

"Millions of that race were waiting for enlightenment here and in Africa. For 1800 years the Christian religion had been spreading everywhere, but Africa had remained under the mysterious spell of paganism. The efforts for her recovery, for raising her unto the full light of civilization, were strengthening now, however. Among the agencies to this end none were more effective than the colony of Liberia.

"In the colony of Liberia, as in any other colony, the foundations of empire were laid in doubt. Slavers would come into Monrovia and overawe the few and simple people; emigrants were decimated by fever; wars by the neighboring governments were incited by slavers—and all was doubt. Now that has passed, men are investing their means in agriculture, in manufactures, in commerce. Ten years has made a great change, and there are important staples which then were unknown. There are half a million coffee trees in the colony, and the coffee trade of Bassa will become very important. In 1853 no sugar was manufactured, and now for 18 miles on one river are plantations of sugar cane, and some farmers have their own coopers to make sugar barrels. One farmer made last year 55,000 pounds.

"Cotton is cultivated extensively in the interior, and manufactured by the natives into pieces of three feet wide by six long. Probably from 50,000 to 100,000 of these are exported every year, equal to half a million pounds of cotton, much of which is exported to Brazil. The English are rapidly opening up a trade in raw cotton, by making these cloths themselves and exchanging them for cotton at Monrovia. Many farmers will this year increase the land they have under cultivation.

The avidity with which the native Africans enter upon trade and barter is singular. Liberian citizens go back into the interior, and by barter get gold, ivory, palm oil, &c. The exports of Liberia were something like \$100,000 last year—far more than the imports. The trading qualities of the people may be seen in the fact that although there are but 15,000 emigrants there, some 20 or 30 vessels are owned by them.

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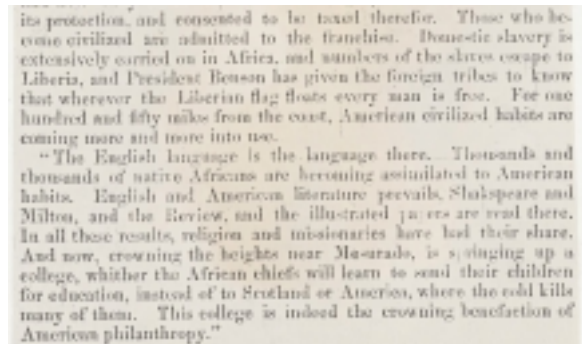
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its protection, and consented to be taxed therefor. Those who become civilized are admitted to the franchise. Domestic slavery is extensively carried on in Africa, and numbers of the slaves escape to Liberia, and President Benson has given the foreign tribes to know that wherever the Liberian flag floats every man is free. For one hundred and fifty miles from the coast, American civilized habits are coming more and more into use.

“The English language is the language there. Thousands and thousands of native Africans are becoming assimilated to American habits. English and American literature prevails, Shakespeare and Milton, and the Review, and the illustrated papers are read there. In all these results, religion and missionaries have had their share. And now, crowning the heights near Mesurado, is springing up a college, whither the African chiefs will learn to send their children for education, instead of to Scotland or America, where the cold kills many of them. This college is indeed the crowning benefaction of American philanthropy.”



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