(HILARY TEAGE EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

VOL. XII.

MONROVIA, LIBERIA,

(WEST-AFRICA)

SEPTEMBER 30, 1843. NO. 8.

THE LIBERTA HERALD IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY IN MONROVIA.

LEVI D. JAMES-PRINTER. TERMS-ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS a year pay able in advance. All communications relating to the Herald must be

addressed to H. Teage, Monrovia. All communications for insertion must be post paid. Colonial subscribers will pay to H. Teage, Monro-via, Louis Sheridan, Esq. Basa Cove, Judge Hanson,

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LIBERIA BIDRALD.

INDULGENCES. 1517—1518.

opened a vast market on the earth. Judging great salvation: I protest that though you should led, offering it at a reduced price, was, said they, given all power to the Pope!" the salvation of souls!

great state, and spending freely One might of St. Peter and St. Paul is to be restored, so have thought it some dignitary on a royal pro- as to be unparalleled in the whole earth. That gress, with his attendants and officers, and not | church contains the bodies of the holy apostles, | had an income of 200 florins, one; the rest, half a common dealer, or a begging monk. When Peter and Paul, and a vast company of martyrs. a florin And further, if this scale could not in the procession approached a town, a messenger Those sacred bodies, owing to the present con- every instance he observed, full power was waited on the magistrate: "The grace of God, dition of the edifice, are now, alas! continually given to the apostolic commissary, and the and of the Holy Father, is at your gates!" said trodden, flooded, polluted, dishonored, and rot- whole might be arranged according to the dic the envoy. Instantly every thing was in motion | ting in rain and hail. Ah! shall those holy | tates of sound reason, and the generosity of the operation-succeeds well, but some times it totally in the place. The clergy, the priests, the nuns, ashes be suffered to remain degraded in the giver. For particular sins Tetzel had a private the council, the school-masters, the trades, with | mire?"? their flags,-men and women, young and old, that," says an historian, "they could not have the bodies of St. Peter and St. Paul! given a grander welcome to God himself" Sal- | The speaker proceeded to declaim against the bull of grace was borne in front, on a velvet | them all excommunicated!" cushion, or on cloth of gold. The chief vender | Then turning to the docile souls among his of indulgences followed, supporting a large red | hearers, and impiously perverting the Scriture: in this manner, amidst singing, prayers, and the | see what you see, for I tell you that many prolively sensation in the quiet towns of Germany.

Pope's arms suspended upon it, Tetzel ascend- horns" The moment he had made an end, he ed the pulpit, and, with a bold tone, began, in came down the steps of the pulpit, ran towards the presence of the crowd whom the ceremony | the strong box, and in sight of all the people, had drawn to the sacred spot, to exalt the efficacy of indulgences. The people listened and wondered at the admirable virtues ascribed to them. A Jesuit historian says himself, in speaking of the Dominician friars whom Tetzel had associated with him:-"Some of these preachers did not fail, as usual, to distort their subject, and so to exaggerate the value of the indulgences as to lead the people to believe that. as soon as they gave their money, they were certain of salvation and of the deliverance of ries, or absolving priests of Rome, at the period sary gave out the psalm, "Miserere mei." The souls from purgatory."

If such were the pupils, we may imagine | sionals were inscribed their names and titles. what lengths the master went. Let us hear one of these harangues, pronounced after the erection of the cross.

"Indulgences," said he, "are the most precious and sublime of God's gifts.

"This cross"—(pointing to the red cross)— "has as much efficacy as the cross of Jesus Christ. | dulgence, thus addressed the penitents: "How tion, and declared him reinstated in the company "Draw near, and I will give you letters, duly sealed, by which even the sins vou shall here-

after desire to commit shall be all forgiven you. those of Saint Peter in heaven, for I have saved; at the moment, in order that the penitents may more souls with my indulgences than he with his sermons

cannot remit it, and even if any one should (which is doubtless impossible) ravish the Holy | confession of the lips; but Tetzel and his com-Virgin Mother of God, let him pay,—let him only pay largely, and it shall be forgiven him.

