

are high mountains, which defend the colonies from the burning winds of the Sahara towards the north-east.

The productions are numerous, among which we may name rice, corn, coffee, all tropical fruits, cotton, &c. Cottonwood and other dyer-woods, ivory, shells, palm oil, and many other things are articles of export. The commerce of the country is now estimated to be worth \$500,000 annually.

The progress of this colony has indeed wonderful in all that concerns material interests; and it will not be long till the 400 miles of its coast will be lined with settlements of civilised men; not will it be many years till these colonies will penetrate into the interior, and open roads up to the mountains, whilst its inhabitants will be pouring its rivers and its estuaries, as well as pursuing their way along its coasts.

But what shall we say of the progress of these colonies in all that relates to their moral and religious interests? Impartial visitors represent this progress to have been and more remarkable. The same testimony is borne by the ministers and missionaries who labor among them, of every denomination.

There are now more than thirty schools, and among them, several, such as the Alexander High School, at Matavia, the Episcopal Mission School, at Cape Palmas, the White Plains Methodist School, on the St. Paul's River, hold quite an elevated rank.

Faithful ministers of the gospel, of the Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist and Episcopal Churches, are laboring with success in these colonies. We need not much doubt of the glory of our Lord has had greater success in any part of the New World, in proportion to the number of the people, than among these colonies. The Methodist Mission has had sixteen missionaries, thirteen principal stations, and between 1100 and 1200 communicants, of whom from 100 to 200 are native converts.

The Presbyterian Board of Missions has three missions in Liberia, and one among the natives, at Sierra Leone, near Cape Palmas.

The American Baptist Union has had a mission for several years among the Basas, comprising one station, several outposts, and five or six native helpers.

The Board of Missions of the Protestant Episcopal Church has had a mission at Cape Palmas and a vicinity for fifteen years. This mission now includes four ordained missionaries, a physician, a teacher, and several native assistant teachers.

The reports of all these missionaries (of whom only two are white men) display a remarkable spirit of devotion to the work, and strong confidence in its importance and success. They rightly judge that these colonies furnish admirable points of irradiation, from which the truth may be made to shine far into Africa, and ultimately enlighten it, even in its most interior portions, now so dark with ignorance and degradation.

Northward of Liberia is the English possession of Sierra Leone, with its 43,000 inhabitants, its printing-presses, its prosperous missions, its schools, its native churches and chapels, from which the gospel is destined to penetrate far into Africa.—*Christian Retrospect & Register*, for 1850.

#### MISSIONS IN ST. HELENA.

On Sunday morning, the 16th inst., the Rev. J. McGregor Bertram, of St. Helena, delivered a highly interesting address on the missionary worth of that island, in the Presbyterian Church, corner of Houston and Thompson Streets, New York. Mr. Bertram having designed laboring among the natives of South Africa, had spent some time at the Cape of Good Hope. While there, a young man, a native of St. Helena, who had come to the Cape to carry on his business, became a Christian, when he presented the claims of the island to the churches at the Cape as a missionary field. St. Helena is a rock in mid ocean, 1650 miles from the Cape of Good Hope, 5000 miles from London, 1200 from the African coast, and 600 from the Island of Ascension, and with its lofty and precipitous cliffs rising from 500 to 2000 feet in height, it is like a vast rock in the sea. Yet, though forbidding in its approach, on entering the harbor, and penetrating into the valleys, the most delightful climate, the most lovely valleys and landscape, and the most romantic pictures of natural beauty are to be met with, probably unsurpassed in any part of the world. The island is about the size of an acre, and from nine to ten in diameter. The population is about 7500, and is composed of 1500 whites, 1000 liberated Africans, rescued from slave-ships, and 5000 natives, who are a mixture of Portuguese and Africans early introduced in the brilliant period of Portuguese discovery and navigation. They are ignorant and degraded, and were without any knowledge, without the idea of a soul or of a God, until they were taught by the missionary. Being three fourths colored, they had been enslaved by the whites, until the glorious period of British emancipation.

Mr. Bertram, on the representation of the young convert before spoken of, turned his attention to this island, as a missionary field. He was the first dissenting minister who had ever entered the harbor for the purpose of settling there. The action of the synodical body of the first presbytery, the first convert—a young man of the finest talents and education, who is now an ordained minister in one of the churches—the gathering of the natives, and their habits, together with the occasional descriptions of natural scenery, were highly interesting. It is but about five years since the speaker first went to St. Helena, and there are now a church of whites and two native churches, and several Sunday schools. Mr. Bertram is seeking assistance to support this mission, and to build houses of worship for the poor natives.

#### MICRONESIA.

Under its proper hall will be found the embarkation of several missionaries, who are expected to commence a new mission among those groups of islands in the Pacific Ocean, which are comprised under the general name of Micronesia, a term which signifies "a group of small islands." The substance of what is known of them and of their inhabitants, is contained in the charge, given to Dr. Gish by his ordination, by Dr. Forsyth; from which the account that follows is taken.

Micronesia comprises several groups of islands, lying north of New Guinea and the Tonga Islands, east of Celebes and the Philippines, and southwest of the Sandwich Islands, extending through about forty degrees of longitude and twenty of latitude, a most the whole of it being north of the equator. The principal groups in this division, are the Pelew, Ladron, Catulac, Ralik and Radek Islands, Malagatze and Kingmid. The islands are very numerous, but not large.

The Micronesians are of the same race with their neighbors, the Polynesians, to whom the Sandwich Islands belong, and like them in complexion, features, physical structure, language, customs, and general characteristics. There are, however, some dissimilarity in the different groups of the region. The more southern islands have evidently received some accessions, and some modifications of complexion and character, from the Melanesians on their southern border, while the western section has clearly been reached by influence from the Asiatic continent.

They are social and enterprising. A constant intercommunication is kept up by the inhabitants of the different groups and islands, a circumstance highly favorable to the spread of the Gospel among them. In their voyages, it is said, they govern their course by the stars with great accuracy. They divide the horizon into twenty-eight points, giving to each a name.

Their skill in some of the arts is considerable. Their canoes, which sail either way with equal facility, are covered with a varnish of native manufacture, which renders them water-tight. The girdles or sarongs which they wear, are made of the bastards of the banana plant, not braided as in other parts of the Pacific, but woven in a simple loom, the shuttle being much like that in use among us.

In regard to general character, all navigators who have visited them, are strongly agreed, and testify that their most striking trait is a certain native kindness of heart, sweetness of natural temper, and an absence of harsh and violent feelings, very rarely to be found among men in the savage state. They are distinguished also from 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 being courteous, unassuming, and anxious 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 the 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 pay 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 idola 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 Kingmid 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 availed of the changes wrought at the Hawaiian Islands, and have expressly entreated that missionaries should be sent to them.

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.—*Journal of Miss.*

#### THE INHABITANTS OF ANEITEM.

Five years ago, that branch of the United Presbyterian Church called the "Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia," with a laudable zeal to engage in the holy enterprise of Missions, sent two Missioners, Rev. Mr. Geddie, and Mr. Archibald, to Aneitem, the southernmost island of the New Hebrides group. Mr. Archibald has lately retired from the work there, and the Board of Missions in Nova Scotia is advertising for a licentiate of our Church, to be sent to supply his place. The following extracts are by Mr. Geddie, who seems to have entered into his work with his whole soul—has made remarkable proficiency in acquiring the native language—and, taking all things into account, has already, we think, been remarkably successful. Might not our Church in Canada