LIBERIA HERALD.

NEW SERIES.

(FOR OUR COUNTRY.)

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LIBERIA HERALD

Published Semi-Monthly.

The Liberia Herald is published in Monrovia on the First and Third Wednesdays in each month, at One Dollar *per annum*, payable in advance.

The rates of advertising in the Liberia Herald, are,—

For a single square, one insertion, $ " 37 1-2c.
For half a square, one insertion, $ " 25c.
For each subsequent insertion, $ " 12 1-2c.

Five lines or less, constitute half a square, and ten lines a square. If an advertisement exceeds a square the price will be in exact proportion.

Marriages and obituary notices are charged 25 cents for one insertion. Payments in all cases, in advance.

Voluntary correspondence, containing interesting or important news, solicited from any part of the Republic.

No notice will be taken of anonymous communications; nor will rejected communications be returned.

All communications must be addressed to "Liberia Herald."

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NEW GOODS!!

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Yours most Respectfully

E. J. ROVE.

Monrovia, Feb. 21st 1851.

LIBERIA.

Report of Rev. R. R. Gurley on the Condition and Resources of Liberia

The late Report of Rev. R. R. GURLEY to the U. S. Government on the Condition, Resources and Prospects of Liberia, gives an interesting picture of the state of affairs in that flourishing young Republic. We condense the leading points of the Report.

Mr. Gurley sailed from Baltimore on the 1st of August, 1849, and arrived on the African Coast on the 18th September; remaining one month on the Coast of Liberia. His impressions of the African climate are more favorable than the act counts hitherto published during the latter portion of what is called the rainy season, and we continued on the coast during most of the transition period from that to the dry season, the weather was generally clear and pleasant, and we were seldom deterred for an entire day from visiting the shore, or from moderate physical exertion.

No one can look upon the athletic, finely proportioned and developed forms of the native Africans, or upon a congregation of the inhabitants of Monrovia, or of the other towns and villages of the Liberian Republic, and retain the idea that health cannot be enjoyed on the African Coast. The general aspect of the climate to colored immigrants are becoming less and less formidable, and soon will, to a good degree, be averted, by the cultivation of the soil, an appropriate regemen, and increased medical experience and skill. Mr. Gurley had seen large families in Liberia, who, after a residence there of some years, had suffered no invasion from death, and who found their security in watchfulness against excesses in diet and exertion, in a moderation approaching to abstinence, in the use of medicene, and in the possession of ample supplies of the necessaries & comfort of life. The friends of our colored people, and of the Republic of Liberia, cannot be too emphatically reminded that to send emigrants with inadequate supplies, to feel all the depression of want, while exposed to the untried influence of the African climate, is an error which must often prove fatal to human life, and sadly injurious to their great enterprise. Far better is it to enable a few immigrants to establish themselves in health and comfort in Liberia, than to cast large bodies of them on that shore with no sufficient means of subsistence, during the time when such means can be secured by no exertions of theirs—thus augmenting burdens upon the charity of that but recent community which its citizens must find it difficult, if not impossible, to sustain.

Having visited Africa in my youth, (continues Mr. G.) and witnessed, in company with the distinguished and lamented Ashmun, the first budding of civilized and Christian life on Cape Montserado, it may be readily imagined that I could not, after a quarter of a century, look again upon that verdant promontory—that I could not again tread the streets of Monrovia—that I could not meet those who, so many years ago, extended to me their hospitalities—could not behold that humble community, who, when I first stood here, were making some narrow openings in the dense forest, and sheltering themselves beneath some thirty or forty thatched roofs; few, feeble, and exposed to barbarous foes, now men, through the strong hand of the Almighty, by their fortitude and energy, to the elevation of an Independent Republic, acknowledged as such by two of the most powerful nations—without a deep sense of the Divine goodness to the people of Liberia, and to the writer, in that he was permitted to see on that shore the renovating power of a Government of constitutional liberty, pervaded by the Christian spirit, and encompassed by the highest motives to benificence.

