

the other inhabitants of Oceania, by the unusual consideration awarded to the gentler sex, as well as by the degree of purity and honesty which are said to prevail among them. They are described as intelligent, considerate, acute in reasoning, and curious to understand the meaning of any novel appearance. It is the opinion of some that they have descended to their present condition from a higher level of civilization, once enjoyed by their forefathers, and some traces of which, it is thought, are still visible. Wars are not frequent among them; and when they do engage in them, they give due notice to their enemies that they are coming.

Their religion is said to consist mainly in the worship of the spirits of their ancestors, which fact shows that at some former period they have had a connection with eastern Asia. They pray and perform certain ceremonies, and among these offer a portion of their food to the spirits; but they have neither temples, images, nor sacrifices. It does not appear that the tuba system, which once prevailed at the Sandwich Islands, has any existence among them. It is certain there is nothing of the kind in that part of Micronesia which bears the name of Kingmill group.

Of the probable population of Micronesia no estimate has been made by navigators, though many of the islands are said to be thickly peopled.

The result of all our researches is, that Micronesia promises to be an open and exceedingly interesting field of missionary labor. Some of the inhabitants have heard of the changes wrought at the Hawaiian Islands, and have earnestly entreated that missionaries might be sent to them also.

This mission is to be a branch of the Sandwich Islands mission, and will be composed partly of American and partly of Hawaiian Christians, chiefly of the latter, both males and females. The Hawaiian missionaries, it is expected, will be sustained wholly by their own churches. Other missionaries who may accompany them, will derive their support from the same source, so far as may be found practicable.—*Four. of Mis.*

LIBERIA.

The time was, and not many years since either, when the people of the United States were almost as weak and dependent as the people of this infant Republic, and surrounded, too, by difficulties, and called to endure hardships, arising from unhealthy locations, and savage foes, as appalling as any that have obstructed the progress of Liberia. But by an uncompromising spirit of industry, enterprise, and economy, and a determination to grapple with and overcome every obstruction in the way of liberty, wealth, and national grandeur, they have succeeded to the admiration of all, and now command the attention and respect of the civilized world. And why may not Liberia arrive at the same distinction? Her natural resources, whether of mind or matter, are assuredly equal; and we maintain that it only remains for her citizens to studiously cultivate the one, and industriously develop the other, to gain for her the same importance and standing that her elder sister now so proudly boasts. Liberians, recoil, then, before no difficulty. God is just, Heaven is still propitious; do your duty, and your advance in national glory is certain.

THE INTERIOR.—A few days since we had a conversation with a chief of the Pesse tribe, respecting the trade of the interior. He professed to have considerable knowledge of it, and said—what many have long known—that a few days' walk beyond Bo-poro the country is thickly settled, and the inhabitants are a trading people. The trade of that country does not find its way here, owing to the rapacious character of the people of Bo-poro. Some of our readers may remember that, at one time, gold was brought into our market, and that it was through the Bo-poro people that the trade with the rich interior ended.

Coming from beyond Bo-poro, travellers necessarily had to pass through or near it, and the chances are ten to one that they fall in with strolling parties of Bo-porians, who either rob or carry them before some of their head-men, and then under some pretext, they are compelled to retrace their steps with empty hands.

The people of the wealthy interior have no intercourse with us. They carry their ivory, gold and hides, to Sierra Leone, and the Gambia. They would, comparatively speaking, have but a short distance to come, if they had an unobstructed route to Liberia, to the journey they now have to make to carry on their trade.

The Bo-poro people live by plunder. They attack defenceless towns, take away everything they can find, and make the inhabitants slaves.

COMPILATION OF LAWS.—We are gratified in being able to inform our fellow citizens, that H. Teage, Esq., who has been engaged in compiling the statute laws of this Republic, has nearly completed his labors, and the volume will be ready for the press in a few days. That a work so desirable may be published and given to the public in the shortest possible time, additional force has been added to the printing department of this office, and we hope in a few weeks to have the satisfaction of announcing to our readers that the volume is ready for delivery.

President Roberts received by the Liberia Packet a splendid copy of the latest edition of Webster's Dictionary; a present from the publishers, Messrs. Merrim, Springfield, Mass., U. S. The volume is a counterpart of the one presented by the same gentlemen to Queen Victoria. It is in every respect a desirable book. The English language, unquestionably, will be spoken by the millions who are to constitute the population of this Republic, and will through them be made the medium of conveying the blessings of civilization and Christianity to a large portion of this dark continent. It is, therefore, exceedingly important that the language should be preserved in its purity, and be written and spoken in accordance with the best standard.

