

America to Liberia, and became citizens, we next turned our attention to the soil and its products, which left our minds favorably impressed in its favor. As for the soil, as in all other countries, it varies both in kind and quality.

As we were in Liberia during the rainy season, of course we can say but little of its climate. During our stay it was very pleasant. We had considerable rain, but not so much as we expected, from what we had heard of the African rains. It did not rain all one day without intermission during our stay in Liberia. As regards the heat, we were as much disappointed in that as in any thing else.

It is a mild, pleasant climate. Some suppose that we could not live in it, but we can; and when there, we wore the same class of clothing that we do in America. We think that there is as much cloth and flannel clothing worn by the Liberians as there are by the same number of citizens in the United States, during the months of March, April and May. And, for your satisfaction, we would inform you that we wore our own cloths during our stay in Liberia, and found them not only comfortable, but absolutely necessary, and that we did not feel so warm at any time in Liberia as we felt it in the United States in July.

The settlements in Liberia are matters of great interest and importance, especially when we consider that the new settlers are to make a choice or to choose a home from among the many.

But notwithstanding, we would say, that Monrovia is a fine flourishing town, and the capital of the republic, with about fifteen hundred inhabitants, who appear to enjoy a good health as any citizens of the republic. It is the principal commercial point in Liberia, though all the settlements on the coast are somewhat so. The streets are wide and regularly laid out, although some of them have many large rocks in them, and we think rather more bushes than the citizens have need of. The geographical position of Monrovia is too well known for us to attempt to give it. The social and religious habits of the citizens of their own towns, their respective private dwellings of Monrovia are like those of other towns, they correspond generally with the purse of the owner. Hence you may find those private dwellings which cost from twenty-five dollars up to five thousand.

Basra Cove and Edina, the next point visited by us, are rather small settlements, nearly opposite each other, situated near the mouth of the St. John's river. Neither the public nor private buildings are so good as those at Monrovia, though they are sufficiently large and comfortable for all practical purposes.

The next settlement visited by us, is situated near the mouth of the Sinoe river, called Greenville. It is thought, in the judgment of your committee, the prettiest of the towns or settlements in Liberia. The population of Sinoe county is about 1000; that of the town of Greenville, 300. This is not so much of a commercial point as the ones above mentioned, but still it is quite a thriving little place.

The number of churches in Liberia is four.

These embrace the Methodists, Episcopalians, and Baptists. The number of schools in the colony is six. These are supported by the Maryland State Colonization Society, Episcopal, Methodist and Baptist missions. There are also six Sabbath Schools, well attended.

There are in the colony two regularly organized Societies of Mutual Relief, one of the males and the other of the females. There has lately been formed an Agricultural Society, which promises well. There are in operation, in various vicinities of the colony, several schools confined to the instruction of the natives. These schools are supported by different societies of foreign missions in the United States, and have able teachers, appointed and sent here for that purpose.

The annual exports consist of about 100,000 gallons of palm-oil, some camwood, and a little ivory; also Malageta pepper. A good business in wood—that is, camwood—can be done in the colony.

We would state to this society, that the people of Liberia seem to us to live as happy, and in the enjoyment of as good health, as any people we have seen in our lives. They seem also to appreciate the privileges and position as a people, and, in a great measure, avail themselves of the opportunities they have to improve their political and social condition. We observed that, in every settlement we visited in Liberia, they have good schools; in the larger settlements, two or three, with competent teachers. They are all free schools, supported by benevolent societies in America. And we are happy to state to this society, that those schools are well filled by the children of the colonists. Besides these every-day schools, there are Sabbath Schools taught in all the churches. We judge, therefore, that the children of the colonists in Liberia, are educated with as little expense to their parents as in any other part of the world.

There is being builded in Monrovia, a seminary, in which the higher branches of education will be taught. This building will cost some seven or eight thousand dollars.

In most of all the settlements of Liberia, we found history and benevolent institutions intended for mutual edification and relief. At Monrovia alone they have some three or four. The settlements are also well supplied with churches. The Baptists and Methodists are the most popular, but, at the same time, Presbyterian and Episcopal churches are well attended.

Under all these favorable circumstances, you will naturally be led to inquire, what are the colonists doing, and what are their reasonable prospects?

