

—2,500 miles; the other, facing the north east, has a length of 2,500 miles. This colossal empire is nearly as large as all British North America; and larger than the whole United States, and second only in extent to China and Russia. It extends from Lat. 4 deg. N. to Lat. 33 deg. 3 min. S. It has an average elevation above the sea of 700 feet; still, it is not mountainous, nor affected by earthquakes, like many other parts of South America. The mean temperature of the year is 73 deg. In consequence of its extensive seaboard and internal waters, the summer heat is not oppressive. The river Amazon is 4000 miles in length, for three thousand of which it is navigable, and its tributaries for one thousand miles more. The La Plata is 2,400 miles in extent. These two rivers, with their affluents, drain upwards of four million square miles of the richest agricultural country of the world.

The products of Brazil are, gold, silver, diamonds, rock salt, sugar, tea, molasses, cotton, tobacco, rice, hides, india-rubber, coffee, nuts of various kinds, fruits, dyo woods, with a host of other products, valuable in commerce. In 1856, it contained 7,678,000 souls, the majority of whom are Roman Catholics. The principal settlements are confined to a narrow belt of land fronting its extensive seaboard; the settlements are not continuous. This country has all the elements of national wealth within its borders; and in place of sustaining less than eight millions it may before the close of the present century number a population of thirty millions of human beings.

Although the social, moral, and intellectual status of the country is far below that of the enlightened portions of Europe and North America, still it is on the ascendancy. At the time it obtained its independence, slavery and the importation of Africans was common; since that time foreign importations of slaves ceased; and steps have been taken to liberate the slaves that are in the country; steps have also been taken to elevate the condition of the Negro race, which form a considerable portion of the population of Brazil. There is not an office under the Emperor to which a free negro may not aspire. The Emperor is the temporal head of the Catholic Church. All denominations of Christians are protected by law, and allowed to worship as they please. The Press is as free as it is in England. Education is making some progress. One of the Presidents of the Provinces in his message to the Legislature on this subject, says.—

“Primary education is more than a mere right of the child, a duty discharged towards him; it is a rigorous obligation. It is, so to speak, a moral vaccine, which preserves the people from the worst of pestilences—ignorance; from those thoughts which bring a man to the level of the brute, and make him a fit and facile instrument for crime and revolution. Primary education is more, it is a kind of baptism by which man is regenerated from the dark ignorance in which he was born, and alone fit him for an entrance into civil society and for the enjoyment of these rights which are his heritage.”