

Daily Charlotte Observer.

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CHARLOTTE, N. C., FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 1885.

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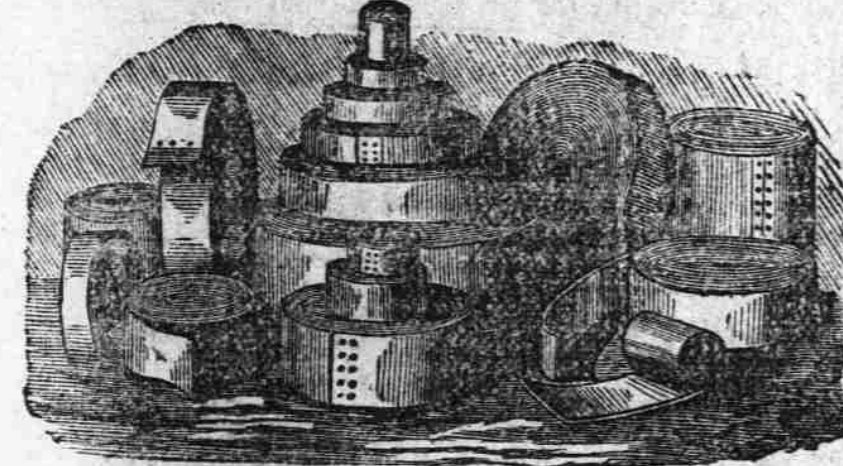
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INTEREST IN LIBERIA.

The Administration Preparing to Give Substantial Aid to the Black's in that Country.

Wash. cor. Philadelphia Times.

The administration is in pursuit of certain information respecting the social, educational and industrial condition of the negro republic of Liberia, which indicates the formulation and carrying out of a national policy towards that African protegee of the great white republic of America. Secretary Bayard for some time has been in frequent conference with persons representing that republic itself and the American Colonization Society, representing the movement of negro colonization and the establishment of a negro sovereignty on African soil. The Secretary is convinced that unless some prompt and effective steps are taken the old African colonization scheme will disintegrate and leave the beneficiaries of that philanthropic movement helpless and unsupported and a prey to the savage and cannibalistic tribes which infest the contiguous regions. The Liberian authorities exhibit great uneasiness as to the future, and naturally turn to the progenitor of their political organization—the United States—for courage, confidence and support. It is apparent from the tone of the conversation of members of the administration that this sudden activity in behalf of the African republic will not be without its effect upon the negro mind in the United States and may not be impolitic from a political point of view. It will be performing a necessary duty on the part of this government toward Liberia by way of stopping the social retrogression which is now hurrying on rapidly toward a lapse into African barbarism. It will at the same time tickle the negro fancy in the United States and operate as a counterpoise to the prejudice which an important element of the party in administrative power indulges and exhibits toward the African race on this side of the Atlantic. A foray into Liberian territory by some of the neighboring tribes, a squadron of United States vessels of war cruising in the waters from Cape Palmas to Manua Point and a battalion or two of United States marines and negro volunteers garrisoning the defense of Monrovia and operating towards the mountains of Kong would answer all the conditions of giving the Southern politician a chance to show his love and disinterested concern for his negro fellow citizen without bringing it nearer than five or six thousand miles. A gentleman who has been in conference with the President and Secretary of State in regard to the Liberian policy says:

"Unlike our own, the Africans are a graded race. You find in Africa the flat-headed and flat-footed types of the Congo. Then you find the more finely developed races of Northern Africa. In Liberia the best type of the negro race on the African continent is found. This is largely due to the environments of civilizing conditions. The progress, however, has not been as rapid and marked as it should have been. But this is explainable. The African colonization project was inspired by the most humanitarian and laudable of motives, but its friends started in very much the line of the chimerical notions of Bacon's ideal government. You cannot design beautiful theories for ordinary mundane uses. You must take things as you find them. With a few elementary principles of sound social and political life you have the foundation and upon that you must rear your superstructure from the material you have to work with."

"A good doctrine, but what is its application?"

"Well, you will find that the society started out with the idea of establishing a state of political and social organization which might have answered for the higher types of the Caucasian race. As an instance, they started in by founding a university and higher grades of education before they taught the people how to live. They seemed to overlook the fact that the savage black tribes of Guinea, Senegambia and the Sudan were the neighbors and the kin in many instances of the primitive dwellers on the soil of Liberia and the replanted American African exotic would have these influences to contend with."