"Even repentance is not indispensable. "But more than all this: indulgences save

not the living alone, they also save the dead. "Ye priests, ye nobles, ye tradesmeu, ye wives, ye maidens, and ye young men hearken to your departed parents and friends, who cry to you from the bottomless abyss: 'We are enduring horrible torment! a small alms would deliver us ;-you can give it, and will not!""

A shudder ran through his hearers at these words, uttered by the formidable voice of the

mountebank monk. "The very moment," continued Tetzel, "that the money clinks against the bottom of the chest, the soul escapes from purgatory and flies free to heaven.

"O, senseless people, and almost like to beasts, ten groschen you can deliver your father from er cost. purgatory, and you are so ungrateful that you A GREAT agitation reigned, at that time, a- my conscience will be clear; but you will be

The dealers passed through the country in a | -"Do you know why our most Holy Lord dis-

This touch of description never failed to prowent forth to meet the merchants, with lighted | duce an impression on many hearers. There tapers in their hands, advancing to the sound of was an eager desire to aid poor Leo X who music, and of all the bells of the place; "so had not the means of sheltering from the rain

utations being exchanged, the whole proces- disputers who should question, and the traitors sion moved toward the church. The pontiff's who should oppose his mission:—"I declare

wooden cross; and the whole procession moved | "Blessed," said he, "blessed are the eyes that smoke of incense. The sound of organs, and a | phets and many kings have desired to see the concert of instruments, received the monkish | things which ye see, and have not seen them, dealer and his attendants into the church. The and to hear the things which ye hear, and have cross he bore with him was erected in front of not heard them." And as a finish to his adthe altar: on it was hung the Pope's arms; and, dress, pointing to the strong box in which the as long as it remained there, the clergy of the money was received, he generally concluded his place, the penitentiaries, and the sub-commis- moving discourse by thrice calling on the peosioners, with white wands in their hands, came | ple: "Bring your money! bring money! bring every day after vespers, or before the salutation, money !" " He uttered this cry with such a to do homage to it. This great bustle excited a | dreadful bellowing," observed Luther, "that one might have thought some wild bull was rushing As soon as the cross was elevated with the among the people and horning them with his purses. threw in a peice of silver with a loud sound.

Such were the discourses that Germany heard with astonishment, in the days when God was preparing Luther.

The sermon ended, the indulgence was considered as having "established its throne in the place with due solemnity." Confessionals, surmounted with the Pope's arms, were prepared The sub-commissioners and confessors chosen the red cross. He kneeled till the singing and were held to represent the apostolic penitentiaof a great jubilee; and on each of their confes. | confessors immediatel approached the penitent,

Then the people came in crowds to the confessors. They came not with contrite hearts, thrice gently on the back, said: 'God take pity but with money in their hands. Men, women, on thee, and pardon thy sin!" After this, he the young, the poor, and those who lived by gave out the Kyrie eleison, &c. Then the penalms,—every one then found money. The ab- itent being led back, and placed before the cross, solving priest, after again setting forth the in- the confessor pronounced the apostolical absolumuch money can you, in your conscience, spare of the faithful. Wretched mummeries, conclud- eight or ten gallons of ley. to obtain so perfect a remission?" "This ques- ed by a passage of Scripture, which, at such a tion," said the Archbishop of Mentz, in his in- time, was a profanation! "I would not exchange my privileges for structions to the commissioners, "must be put

be better disposed to contribute." These conditions fulfilled were all that was tion "There is no sin so great that the indulgence | necessary. In the Pope's bull, something was indeed said of the repentence of the heart and panions cautiously abstained from all mention of "apostolic power committed to me, absolve

