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Description of Liberia.

We take the following description of the Republic of Liberia, its extent, population, settlements, products, &c. from a pamphlet just issued in Philadelphia. A very general interest is now felt in the success of this Colony, and the visit of its President to our City has still more excited public curiosity. It will be seen that the soil, naturally fertile, produces in abundance a large variety of tropical plants and fruits, and that products to a large amount have been exported within two years. Education is not neglected, and the report of the religious aspect of the Colony is very flattering:

LIBERIA.

EXTENT.—Liberia extends from Digby at the mouth of the Poor River, on the North-west, to Cavalry River, on the South-east, between 4 deg. 20 min. and 6 deg. 40 min North latitude, and 7 deg. 30 min. and 11 deg. West longitude, from Greenwich. The length of coast between Digby and the Cavalry River is about three hundred miles. The territory of Liberia extends from twenty to thirty miles inland. The right of possession and jurisdiction over all this line, (with the exception of Young Sisters), has been purchased by the American and the Maryland Colonization Societies, and farther purchases have since been made.

POPULATION.—The inhabitants of Liberia, emigrants from the United States and their children, number three thousand five hundred; and seven hundred occupy the Maryland Colony at Cape Palmas. To these may be added about five hundred natives, civilized and admitted to the privileges of the polls and the rights of citizenship in general. The natives residing on land owned by the Colony, and directly amenable to its laws, are estimated from 10,000 to 15,000. The population of the allied tribes in the interior, who are bound by treaty to abstain from the slave trade and other barbarous practices, is not accurately known, but may be estimated at 150,000.

TOWNS AND SETTLEMENTS.—Monrovia on the south side of Cape Mesurado, near the north-western boundary of Liberia, is the Capital and chief place of trade. Population 1,000. The other ports, not counting those in the Maryland Colony, are Marshall on the Junk River, Edina, Bexley on the St. John's River, Bassa Cove, and Greenville on the Sinoe River. The more inland towns and their adjoining settlements are Caldwell, New Georgia and Millsburg.

PRODUCTIONS OF THE SOIL.—Coffee, sugar cane, rice, cotton, indigo, Indian corn, potatoes, yams, cassavas, bananas, arrow-root and nuts may be produced in any quantity; fruits are various and abundant. These are all grown in Liberia.

EXPORTS.—The chief exports are camwood, palm oil and ivory, to the amount of \$123,690 in two years, ending September, 1843, according to the official returns. These are brought from the interior.

IMPORTS.—The imports for the two years, as above, amounted to \$157,830.

RELIGIOUS ASPECT.—Churches, 23; communicants 1,500; of whom 500 are natives and re-captured Africans.

EDUCATION.—Schools 16; scholars 560; of whom 200 are native Africans. The Sunday-schools embrace a far larger number.

*The statistics of the Maryland Colony at Cape Palmas are not given in this statement.

Monster Snake.

On the 4th inst., while Mr. Lyman Whitman with a friend was out gunning, in the town of Dunstable, N.H., near the somewhat celebrated springs, discovered a large black snake slowly crawling along the ground. Mr. Whitman fired, wounded the reptile, which, hissing, started furiously toward him, when a shot from his friend brought him to, but it was not until a third and a fourth charge had been given him, that he succumbed to his assailants. Upon measuring him, he was found to be nine feet and seven inches in length.

Falls of Niagara.

The Buffalo Commercial Advertiser of Thursday last says—

Among the numerous "Guides to the Falls," both biped and quadruped—a large black dog of the mastiff species, belonging to Mr. Woodruff, the Postmaster, should not be overlooked. He is intimately acquainted with almost every nook and corner of this world of waters, and often may be seen fearlessly leaping among the wildest crags and about the fearful precipices. It is said, however, that upon the erection of the new Suspension Bridge, the dog being invited to a passage across, cautiously stepped a few paces upon it, and then, stopping, laid down and actually howled with terror. With some hesitation he at length backed out, and no inducement could since prevail on him to make a second attempt. We were much amused recently to notice the dog attach himself to a party of four, about starting for a jaunt across the ferry: "Watch" started ahead, descended the stairs, and when we arrived at the boat at the foot he was quietly sitting in the stern, waiting for us. Upon our arrival at the Canada side, with the air of an experienced guide, he preceded us to the Table-rock, Barnett's Museum, the Menagerie, and other points of interest, and on our return, re-entered the boat, crossed over, and, arriving at the inclined railway, having apparently satisfied himself that it would be much less fatiguing to ride up, than to mount the two hundred and odd steps; gravely seated himself upright on the cars and rode up with the rest of the passengers. Such scenes as these we are told are of almost daily occurrence with this sagacious creature. He often makes the voyage up the river on the Maid of the Mist.