We answer that, so far as we were eye-witnesses, they seemed to be doing as all other people in the world do. Some are rich, some are doing well, some are just able to get along in the world, others are poor, and there are those that beg. Among the citizens of Liberia, we find those who have farms under cultivation, with their hundreds and thousands of

coffee trees, &c. growing, yielding a bountiful reward to the hand of the diligent. And in Liberia, we see the farms and lots of many (who complain of hard times and poverty) grown over with lush, and not a single potato planted in them. In the very countenance of some of the Liberians, we see industry and enterprise depicted, but with others we discover the reverse. And hence the great diversity of the inhabitants. But, upon the whole, we think that the colonists are doing a great deal better than they would have been doing, had they remained in America. And they are aware of that fact, for we saw but three or four in all Liberia, who wish to return to America to remain.

So, from all we saw and heard while in Liberia, we can but say that the colonists are doing well. We saw no idle, and no famished, and, in our opinion, an exalted position among the nations of the earth awaits Liberia in the future; and that it is our judgment that it would be indeed to the advantage of the free color in the United States to emigrate to Liberia, where they may enjoy all the rights and privileges of freemen.

In relation to the natives, we are glad to state that friendly relations exist between them and the colonists. We saw no natives in the employ of the colonists; and we were informed that their usual wages are twenty-five cents per diem, and board.

The colonists have also many native boys and girls in their houses as domestic servants; and as such, they are said to be very apt and useful. We think the colonists who have those native boys and girls as servants, have a valuable opportunity to teach them the principles of their own language, the habits of civilization, and the principles and grounds of our holy religion; and thus qualifying them for missionaries to their respective tribes when returned. Whether or not the colonists in general avail themselves of this favorable opportunity of doing them good, is for the colonists, and not for us to say.—*Col Jour.*

VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.—Van Diemen's Land is about the same size as Ireland, being one hundred and seventy miles long, and one hundred and sixty broad. The population is estimated at eighty thousand, of whom nearly one-half are, or have been, convicts. The convict system has greatly retrenched the temporal property, and seriously affected the social and religious habits of the colony. Notwithstanding the baneful influence, it is said that, "computing the aspect of the colony with colonies of far older date, we are at once struck with the appearance of wealth and property which is everywhere manifested. The houses in towns are well built, of stone or brick; the streets are well kept, the roads are remarkably good; the wharves and public buildings show striking signs of grandeur and beauty. In fact there is a general aspect of ease and affluence throughout the length and breadth of the land." For a long period after the first settlement of Van Diemen's Land, no provision was made for the spiritual wants of either the colonists or the convicts. A great change, externally at least, has taken place, and the colonists now seem to be alive to the maintenance of religious ordinances, and the promoting of education.—*Home and Foreign Record.*

CHINESE METHOD OF CURING THE SICK.—The following description is from the pen of Rev. A. W. Loomis, of the Presbyterian Board. Mr. Loomis is stationed at Ningpo:—

In a crowded city there will of course be much sickness, and many of the sick will have such diseases as they suppose the priest only can rid them of, therefore their services will be in great constant requisition. The night is the time to which they appear to be most partial for the performance of their ceremonies, so that those who have Chinese for near neighbors must experience many sleepless nights; there are few persons that can sleep soundly amidst the unceasing clang-rang of gongs and bells, the sung-song and jabber of human voices, and the deafening sound of powder crackers and muskets. We were once in a family which gave a report like a musket. I will relate something of our experience. When we lived on the north bank of the river, opposite the Salt Gate, we had for one of our neighbors, Mr. Zah. He was an old man, quite venerable in his appearance, with a long white beard falling down over his breast. He had been a boatman, and his four or five sons all followed the same employment. Most of them were married, and all lived with their father, or within the same enclosure, each family having separate apartments. Our south-east window looked down into their yard, and we were obliged to hear all the scolding that occurred in case of disagreement and quarrel, and sometimes to hear the crying of the wives when their husbands whipped them; for the poor Chinese women have to bear whipping, or whatever their husbands see fit to inflict upon them. One day one of the young men was seized with a violent pain in the head and limbs, which caused great alarm throughout the house. After due consideration it was decided that an evil spirit must have got possession of the young man, and that he was then beating his bones, which caused the pain. Therefore a Tao priest was consulted, and about dark he came to the house accompanied by assistants. Several tables were arranged along through the centre of the middle room, and spread with an abundance of food and food of large size, and the performers began their incantations. There was very little sleep for the night, with a bedlam under our window. The priest continued chanting till near morning, and the assistants did not weary in endeavoring to force from their instruments the requisite quantity of harsh sounds. Candles and incense sticks were kept burning, and large powder crackers were lighted and thrown high in the air, where they exploded with a report equal to