

# LIBERIA, OUR FIRST COLONY.

Life in the African Republic Which Was Founded by American Aid Societies.

## HARDSHIPS THAT BESET NEWCOMERS.

With the inception of a colonial policy by the United States the condition of our first foreign colony has taken on new interest. The Republic of Liberia was founded and governed by the colonization societies, an arrangement which might have continued indefinitely had not Great Britain raised the question of sovereignty in connection with a dispute over boundaries. The Government of the United States having refused protection, the Liberians were advised to declare their independence, which they did in 1847. Liberia has thus completed

and prosperous farmer there is, indeed, a gulf fixed, in the shape of four or five years of semi-starvation, sickness and difficulties of all sorts. The climate, the soil, the crops, the food, and even the cookery, are new. The emigrant starves by refusing or makes himself ill by attempting to eat improperly prepared native foods which in the right condition are both nourishing and palatable. He tries rancid palm oil and goes back to imported butter at seventy-five cents a pound, until his money is exhausted. He wastes his time planting his crops at



A CLEARING IN THE LIBERIAN FOREST.

a half century of self-government, and as the orderly course of events has been broken by but a single brief civic disturbance, the record in this respect is admittedly good. It is not, however, because of the efficiency of the Government, but rather on account of the peaceful and law-abiding tendencies of the citizens, that life and property are unexpectedly secure.

Liberia is an agricultural community of about 20,000 colonists from America and descendants of such. This meager civilized population is not, however, centered at any one point, but is scattered in numerous settlements along 300 miles of coast line. There are no cities in any proper sense of the word, and nearly the entire population is engaged in

the wrong season or in the wrong way. He pays extortionate prices and is perhaps completely fleeced by those who are willing to "take the stranger in."

To send the colonist to Liberia is manifestly but the first step in the process of colonization. Those who managed the work in the earlier days understood this and acted accordingly, but after an independent Government had been set up and prosperity seemed assured, the careful management so necessary to such an enterprise was withdrawn. The paradox has again come true, for colonization was abandoned on account of its success. Recent efforts should be called emigration or deportation merely, the essential idea of colonization being absent. Deportation has failed. It is worse than foolish to expect the inexperienced emigrant to take up single-handed the conquest of the tropical forest in the face of the difficulties of pioneer life in Africa. Unusual endurance or some exceptional fortune may bring him through, but the chances are mostly against him. The battle with the fever and the forest is too long. Five years of suffering, starvation and homesickness mean a deterioration which subsequent prosperity can scarcely atone for, even if the colonist's family is spared by death.

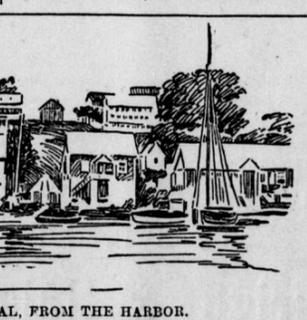
Colonization means the partial removal of these difficulties, and the success which attended early efforts of the kind is an indication of what might be expected if the resources of modern civilization were brought to bear upon the problem. It is at least certain that Liberia could offer opportunities considerably superior to those being eagerly sought by Europeans in the African colonies of the various powers. Indeed, Liberia is already in advance of any of these colonies, if we interpret the signs aright. There is more coffee under cultivation, and there are more good farms owned and managed by negroes than in any other part of tropical Africa. There are more good houses, more intelligent people, more churches and more schools, and, while the aggregate is yet infinitesimal compared with Europe or America, it constitutes the



EXECUTIVE MANSION AT MONROVIA.

most favorable nucleus of civilization to be found in tropical Africa. To attempt to arouse excitement and stir up an exodus of American negroes would be to invite disaster on a large scale. The negro can honestly be advised only to stay where he is until he has far better assurance of safety than can now be given him. The important point is that the supposed failure of colonization during the last half century failure is not a demonstration of the existence of any insurmountable obstacles in the way of furnishing a home in Africa for those who find themselves uncomfortable here.

