mouth, Marion and Vincennes. By the joint treaty with England, the United States are required to keep on that coast a force of eighty guns—whereas by this arrangement of the Government, the number will be one hundred and sixteen—it being thirty-six more than the treaty requires.—Besides, these vessels are said to draw less water than those heretofore employed in the service, and being propelled by steam, they possess a very decided advantage. Moreover, the depot of the squadron is to be at Loando instead of Porto Prayo, which is in the immediate neighborhood of the principal slave marts. It is quite obvious, that a squadron whose head quarters is within some three hundred miles of the principal points of the traffic, will be able to effect more than one two thousand miles away. Nor is this all the provision made to suppress the traffic.—There is to be an efficient naval force on our own coast for the purpose. This force will be composed of the steamers, Crusader, Mohawk, Wyandotte, and Fulton; and will cruise about Cuba with a view to intercept any slavers which may escape the vigilance of the squadron on the coast of Africa.

Inasmuch, then, as Congress long ago enacted a law declaring the slave trade to be piracy, and inasmuch as the Administration has just adopted so efficient measures for its suppression, I humbly ask what special call there is for memorials in this behalf? Even if the traffic had been revived to the extent supposed, what more could reasonably be desired of the Government to prevent it, than has already been done? But the truth is, much that has been said on the subject is mere rumor—having no foundation in fact. Not only is there no reliable testimony that a single cargo of negroes has of late been imported into the United States, except the Wanderer's, but proof is yet wanting that the traffic is more extensive on the Coast of Africa than it was many years ago. The whole number of negroes thus captured and shipped from that continent, cannot be less than 10,000,000—some say 15,000,000—a very large proportion of whom were doubtless taken from a line of coast of a few hundred miles north of the equator, where the trade is now entirely suppressed by the introduction of Christian civilization, which is the result of the scheme of African colonization. The traffic is now mostly confined to some three or four hundred miles of the Coast, south of the equator—embracing the mouth of the river Congo, where the "Echo's" cargo were captured, and not far from the present depot of the African squadron.

The great market for slaves is the island of Cuba; and since the door was closed against their importation into Brazil, it may be said that island alone has sustained the traffic. But this communication, you may think, is already too long. I will therefore close by saying: In all this matter of slavery and the slave trade, let good men who know not what to do, beware, lest they do they know not what! JOHN ORCUTT.

Hartford, Oct. 24, 1859.

From the Cavalla Messenger.

The following article is from the pen of Mr. P. B. Duchailler, who has spent about four years in Africa, in the neighborhood of the Gaboon. Sometimes he has penetrated three or four hundred miles into the interior in pursuit of objects of interest to the naturalist. A large quantity of specimens of natural history he has sent to the United States. In one of his tours he visited the Ashira country which he thus describes:

"THE ASHIRA COUNTRY —As I was travelling into the interior of Africa through the immense forests situated in the Kong mountains, I was suddenly startled by one of the most beautiful sights I have ever witnessed in this or other counties. Suddenly I came in sight of one of the most lovely prairies I ever saw. I was then standing on the top of a magnificent hill, and at my feet the prairie was spread as a carpet of green velvet. It was not a flat prairie as we are accustomed to see in America, but it extends through the hills and dales of the mountains, as far as the eyes could reach, and was adorned by beautiful and limpid little streams, and lovely ponds, in which wild ducks were enjoying themselves; the prairie was dotted here and there with clusters of trees.

Villages were scattered all over it; some situated at the top of high hills, others in the valleys. They were in all about ten hundred, each of them surrounded by hundreds and thousands of plantain-trees. Every where could be seen fields of corn, manioc, ground-nuts, sugar-cane, squash, tobacco and even cotton, and the whole surrounded by the great and majestic forest which seemed to shut out this country from the world. This prairie was about fifty miles long, and from eight to twelve miles wide. At each end of it were mountains, the blue outlines of which lost themselves in the distance.

One of these mountains is called by the natives Nkoumou-Nabouali, and rises at an immense height. The credulous natives have assured me that there dwells a spirit there which keeps the path, and consequently in their superstitious fears they have never crossed that part of the mountain. Opposite the other side of the prairie are the Ofoubou Orere and Ondele mountains, not so high, not so imposing as the Nkoumou-Nabouali, but more lovely, more picturesque; the prairie seems to give it homage as it comes by gradual, gentle and undulating slopes at its very base.

This prairie is the Ashira country, and is inhabited by the people of that name, and proud are they of this country, of its beauty and of its fertility. The people are more industrious than a great many other tribes around them.

A few days before I went to their country, I had sent word to their chief that I would go and visit him. Then as soon as the people of the nearest villages perceived me coming out of the forest their shouts resounded soon from village to village, and the firing of muskets announced to the whole population that a white man had come into their country. All the people were in a state of intense excitement; all wanted to see the white man of whom they had only heard before. Goats, fowls, plaintains, sugar-cane, ground-nuts and mats were given to me as presents by the chief of the village.

Every man I saw was neatly dressed with their own country-made cloth, not made of cotton, but made of a kind of grass, decorated beautifully.

But the longer I staid among the Ashira people, the more did I perceive that they were poor and ignorant heathens, having the same vices and superstitions as any other tribe in Africa, among whom the light of the Gospel of our Lord has not penetrated, and I prayed then the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers into His vineyard, that they too in this beautiful country might hear of the good tidings of Salvation.

CAPE PALMAS, *July 4th*, 1859. P. B. DUCHAILLER.

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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