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Pamphlets on Liberia

**LIBERIA DESCRIBED.**

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no. 2

**DISCOURSE**

EMBRACING A DESCRIPTION OF THE

Climate, Soil, Productions, Animals, Missionary Work,

IMPROVEMENTS, &C.

WITH A FULL DESCRIPTION OF

**THE ACCLIMATING FEVER.**

BY

**ARMISTEAD MILLER,**

A CITIZEN OF MONROVIA, LIBERIA.



PHILADELPHIA :

**JOSEPH M. WILSON,**

NO. 111 SOUTH TENTH STREET, BELOW CHESTNUT STREET.

1859.

HISTORICAL & PHILOSOPHICAL

SOCIETY OF OHIO

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# NOTICE

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THE following letter will explain the object of this publication :

OXFORD, CHESTER Co., PA., *Jan'y.* 3, 1859.

DEAR SIR :—The writer of the following lecture is a student of the Ashmun Institute; and having spent some five years in Liberia, he has been frequently called upon by his fellow-students and others, to give his views in reference to that country, especially its suitableness as a home for the coloured man. He is also a licentiate of the Presbytery of New Castle, connected with the Old School Presbyterian Church, and is deemed worthy of confidence in the statements he makes. The object he has in view in publishing the lecture, is to give information of his adopted country, to which he expects to return in May next, with two other students of the Institute as ministers of the gospel; and also to obtain means to assist his family, part of whom emigrate with him. It is hoped the production will be received with favour, and that the cost of publishing may be amply repaid in the good accomplished, and the assistance bestowed upon a worthy man, who expects soon to be a missionary in Africa.

LIBRARIES JOHN M. DICKEY.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
CHICAGO, ILL.

(4)

# LIBERIA DESCRIBED.

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No doubt, but you have heard much about Liberia from time to time, as we know that a great deal has been said, both *pro* and *con*, in respect to this "New Republic;" claiming a pretty general knowledge of things as they are, I feel no hesitancy in asserting, that some things which you have heard both for and against Liberia, were true; but that many others were either wholly untrue, very highly coloured, or shamefully exaggerated.

The avowed enemies to Liberia have done no more, effectually, to retard the progress of true prosperity in Liberia, than has been done by the over zealous for the cause, whenever they could touch an important string connected with their own interest.

The advocates of the one side, in many instances, without ever consulting either truth or policy, have said all that entered their brain; while many of the other side, determined not to be repulsed, have fabricated accounts of Liberia, equally false, ridiculous, and absurd.

It is not at all difficult to perceive, that neither of the above-named parties are actuated by either love or hatred for Liberia, or for any one, or any thing further than their own purposes can be served thereby; and doubtless it might be set down as a general rule, that the great mass of zealots on any subject, who would fain set the world on fire, in order to turn things in a certain channel, by strict examination, might soon discover in the midst of all their noisy machinery, a main-spring, very nearly related to the first law of nature.

The foundation, or introduction of the present lecture, together with the circumstances connected therewith, would appear necessarily to preclude any departure from the truth whatever on my part.

In the first place, I promise to give you a description of things as they are in Liberia, in contradistinction to all misrepresentations, whether *pro* or *con*.

We cannot disappoint you for want of a personal knowledge of things, as they exist in Liberia; for we are from the spot; we have handled, we have tasted, we have seen,—whatever is sweet to the taste, and pleasant to the eyes: and it would be absurd to suppose, that in the midst of all the sweets, we had wholly escaped the bitter; such is not the common course of things in this life.

It is not at all probable that I shall vilify my country, for all my interests are there. Liberia is my home—my only home beneath the sun; upon her shores I hope to fall asleep in death; beneath her soil I hope to rest my bones till the resurrection; and thence to rise with tens of thousands, who “have fought the good fight, have kept the faith,” and conquered the last enemy.

Perhaps you will ask,—Why would ye die in Africa? and why seek a grave in that forgotten land? O Africa! Truly art thou despoiled of thy glory and thy beauty; nevertheless, the honoured bones of saints and sages—yea, the mortal remains of kings and potentates—do rest beneath thy sod.

“Land of the mighty dead,  
Where science once displayed,  
And art their charms:  
Where awful Pharaohs swayed  
Great nations who obeyed;  
Where distant monarchs laid  
Their vanquished arms.”

