be procured. Coal, from all the information we can gather, will be found in the greatest abundance. Mr. Gardner's letter is not the first, we have seen, containing the news of the existence of these rich productions in our country. Many of the old, intelligent and creditable natives fully corroborate all that is said in reference to these articles abounding in the Bassa country; and we are justified in concluding, that during the dries, the evidences of the existence of these valuable articles will be made apparent to every body.

Coal, of itself, if found in large quantities, will bring into the general treasury an annual revenue far exceeding in amount the calculations of the most sanguine. It will give a notoriety and an importance to our country, that cannot now be imagined. How highly necessary and important for the general good, that strenuous efforts be adopted for the speedy confirmation of the truth, that these rich deposits do actually exist in Liberia.

The following is the letter referred to.

His Excellency S. A. Benson, *President:*

Sir,—In compliance with my promise to you, under date of the 10th instant, I beg to respond to the subject matter contained in your letters, under date of the 4th instant. I beg to inform you that I have seen Mr. Johnson, and requested him to send or go for the "limestone and marble." He, in reply, says he will go for it as soon as he can be spared from his work on the M. E. Church. He represents the "limestone and marble" as being two hours walk from Gees old town—the place of your purchase for the New Jersey settlement. He is confident, from his knowledge of "limestone and marble," that the ledge of rocks that he saw in going out last year to Gordoo's place, is the pure "limestone and marble," and he regards it as a valuable acquisition to Liberia. He says he examined the spot, and that he tried the marble by rubbing it, and it presented a smooth surface—presenting in every aspect the "marble." He also examined other stone, such as he could get at, and he found the grey limestone, which also appeared to be in great abundance. He has given me his word that he will go out and get a slab of "marble," as much as one man can carry—as also the "limestone."

While John Ashmun was here on a visit, I showed him and others the piece of "coal" from Williams, and on examining it, he said there was a quantity of it in the New Cess country, only that in the New Cess country was a little heavier and not quite so dark; he said that the Spaniards told him it was coal, such as is used on board of steam vessels. Ashmun and several other head-men said that the hill containing this substance, which the Spaniards called "coal," seems to be very abundant. He promises to send me a "king-jar" of it for examination. I told him if it turned out to be coal, I would send a number of persons to dig, and ascertain the fact, and it was likely the persons would be there working some two or three weeks; and I also promised to give him, in the event of the fact being demonstrated on the spot, five and twenty kroos, between thirty and forty dollars of assorted goods. He then told me to get the goods ready, for he was certain of getting the premium. I can only say, I hope it may be so.

Owing to the incessant rains, I could not make it convenient to visit the spot said to contain coal, lying between Marda's and softly John's town, but as soon as the weather will permit, I intend to visit the place, and if there is anything like Coal to be found, I will forward the specimens to you without delay. * * * * * *

Ashmun sends word to day, that he will visit me again in a few days, if allowed to pass by Wee's, and that he will bring the *article coal.* While writing, his boy has just arrived and tells me that Ashmun has sent his people to collect some of the Coal, and he will bring it in a few days, provided Wee will allow him pass. If I could be certain that the substance referred to is Coal, I would incur the expense of sending out an American to see and examine the spot. But I am not certain about it as I have not seen the thing spoken of, consequently I am afraid to incur the expense.

Mr. Adams, the bearer of this letter, brings the Election returns, and from what I can learn, I am again returned to the House of Representatives much against my own feelings; but to serve the people and your worthy administration, I consented to serve, God being my helper, another term.

I am sir, your obedient servant, A. W. Gardner.

Near one year since, it was announced that coal, bituminous coal, had been discovered in Liberia, in many places, and a sample of very fine Cannel coal, we presume, stolen from some English Steamer, was sent home in the ship.

Now we have Mr. Gardner's letter, of no date, but probably written in July or August, stating that limestone and coal are to be found in plenty, and in various locations; the coal right under his nose, in Bassa Co., yet he does not satisfy himself of the *fact*, because it rains—and here comes the ship home, with dates to Feb. 1st., and no satisfaction about coal yet. Mr. Gardner in the mean time, goes up to Monrovia as a Legislator, to serve his country and "worthy administration"—"God being his helper," and leaves the coal question unsettled.

If the "Hills" of the "New Cess Country," as Mr. Gardner's John Ashmun says, contain coal, it would be worth more to Liberia than all else in Liberia—save the people themselves. Can it be possible, that Mr. Gardner and other people of Bassa Co., believe in the existence of coal and limestone near them, and still potter about their little business without investigating the truth of the matter.

Grinding Season.—Our farmers on the St. Paul's River, have commenced grinding and manufacturing their sugar cane. The cane crops are fifty per cent. more extensive than last season, are in a more healthy looking condition and promise a much greater supply of sugar, syrup and molasses than we have yet had.

Our farmers are getting fairly awake to this sugar making business, theoretically and practically, profiting more and more by every season's experience considering, that experience was the only school they had, they have improved greatly on their sugar cane manufacturing of last year, which was no ways bad; and this season with a much larger quantity, we will have a much better quality. Now is a time for our advice—as to the keeping of a regular account by the farmer, as to the average yield of a given quantity of cane—in sugar, syrup or molasses; the average cost of production and manufacturing, bringing to market, &c.; the average quantity of watery and woody substance in the cane; and all such things, which are indispensable to the making up of future statistics, as well as to a thorough knowledge of the profitableness of the business you are engaged in.

Maryland Historical Society

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