

tendency to diminution. Place the negro where you will, and he will multiply and fill the land.

The past history of Africa would seem to justify, at least, the opinion that, whatever be her destiny, that desy it to be wrought out by herself, by her own men and resources. She may not be an exception to the general rule announced by Fourier, that, "as civilization, war, commerce, civilization, and more than all, by pure religion," yet in the case of Africa the mode is, in many respects, reversed. Instead of a more and more advanced race coming to her, her sons are involuntarily carried to them, there to live in "distance vile," still permitted to return through their offspring, to bless their own unhappy land. Instead of a war waged upon her by other nations, and the steady unfolding there the standard of a higher national life, she has waged the most ruinous war on herself, and yet these wars have been made the first links, which, though dark and bloody in the beginning, shall be light and blissful in the end. Africa has had a commerce, but it has been a commerce of the flesh and blood of her own sons and daughters, and thus traffic has engaged in its prosecution all the worst passions of men; yet this very traffic is being strangely overruled by Him who brings good out of evil, to the great good of this unhappy continent.

We shall assume—and hope to make the assumption wear the face of probability—that Africa is reserved for the development of a higher civilization and a better type of Christianity than the world has yet seen—There is nothing in the character of Africa, and certainly there has been nothing in her past condition, which makes such a supposition absurd, certainly no more absurd than it would have appeared to an intelligent Egyptian in the days of Senositis, had he been told that the illiterate wanderers of Greece, to whom Calanus was then attempting to make known the letters of the Phœnician alphabet, should produce a Plato, an Aristotle, and all for which Greece was so justly famous. The present condition of the Greek, the Eouah, or the Heber, is not more hopeless than that of the ancient Greek. Nor is there any thing in the position of Africa, in her soil and climate, which precludes our supposition—Or, is it not as likely that Africa will yet produce a higher order of civilization, and a better type of Christianity; that her sons shall yet astonish the world, and bless the Churches of Africa, and certainly her good men, and with institutions which are the glory of any people, as it was that the ancient Hebrews should do it? Yes, it is much more likely. For neither the Greeks nor the Hebrews had ever shown, as the Africans have, their capabilities, or that higher civilization which they afterwards realized.

We have a gnaty in what Africa has done for what she may do—Native Africans have shown themselves masters, as already intimated, in every station and avocation in life, in every art and science, in genius and eminent talent, in qualities intellectual or physical, and in moral and religious character. The past history of Africa leaves no doubt of the abstract capabilities of Africans to become the highest type of man. Whether in warlike enterprises, in philosophic or literary attainments, or in heretofore equal to the exigencies of any past age. Thus we may receive, as a pledge that the shall not be found wanting when her sons shall be called to act in a more advanced age. Her present degradation and the inferiority of her races, present no argument against her equality to any other portion of the human family. Her present degradation and evident inferiority is most evidently a result of circumstances, namely, of external causes, and not of any inherent and original incapacity; a result, perhaps of the malediction of Heaven. It is at least the fulfilment of some woe and meretricious purpose of the King of Nations, and argues nothing as to what the same race may become under other circumstances, and under the benediction of Heaven.

We have called Africa the land of Ham, and we shall undertake to show that not only is this vast continent a land kept in reserve for some great future realizations in the progress of the redeemer's kingdom, but that there remains a blessing in reserve for the poor down-trodden sons of Ham. Shem has largely and for a long time shared in the rich benedictions of Heaven. Up to the advent of the mediatorial King, the descendants of Shem were the favored race. Religion dwelt with them. Here were the patriarchs, the prophets, the living oracles of God, the city and temple where God chose to place his name and reveal his glory. Here were the revelations of Heaven by types and shadows, dreams and visions. But since the advent of the great Reality, the embodiment of old truths in the more practical form of Christianity, the ark has passed from the tents of Shem to the tentacles of Japheth. But there is no blessing for poor Ham! Shall the curse of Canaan hang over the certain family? We think we hear the voice of a Father's love speaking conformably to this alienated and long-forsaken son. Shall the ark rest for ever with Japheth? Shall not this other great branch of the human family come up in remembrance before the Lord, and He yet give them double for all their afflictions—N. Y. Col. Jour.

PHYSICAL INTERIOR OF AFRICA.

