But in Africa commodities for barter abound; there hardly any thing of value which cannot be procured here, to offer in exchange for the goods that we can supply. Cotton might be grown on the western coast in infinite quantity and of the best quality. And, recollecting how precarious is the source of supply which we now derive from the United States of America—recollecting how the growing manufactures of America herself are now annually absorbing more and more of the Cotton which she produces—and recollecting what a vast amount of our own population depend upon the manufactures from that raw material for daily bread, it becomes matter of the most extreme importance that we should seek out other sources of supply. Palm oil, an article also of great value and much used, is found in abundance in that country, there are also coffee, ivory, gold, in fact hardly any thing of value and utility might not be produced or found in Africa, and might not be recieved in return for our exports.

I say, therefore it is an object of great national importance, that by an end being put to the Slave Trade, we should be enabled to enter into commercial intercourse with the vast population of that region."

These sentiments are encouraging whether considered in reference to the annihilation of the slave trade, or the attention which the commerce of this country is attracting in England.

Truly Africa presents an inviting field for commercial enterprise; and no people better understand its importance than the English.

The King of Dahomy and British subjects—We learn that serious difficulties have arisen between the King of Dahomy and British residents in his dominion. We are not definitely informed with regard to the misunderstanding: it appears, however, that the slavers in that country, having become alarmed at the recent efforts of the British Government for the suppression of the slave trade there, conceived the idea of inducing the King to send out of his dominions all British subjects. The King, acting under this influence, has, on some frivolous pretext, issued orders to that effect; and has threatened to massacre all British subjects, commencing with the missionaries, found on his territory after a certain short period. So alarming and critical was the situation of the English in Dahomy that captain Forbes, of Her Majesty's brig Bonetta, has been dispatched to England with the intelligence.

If true, which we have no good reason to doubt, that these demi-devils, to perpetuate their diabolical traffic, have procured these difficulties; we have only to say that they have quite over reached themselves, and will be caught in their own snare.

The least unjustifiable violence committed on British subjects will be held a sufficient pretext and Her Majesty's Government will most assuredly avail themselves of it—to blockade the Dahomy territory; cut off the communications by which the slave trade there is fostered; and be satisfied only with its total annihilation from His Majesty's dominions.

A Whale.—A few days since an enormous whale was seen a little to the eastward of the cape, moving leisurely towards the south, now and then showing himself, and spouting torrents of water. We will not venture a description of the size of the monster, as reported to us, but all who saw it agree that it was of huge dimension. At first some were half inclined to think that the famous sea serpent had made us a visit. But, O dear, how the fishermen, who were in the offing in their tiny canoes, did scamper when they saw the columns of water ascending into the air.

Hippopotamus.—An American speculator offers $2500 for a Hippopotamus to be delivered to him in Alexandria Va. We are not advised that it is necessary it shall be from the While Nile. What do you say friend Harris* can't you supply a "Hippopotamus Liberienses" from the St. Paul, and pocket this neat little sum?

Who will not procure them?—Somebody says "a good news paper and a clean shirt are two things needed by every man in the community." The former can be obtained cheaply at this office. For the means of procuring the latter, we refer to D. Moore Esquire, who has now on hand a large supply of good soap, of his own manufacture, which he is offering at moderate prices.

Grand Bassa County.—the Board of Managers of the Penn. Col. Society, in May last, adopted resolutions authorising Hon S. A. Benson to construct, in G. B. County for the accommodation of emigrants, soon to arrive, twenty houses, and clear and plant a lot of one acre attached to each house. "A title in fee to be given for the same provided the parties shall within three years erect a similar house and prepare a similar lot for succeding "emigrants." This is an excellent idea.

Sinoe County.—A rumor has just reached here—we hope unfounded—that Mr. S. Lomax of this Town, and an individual belonging to Greenville name unknown, in attempting to land from the schr. George R. Mc Gill, at Greenville, were drowned.

Report says that an Eng. barque is landing goods somewhere in the vicinity of Sinoe contrary to law—we hope the report is unfounded; as we know the Govt. is desirous of maintaining a good understanding with foreign traders.

Cape Palmas.—We are informed, by Mr. Bowen, that several deaths have occured recently, at the Cape, among the early settlers: the health of the Colony, however, was good when he left; and the prospects of the people were encouraging.

FOREIGN.

We learn from an American paper, by the arrival of the "Liberia Packet," that President Zachary Taylor is no more, having daparted this life in July after a *severe*, but *short* attack of sickness.

According to the Constitution of the United States of America, Willard Fillmore (*Vice President under Taylor*) is now President of that Union. Upon the death of President Taylor *his* cabinet having resigned,—President Fillmore upon induction to the Chief Magistracy selected *a new cabinet*,—Hon.——— Winthrop of Mass. (formerly, Speaker of the House of Representatives) being made Secretary of State.

The death of President Taylor, so sudden and unexpected, doubtless arrested for a while, the political excitement which has pervaded the U. S. for two years past,—and while a nation shall be mourning the loss of a *Chief Ruler, a spirit may be imbued*, which will exert a healthful influence upon the exciting topics of the day. We have no doubt, but the favorable feelings towards Liberia, possessed by President Taylor, will be revived in President Fillmore, who, we anticipate will effect all he can for *our country*, and administer his own goverment in purity and patriotism, according to the spirit of that Constitution, which is at once his guide, and the safeguard of American liberty and independence.