On our arrival several vessels were moored in the harbor of Monrovia, (among them the American man-of-war schoonor Decatur, Captain Berrie, and the Lark, a small, beautiful armed vessel, presented to the authorities of Liberia by the English Government;) and, as we dropped our anchor, the steamer of her Britannic Majesty, which had brought out the commercial treaty ratified between Great Britain and the Republic, was taking her departure. The reception of this treaty was announced by the thunder of cannon from the hights of Monrovia and the summit of the Cape, and signalized by mutual congratulations among the citizens, and by signs and expressions of universal joy.

TOPOGRAPHICAL LIMITS.

The Republic holds political jurisdiction over the country from Manna, a point bordering on the notorious Gallinas, on the northwest, to Grand Sesters the east, a distance, on the coast, of 350 miles, with an average extent interior of 40 miles—the boundary line inclosing a space of about 14,000 square miles. The authority of the Maryland Colony extends from Grand Sesters to the River Pedro, a distance, by water, of 120 miles, and by land of 140 or 150 miles. Important acquisitions of Territory have been made within the last few months by the Republic, and also by the Maryland Colony. For the purchase of Gallinas, a wealthy English friend has promised President Roberts £1,000; and an equal amount is offered by one of our citizens, a gentleman of Ohio, for the same object. The most important points on the coast of Liberia, southeast from Gallinas, are Cape Mount, rising 1,000 feet above the sea, thence one near 50 miles, Cape Montserado, on the summit of which, 240 feet above the ocean, stands a light-house, and 150 feet lower down, and one mile back, the town of Monrovia; southeast thence 35 miles, Junk River, and near its mouth a settlement bearing the illustrious name of Marshall; onward 35 miles, Grand Bassa; thence five miles, Tubucanee; further on seven miles, Young Sesters; thence four miles, Tradetown; after these, in succession, Little Calleh, Grand Calleh, (easily recognised by Tobacco Mountain, a conical hill 680 feet high,) Cestos, Sangwin, Buffou, Tessou, Little Bootou, Grand Bootou, Sinoe, and Bloobarie Point opposite, (distant about 80 miles from Grand Bassa,) Kroubar, Little Kroo, Settra Kroo, Manna Kroo, Ring Wills Bay and Town, (these five towns including almost properly termed Kroo or Kroo people,) Little Nifou, Middle Nifou, Great Nifou, Pickaniny Sesters, and Grand Sesters, the present extreme southern limit of the Republic.

POPULATION.

The emigrant population in the Republic is estimated at 6000, and the native population at 110,000 to 200,000. Of the Maryland colony, the emigrant inhabitants are about 900, and the natives estimate at 100,000, separated into numerous small tribes, varying in language, independent of each other matters of domestic concern, yet slightly united, within certain limits, on questions of general and common interest. The native people of this region of Africa bear a striking similarity in manners, character, and superstitions.

The Fey or Vey tribe, a people more enterprising, proud and warlike than most of their neighbors, inhabit the country from Gallinas to Cape Mount, and to the distance of thirty miles inland; have been much addicted to the slave trade, and are probably, in number, from twelve to fifteen thousand. The Days occupy the country on the coast from Cape Mount to Cape Monstserado; are more mild, indolent and inoffensive than the Veys, and perhaps by one-half less numerous. Between the language of these tribes there is some affinity; both are rude and imperfect.

The Bassas are south of Cape Montserado, are more numerous than both of the preceding tribes, and with their allies in the county of Grand Bassa, are estimatad at fifty thousand.

The native African population of Sinoe resemble those of Bassa—are, perhaps, more scattered, and to some extent blended with the Fishmen and Kroomen (who are numerous on that region of the coast) and more connected in traffic with the interior tribes. Like other natives who occupy positions along the sea shore, they have some knowledge of the English language.