"What do you suggest as an improvement of the methods hitherto adopted?"

"Simple enough. There is a fund in the United States, held in Philadelphia, Boston and New York, which amounts to thousands of dollars. Let that be applied to sending persons to Liberia to teach the people the proper and responsible methods of life. Abolish your universities and waste no more money on schemes far beyond the comprehension of the average mind of the country. Universi-

ties and colleges in the United States are comparatively recent. Fifty years ago you could count them on your two hands and a hundred years ago one hand would have more than accommodated the enumeration. Then the young men and women of families of means of the United States were educated in the universities and higher educational institutions of France, Germany, England and Scotland, our parent countries in blood. See how absurd, however, to waste the moneys of the society in teaching the people the higher branches of life without having them know the details and habits of every day or domestic life. The common schools were the foundation of American intellectual growth and were laid by the fathers of American political, intellectual and social life. The higher grades of effort grew with the development of the people and when the necessities arose. A little common sense in such matters will in a few years make a great change in the condition of Liberia and her friends will not have so much reason to feel apprehensive of the result of the scheme of Liberian advancement."

"From all indications the administration is disposed to take hold in some way and at least make the effort to aid the society in any practicable method to continue their work. There are some who talk about establishing a protectorate over the country. In view of the complications likely to grow out of the Congo question and African colonization and trade among the European powers a foothold, such as this opportunity offers to the United States, might be of great importance. The United States have been represented in several of these African international conferences and will be likely to take a more active part. The autonomy of Liberia is a charge of the United States and cannot be surrendered with honor. It was hinted by a member of the administration that there was as much authority to protect American interests in Liberia as on the Isthmus of Panama. The precise course of the administration will take has not been determined, but the subject is now receiving earnest attention by the Department of State."

A Sad Court Scene.

A pathetic scene was witnessed in the court room at Plattsburg, Mo., Saturday last. Judge Dunn, who had been indicted for drunkenness, was anxious for the prosecuting attorney to dismiss the charge. This the lawyer agreed to do if the grand jury would pass a resolution recommending the dismissal. Judge Lowe ordered the grand jury to be brought into court. Judge Dunn made them a feeling speech, saying that he had been previously afflicted with asthma for some time and had been using stimulants as a remedy; that in the great suffering from the disease he had probably used too much. The Judge admitted the remedy was a dangerous one, and that in the use of it he had probably been indiscreet, but he did not think it should be considered a crime. He alluded to his past service, to having been connected with the courts of the circuit for forty-seven years, for several years as circuit attorney and for thirty years as judge, and said that he was now near his grave, being nearly seventy years old, and he pleaded with them not to let that blot rest upon his name now, if they felt that they could make the recommendation, after hearing his statement, without stultifying their consciences. He asked to hear from the members of the bar and the court. Several of the attorneys made short speeches, asking the jury to make the recommendation. The jury retired for consideration, but refused to pass the resolution, as they felt they had but discharged their duty. The case was then continued generally by the prosecuting attorney.

Garfield's Steward.

Come with me around the corner and we will take a lunch with Garfield's steward, says Stevens, the Washington representative of the St. Louis Globe Democrat. His place is called the Garfield dining rooms, and he has a big crayon of the dead President in his front window. He is a short, fat man, with a big rosy face, blue eyes and a short thick neck. While we are eating a clam chowder, he tells us he has been steward for three Presidents, and gossips about the tastes of Hayes, Arthur and Garfield. Says he: "General Garfield had the dyspepsia all the time he was President, and he lived largely upon beefsteak and baked potatoes up to the time he was shot. President Hayes always had at least fourteen at his dinner table, and he was a generous liver. He was fond of candy, and his wife liked angels' food cake very much. President Hayes always ate oatmeal for breakfast, and he liked the best mixture of Mocha and Java coffee that money could procure. He was not at all stingy, and his state dinners cost about \$15 a plate. Garfield was fond of breakfast bacon well fried, and he used cream instead of butter on his baked potatoes. Both Hayes and Garfield breakfasted early, and their last meal was over by six o'clock. I did not like to work for President Arthur. He kept his cooks up, half the night, and it was almost daybreak before the dishes were washed."

London is now shocked by the public exhibition of Mrs. Langtry in such a low-necked dress that it looks like a mere skirt, held up by suspenders.

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