A few days since, while one of the Guides was conducting a gentleman into the "Cave of the Winds," behind the American Fall, he came upon a full grown hog, alive but crippled—two of his legs being badly broken, and his body bearing evident marks of having "suffered some." How he came there no one could tell; and the fair presumption is that his pork-ship must have been accidentally drawn into the current while loitering near the shore, and necessarily taking the fearful leap over the cataract—had by one of those seeming miracles, escaped alive!

A letter from Niagara Falls to the New York Express relates the following piece of pleasant and ingenious Yankeeism:—

"A little up stream from the bridge is the road leading to the Maid of the Mist. From the foot of this road the steamer starts and takes the traveller up the Gulf and near the Great Horse Shoe Fall; a pleasant but rather expensive voyage. Mr. F. is one of the most gentlemanly runners it has been our fortune to meet. Indeed he is quite a genius in his way, and I was not a little amused by a recital of his tactics in procuring passengers for the Maid, which ran as follows: Mrs. F. boards at the Cataract, and after tea seats herself in the beautiful parlor of the Cataract House, decked in all her 'best.' Anon Mr. F. appears with his white gloves on, and in strolling leisurely around the parlor happens to discover Mrs. F., with whom he shakes hands very cordially, and enters into a conversation in a rather loud key, the burden of the discourse being, of course, 'the splendid little steamer,' and the 'delightful trip up the Gulf and under the Falls,' &c. &c. Of course the attention of the strangers who hear the conversation is drawn to the same 'delightful trip' which they resolve, doubtless, to take next day. Is not this an ingenious refinement upon *runnerism*. A runner in white gloves in the parlor of the Cataract, and a lady to help! Who can compete with the Yankees in any thing they undertake?"

Hardening Hides.

The following patented process of hardening hides, extracted from Examiner Paga's Report, will be found to be not a little interesting. The hide is hardened and rendered transparent as horn.

In the first place they are submitted to the sweating operation or the liming, for removing the hair. They are then submitted to the action of powerful astringents, such as sulphuric acid, alum or salts of tartar dissolved in water at a high temperature. During the operation of clearing the hides of the oil, they are rubbed, friction is applied in any convenient way, whereby the hide becomes thickened; and after this process is finished, they are rinsed in warm water and dried. After being dried they are submitted to the action of boiling linseed, or any other drying oil, and retained in the hot oil until a yellow scum appears upon the surface of the hides, when they are withdrawn. If it is desired to impart color to the material, as staining it in imitation of tortoise shell, it is done while in the oil bath, and when removed from the bath it is submitted to pressure in moulds for the formation of various articles, as knife handles, &c. For the article, when it comes hot from the oil bath, is very soft and pliable, but a hen allowed to cool, it becomes hard and susceptible of a high polish.

Buena Vista.

Steady, Boys! steady,
To meet you armed band
We've followed Rough and Ready,
Far from our native land.

What though with bristling lances
Our foes obscure the sun,
Along the barrel when it glances
Each eye can see but one.

Steady, Boys! steady,
One soul pervades our band—
The soul of Rough and Ready;
One thought—our native land

Brethren of Indiana!
And of Mississippi's shore,
Bear aloft the starry banner
Where the cannons loudest roar.

Steady, Boys! steady,
What heart will not expand
When the voice of Rough and Ready
Gives out the steag command.

"Attention!" and the throbbing
Of each heart echoes the word;
While the eager hand is robbing
The scabbard of its sword.

Steady, Boys! steady,
Their onset we will stand
By the side of Rough and Ready
For the honor of our land.

"Attention!" and the rolling
Of the drum repeats the sound,
While each brave all fears controlling
Marks time upon the ground.

Steady Boys! steady,
On their backs the name we'll brand
Of the Hero Rough and Ready,
Who leads our gallant band.

"Attention!" and the clicking
Of a thousand locks is heard,
Every eye a toe is picking,
Every finger bides the word.

Steady, Boys! steady,
The enemy's at hand;
THREE cheers for Rough and Ready,
NINE for one Native Land.

The Character of Zachary Taylor.

BY WASHINGTON G. SNETHER.

The character of Zachary Taylor approximates very closely to that of George Washington. It is full of all the attributes of human excellence. It abounds in moral strength, symmetry and beauty. It stands upon the broad base of honesty and is crowned with the glory of truthfulness. Like a huge Doric column that rears itself aloft, it is marked by simplicity, repose and firmness. It is a pile of manly glories. There is no ruin about it or near it, no falling stone, no bramble at its foot, but all is fresh, new and perfect. The study of such a structure will amply repay the labor.