are no opportunities for men to grow rich from speculation or by rise of land values. Very little land is sold, the new arrivals being too poor to buy, while improved property is seldom alienated from the family. The Government provides emigrants with land free of charge. But it will not do to continue this recital of facts favorable to Liberia without admitting and explaining the popular adverse opinion on the subject. The well-informed reader has noticed before this an entire discrepancy with the frequently published reports of returning emigrants. Their narratives are usually exaggerated, and often incoherent, but in the main true. Liberia resembles the house planned by a famous French novelist. It was a success in all particular save one—there was no doorway, no staircase. Between the penniless emigrant

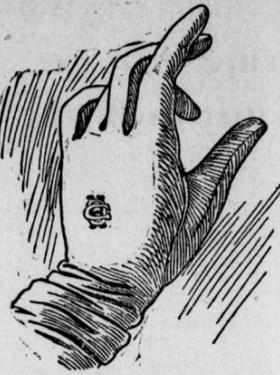


MONROVIA, THE CAPITAL, FROM THE HARBOR.

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An argument offered for the employment of prisoners in building roads is that the fear of such public degradation will deter from the commission of petty crimes, and will lessen the incursion of tramps into a community,

**Latest Craze in London.**  
The monogram glove is the latest craze in London and has just reached America. It cannot be called a pretty fashion, but as it is decreed to be the



A MONOGRAM GLOVE.

thing, the thing it will certainly prove to be. Gloves made to order with monograms are devoid of stitching, and the monogram is embroidered in the centre of the back of the hand. Those which are purchased from stock and then embroidered have the monogram set between the thumb seam and first row of stitching, and others have it placed on the wrist below the stitching. This latter position is not altogether a very advantageous one, as a glove usually wrinkles so much at the wrist that the monogram is apt to lose its prominence and the small amount of beauty it might otherwise possess. The most popular—if the new fad may be said to be popular so soon—are the self-colored embroidered monograms. These decorations are so striking, even in self-coloring, that few will be brave enough to hazard so striking a contrast as white or black, or vice versa.

### French Reporter Got His Story.

This is how a reporter in France gained admission to the palace there while the late President Faure was awaiting burial.

All the reporters who came to the palace were denied admission, and a stony-hearted doorkeeper was there to see that they didn't get in.

They advanced all sorts of arguments, as reporters generally do, but the doorkeeper was immovable. He said he had his instructions, and these were that none but Ambassadors should be admitted.

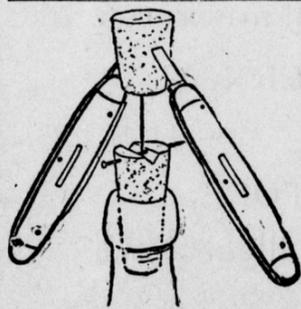
Now there is in Paris a music hall called "Les Ambassadeurs," and one of the reporters who wanted to gain admission remembered when he heard the doorkeeper repeat these instructions that he happened to have a pass for this music hall in his pocket.

He pulled it out and found it read: "Les Ambassadeurs, Entree Libre." This he passed to the doorkeeper, who, after officially bowing and scraping, opened the door and allowed him to pass in.

Which shows that the French newspaper man is not very many miles behind his American brother.—New York World.

### An Experiment for the Boys.

You can bore a hole through a pin without any lathe or other machine. All you need is a needle, two corks, a bottle and two pocket knives. Fit one of the corks firmly into the neck of the bottle and cut a V-shaped notch in the top. Stick a pin in the cork near the top, so that it passes through



BORING A HOLE THROUGH A PIN.

the notch. In the bottom of the other cork force the eye end of the needle, so that it is held firmly in place. Open the two pocket knives and stick the blades into the cork so that they balance each other. Then place the point of the needle on the pin, and as soon as it is well balanced a breath of air on one of the knives will make it revolve. Continue blowing whenever it goes too slowly. At first the needle's hard point will make a slight impression on the pin, gradually working its way through until a clean hole is bored as perfectly as any lathe could have done it. This interesting experiment requires patience and careful handling, nothing more. When you show the other boys the pin, bored like a needle, they will wonder how you managed to do it.—New York Sun.