CHRISTIANITY AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions give in their last report a very encouraging account of their missions in the East. The summary at Constantinople has twenty-five pupils, and the female boarding-school, twenty-two. Five free schools for Protestant children, taught by pious matrons, contain 179 pupils. The desire for the Holy Scriptures is steadily increasing all over the country. In the region of Ezrum, more copies were sold the past year, than in the two or three previous years. Even the enemies of the mission seek for copies, through the native Protestants. The demand is great in the country around Amal. More than two thousand copies, in different languages, were disposed at Constantinople in the year ending with June last. Copies find their way into Russia, and are frequently bought and carried into Roonelia and Bulgaria. But the charter granted to the Protestant Christians by the Imperial Government of Turkey is a matter of the highest and most cheering import.

Say the Board in their report:—

"For some three years or more there has been a Vizierial recognition, and the complaints of the community have been listened to by the Porte; but it seems there was nothing which necessarily survived a change of administration. 'The firman now obtained, being from the Sultan himself, and placed in their own hands, gives all the stability and permanency to their civil organization that the older Christian communities enjoy. They are distinctly declared to have the same privileges of building churches, holding burying-grounds, &c., that are granted to the other rayahs. A Turkish Pasha has been appointed to attend to their affairs; and they are to appoint a wakeel or agent from among themselves, as their organ of transacting business with the

Government, and a council or committee to decide upon the civil affairs of the community. At the request of Sir Straford Canning, the British Ambassador, to whom the Christian world is much indebted—

"Thirteen of the leading Protestants, says Mr. Dwight, called upon him on the occasion of his procuring for them this charter of rights, and for three quarters of an hour he addressed them on their duties and responsibilities in view of their present position in the Empire. He told them that they ought to thank God that they were the first to be relieved from the shackles of superstition, and to be made acquainted with the pure gospel of Christ. He told them that many eyes were upon them here, and that they ought to excel all others in the land in faithful obedience to the Government, in a kind and brotherly deportment to those of other religious opinions, and in a universally honest and upright example. Again and again did he exhort them to act, in all things, according to the principles and doctrines of the gospel. From the impression made upon their minds, he must have spoken with great tenderness and power. Their hearts were all melted, and their countenances betrayed the deep and strong emotions that were struggling within; so that the Ambassador himself was moved almost to tears, and expressed to them his high gratification at the interest they manifested in his counsels and warnings. The scene was truly affecting, and will long be remembered. How admirable are the ways of Providence, in putting in such a post, for such times, such a man!"

"A letter from our brethren at Constantinople to Sir Straford, acknowledging his invaluable services in this matter, with his reply may be found in the Missionary Herald for June.

"The present number of Protestants in Turkey is estimated at about fifteen hundred. The following paragraph is from the close of a late letter from the mission:—

"No such class of persons existed in this country, when your missionaries first came here; and now they have become numerous and important enough to call for a distinct recognition and a separate civil organization, by order of the Sultan himself. This community is already composed not only of Protestant Armenians, but also of Protestant Greeks, Jews, Syrians, Maronites, and Druzes; and just now a body of Protestant Germans, who have removed from Russia to the borders of the Danube, and have voluntarily become subjects of the Porte, are asking for admission to its privileges. The firman is general, and secures protection to all Protestant subjects of Turkey, whatever may have been their origin or former connection. We understand that both in Nazareth and Nablús, as well as in some other towns in Syria, a considerable number of families, belonging formerly to the Greek and Catholic churches, now openly profess Protestantism, in connection with the Anglo-Prussian episcopate of Jerusalem. These also must be arranged under the same civil organization, having the same civil head with the Armenians in other parts of the Empire."

The Head of the Mahomedan Empire has recently won applause from the world by several great actions, but the charter which he has now conferred upon Protestant Christians outlines in glory, as we trust it will in beneficence, all others. CHARTER OF THE PROTESTANTS IN THE TURKISH EMPIRE.

To my Vizir, Mohammed Pasha, Prefect of the Police in Constantinople, the honorable Minister and glorious Counsellor, the Model of the world, and Regulator of the affairs of the community; who, directing the public interests with sublime prudence, consolidating the structure of the Empire with wisdom, and strengthening the columns of its prosperity and glory, is the recipient of every grace from the Most High. May God prolong his glory!

When this sublime and august mandate reaches you, let it be known that hitherto those of my