D. T. H.

THE death of President Taylor is deeply regretted by the citizens of Liberia. He had manifested much interest for the welfare of this infant Republic; and high anticipations were entertained here that through his kind offices Congress might be induced, not only to recognize the independence of Liberia, but also to assist the "New Republic" pecuniarily.

THE Emperor of China died on the 25th. of Febuary last.

THE king of Prussia, who was recently wounded, is not expected to live.

THE difficulty between England and Russia respecting the Greek question, threatens a rupture The Russian Ambassador has been recalled from St James. Public opinion, however, in England and France seems to think that there is a secret behind the alleged cause of dispute.

THE Portuguese Government continue to resist the payment of indemnities to American citizens. And, according to the tone of the American press, things have now been brought to such a crisis, that there appears to be no alternative but payment or war. At our latest dates, Mr. Clay, U. S. charge at Lisbon, had demanded his passports, and was on his way to the U. S. It is intimated that as soon as Mr. Clay arrives, the President will transmit a special message to Congress, "that will smell considerably strong of gun powder."

SMYRNA has been in consternation in consequence of continuous shocks of earth quake.

NAVAL:—August 22.—Sailed L. G. schooner Lark, R. Cooper Esquire, Commanding, for Grand Bassa, Sinoe, and a cruise along the leeward coast. Since the sailing of the Lark the weather has been unusually boisterous. She parted her chain at Grand Bassa on the 25th, and had to put to sea.

The brig Excellent, captured by the U. S. ship John Adams off Ambreze, arrived at Norfolk on the 19th, of June, in charge of Lieut. Ganesvoort.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

August 28th,—Arrived American barque Liberia Packet, Howe, 34 days from Hampton Roads, with 56 passengers. Among the passengers are Rev Mr Wood & lady from New Brunswick, and Mr. Robert Wood from Antigua. The Liberia Packet brings a large mail, and a valuable cargo of merchandise,—including emigrant stores, and goods for the purchase of territory.

August 30th.—Arrived sloop Maria. G. W. Gibson, from Cape Palmas, via Sinoe and Grand Bassa, with a carge of Rice consigned to order. Passenger J. B. Bowen Esqr. The Maria is a fine little craft owned by Mr. Bowen, an enterprising merchant of Cape Palmas. Left Hamburg brig Theresee Henrietteo. S. Peterson, at C. P. to sail soon for Monrovia, Capt. Gibson reports two English vessels, barque Venus, and brig——at anchor off Trade town, on the 16th Agst. On the 27th spoke, at sea, off Little Bassa, English barque Clydeside, in company with the English brig Firefly, standing down the coast: next day saw an English brig supposed to be the George. getting underway from Mar hall, Junk.

August 22;—Sailed American brig Lowder, J. R. Brown, for Cape Palmas, Gaboon, and Princes Island, and thence to the United States. Passenger for Gaboon Dr. Ford.

August 29th.—Sailed Cutter Eliza Frances, J. Howard, on a trading voyage coastwise.

August 31st.—Sailed Eng. Cutter Georgianna, J. K. Straw, for the Cold Coast.

COMMUNICATION

For the Liberia Herald.

Mr. Herald.

Not long since it was intimated to me that the government and people of Liberia are charged, in England with placing "unnecessary restrictions upon British commerce; that the laws of Liberia instead of encouraging the intercourse of British merchants are calculated to have a contrary effect." Now it is not for me to deny the existence, in Liberia, of laws regulating navigation and commerce upon the Liberia coast; but I do deny that such laws are more restrictive, or less calculated to encourage commercial intercourse than the maritime laws of any other country; and for the truth of this assertion I appeal to those British, American, and German merchants who are constantly in the ports of Liberia. The Liberian Government, in the performance of a necessary, just, and natural right, forbids the landing of merchandize upon the Liberian coast otherwise than at ports of entry—except under special permits, for goods on which the tariff duties have been paid. If this can be tortured into an "unecessary restriction upon British commerce," I have yet to learn the rudiments of the principles of commercial intercourse. Nor do these laws effect British, more than the commerce of other foreign countries. No; but the fact is, there are one or two, I belive not more British traders on our coast, who raise objections against the operation of our revenue laws, and who have not hesitated to evade them whenever an opportunity has offered for them to do so; and it is presumed that it is to their owners in England we are indebted for the charges referred to above. It is not my intention to charge, those merchants with a wilful design to injure us in the estimation of our English friends. It is believed, indeed it is known that their servants trading on our coast have for some time past, been misrepresenting the people of Liberia to their owners. But it is to be hoped that their owners, when such representations are made will investigate the charges before they give credence to them, and publish them to the world.

The people of Liberia are under too many obligations to the Government and people of England to adopt any unnecessary restrictive measures against British commerce, or in any way endanger the good feeling which so universally prevails in England for the welfare of Liberia: and it is with no little regret that they hear such unfavorable and unfounded reports circulated respecting them.

I intend, Mr. Herald, on another occasion to say more on this subject if you will permit me.

Yours &c.
CITIZEN.

Monrovia Augt. 27th 1850

* "Friend Harris" is the Snake Catcher whose letter was published in our Sixth No. Ed Journ

Maryland Historical Society

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