### Going Eighty Miles Before Breakfast.

The Boston Herald publishes this extract from a private letter describing the Paris automobiles: "We went to Fontainebleau, five in the party, for breakfast, forty miles in three hours, and such a ride. We came back by a longer route, forty-eight miles, in the same time, through the forest at sunset and along the Seine in the moonlight. Fancy going eighty miles for breakfast and enjoying it—that is eighty miles by road. I have always detested automobiles, but for quick traveling they beat everything I have ever tried. Of course, you know they have the automobile coupes and victorias in the streets here. I mean the public ones, at the same tariff as the other carriages."

### A HEROINE OF SANTIAGO.

Sarah J. Ennis is a Colored Trained Nurse With a Fine Record.

Sarah J. Ennis is one of the heroines of the war. She went to Santiago as a contract nurse on the 12th of July, 1898, and is still employed in the general hospital in that city, under Surgeon Carr. She has never been ill a minute, has never been off duty a day since she arrived there, and at one time at El Caney had 110 sick and wounded soldiers under her charge. Only one of them died. All of her superior officers and associates, as well as her patients, speak in the highest terms of her skill, her energy and devotion.

Mrs. Ennis is a colored woman, a native of Santa Cruz, West Indies, and is now twenty-nine years old. She came to this country with her husband, who was a steward on the ill-fated steamship Elbe of the North German Lloyd Company, which went to wreck several years ago on the coast of Ireland. After his death she entered the school for trained nurses



MRS. ENNIS, THE SANTIAGO NURSE.

connected with the Freedman's Hospital for colored people in Washington, and graduated from that institution in April, 1898. From that time until she went to Santiago in July she was employed as a nurse in some of the best families of Washington.

### Date Palms For Arizona.

The most expert pathologist of the Agricultural Department, Dr. Zwingle, is now in Morocco on a mission which the department hopes will launch a new and profitable industry in the most arid sections of our Southwest. It has been found that date palms, with some irrigation, will grow as well in Arizona as in Arabia. Early Mormon settlers in the Territory proved this many years ago, but the trees were not of the best variety, and date growing never developed as an industry.

The Agricultural Department has prepared to push the experiment on an extensive scale. Dr. Zwingle is making a close study of the African date palm, selecting the finest varieties and those best adapted to our arid region. These young trees will be carefully shipped to Arizona, where they will be planted and cared for under the close supervision of the department's experts. The plants will cost the department about \$5 each laid down in Arizona.—New York Press.

### Baseball Public Takes Its Own Risks.

It has been recently decided by the District Court at Minneapolis, Minn., that a person attending a baseball game assumes the risk of getting hurt, and cannot recover from the manager for injuries sustained. The point arose in a suit against Manager Comiskey for an injury to Don Campbell at Lexington Park in July, 1887. Campbell was accidentally struck in the eye by a batted ball and made ill thereby. The jury was out less than an hour and found for the defendant.—Law Notes.

### A Sign For the Passengers.

Nailed to the side of a suburban railway station not fifteen miles from the City Hall is the following ludicrous notice: "Passengers desiring to take train will please show yourself so that the engineer can see them in ample time to stop the train."—New York Mail and Express.

### The Turkish Yasmak.

This is the yasmak worn by ladies of the Turkish harem, a veil designed to hide all save the dangerous dark eyes of Oriental women. European influence has so worked upon the feminine mind in the East that by slow degrees the yasmak has grown more and more gauzy as the years passed until



THE HAREM VEIL.

to-day it is transparent enough to reveal the smoothness of a woman's brow, the red of her lips and the white of her perfect teeth. It is an extremely coquettish face covering and is said to be in great favor among Constantinople belles.

## FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

### Barley and Oats the Best.

Eleven different combinations of barley, peas, oats and wheat were tested for the production of grain and straw. Barley, peas and wheat gave the best yield of straw for this season, but the best average yield in straw and grain for five years was produced by a mixture of barley and oats.

