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THE DEWDROP.

BY JAMES MACKAY, M. A.

How pure! how bright is the tiny thing!
It beams where the birds of the morning sing,
It looks like a tear from an angel's eye,
Or a pearl flung down from the vernal sky,
To deck the bridal robes of the dawn,
As it weds the flowers on the grassy lawn.

In the silver cup of the daisy it lies,
On the breast of the primrose in love it sighs;
On the pathway of smiles it shall glide to the sun;
In the chariot of incense its course shall be run;
To return again on a sunset ray,
And relate to its darling the sports of the day.

The emblem of virtue unsullied it seems;
The emblem of beauty we see in our dreams;
'Tis a pledge of faith by the breeze to be given
With holy vows to the clouds of Heaven.
Oh! who can tell but the fairies keep
Their nightly watch where the dewdrops sleep!

When the rose breathes forth each lurking charm,
When the air is rich, and the green earth warm,
'Tis then that the dewdrop shines most bright;
'Tis then that it rivals the diamond's light,
As it bids farewell to the sunny scene,
And weeps o'er the bower where its home has been.

God bless our native land,
May Heaven's protecting hand
Still guard our shores,
May peace her powers extend,
Foe be transformed to friend,
And may her power depend
On war no more,

Through every changing scene,
Oh, Lord, preserve the Queen,
Long may she reign.
Her head inspire and move
With wisdom from above,
And in a nation's love
Her throne maintain.

THE INTERIOR OF AFRICA.

Although far from us, yet Africa is a region in which we, of the United States, cannot but be deeply interested, and with which our relations are of growing importance. Several millions of her children, a vast majority of whom are in bondage, live within our borders. Benevolent men are striving to dam up the human current, which a fiendish avarice for one hundred years past, has more or less directly, and more or less actively, been impelling to our shores, in the slave-ship. The Colonizationists are striving to restore the negro to Africa, under the auspices of the cross and all its accompanying blessings.

The prosperity of the African Colonies will more or less depend upon the character of the native people, with whom they will have to do. What, then, are the characters, usages, capabilities of those natives? Are they such as to warrant the hope, that through the medium of the Colonies, planted by the American Colonization Society, Africa may become an enlightened and prosperous nation? If Africa can be civilized—if the native princes can be induced to abandon, forever, all traffic in the flesh of their fellow countrymen, then the slave trade will cease to exist. And in bringing about this result, we believe the Bible more potent as an instrument, than all the navies of all the world.

Of the interior of Africa but little is yet known—yet enough is known to show the el-

ements of vast prosperity, and to prove that under the kindly influence of Christian civilization a large portion of Africa may ultimately become one of the most favored regions of the globe.

The explorations of the brave and enthusiastic Mungo Park, commenced in 1795—6. He descended into the heart of Africa from the northward, and discovered the river Niger which had previously been known to Europeans only by rumour and tradition. His triumph was gained through perils and sufferings. He was previously taken prisoner by the Moors. Dismissed from his confinement almost in a condition of nudity, he felt overjoyed that he was once more at liberty to continue his search.

He discovered the river at about 2000 miles from its mouth, and found, to his surprise, that its course was westerly, and not easterly, as had been by many conjectured, and that it emptied into the Atlantic, in the Gulf of Benin, on the west of Africa. "I ran along the shore of the river," says he, "I drank of the water, and returned fervent thanks to the Sovereign Master of the universe."

In 1805, Mungo Park, together with forty-five companions, made a second partial exploration of the Niger. Forty-one of these men fell victims to the climate. Park and his four fellow survivors were attacked by a band of the natives, armed with bows and arrows, and after an ineffectual struggle they were drowned in the river, into which they had plunged in order to escape from the foe.

Since the days of Mungo Park, but little information, with the exception of what relates to the Niger and its shores, has been procured concerning the interior of Africa. We will, however, lay before our readers a few facts taken from the account of an expedition sent to explore this almost impenetrable region, under the auspices of the British government in 1841. The expedition consisted of three vessels, severally commanded by captains Trotter, William Allen, and M. Bird Allen, and its history has lately been published in England. On the 26th of March, 1841, they reached Abboh, about one hundred and eleven miles distant from the mouth of the river.—The next morning, Obi Osai, the King of the country, went on board of Capt. Trotter's vessel, with so numerous a retinue that it was found necessary to dismiss some of them for the sake of convenience. Obi was arrayed in the uniform coat of an English sergeant, obtained from some former navigator, scarlet pantaloons, and a sugar-loaf shaped hat, placed somewhat jauntingly on one side of his head. When the questions and answers between him and the commissioners had become somewhat multiplied, Obi told them plainly "he did not like to talk too long." It must be observed that the negro King had in some measure an advantage in this conference over his visitors; for in reply to their proposing that he should altogether renounce the practice of selling his brethren into slavery, Obi replied, "Very well—I agree to this; but then, if you will not take slaves, you must take the other productions of Africa in exchange for the goods brought from England. We want your goods; and besides slaves we have little or nothing to buy them with." A treaty was made only to be broken.

On leaving Abboh, the aspect of the Niger changes; the banks become higher, the course of the river less winding, and its face is diversified with numerous islands. The scenery of the shores was soon found to be most picturesque—the effect of the light in that transparent atmosphere was almost magical—the air was laden with odors of trees, herbage and flowers, and the horizon skirted with waving mountains.

