

# THE NEGRO PROBLEM IN LIBERIA

BY OVERTON PRICE

**MUNYON'S PAW-PAW LIVER PILLS**

I want any person who suffers with biliousness, constipation, indigestion or any liver or blood ailment, to try my Paw-Paw Liver Pills. I guarantee they will purify the blood and put the liver and stomach into a healthy condition and will positively cure biliousness and constipation, or I will refund your money. — Munyon's Homeopathic Home Remedy Co., 53rd and Jefferson Sts., Phila., Pa.

**TRY MURINE EYE REMEDY**  
For Red, Weak, Watery, Watery Eyes and GRANULATED EYELIDS  
Murine Doesn't Smart—Soothes Eye Pain  
Breggitts Sell Murine Eye Remedy, Liquid, 25c, 50c, \$1.00  
Murine Eye Salve, in Aseptic Tubes, 25c, \$1.00  
EYE BOOKS AND ADVICE FREE BY MAIL  
Murine Eye Remedy Co., Chicago

Absence makes the picture post cards accumulate.

Constipation causes many serious diseases. It is thoroughly cured by Laxative Pills, Pleasant Pellets. One a laxative, three for cathartic.

The years write their records on men's hearts as they do on trees—inner circles of growth which no eye can see.—Saxe Holm.

**When Rubbers Become Necessary**  
And your shoes pinch, shake into your shoes Allen's Foot-Ease, the antiseptic powder for the feet. Cures tired, aching feet and takes the sting out of Corns and Bunions. Always use it for Breaking in New shoes and for drying parties. Sold everywhere 25c. Sample mailed FREE. Address, Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

**Distinction.**  
Milly—Is this picture like your father?  
Tilly—Of course not, silly! It is like father when he has his picture taken.—Puck.

**How's This?**  
We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.  
F. J. CENEY & CO., Toledo, O.  
We, the undersigned, have known F. J. CENEY for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by him.  
WALTON, KINAY & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.  
Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75 cents per bottle. Sold by all Druggists.  
Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

**Uncle Allen.**  
"If you're getting old and don't know it," philosophized Uncle Allen Sparks, "you'll find it out when you go back to the town where you grew up and look around for the boys you used to play with when you were a kid."

**Taken at His Word.**  
"Since you are so busy today," said the urbane journalist, "will you kindly tell me when and where I can meet you for an interview?"  
"Go to blazes!" exclaimed the irate politician.  
"Thank. I'll consider it an appointment."

**True Independence.**  
You will always find those who think they know what is your duty better than you know it. It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who, in the midst of the crowd, keeps, with perfect sweetness, the independence of solitude.—Emerson.

**Tribute to Hold-Up Artist.**  
"The train doesn't stop at Crimson Gulch any more."  
"No," replied Three-Finger Sam.  
"I'm afraid the town doesn't get much respect from the railroad."  
"Respect! Why that railroad is lean terrified. Ever since the news got around that Stage Coach Charley had settled here that train just gives me shivers and jumps out of sight."