Liberia is in Africa, and Africa has been abundantly honoured, even by the command of high heaven: the chaste Joseph lived in Africa;—all Israel were saved from starvation by going to Africa;—Moses was born, nursed, and educated in Africa;—our blessed Saviour himself was sent to Africa by the command of God his Father; and there being sheltered from the cruel tyranny of Herod, he died not with Rachel’s children. But, notwithstanding that we have said thus much

concerning Africa, still we have no disposition whatever to speak more highly of Liberia than she deserves. There can be nothing gained by so doing. Liberia is becoming more and more conspicuous in the family of nations, and the time is just at hand, when any man who would know the truth or falsity of what he hears, may have an ocular demonstration of the same for a very small sum: so many means are employed for a quick and pleasant voyage to that distant land.

From the foregoing considerations, therefore, you have good reason to believe that, in the first place, we will give you "Liberia as she is:" to do which, we will begin with the geographical position. Many, and perhaps most of you have studied geography, but I doubt whether you have given much study to the map of Liberia; therefore, we shall feel no delicacy in giving you the geographical particulars.

Liberia is on the west coast of Africa, and lies between the parallels  $3^{\circ}$  and  $10^{\circ}$  North Latitude: and between the Meridians  $6^{\circ}$  and  $13^{\circ}$  West Longitude from Greenwich. We have about six hundred miles of sea-coast, stretching from North-West to South-East. The interior line is not quite so definite, being more distant from the sea-coast at some points than at others; the most distant settlements from the coast at present, are not more than fifty or sixty miles in a direct line interiorwise; but the propriety of interior settlements is becoming more and more obvious, and has grown into a topic of free discussion both by the citizens of Liberia, and her most interested friends abroad. We will not attempt at present to give the extent of the country in exact numbers, but by a rough calculation, we will venture to say, that the whole extent is from seventy-five, to one hundred thousand square miles, more or less.

We have many very fine rivers of fresh water; the principal of which are the St. Paul's, in Montserado county; the St. John's, in Grand Bassa county; the Sinou, in Sinou county; the Cavalla, in Cape Palmas county; and running through various portions of the Republic, are the beautiful rivers of Grand Cape Mount, Junk, Timbo, Cesters, Cape Palmas, &c. Besides, creeks, brooks, or rivulets, are scattered here and there throughout the entire country; in a word, Liberia is well watered. If the adepts in geography should find any want of harmony between the above account, and that which has been

given by geographers, the difficulty will be removed, when they remember that the Liberians are a progressive people, and that within the last few years, the borders of Liberia have been essentially enlarged by the annexation of new territory.

Liberia, as her "Bill of Rights" declares, "is a free, sovereign, and independent state;" she has adopted a republican form of government, which differs from that of the United States, only in the following particulars: Liberia is one state divided into very large counties, and the government is central; there is but one Legislature, composed of a Senate, and House of Representatives: each county is allowed two Senators, elected from their own county, by their own citizens, who remain in office for a term of four years; and each county is allowed one Representative to begin with, and one additional for every ten thousand inhabitants, but these remain in office for a term of only two years. The Senators and Representatives of Liberia, when "in Legislature assembled," correspond to the Congress of the United States; and all laws and ordinances in the whole Republic, except those of a municipal character, are enacted by this one Legislature. Our President and Vice President are elected by a majority of votes, for a term of two years at the time; none of our judges are elected by a popular vote, but all the members of the judiciary, even down to a justice of the peace, are nominated by the President, and elected by the Senate.

This government is altogether in the hands of our own people, and no one else is allowed the least participation therein: every male citizen of twenty-one years old is allowed the right to vote, provided he possesses real estate, and claims to have one drop of African blood circulating in his veins. This is an all-important qualification; for under the present Constitution, no others can be allowed the elective franchise, under any possible circumstances. Inasmuch as I have found no little opposition to this particular clause of the Constitution of Liberia, I beg leave to make the following explanation: This prohibition did not arise, and does not continue, on account of any prejudice of colour whatever; but was considered by the framers of the Constitution, and is still considered by Liberian statesmen, as a matter of the purest policy, in behalf of our own people. Liberia is a new country, and the

pioneers of our people to that country are men of only moderate circumstances; the truth is, none go from this country to that with riches, and the only men we have, that may be called rich, with any degree of propriety, have gained their fortunes there. Now if foreign capitalists were encouraged to cast their lots among us, it is evident that they would employ their capital against ours, and the most wealthy of our citizens could not begin to cope with such an unequal power; thus the very first and best designs of the new Republic would be thwarted, and Liberia could no longer be called "the asylum for the oppressed."