mained empty. The archiepiscopal instructions forbade even to mention conversion or contrition. Three great benefits were proclaimed. is sufficient to notice the first. "The first benefit we announce," said the commissioners, acting on their instructions, "is the complete pardon of all sins; and it is not possible to speak of any greater benefit than this, since man who lives in sin is deprived of the divine favour, and by this complete pardon he recovers the grace "tions I remit the pains thou wouldst have of God. Now we affirm, that to obtain these | "had to endure in purgatory. I receive thee great blessings, it is only necessary to purchase | "again to the sacraments of the Church. an indulgence. And as to those who desire to "hereby reincorporate thee in the communion deliver souls from purgatory, and to procure for. "of the saints, and restore thee to the innocence them the forgiveness of all their sins, let them | "and purity of thy baptism; so that, at the moput their money in the chest; but it is not need- | " ment of death, the gate of the place of torment ful that they should feel sorrow of heart, or make | "shall be shut against thee, and the gate of the who do not comprehend the grace so richly of- confession with the lips. Let them only hasten | " paradise of joy shall be opened unto thee. fered! This day, heaven is on all sides open. to bring their money, for they will thus do a Do you now refuse to enter? When then do work most profitable to departed souls, and to you intend to come in? This day you may re- the building of the Church of St. Peter." Greatdeem many souls. Dull and heedless man, with er blessings could not be proposed, nor at a low-

Confession being gone through, (and it was will not rescue him. In the day of judgment, soon dispatched,) the faithful hastened to the vender. Only one was commissioned to sell mong the people of Germany. The Church had punished the more severely for neglecting so He had his counter close to the cross. He turned a scrutinising glance on those who came. He from the crowd of buyers, and the noise and jests | have only one coat, you ought to strip it off examined their manner, step, and attire, and deof the dealers, we might call it a fair; but a fair | and sell it, to purchase this grace. Our Lord | manded a sum in proportion to the apparent cirheld by monks. The merchandise they extol- God no longer deals with us as God. He has cumstances of the party presenting himself. Kings, queens, princes, archbishops, bishops, Then, having recourse to other inducements: &c. were to pay, according to the regulation, for an ordinary indulgence, twenty five ducats; gay carriage, escorted by three horsemen, in tributes so rich a grace? The dilapidated Church abbots, counts, barons, &c. ten. The other nobles, superiors, and all who had an anual income of 500 florins, were to pay six. Those who scale. Polygamy cost six ducats; sacrilege and purjury, nine ducats; murder, eight; witchcraft, two. Samson, who carried on in Switzerland the same traffic as Tetzel in Germany, had rather a different scale. He charged for in | derstood, the whole becomes simple, and easy; and tanticide four livres tournois; for a parricide or tratricide, one ducat.

> The apostolic commissaries sometimes encountered difficulties in their commerce. It often happened, as well in the towns as in the villages, that husbands were opposed to the traffic, and forbade their wives to carry any thing to dealers. What were heir superstitious partners ! to do? "Have you not your marriage portion, or some other property, at your disposal?" asked the vendors. "In that case you can dispose of it for this holy purpose, without your husband's consent."

The hand that delivered the indulgence could not receive the money: that was forbidden un- strength by evaporating a part of the water by boilder the severest penalties; -there was good rea- ing, or by passing it again through ashes. son to fear that hand might not always be trust worthy. The penitent was himself to drop the price of his pardon into the chest. An angre-

sionals, there came one whose crimes had been public, and yet untouched by the civil laws, such person was obliged, first of all, to do public penance. He was conducted to a chapel, or sacristy; there he was stripped of his clothes, his shoes taken off his feet, and he left in his shirt They made him fold his arms upon his breast, placed a light in one band, and a wax taper in the other. Then the penitent walked at the head of the procession, which passed to the collect were concluded; then the commisind led him across the station towards the commissary, who, taking the rod, and striking him

We will give one of these letters of absolution. It is worth while to know the contents of these diplomas, which gave occasion to the Reforma-

"Our Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on thee, "N. N., and absolve thee by the merits of his "most holy sufferings! And I, in virtue of the these; otherwise their coffers might have re- I" thee from all ecclesiastical censures, judgments,