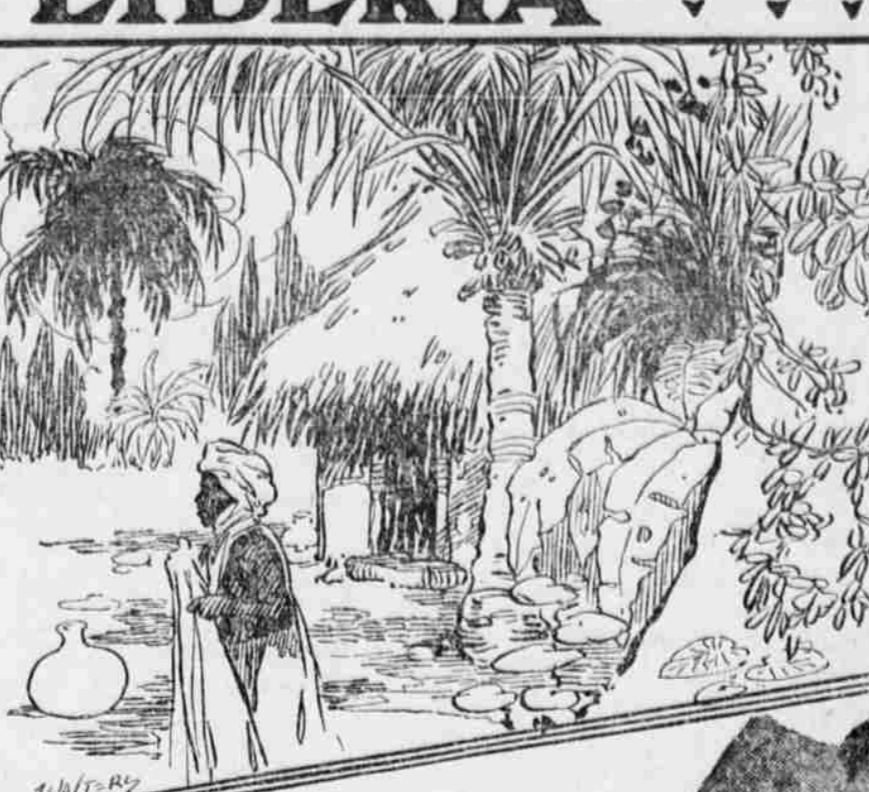
**Beware the Dog!**  
A family moved from the city to a suburban locality and were told that they should get a watchdog to guard the premises at night. So they bought the largest dog that was for sale in the kennels of a neighboring dog fancier, who was a German. Shortly afterward the house was entered by burglars, who made a good haul, while the big dog slept. The man went to the dog fancier and told him about it.  
"Well, vat you need now," said the dog merchant, "is a leedle dog to vake up the big dog."—Everybody's.

**Let Us Cook Your Breakfast! Serve Post Toasties with cream or milk and notice the pleasure the family finds in the appetizing crispness and flavour of this delightful food.**

**"The Memory Lingers"**  
Postum Cereal Co., Ltd.  
Battle Creek, Mich.



VIEW OF CAPE PALMAS



A NATIVE VILLAGE IN THE INTERIOR



CELEBRATING THE LIBERIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY



PRESIDENT ARTHUR BARCLAY

**T**HE first idea of a "Liberia"—settlement of free negroes—arose with the foundation of the British colony of Sierra Leone. After the close of the American War of Independence in 1783 it became necessary to provide for the negro troops who had served Great Britain faithfully in that unhappy struggle. They were at first deported to Nova Scotia, but had no place there in the body politic of white men; they were no longer slaves, but the idea of granting the suffrage to negroes was then displeasing to the dominant race. There was also the problem of the free Maroon negroes of Jamaica, who were irksome to the authorities in a land of slavery. So the idea of founding a free negro state or community in West Africa for the reception of enfranchised American negroes came into being about 1784, and in 1787 the colony of Sierra Leone was founded under a chartered company and taken over by the crown in 1808.

Early in the nineteenth century the same difficulty arose in the United States, namely, the presence of thousands of free negroes whose case had not been sufficiently provided for by the American Constitution. Somehow



A NATIVE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

or other these free negroes and mulattoes—growing impatient of being taxed without representation—must be provided for. So several philanthropists, remembering Sierra Leone, thought to promote by private enterprise and philanthropy a similar colony across the sea which might provide for the return to West Africa (whence most of them had come) of the freed slaves of the United States. Indeed, there was a strong disposition to adopt Sierra Leone for this purpose, with the assent of the British government; but the local authorities of Sierra Leone showed themselves very averse from receiving American negroes, who might owe a divided allegiance.

Accordingly the American founders of "Liberia" (this name was not given to the infant state until 1824)—who were mostly white men with a few mulattoes and negroes—selected the Grain Coast, immediately to the south and east of Sierra Leone, for their experiment.