### Grass Runs.

Some readers who have not sufficient space for a grass run, but have to keep their birds in small, confined pens, will benefit them if they adopt the following plan: Obtain from a grocer one or two empty egg boxes, which are usually nine inches deep. Place these in the pen and fill up with the soil, well pressed down to within four inches of the top. Then sow wheat, oats, grass or mustard seed, and cover with another inch of soil, and complete by stretching over top of the box as tight as possible, half-inch wire netting, fastening with staples to the edges to prevent the fowls from scratching the seed up. As it grows the green stuff will appear through the netting, and the birds will eagerly pick it off. I have tried this plan in gravel pens and find it answers well.—Poultry (England).

### Preparing Land for the Orchard.

The North Carolina station claims that the preparation of the land before planting an apple orchard is of the greatest importance, for any lack of preparation before planting can hardly be remedied after the trees are set. If one does not intend to prepare the land well, manure well and cultivate well, he had better let the planting of an orchard alone.

The chief point in the preparation of the land is deep plowing of the soil. This is especially needed on our red-clay uplands, where trees set in shallow plowing are apt to be stunted by droughts. The land for the orchard should be prepared early in the fall, by plowing as deeply as a pair of horses can pull a plow, and behind this team another team in same furrow, with a subsoil plow to break the clay still deeper, till the whole land is broken to a depth of fifteen inches. This deep preparation will be the best investment the planter can make in setting the orchard.

### Care of Milk and Its Products.

My milking is done morning and evening. I have never tried a milking machine. As soon as possible after the milk is drawn it is strained into cans of a creamer and cooled to 45 degrees with ice. The creamer is kept in a room under the elevated water tank, connected by pipes and faucets so that water may be kept running through the creamer or shut off at pleasure. Butter is my only product, and it is only for private trade. Milk is handled in winter by being set in cans 18 inches high by 8 inches in diameter, holding about three gallons, and are kept in a room which in winter never freezes. I much prefer deep setting of milk. These cans are allowed to stand 36 hours, when the cream is removed and placed in tin cans holding five gallons, which after being warmed to a proper temperature with an occasional stirring will soon be found properly ripened for churning.

I use a barrel churn, holding ten gallons. After churning five to fifteen minutes, if the temperature is just right the butter globules will appear like so many small grains. Do not churn more, but draw off the butter-milk. Add a little salt and plenty of clean, fresh water, give the churn a few turns; this removes all the remaining milk and leaves the butter in grains. Never use the hands to work the butter, only the ladle to pack with. I use ash kits of the cleanest and nicest make.

Concerning the cost of milk. My cows have tested two pounds of butter per day, but I have placed it at one pound. I have charged market rate for ration and milking, which gives us cost of producing one pound of butter at 9 1-2 cents. I consider the milk and manure ample remuneration for all other labor. Here are the figures: Three pounds oats .019 cents, three pounds corn .013 cents, three pounds bran .013 cents, twenty-five pounds hay .012 cents, milking .01 cent, total .09 1-2 cents. The milk from the above ration has made by actual experiments seven pounds of butter to each 100 pounds of milk. I have used a separator, but never found its use of any advantage, as I have never been able to produce any more butter than by the ordinary method.—E. A. Miller in Orange Judd Farmer.

### Hogs and Corn.

From present indications the price of corn is going to be higher. After several years of excessively depressed markets the great American crop promises to reach a point where its culture will prove very profitable to the farmer. It will be more profitable than to sell corn than to feed it to hogs. Under such circumstances the breeder of swine must prepare for the future. Ultimately the price of hogs would go up if corn became scarce and too high priced, provided some substitute for corn could not be found.

It is in anticipation that the farmer or breeder reaps success. The man who is loaded down with a drove of swine might suddenly find corn advanced so high that it would pay him to dispose of his hogs at once, and to sell his corn in the open market. But there would be thousands of other breeders looking at the question in the same way, and the sudden marketing of so many hogs would undoubtedly break market prices for them. This would be disastrous to the man compelled to sell, and so would be in that position. But later the prices for hogs would come around to their normal condition, and even advance beyond the former quotations. Consequently the man who could keep his hogs at not too great expense would reap the benefit of his foresight and preparedness.