Evidence is rapidly multiplying that Africa is a widely different country from what it has been supposed to be. A missionary to Liberia thus speaks of what he saw on a tour to the interior of 253 miles:

Such a country as was passed through in this missionary tour, I have never seen passed in either of the West India Islands which I have visited, from Trinidad to Tortola and the Virgin Islands. It is an elevated, mountainous country. Ranges of mountains running most generally par-

allel with the line of coast—from north-west to south-east rise up before the delighted eye of the traveller, convincing him that he is no longer in the land of burning sands and desiccated swamps, such as are encountered in proximity with the shores, but in quite a other region. And such are the gradual undulations of its surface as would greatly facilitate the objects of agriculture and commerce. There are few, if any, rivers, no rivulets, nothing like the bold, precipitous mountains of our eastern States. Beautiful and extensive valleys lie at the base of these mountains, which generally slope down to the level country lying between them.

It is a well watered country. During the eight hours travel which we were frequently obliged to perform in a day, we never walked more than one hour, or two and a half at one time, without coming to some beautiful stream of cool and very pure water. Within the twelfth country especially, any number of the most eligible situations may be found, where, at any time during the year, good water power may be obtained, for any of the purposes of an enterprising community, agriculturists and mechanics, may require. My journey was performed in the very middle of the dry season, and yet we found plenty of water in the different streams.

It is a well-timbered land. I measured several trees, and my journal, kept at the time with scrupulous exactness, recorded 23, 24, 25 feet as the circumference of many of them within six feet of the ground. Let me remark, that the variety and superior quality of the wood found in these forests, and indeed all along the borders and around the settlement of Liberia, from Grand Cape Mount to Cape Mesurado, cannot be exceeded any where within the tropical zone. Upon a species of poplar, soft and adapted to all the purposes for which the white pine is used in America, the oak, a variety of mahogany, a beautiful species of lucery very abundant at Cape Palmas, the iron wood, the balm-tree, susceptible of a polish for furniture of surpassing beauty, and many others, an almost endless supply may be found.

It is an exceedingly fertile soil. The immense undergrowth of shrubs and tree interspersed among the gaps of the forest so thick, so impenetrable without much effort, and through which a foot-path only conducts the traveller, is the best proof of this. But the gums, roots, fruits, vines of the tropics, all concentrate here, and may be found with a degree of copiousness and variety of growth, and an abundance that is not to be met anywhere else. I have stood erect under the branches of a cotton tree in a Gouah village, as they spread forth from the main trunk, laden with bolls, and supported by forked sticks to prevent their being broken down by their own weight, and found, on measuring, that the tree covered a space of ten feet in diameter. On examining the staple as the ripened bolls burst spontaneously, it was found as good and equal in the fineness of its fibre, to the cotton of any country.

But the region in the vicinity of Liberia is one of great mineral wealth. And such is the purity of the iron ore obtained by the natives of Africa immediately in the vicinity of Liberia, which they describe as being abundant, that they have no furnaces; they need none. All their rude agricultural and artistic instruments are made by them of one pure metal, when heated, it becomes at once sufficiently malleable to admit of being wrought into any shape or form. They make knives, bill-hooks, waccussas, axes, spears, hoes, &c., out of this ore, without the process of smelting.

BADAGRY—WESTERN AFRICA.

Intelligence from the Episcopal mission on this coast, just published, is of somewhat varied, but generally of painful, interest. The two missions of the Church of England Society, one at Badagry on the coast, nearly 65 miles of the Calabar river, the other at Abbeokuta, a large town 200 miles inland from Badagry, were undertaken in consequence of a large number of church members in Sierra Leone, who were natives of Abbeokuta, returning to reside in their native country. Of these, some came with their wives who reached Badagry in March, 1850, one of them, a female, was cut off so early as May; another, one of the missionaries, in June of the same year; and a second of the missionaries in March last. Three days after their arrival, four native catechists from Sierra Leone joined them, one of the most useful of whom died in May of the same year. Their hindrances have arisen more from the continued state of political turmoil and warfare in which the tribes, among whom they are located keep themselves, than from the moral and mental condition of the people. The great existing contest is, "slave trade or no slave trade."

The coast is now firmly blockaded by the British squadron, that some of the chiefs are resolved to relinquish the traffic in slaves entirely, and give their whole attention to the lawful trade in the natural produce of the country; while others are fiercely resolute in continuing the traffic in slaves. The missionaries have been greatly useful as peace-makers between the contending parties. The missionaries have been, in the first instance, favourably received by almost every town and village which they visited. The chiefs have listened with child-like interest to the sacred narratives of the creation and deluge, and the fall of man into sin. One chief expressed much surprise and said, "He had heard many things, but he had never heard this." Another chief at once commenced learning A, B, C; and as he knew one letter, he began teaching it to the children before him. "I went," says the missionary, "through the life of our Lord Jesus Christ with him, which seemed to strike him much, as he asked me many questions, and seemed to be desirous to know some other event of his life." By the month of October, after their arrival, the interest of the people had to some extent cooled, and been suc-