Since I have been in the United States, several coloured gentlemen have given me their objections to such a prohibition: and if I had answered them according to my feelings at the time, I certainly would have advised them to remain in this country, if they had not as yet felt the inconvenience of an opposing power; no man is more likely to make a good citizen of Liberia, than he who is most dissatisfied with his condition in the United States. The time will come, and is fast approaching, when our doors will be thrown wide open, so that any man from any country may become a citizen fully enfranchised; but would it not be presumption on the part of our little Republic, to invite a power at once from which citizens have so lately made their escape? Let our people first establish themselves, make themselves capital equal to that of others, and then may they welcome the man of every nation to all the rights of fellow-citizens: and not until then.

Having digressed thus far from the point, for the sake of explanation, we again return to our plain method of giving things as they are.

We have in Liberia a warm climate, purely tropical, but not a hot climate as some people suppose; we would be frightened, and astonished to see mercury as high as I am told it sometimes reaches in this country; it is seldom as low as sixty, and I think I never have seen it as high as ninety-five; according to my very best recollection, it ranges for the most part from sixty-six to eighty-six, being a variation of only twenty degrees, and it never varies more than twenty-five degrees. Thus you will observe the uniformity of our climate; and the great error of those, who regard it as being naturally unhealthy.



I am disposed to think that the most skilful physicians would decide, that such a temperature, with so little variation, must naturally be favourable to health, as a general rule. I do not think there is a people on the whole face of the globe, who are more robust and healthy, and better developed physically, than are the native Africans, despite all their wretched habits of heathenism, which would appear altogether sufficient to hasten the destruction of both soul and body, still they enjoy almost unbroken health, and live to an incredible age; so much so, that it is said, *hyperbolically*, that they never die, except they are killed. What we have said of native Africans however, or all persons born in that country, cannot be said of those who emigrate to Africa from other countries, whether European or American: very nearly every man, woman, or child, who emigrates to Africa from the United States, must pass through a process of acclimation, commonly called the "Acclimating fever."

This fever is more severe in some cases than in others, and it is supposed that about three per cent of all the emigrants from the United States escape the "Acclimating fever" entirely, and pass not only the usual time for acclimating, but a number of years, without a single day's sickness; these are considered peculiar constitutions, and it is difficult to ascertain in what this peculiarity consists; for there are some things very remarkable about the "Acclimating fever," many very weak constitutions have been completely brought up, and wonderfully invigorated, after having passed through the "Acclimating fever;" in many cases it appears to have the power of refining, and often sets its subjects free from all their former maladies.

There is nothing frightful in the "Acclimating process;" as a general thing, it is the simplest form of "Intermittents;" and with proper care, is no more to be dreaded than the measles: indeed, according to my judgment, the measles is by far the more dangerous of the two; this may appear strange, but what is more strange, the measles, as a general thing, has no admittance into our country at all; and not only measles and the like, but also epidemics of every kind, seem to meet a resistance as soon as they reach our shores.

When persons go from the United States to Liberia, they

usually take the "Acclimating fever" within about three or four weeks after their arrival; there are exceptions however to this general rule: for we have known persons to remain in Liberia for the space of three, four, five, and even six months, before they have felt the real effects of the "Acclimating fever."

The process usually begins with a chill followed by a fever, after which the patient feels about as well as ever he did; but just about the time he thinks he has gotten quite through his course of acclimation, this forgotten friend calls to see him again; and after his second and third visit, the patient begins to remember that he is in Africa; not less than thirty or forty degrees to the southward of his native home; under a vertical sun; in the midst of perpetual spring; surrounded by an unbroken succession of fruits and fragrant flowers; and therefore he concludes that it is nothing more than right that he should pay his footing. It is by these repeated visits of the same old friend, that the patient is sometimes weakened and wasted, and not by the violence of the attack, and when the effects are removed by the free use of tonics, preceded by other necessary medicines, the patient recovers with astonishing speed. It is true, there are exceptions to this general rule; as in the case of some who are convalescent for several months, and others who never recover.

We are decidedly of the opinion however, that the death of no one can be charged exclusively to the "Acclimating fever." In the multitudes of people that are emigrating from this country to Liberia every year, it is nothing more than reasonable that many should die; where can you find a community in this country of five hundred or a thousand persons, that does not lose one or more of them in the course of a year? We doubt as to whether there be any such communities in the United States. Surely then, it should not be considered strange, if out of the constant flow of emigration from this country to Liberia, some persons should die, since even nature itself would require it.