Still further south we arrive at the country of the Kroumen or Kroomen—a people the most distinct, intelligent, and remarkable to be found on the coast of Western Africa. The Kroo mark (a black line, much darker than the skin from the top of the forehead to the end of the nose) has been adopted by those not originally of their community; and their name is usually given by strangers to the people of three different tribes who exhibit this mark—the Fishmen, the Settra Kroo people, and the people of Nifou.

The Fishmen derive their name from their universal occupation in fishing, when not employed by foreigners. They are the largest and strongest men upon the coast; most adroit in the management of canoes and boats; and marked by a peculiar enlargement of the ankle joint, produced by their mode of sitting in their canoes; are less vain, polite, agreeable, and, perhaps, less trusty than the Kroomen, (indeed charges of treachery and cruelty are with reason urged against them;) and while the inhabit towns separated by considerable intervals along the beach from Grand Bassa to Cape Palmas they probably embrace a population of 20,000.

The Kroo people proper—that is, those who inhabit Settra Kroo and four other towns in its vicinity—spring from a union of several tribes, who came some 250 years ago from about 300 miles in the interior, under one and the same government. They early formed a compact with the Portuguese slave traders, whom they were accustomed to assist, by which the adoption on their part of the peculiar Kroo mark was to be deemed a sign of exemption from slavery; and their name, Kroomen, is supposed to be but a corruption of the word crewmen, so very naturally and appropriately applied to them for their services to vessels on the coast. Polygamy and slavery prevail among them though they never enslave each other, nor sell slaves out to persons of their own tribe.

The Maryland Colony, at Cape Palmas, exerts, perhaps a less positive and controlling authority over its large native population than is exerted by the Government of the Republic; yet the influence of the intelligent and respectable officers is highly benefacial and must increase; while the missionary establishment within its limits excites our admiration, and deserves the most liberal support.

In regard to the third subject of inquiry specified in Mr. Gurley's instructions—"the form of the government, and the characters of the leading men in the executive, legislative, and judicial departments"—the Report alludes to the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia, fully pervaded by the spirit of liberty, and in all vital particulars, conformed to the model of our own American free government. No provision is contained in this Constitution for the existence of seperate State Governments, nor do its framers appear to have contemplated nor desired their existence; but in the provision for the election of the President and Representatives every two years; in the subordination of the military to the civil power; in the declaration of the right of trial by jury, of universal toleration in matters of religion, and of the freedom of the press; and in the prohibition of the slave trade and slavery,—have the people shown the purpose and ability to rear for the protection of their liberties, a wisely limited and justly costructed republican government.

RVEENUE.

For the two years previous to the independence of the Republic, the annual revenue of the Government, derived mainly from the six per cent ad valorem duty on imports, amounted to from eight to ten thousand dollars. With a view to augment the public revenue, the Legislature, after the adoption of the present Constitution, authorized and instructed the Secretary of the Treasury to import leaf tobacco, powder, salt, muskets and other firearms, with earthern and crockery ware, (articles in great demand for the African trade,) and to dispose of these articles at a certain specified advance on the first cost. But it is said the monopoly by the Government has not met the public expectation, and that it will be greatly modified if not wholly abandoned. On all goods imported into the Republic is imposed a duty of six per cent, with certain exceptions specified, wherein the duty is still higher. The President, without stating the exact amount of the present revenue, expressed the opinion that it would hereafter meet the expenses of the Government though it may, for some years, fall far short of what might be desirably expended for many objects of public utility.

MILITARY AND NAVAL FORCE.

In regard to "the Military and Naval force of the Republic," to the honor of the people of Liberia should it be recorded, that from their earliest settlement upon the African coast they have by courage and discipline defended themselves against the machinations of slave traders and the combined forces of many barbarous tribes, and to no instance suffered defeat. With the exception of those who are exempt in virtue of religious or civil offices, all the males in the Republic, from the age of 18 to 50, are subject to military duty, may be called at any moment by the Executive into actual service, and in time of peace are organized stated days and months for training, in the several settlements, for examination, exercise and discipline. This force, well armed and disciplined, may be in number from 1,000 to 1,500 men, while a much larger native force might doubtless be brought into more or less effectual service, in case of an invasion. Of Naval force, the Republic has nothing, with the exception of one small but beautiful vessel, armed with four guns, a present from the British Government.

GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS.

The independence of the Republic has been acknowledged by both England and France; and between the former and the Republic a treaty of peace, friendship and commerce was ratified on the 1st of August, 1849; and hardly a week passes during which armed ships from these or other civilized nations are not seen visiting the ports and exchanging civilities with the hospitable inhabitants of Liberia. By treaties with many African tribes, the Republic has not merely enlarged its territory, but secured their consent to the abolition of the slave trade, and in the exercise of its political and judicial authority over them. The suppression within the limits of the Republic of one of the most sassy customs has preserved probably thousands from a most cruel death, and shown a signal triumph of civilized law over superstition.

AGRICULTURE.

Substantial farm houses, surrounded by well-cleared and cultivated plantations of from 10 to 30 and 50 or 70 acres, extend, on both sides, on the banks of the St. Paul's (with occasional interruptions) for the distance of 20 miles. Several hundred acres are cleared in vicinity of a dense and lofty forest, at Bassa Cove, Edina, and at Bexley, (some 5 to 8 miles up the beautiful river St. Johns; and at Greenville, Rossville and Ralville, on the Sinoe, are similar decided evidences of agricultural industry and improvement. It may be confidently predicted that whenever adequate capital, skill and machinery shall be introduced, the culture of rice and cotton, the sugarcane and coffee, will prove as successful and profitable as in any region of the world.

Mr. Dimple, in 1779, found three different kinds of cotton at Goree, and states that it grows spontaneously everywhere, and that the samples sent home were considered by English merchants superior to that from the West Indies. According to the testimony of Colonel Denham, (as quoted by Mr. Buxton,) cotton of three kinds—white, brown and pink—grows wild about Sierra Leone.

The tea plant is reported by M'Queen, on the authority of an Arabian traveler, and others more recent, to grow spontaneously and abundantly in the interior of African.

MARYLAND COLONY.

Of the Maryland Colony, at Cape Palmas, with a civilized population of about 900, though the soil may be inferior to that of some of the settlements of the Republic, we may report increasing attention to Agriculture, and fair prospects of success. The following statistics on this subject will show what had been done two years ago:

Number of acres cultivated.	155
Number of acres in potatoes and cassades.	94
Number of coffee trees.	1,497
Number of cotton trees.	2,133
Number of orange trees	334
Number of plantain trees.	6,349
Number of cocoanut trees.	63
Number of cocoa and mango trees.	160
Number of other fruit trees.	1,491

TRADE.

The entire suppression of the slave trade within, and in both directions far beyond, the limits of the Republic; the order, peace and security resting under a just and well-administered Government; the new encouragement and rewards extended to industry, in connection with the vast extent of the camwood forests, and the great number and productiveness of the palm trees—give reason to anticipate a rapid increase in the amount of some of the most valuable articles of African commerce. Of the present amount of imports and exports, different opinions are expressed by intelligent citizens of the Republic. The Committee at Sinoe estimate the imports annually at about $400,000 and the exports at $700,000. The Committee of Monrovia represent that of palm oil are annually exported from the Republic 500,000 gallons.

MISSIONS.

The Methodist Episcopal Church has fourteen day schools and eighteen Sunday schools, affording instruction to 690 pupils.

The Southern Baptist Board of Missions have gathered into their schools in the Republic 280 children, 92 of whom are children of native Africans; and their missionaries preach to 10,000 of the native population.

The Northern Baptist Board have missionary schools at Bexley, in Bassa County, and at Little Bassa; at the former 24 native pupils and at the latter 16—both schools being conducted by educated native teachers. A Baptist church is organized in connection with the mission at Bexley.

Several missionary stations are occupied by the Board of the Presbyterian Church, (Old School,) and schools and churches maintained by them at Monrovia, Kincasland and three miles up the St. Paul's River. A plan is already accepted for the estab-

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

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