The absence from Zachary Taylor's character of the vices that ordinarily disfigure the life and actions of public men, enables the observer to enjoy in an intense degree the contemplation of the positive virtues which this wonderful man possesses. If regarded from afar, he is like to some lofty oak on a mountain peak—there are no forests no obstacles to hide it from the sight of the beholder. If seen from a near point of view, he is like to the statue of the Father of the country from the chisel of Greenough—an embodiment of a man without a blemish.

The corner-stone of Zachary Taylor's character is honesty. Every other stone in the structure is out of the quarry of pure morals—rough, askew of value. Honesty is the source, whence all the purposes of his life spring; the channel along which they flow; the sea to which they hurry their waters. As with the thoughts, words and deeds of Washington, so with those of Taylor—no man can mistake their origin. They are the emanations of a pure mind, having no object in view but the public good; and about what constitutes the public good, honesty never cavils; never disputes, never hesitates. This grand moral principle in the heart of man is like charity. It recognises as quickly what the public good is, as the latter principle is quick to recognise our neighbor. Taylor's honesty has passed into a proverb among those who know him. It is a shining light, illuminating his character. It is the sun of his moral and mental world. It throws its rays upon all men and all things, with whom and with which he has to do. Devoid, in almost a superhuman degree, of the stimulus of personal ambition, or if he possesses it, successful like Washington in suppressing its influence upon his thoughts, words or actions, Taylor presents, in his person and in his deeds, a glorious example of the value which a truly humble and honest man is to the age in which he lives; for without honesty, there cannot be humility, and Taylor, as well as Washington, has shown the truth of this philosophy.

Honesty, in all ages, has been justly regarded as the parent of all the human virtues, and if a man be seen to possess, in a large degree, these virtues, he is sure to be set down as an

honest man, and correctly too. Vices can never be the offspring of honesty, any more than a limpid fountain can pour fourth muddy waters. In honest Zachary Taylor is found not one of the human virtues absent. They abound as the sands of the sea shore abound.—They cluster around his brow in rich profusion. In his intercourse with men he is just, merciful, generous, kind, and forgiving. In the discharge of his duties, he is firm, steady, patient, persevering. In his personal bearing, he is modest, accessible, frank. So high is his reputation for justice, that men have been known to prefer Zachary Taylor's voluntary opinion upon a disputed point to the decision of a regularly constituted tribunal in the premises. His tender-heartedness is as proverbial as his love of justice, and sheds a halo around all his actions, even when duty demands that its promptings shall be silenced. He has a kind word for all, and for him injuries are written in water. To wish well and to do well to his fellow creatures are the prime purposes of Zachary Taylor's heart, and his whole life has been one example of generosity and benevolence. His courage is of the very highest order; not merely physical, but mental and moral. The courage to do evil, to do wrong, to do injustice he has not, but his courage is, to do good, to do well, to do right. It is the courage of honesty. Hence it is never alarmed, never trembles, never knows fear, never can be seduced by promises of favor. It is a courage that is no respecter of persons. It is a courage that never shrinks from responsibility, never dreads its presence. It is never rash, though adequate to every emergency and duty, because to be right and to do right are the controlling determinations of his noble mind.

With humility always goes simplicity of manners. Taylor is not an exception to this rule. His simplicity of manners is the admiration of all, and it is further evidence of the presence of the great virtues, without which it cannot exist to any extent in any individual. An humble man regards his fellow-man as his equal and is accessible to all alike. This is Taylor's rule of action. There is a charm about his whole personal deportment, that invariably excites respect and love in those who are brought into contact with him. This charm, which is the legitimate operation of so many virtues centred in one man, is the secret of the confidence which his presence and his character have infused so largely into the public mind. It has been said that a man may be known by his dress. In this particular, Taylor is true to his character, which is, never to run into extremes. While he pays every respect to the conventionalisms of society, he never exhibits any of that frivolity of mind that loses sight of the kernel in contemplating the husk.

The possession of honesty and of all the virtues of which honesty is the parent, is invariably accompanied by the existence in the same individual of great intellectual capacity. These plants cannot flourish in barren soil. Strong intellect is necessary to their growth and development. Nor will they grow and develop themselves unless the intellect be cultivated, and cultivated diligently. These truths are verified in the person of Zachary Taylor. His intellect is of the highest order. He has cultivated it with great assiduity, and it has proved to be a fruitful field to the possessor. Every seed sown in it has brought forth a vigorous plant that has grown rapidly and yielded rich fruits. The powers of his mind are equal in every respect to his moral attributes. They stand side by side in their glory.