But there is one other circumstance, which will account for more of the mortality during the acclimating process than all things else combined; and it is this: The great mass of the people that emigrate from this country to Liberia now-a-days, as a general thing, are very poorly instructed; I do not mean

to say that there are no intelligent, educated, and well-refined people among the hundreds and thousands that are flowing into the country, almost in a continuous stream, but I do mean to say that they are greatly in the minority; and hence, as we were about to say, the great mass of these emigrants are so poorly instructed, that they do not know the laws of their own nature, much less do they observe them, either in sickness or health. The wonder is, that such people should ever pass through the acclimating process without destroying their constitutions for life, and yet to the utter astonishment of the better informed, many of them become the very pictures of health; such is the nature of the "Acclimating fever."

Physicians are not altogether decided as to the prime cause of this fever, but it is a very general opinion, and we think a pretty well-established fact, that the *malaria*, or *miasma*, is the principal cause of this sickness.

Just think for a moment, of a country covered with a dense forest of perpetual green, and lying, for aught we know, in this undisturbed condition, ever since the days of Adam, or at least, ever since the waters of the flood were removed. I do not mean to say that such is certainly the case, but I am wholly ignorant of anything to the contrary, and would be most happy to receive instruction on the subject from any one who holds himself prepared to settle the point. We know that from the very cradle, learning arose and flourished in Africa, and at one time, the most powerful nations on the globe were in Africa, while some of the greatest men that ever lived, were of African blood, and lived, laboured, and died in Africa. But we can go to the very spot where these things were displayed, and we know that they were not in western Africa; the truth is, we know very little about the past history of that portion of Africa; therefore we still hold, that for centuries and tens of centuries, a mass of decayed matter has been constantly accumulating. It is this, beyond all doubt it is this that brings about an intermittent fever during the acclimating process: and I hold, that it affords great consolation to know, that just in proportion as we clear up the country, and keep it under good and regular cultivation, just in such proportion will the "Acclimating fever" be vanquished, and not only our own citizens, but visitors from any quarter may fully enjoy the natu-

ral sweets of our delightful climate, wholly unmolested by any form of intermittents.

The same means are used for the cure of the "Acclimating fever" in Liberia, as for the fever and ague in the United States, and I am very much in hopes that a remedy prepared by a Mr. Edward S. Morris, of Philadelphia, and known as "Pascchall's Fever and Ague mixture," when properly introduced, will tend to lessen the severity of the attacks, if it does not entirely prevent and check the disease. So well persuaded am I that it will produce a good effect in persons under the influence of these fevers, having used it myself, that I have already ordered some of it to be sent there. There is one peculiarity about Mr. Morris's preparation, differing from most all other proprietary medicines, and that is, "It is good for nothing else but for the cure of these miasmatic diseases," to use Mr. Morris's own language.

The soil of Liberia is fertile without exception; and some of it, yea, the greater portion of it is considered the most prolific in the world; all the tropical productions attain their perfection with less care, and in a shorter time, than is usual in any other country, and by a very little attention, our country may be emphatically called, the land of fruits and fragrant flowers. We have many indigenous products, that are most valuable; such as the cam-wood, palm-oil, and ivory, with many others too numerous to mention.

I do not know that the palm-oil and cam-wood can be obtained from any other country than Africa; but I know that there are vessels from almost every commercial nation under the sun, engaged on our coasts, in the palm-oil, cam-wood, and ivory trade. There are millions of gallons of palm-oil, and a vast quantity of cam-wood and ivory, exported from the coast of Africa every year; and there are merchants of England, France, America, and Germany, who are piling fortune upon fortune by the advantage they have in this trade; and they take good care to say but little about it, for fear of competition. Where are our capitalists? This wealth is ours, but the men of other nations are constantly, though slyly, removing it. Have they not taken away our forefathers? and is that not enough? Or, shall we remain dormant while they remove

our inheritance also? In all honesty and earnestness, I do think it is high time now to awake out of sleep.

Our climate and soil are congenial to the growth of almost every plant of any considerable importance in the world. The staple products for the present, may be considered but four, viz: sugar, coffee, rice, and cotton; each of which, as we believe, may be raised in greater abundance, and with less trouble, than in any other country in the world; besides these, the very best article of Indian corn, or maize, sweet-potatoes, and the bean and pea of every type, may be raised in rich abundance for home consumption.