It was some weeks before the hostility of the natives, who were welded to the slave trade, could be overcome, but in 1822 active operations were begun. A thirty-acre tract was allotted to each man with the means of cultivating it. The National Colonization society's agents became discouraged at the difficulties that were met and returned to America with a few faint-hearted ones; but the others rallied about a determined negro, Elijah Johnson, and remained. The colony was enlarged by the addition of new tracts. New settlements were afterward formed at Cape Monte and in the newly acquired Bassa Land, in which, in 1834, a town was founded and called Edina, in acknowledgment of pecuniary aid sent from Edinburgh. Many of the neighboring chiefs were received into the colony, and others were subdued. Trials of many kinds, deprivations and dissensions were the lot of the colony, managed by a society which did not fully know whether its aims were sentimental or practical. In 1847 Liberia was left to its own resources and declared an independent republic. The colony immediately began to show more prosperity, numerous churches and schools were founded, newspapers were established, and slavery in the neighboring states was abolished. The first president of independent Liberia was Roberts, an octoroon. He was a most able and courageous man and the country made rapid strides in civilization and other material lines

of progress under his administration.

The constitution of the republic is framed after that of the United States. There are a president, vice-president, a council of six ministers and a house of representatives. Voters must be of negro blood and own real estate. The natives generally do not avail themselves of the suffrage. No foreigner can own land without the consent of the government. The coast territory is formed into the counties of Bassa, Cape Palmas and Sinoe, with one superintendent each, and Montserrado, with four superintendents. The capital is Monrovia, named after President Monroe. English money is used, but American money figures usually in the keeping of accounts. There is a Liberian coinage and a rather large paper currency. The official language of the country is English. The civilized inhabitants are orthodox Protestants, mostly Episcopalians.

During the fifties and sixties of the last century the American-Liberians did much to explore the interior and enter into treaty relationships with the native chiefs. But thirty years ago their administration began to get into financial difficulties. It is not an easy thing to create a well-ordered, well-governed state in tropical Africa without a considerable capital to draw on. Consider for a moment what Great Britain has spent on Sierra Leone since 1787, and on the Gold Coast wars, the opening up of Nigeria; or the outlay of France on Senegambia or Dahomey; and then imagine how the government of Liberia could without any reserve of capital bring law, order and civilization into a densely forested territory nearly the size of England, with a probable population of over a million warlike savages and semi-savages.

So long as Britain and France—the controlling powers—contented themselves with the mere occupation of a few coast towns on the seaboard of their West African dominions or protectorates, the Monrovia government could afford to do the same. But when these great European powers were compelled by force of circumstances to occupy and administer the regions behind their coasts the Liberians found themselves in a position of great difficulty. They had been allotted theoretically by France and England a considerable hinterland—more than 50,000 square miles—and were held responsible for the doings of the native tribes in that extensive interior. Now these tribes had never been subdued by the government of the republic. They were many of them in treaty relationships with the Monrovia administration, and such of them as had heard of the civilized negro government on the coast (and it must be remembered that much of the interior is dense forest, inhabited by

tribes who for ages have been isolated in that forest, and were—and are—quite ignorant of the world outside their tribal land) were quite willing to regard the Liberians as the ruling power on the seashore. But they were very disinclined to obey orders from Monrovia if contrary to their own desires.

The tribes farthest inland looked upon the British and French—the "white men"—as aggressors who were putting down by force a most lucrative slave trade, who were forcibly disclosing the secrets of sacred streams like the Niger near its sources, who, in short, were not only to be opposed, but whose organized territories offered a most profitable field for raids and robberies. More than this: the import of guns, gunpowder, rifles (above all) and alcohol was being restricted or forbidden by the Europeans. The Liberian coast, especially where it was slenderly guarded by the Liberian administration, offered the one loophole through which these forbidden goods might be smuggled. Accordingly a great trade sprang up between these uncontrolled hinterland tribes and the Kru people on the coast, who affected a sort of detachment from the government by the American-Negro republic. In these ways the Liberian hinterland became a positive source of danger and expense to the

British protectorate of Sierra Leone and the French possessions of the Sudan and Ivory Coast.

