

unthrift to keep a land poor. Here the family have sometimes omitted their dinner just because they have nothing to eat in the house. Maize, cacao and rice, when out of season can hardly be had for love or money; so this valley, a very Eden by nature, is filled with hunger and poverty."

The government is ultra-republican in which there is no stability. The executive is shorn of its power and changes the most stupendous, such as it would take twenty years to bring about in England, are the work of perhaps a single week. The expenditures are double the revenue, the inevitable end of which will be bankruptcy and political confusion. Although there is a President and Senate as well as a Congress, there is yet no check upon legislation. The absolute majority of the whole Congress voting in joint meeting carries every point against the will, it may be, of all the Senate, and in spite of any executive veto.

Of the religious state of the people, Mr. Holton says :

"Few indeed of the more intelligent class ever confess, and, of course these cannot commune, neither do they fast. In fact, religion is in a great degree obsolete, especially with the men. There is nothing to captivate the senses, no splendor, no imposing spectacle in the richest of their churches. It is simply ridiculous like a boy's training with sticks for guns."

Our traveller sums up the character of the New Grenadians thus :

"To tell the truth of them, I have been obliged to speak of their faults and deficiencies. But, after all, I here boldly declare the Grenadinos a highly moral people. I speak not of the Scotch, or English standard of morality, that is not fair. They are of a religion highly adverse in its institutions to the laws of chastity, and in this they may be compared with Catholic countries. Now, grant that the proportion of illegitimate births be 33 per cent, I think it must be less, then it is the same as that of Paris. In Brussels it is 35 per cent; in Munich 48; and I believe in sacred Rome far worse. Again as to the crimes against life I suppose, in all the nation, there are not a fifth as many murders as in New York city alone. I have more than once had to blush for the ruffianism of the scum of our nation, like which nothing can be found in the very worst population of New Grenada. Say I not well, then, that the Grenadinos deserve a high place among the nations of the earth in point of moral character. And lastly, we two of all the nations of the earth, are without any established Church, granting equal rights to all men of all creeds." And he might have added, *they* have emancipated their slaves.

No Missionary efforts have yet been made in this country. We are glad, however, to find that the old school Presbyterian board of Missions have just sent a Missionary to Bogota. Here is a population of two millions and a half of people, including Indians, in their savage state, and a mixed race of Spaniards, Negroes and Indians, for whom as yet the Christian Church has done comparatively nothing. Although nominally Christian, they are yet far from a saving knowledge of Christ and Christianity. The country is apparently open to evangelization, and it is to be hoped that this incipient effort of our American brethren will be crowned with the divine blessing. Mr. Holton has done good service to Grenada by calling the attention of his people to their spiritual wants. His book is deserving of a place among our highest class of travels. Although not equal in execution, or in scientific value, to Hooker's *Himalayan Journal*, or to the narratives of Humbolt, it is yet vastly superior to nine tenths of the modern books of travel, and is an important addition to our knowledge of tropical America. ✓

---

DESERT OF SINAI. Notes of a Spring Journey from Cairo to Beersheba, by H. BONAR, D.D., Kelso. London: James Nisbet & Co. Crown, 8vo., pp. 408.

Dr. Bonar, with three companions, in the autumn of 1856 set out from Dover through France, by way of Malta and Alexandria, on a journey to the Desert of Sinai, of which this book is the notes. Having passed from Alexandria to Cairo by railway, through the old land of wondrous ruins, the far-famed Egypt, of which we have a few sketches and notes, our travellers from this place, with