Wheat has never been fairly tried in Liberia; but there is no doubt that as soon as the settlements extend further into the interior, and due attention is paid to agriculture, that excellent wheat may be produced from the grain usually called spring wheat. Agriculture has been shamefully neglected in our country, and the citizens have only lately begun to turn their attention to that department; but the farmer is by far the most independent man in the country: having no winter to contend with, he is alternately sowing and reaping the year round, and I verily believe that Liberia will become, at no very distant day, one of the most agricultural nations on the globe; and manufactures will necessarily follow; already are there powerful steam sugar mills in actual operation; and very soon the cotton gin, the coffee-huller, the rice machine, and the like, will be loudly called for.

Our people, as yet, have not introduced the labour of the horse to any considerable extent: oxen are the principal beasts of burden, and *they* are not very extensively employed as yet; but both the horse and the ox are becoming more and more common. There are great numbers of these animals but a few miles interior of our boundaries, and may be purchased of the native inhabitants of the country for a very small sum: besides, many of our own citizens are raising very fine herds of cows, hogs, sheep, and goats; but they might be raised in much greater numbers if we had men, even of small capital, who were willing to employ it in that way; but it is to be regretted that nearly all the capital of Liberia is invested in commerce.

Some people in this country seem to have very contracted

views as it regards the animals of Africa, but in the meantime they are very inconsistent when speaking on the subject; with one breath they will argue, that inasmuch as our cattle, sheep, hogs, goats, &c., along the coast are small, therefore, the country will not produce these animals so large as they are in other countries; but in the very next breath, they will tell us of our huge snakes and other reptiles; they will speak at large also of the elephant, the hippopotamus, the unicorn, the alligator, and the lion. Now we say that our country does produce these huge animals, but she also produces the other animals referred to, and beyond all manner of doubt, if the same attention was paid to our interior cattle, that other nations give to theirs, they would compare well with any cattle in the world; and we are most happy to record that this fact will soon be tested.

The wild animals of Liberia are not at all what they are represented to be by these day-dreamers; and therefore, the most charitable view that we can take of their conduct, will lead us to conclude, that these representations, or rather misrepresentations, are made with deliberate aim to frighten the timid, and discourage the noble-hearted. We have never seen a lion within our bounds; the elephant has left the civilized portions of the country long since; you might live in Liberia three-score years and ten, and never see a boa-constrictor, if they were not kept by individuals for show; and so may we say of all the ferocious animals of Africa, for however dangerous they may be in the wilds of Africa, yet be ye assured that God has never intended that civilization and christianity should be beaten back by the beasts of the forest. That part of Africa that we occupy, has been specially protected against all poisonous reptiles and insects, by the special agency of a small ant, called the "driver;" these ants, although destructive to so many other animals, have no facilities whatever for injuring man.

We have neither time nor space in which to give our views at large, upon the prospects for the future in Liberia; but the description that we have given of things as they are, will cause you naturally to come to some conclusion respecting the future of that country.

To those who may have favourable hopes concerning the

future of Liberia, we would add a few more encouragements. There are schools and churches scattered all over the civilized portions of Liberia; and religion stands first in point of importance, while education stands next. Great efforts have been made lately by the missionaries and citizens of Liberia, to bring a greater number of the heathen population under the influence of the glorious gospel of the Son of God, our common Saviour; hundreds of the native youths have been brought into our Sabbath-schools, and as many as can be supported are enjoying the benefits of our day-schools. Precious are the privileges that have been extended to the heathen within the bounds of Liberia, by the establishment of that little Republic, as a beacon-light to guide them out of gross darkness, aided by the willing and efficient labours of God's missionaries. Well may Liberians repeat these lines:

"Shine, life-creating ray,  
Proclaim approaching day,  
Throw wide thy blaze;  
Lo! savage Hottentot,  
Bosjesman from his cot,  
And nations long forgot,  
Astonished gaze.

All hail, Liberia! hail!  
Favoured of God, all hail!  
Hail, happy land!  
From virtue ne'er remove:  
By peace, and truth, and love,  
And wisdom from above,  
So shalt thou stand."

The different denominations of professing Christians in Liberia, are the Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, and Episcopalians. These are not divided among themselves, as they are in many places; but as a general thing each denomination maintains a unity, and all the different denominations are in communion with each other, as much so as in any other country, and perhaps more so. You may learn the membership of each, as well as the sum of the whole, by reference to the last reports of the different Boards of Foreign Missions, which will also give the number of missionaries, churches, and mission-schools, within the bounds of Liberia.