Consequently the Liberian government has been forced of late years to live somewhat beyond its means in organizing a police and a marine, in occupying the Kru coast and in attempting to construct roads to places of importance in the interior. It has from time to time engaged European officers for its services; but whereas some of these engagements have been of noteworthy success, others have been the reverse, and it is difficult to locate the blame. European capital is somewhat shy of Liberia, partly owing to the turbulence of the interior natives (though this has been exaggerated, for white men very seldom really incur danger from the indigenes), but more on account of the irresponsible fickleness of the legislature, which is given too much to the hasty making and unmaking of laws and to conflicts of opinion with the executive.

Yet the country is extremely rich. Its rocks and river valleys produce both gold and diamonds, and the coast districts (especially in the east) even give indications of the existence of bitumen, or oil-bearing strata, while the forests of the interior are remarkable for their wealth of rubber-bearing trees and lianas, their ebony, African teak and "mahogany," and the plassava fiber (derived from the raphia palm), which is used for so many purposes connected with the making of brooms and brushes. Then there is the oil-palm, with its two kinds of oil, both valuable to commerce—the oil of the husk and that of the kernel. The extraction of this last and its great value for special industries are said to have been discovered some seventy-five years ago by an American negro, one of the early colonists of Liberia. A great deal was done by these freed slave settlers, for which they have never received sufficient credit.

Unfortunately the attempted colonization of Liberia has been hindered by the American negro colonists proving almost as much liable to malarial fever and other African diseases as Europeans. They seem to have lost the relative immunity from these blood-germ maladies which their African ancestors enjoyed. The modern America-Liberian does not stand the climate of Liberia much better than the white man from Europe or America. The country is not unhealthy in the interior; it is the coast belt which, with its eternal heat and moisture, its very short dry seasons, and torrential rains (conditions which suit admirably the cultivation of rubber, coffee and cacao) saps the vitality of residents not of African birth. And the hinterland, with its superior conditions of climate, has already a somewhat large indigenous population, who are not eager for foreign additions to their numbers.

## Hiring Help In East Africa

The "servant problem" is bad enough in America, and the experiences mistresses have to relate are many and varied; but an infinitely wider range of possibilities is opened up when mere man—and a bachelor at that—tackles the servant and other household problems in an East African bungalow. Anything can happen—and does happen!

Native house servants of a sort are plentiful enough around the chief towns of British East Africa, Nairobi and Mombasa, and the slightest rumor that the Muzungu (white man) requires a "boy" or m'pezi (cook) fills one's compound with cooks, "generals" and raw niggers, representing every tribe under Africa's sun, a writer in the Wide World says.

The average bachelor contents himself with four servants—a head "boy," a cook, a "toto" (youth) to assist them, and a m'shenzi (raw, untrained native) for odd jobs, gardening, etc.

It is no easy task to make a selection from the host of eager, voluble applicants. Dirty, carefully stuck-together "baruas" (testimonials) are examined and the owners questioned, but it is unwise to put much faith in these documents, for it is no unusual occurrence for a "boy"—on the principle of "the more the merrier"—to proudly present you with three

testimonials, every one bearing a different name from the one under which he introduces himself!

These gentry are always greatly offended when you kick them off the veranda and tell them they have bought or stolen the documents from other natives! Upon one occasion a would-be cook brought me a "barua" signed by a well-known settler and worded:

"To whom it may concern: The bearer of this 'barua' is an infernal rogue and thief. Please kick him out."

By the time I had stopped laughing the nigger had arrived at the conclusion that something was wrong and was doing record time down the path, so I was unable to avail myself of the kind invitation.

**HORSE TRADE IN MISSOURI.**

In St. Charles last week Lester Ingraham traded a \$500 horse for a motor boat. A few hours later Osborn discovered that the horse was worthless, so he went to the boat and removed the engine and the horse died as he was hauling it away. A jury in a justice's court awarded Ingraham the engine and \$1 damages.—Detroit Free Press.