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The moral of all this is that too many breeders trust too much to one crop for their swine food. Corn is in many respects the ideal hog food, and in the corn belt it is the cheapest. But it is not always safe to trust altogether to it. Expose the corn crop should prove a failure, or for one reason or another it should advance rapidly in price? If no other food is at hand you must sell your hogs at a loss or maintain them a little while at a great outlay of money.

The varied diet is always best for hogs and all other animals. The varied ration is also the safest to depend upon in every way. Clover, alfalfa and other grass crops for summer feeding are indispensable for the swine. Cow peas, Canadian field peas, dwarf Essex, rape and soja beans all have their particular virtues, and they should be planted more on every farm where hogs are raised on a large scale. The root crops cannot be neglected. Store enough of them ahead for an emergency. Then with an abundant crop of such varied articles of food it will not matter materially if prices do fluctuate for corn or any other food crop. You can then reap the benefit of another man's shortcomings.

### Hints on Rooting Slips.

In the saucer system of rooting cuttings, the vessels are filled with sand simply. The cuttings should be small and several can be put in one saucer. The sand must be kept so that it is like mud, and the saucer must be placed where it will get plenty of sun. Never shade from the sun, but protect from the wind. This is all that is necessary to insure successful rooting with good slips. When pouring water on, care must be taken to do it very gently, so as not to throw down or even unsettle the slips.

The professional makes great use of tiny pots, two inches in diameter at the top and two inches deep. Rooted slips do far better in small than in large pots, where they are apt to become waterlogged. They should be potted in fine sandy soil and kept shaded for two or three days until the roots have time to strike into the soil. In from four to eight weeks, according to the nature of the cutting and the heat it has had, the little pot will be filled with a nest of roots and needs repotting, but do not use too large a pot.

Swamp moss is so useful that any commercial greenhouse would not think of getting along without it. In small pots half an inch at the bottom is filled with this moss for drainage. In six-inch pots and larger a layer of an inch or more of charcoal is used in the bottom and this covered with moss. I have used dried grass in place of moss with good results. It surely pays to use moss or grass. Another item of drainage much more important than the above, and not universally known, is to keep the pots on rough material, such as cinders, so that air can get under them and water pass off more freely. Pots placed on little blocks of wood do nicely. This drainage question is especially important with roses, as they especially dislike excess of water at the roots.

There is one simple rule for getting cuttings at the proper stage. If on bending the slip it breaks off short it is good. If it bends without breaking it is too old. One of the most certain methods, and one which does least injury to the parent plant where many slips are wanted, and especially good for foliage plants that are liable to rust under common treatment, is called "layering in the air." The shoot is cut, but left hanging to the plant by a bit of bark, and is allowed to hang there for 10 or 12 days. The wound heals over, and if the plant has been kept in a moist atmosphere, the slip will already have begun to root in the air, but even if no roots have been sent out, the healed surface is the first step toward rooting, so all that is necessary is to detach it and plant it in a tiny pot. I have also rooted begonias, geraniums, wax plant and oleanders in a bottle of water. Fill the bottle up to the neck with warm water and insert the cutting a half inch in the water, letting the top extend out from the bottle neck. Place in the sun and keep the bottle filled with water. After the first roots start, leave it alone several days before potting. Begonias and geraniums will root in a week in either sand or water if kept warm enough. Some plants require longer. Verbenas and petunias also root quickly. Water with warm water, use small pots, protect from winds, supply good drainage, furnish rich, porous soil, then with good cuttings, onlookers will say you have magic in your fingers as regards your success in rooting growing slips.—E. Clearwaters in New England Homestead.

### A Description of a Meteor.

The Breckinridge (Ky.) News thus describes the meteor that recently fell in that locality: "It is composed of nickel, iron and cobalt, and was at a white heat when it struck the earth. It was very much like a bubble, and the air inside made it hollow. It is about eighteen inches long and ten inches wide and weighed twelve pounds. It was found in the gravel pit at Skillman, fifty feet below the surface of the earth, showing the fearful velocity it had attained in its travels. In cooling off the meteorite cracked, and the crevices in it are clearly defined. The outside is oxidized by exposure to the elements."