We have set down these different denominations according

to their numerical order. The Methodists outnumber any two of the rest, and have laid out a vast amount of money in carrying on their mission operations; they are doing a good work, and have entered into it with heart and hand. The Baptists stand next in point of numbers. We have put the Presbyterians before the Episcopalians, but we are not certain as to which numbers the more. One thing we do know, that the Episcopalians have expended more money in Liberia than the Presbyterians; they build good and substantial mission-houses, as well as churches, wherever they begin operations, and therefore their expenses will not increase by the lapse of time. They have a Bishop in Liberia, who has lived and laboured with great success in the same place for more than twenty years; there is no man more beloved and relied on than Bishop Payne of Cape Palmas, and it would appear from his untiring diligence, that no man has ever had the work more at heart:

These several denominations have their High Schools, as well as common schools, in different parts of the Republic: of which we may mention as No. 1, the Alexander High School at Monrovia, the Methodist High School at the same place, and a similar institution of that denomination at Cape Palmas; also three schools under the Episcopalians in Cape Palmas county, two or three similar schools in Montserado county and Grand Bassa, under the same denomination: the Baptists have High Schools at Grand Bassa and Monrovia, besides primary schools at different points. All the schools under the different denominations in Liberia, receive their chief support from the Missionary Boards and Societies of the United States. The English mission stations are chiefly at Sierra-Leone, and other points outside of Liberia. The missionary work in and about Liberia, seems to be entirely committed to the people of the United States and Liberia; and according to our experience for several years, we believe that there is not a more effectual door of entrance to the heathen in Africa, than through Liberia.



## LIBERIA MISSION.—ALEXANDER HIGH-SCHOOL.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM MR. EDWARD W. BLYDEN.

*Dear Sir*—Your kind and interesting letter by the “G. C. Ackerly,” dated July 27th, has been duly received. Please to accept my sincere thanks for kindly attending to my request with reference to my mother. In obedience to your instruction, I hasten to drop you a few lines relative to the condition of the schools.

During the two months of Rev. Mr. Williams’s absence at Cape Palmas, the schools, as you are aware, were united under my supervision and instruction. The English department contained between thirty and forty scholars, divided into classes in spelling, reading, geography, English grammar, and arithmetic. The classical department contained nine scholars, divided into two classes, first and second. The studies in the first class were Latin, Greek grammar and Reader, and algebra; of the second, Latin grammar, and arithmetic.

On the return of Mr. Williams, the schools were again separated, and the English department placed under the tuition of Mr. Witherspoon, one of the scholars of the first class in the classical department, whom I have requested to forward his report to you by the “Benson.” Six of the most advanced boys in the English department were transferred to the Alexander High-School—a temporary expedient to relieve Mr. Witherspoon of too great labour, in view of his recitations in his class in the High-School. But I think from the progress of the boys, it were well for them to continue permanently in the High-School.

There are now in the Alexander High-School sixteen boys, divided into three classes. The studies of the first class are Greek, Latin, algebra, and history; of the second, Latin grammar and Reader, and history, and arithmetic; of the third, spelling, reading, geography, English grammar, arithmetic. Vocal music is taught every other day immediately after the regular exercises.

It has always been the policy of the Alexander High-School, in the case of new students, to give special and even exclusive attention to the disciplinary studies, mathematics, and the languages, leaving such studies as involve merely information to the later stages of progress. And I have found—though I used to murmur much—in my own experience, and from the experience of others, that such a course was highly necessary and beneficial. While the students of the Monrovia Academy, where a contrary policy was adopted, that of paying attention to many studies at once, are in general superficial in almost everything, the graduated students of the Alexander High-School—if you will allow me to except myself—are looked upon as indispensable in their various avocations. For these reasons I intend to confine my new scholars to Latin and arithmetic for a while.

But notwithstanding the community have before them the evidences above referred to, of the importance of our system of instruction, yet not a few of our dull ones—sad to relate!—endeavour to infuse into the minds of some of the boys who attend our schools, disparaging ideas of Latin, Greek, and mathematics; so that, besides overcoming their natural indisposition to study, they have to endure the opposition of a public opinion, whose real value they have not yet learned to appreciate.

**JOSEPH M. WILSON,**

**Publisher, Bookseller, and Stationer,**

**No. 111 South Tenth St., below Chestnut St., Philada.**

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