Signalized by a wonderful grasp of intellect and extraordinary powers of intellect and extraordinary powers of generalization, he never fails to arrive at a correct judgment of men and things because of the extent of data which he can command, almost intuitively, upon a given subject. Herein his honesty of purpose avails him mightily. There is no miserable and petty personal ambition present to obscure his conception, but, in the pure light of the public good, he sees every thing take its proper position, and the result becomes known to him with mathematical certainty. Gifted with the power of writing the English language more purely, perhaps, than any other man living, he has at his hands the means of announcing the deliberations of his mighty mind in words that bear with the authority of truthfulness. By nature and by education, Zachary Taylor is a law-loving and law-reading man. His honesty makes him so and keeps him so. His career has been with men and with things, and they have left their impress upon a naturally right mind, which in its turn has reacted upon these objects of active life, and mastered them and made them subservient to the master's use.—Herein is the philosophy of Taylor's glorious character. It has been formed by his mighty mind out of materials provided in abundance by the God of his nature. In one whole combined, it stands the proudest monument of human excellence that now fills the national eye. Fortunate for the country, that its possessor, unconscious of his merit and his glory, is about to be lifted by the popular voice to the chair once occupied by the only man to whose char-

acter he approaches more nearly than any other individual living!

WASHINGTON, July 8th, 1848.

Presence of mind in Children.

A more interesting case of true presence of mind was seldom, if ever, recorded than the following, which occurred some time ago, in one of the interior towns of Maine. A gentleman who lived in a beautiful villa, a little retired from one of the charming villages which every where adorn New-England, had gone, with several members of his family, on Sabbath morning, to attend worship in the village church, leaving only three small children at home.—The oldest of them was a son of thirteen years, the second eleven, and the third a daughter of nine. These children were considered every way trusty by their parents, who entertained no fears for the safety of home during their absence at the church. The time of the little ones was occupied with moral and interesting books, as was common with them when thus left at home, till toward noon they thought they discovered symptoms of wood burning, and on ascending to the head of the stairs, found the whole upper part of the house enveloped in smoke and flame. On going out they saw the fire bursting out of the roof in every part, threatening destruction not only of the house but to everything in it.

There was now no time for deliberation.—What was to be done was to be done instantly; quick as thought each child was at work as if their several parts had been assigned them by the wisdom of age, after mature deliberation. The elder boy mounted a horse and rode with all possible speed to the village to obtain assistance there. At the same time, and with a discretion far in advance of their years, the younger lad and his sister set about clearing the house of such articles as their strength was able to remove. In the first place they secured their father's papers. Next they contrived to remove an elegant eight day brass clock of much value. To accomplish this, they placed two feather beds in front of it on the floor, and throwing it over on its face, drew it out on one of the beds, and thus removed it beyond the flames. After this they got out the beds and bed clothes, and next secured the contents of their mother's wardrobe. Her china and silver ware were then put into baskets and placed beyond the reach of harm.

Thus they kept steadily but calmly at work removing articles, giving each article, priority according to its value, till they were relieved from their anxiety and toils by the arrival of the family and neighbors from the meeting, one or two miles distant. Nearly all that was done on this occasion was accomplished by the cool demeanor and unflinching perseverance of these two children, as, when the people arrived, the fire had extended to every room in the house, and rendered access almost impossible. Several times they risked their lives to save articles which they thought would be highly esteemed by their mother.

Boston Traveller.

Improvement Butter.

We yesterday saw, says the N. Y. Mirror, a sweet milk converted into butter in four minutes, probably a dash of ice-water would have brought the butter in less time. This wonderful effect was produced by one of the most simple churning machines that we have ever seen. It consists of a square box, having a hollow perpendicular shaft with two hollow arms or tubes at the lower end. The shaft rests on a pivot and is turned by a small crank and cog wheel, the motion causes the air to rush down the tube into the milk and produces a commotion like boiling water. The butter began to come immediately, and after it was made the milk was as sweet as new. By this process good churn butter may be made for breakfast by any family after the milkman has come in the morning, and the luxury of pure fresh butter enjoyed the year round. While the cakes are baking or the muffins toasting, the head of the family may be amusing himself by churning the butter to eat with them.

SOMETHING RICH.—We find the following advertisement in a Mississippi paper:

TAKE NOTICE.

"With Mr. Ginn the crowd came in—
Some took whiskey—some took gin."
Uriah Ginn takes this occasion to inform his creditors and friends, the public at large, and the community in particular, that it is his intention to change his place of residence by leaving Rankin county in the course of one, two or three weeks, as may best suit his convenience.—He is induced to be thus particular, being like ten thousand of his neighbors, not exactly prepared to shell out the corn, and wipe out all old scores; at the same time he will use every effort to settle all his debts wherein he has got value received; but he wishes it to be emphatically understood by those who hold paper with his name saddled on it as an endorser, that he bluffs the whole arrangement. Those who hold claims against him upon that footing can turn the screws and grind on, and if they get the money before Ginn does they can sing out