect.

The Committee are of opinion that the only objection to raising live stock in greater numbers, consists in the difficulty of obtaining durable and cheap fences in this country, and that some cheap system of fencing is indispensable to the success of every farmer.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE.

In conclusion, your Committee beg leave to submit to your excellency the following recommendations:

1st. That should there be at any time any enactment amendatory to the present Act, that it be made to encourage the growing of palm-hedges as fences, which thus far have proved to be the best. Let the first quality be a lot of ten acres of close hedge, free from breaches, capable of turning any kind of live stock, also ten acres of younger growth, with gradations in quality, as in other cases.

2d. That the Fair, in future, shall be opened on Tuesday instead of Monday.

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)

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