"and penalties that you mayst have merited; "and further, from all excesses, sins, and crimes "that thou mayst have committed, however "great and enormous they may be, and of what-"ever kind,-even though they should be re-"served to our holy father the Pope, and to the "Apostolic See. I efface all the stains of weak-"ness, and all traces of the shame that thou " mayst have drawn upon thyself by such ac-" And if thou shouldst live long, this grace con-"tinueth unchangeable, till the time of thy end. "In the name of the Father, of the Son, and

" of the Holy Spirit. Amen. "The Brother, John Tetzel, commissary,

"hath signed this with his own hand." In this document, we see with what art presumptuous and false doctrines were interspersed among sacred and Christian expressions

All the faithful were to come and confess in the snot where the red cross was set up. None but the sick, old men, and women with child, were exempt. If, however, there was in the neighbourhood any noble in his castle, or wealthy man in his palace, his personal attendance was dispensed with For he might not care to mingle with this mob of people, and his money was worth fetching from his residence.-D, Au-

From Christian Watchmam.

SOAP MAKING. Much difficulty is often experienced by those who manufacture their own soap; frequently indeed the fails from unknown causes. Often when every precaution has been apparently taken, complete failure has been the consequence; and the time is not long past when some have even declared that they believed their soap was hereitened. But, if the rationale on which the process is founded, is but unmay be performed with an absolute certainty of suc-

Common soft soap is composed of oil (or fat) and potash. The potash is obtained from common wood ashes, by causing water to run through it, which dissolves the potash contained in the ashes, and leaves the residue behind. The manner by which the the oil or grease is obtained is well known. These are made to unite and form soap by being boiled and well stired together.

One of the first requisites in soan making is that there should be a sufficient quantity of potash dissolved in the water, or in other words, that the ley should be strong; this is readily ascertained by an egg; if the egg floats the lev is sufficiently strong; if it sinks, it is too weak, and must be increased in

But it not unfrequently har sens that the lev is found by trial to be strong, and yet good soap cannot be produced. This is almost always owing to the potash of the ley not being caustic, or capable of corroding the skin, which state is absolutely necessary to success. Potash in its purest state is If, among those who pressed into the confes- highly caustic; but where ashes have been some time exposed to the air, they gradually absorb from it a portion of the peculiar kind of air existing in small proportions in it, known by the name of curbonic acid, which destroys the caustic properties of the potash and renders it unfit for the manufacture of soap. Now as quick lime has a stronger attraction for carbonic acid than potash has, it is only necessary to place a quantity of lime, in the proportion of half a bushel of lime for a hogshead of good ashes, in the bottom of the leech before filling it, and it will abstract the carbonic acid from the potash of the lev, as it passes downward, leaving it in a comparatively pure and caustic state. In order to prevent failure therefore, this should always be done. In order to ascertain if ley, contains carbonic acid, pour a few drops of sulphuric or nitric acid into a wine glass of the ley, when if it contains much, a violent effervescence, (or boiling up of bubbles) will instantly take place, owing to the escape of the carbonic acid. The carbonic acid may be removed from the ley by boiling it with quick lime.

If the ley be strong, if it be rendered caustic, and f there be a sufficient quantity of tolerably clean fat, there can be but little danger of success. The proportions should be about thirty pounds of fat to

Hard soap consists of soda instead of potash, united with fat; and is commonly made by adding common salt (which consists of muriatic acid and soda,) to well made soft soap, while it is yet boiling. The soda of salt unites with the fat, and forms hard soap, while the potash unites with the muriatic acid of the salt, and separates by falling to the bottom of the vessel.* Different degree of hardness in soaps

*Eight pounds of soft soap made with olive oil, are, by boiling two hours with 6 lbs of common salt, turned into 5 lbs. of hard soap; the great loss of weight is occasioned chiefly by the water of the soft soap.

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

XII. Newspapers B. Liberia Herald

February 1842(XI,4)--February 18,1857(n.s. VII,4)