The expedition soon reached Iddoh, about ninety miles from Abboh. The King of this country was far more dignified than his brother Obi, and waited for the commissioners to call upon him, disclaiming to quit his palace in order to receive them. He was clothed in ample robes of native stuff, fantastically embroidered, beneath which was another of red velvet, scarlet pantaloons, and a conical hat, surmounted with feathers in the top. A conference was held with him, similar to the former one with Obi, and as in that case, a display of the presents brought from England by the commissioners soon produced harmony and concord. The inhabitants of Abboh are Pagans—those of Iddoh are half Pagans and half Mohammedans. At the former place were seen many idols of wood and clay, and also amulets, to ward off harm. They being represented by their principal idol, who is supposed to inhabit the depths of the forest, and to be all powerful and wise. Their priests are also physicians, or medicine men. They pour out libations of palm wine to their gods, and offer sacrifices both of animals and of men. The government of Abboh is singular. The King's son is heir apparent to the throne.—But he does not become king unless, after his father's death, he is elected as King by a Council of Ancients or Chiefs. Each village of the kingdom of Abboh has its governor and judges. Abboh has a little navy of row-boats, each armed with a small canon at the bow, by means of which a toll is exacted from those who pass the shores, and the inhabitants, who live in huts, number from seven to eight thousand.

The Mussulman City of Iddoh is altogether superior to Abboh in civilization. Its inhabitants, who are about ten thousand, live in round cottages, with conical roofs. The better residence consist of a number of such houses, surrounded with a wall. The exterior of these houses are painted white or blue.—Near are plantations of maize, sugar cane, indigo trees, tobacco, and the like. Considerable industry was found to exist, in the manufacture of side-arms, and otherwise. The heir apparent to the throne, agreeably to a common usage in Africa, is the eldest son of the king's sister. The king has a small army, but no navy.—*Amer. Artisan.*

The Discovery of John Calvin.

Dr. Dixon, a delegate from the English to the American Methodist Conference, has published a book of Travels in this country. He gives more credit to the Anglo Saxon race on this side of the Atlantic, than his countrymen have generally done. He gives even John Calvin credit for having discovered a principle that will revolutionize the world. John Calvin was a man, whom in his lifetime Princes delighted to honour, and "he being dead yet speaketh."

"How little did John Calvin think of the egg he was hatching when, in his quiet study, in the quiet little city of Geneva, he first broached the doctrine that it was lawful for christians, under certain circumstances to resist their rulers! This thunderbolt of John Calvin is the power which has shaken the world ever since; and is that which is heard in the air at this moment. Right or wrong, it is religion, that is, the dogma of a religious man, which has worked all the revolutions of the world. John Calvin's doctrine, studied and imbibed by the Puritans, caused them to question the power of Queen Elizabeth and the Stuarts in ecclesiastical matters; their collisions with the legitimate representatives of the 'divine right' principle led to the English Grand Rebellion: this, again, led to innovations in the constitution of our country, and the existence of the Protectorate. The

republicanism of England nursed young republicans for the wilds of America, where, under the guise of religious freedom, they were all along building up a democratic fabric: till the whole issued, as we have seen, in the independence of the States, and the mighty changes now taking place in the world. If the present movement should, in its desolating effects, subvert even Popery itself—not a very improbable thing, as so much has already been done—this will have been effected by John Calvin; that is, by the idea he first broached, and which has been, like a rolling substance, gathering bulk, solidity, and strength to the present moment; and is destined like the 'stone cut of the mountain without hands,' to dash in pieces the image, whether of gold, silver, brass, clay, or iron—the image of the beast and false prophet, together with all the forms of power which have so long propped up this monstrous tyranny.

"The example of a great nation adopting the purely voluntary principle will, it is extremely likely, be followed by others. The people who are now everywhere claiming for themselves the privilege of choosing their own temporal rulers, are not likely for any length of time, to allow the extraneous appointment of religious governors. The public will claim for itself the right of giving its suffrages in matters ecclesiastical. This principle indeed, is already powerfully at work. Either a pure voluntarism, or else nationalism, which is only voluntarism in a national form, as seems from the tendencies of events, must predominate. A system which nations choose for themselves, may possibly find a place in the new order of ideas; but as to a religious yoke being imposed by a foreign church—as in the case of Popery in ancient times—this is utterly impossible in the present state of things.—The doctrines of the Papacy may indeed prevail in places where they have been held for a great length of time, till something better obtains; but as to anything like the old dominion of the Holy See, this cannot find place in the midst of the growing democracy of the world. Indeed, institutions of every kind seem destined to be controlled by the public voice."

The Australian Hot Winds.

The wind, which had been blowing all the morning hot from the north-east, increased to a heavy gale, and I shall never forget its withering effect. I sought shelter behind a large gum tree, but the blasts of the heat were so terrific that I wondered the very grass did not fire. This really was nothing ideal; everything, both animate and inanimate, gave way before it; the horses stood with their backs to the wind, and their noses to the ground, without the muscular strength to raise their heads; the birds were mute; and the leaves of the trees under which we were sitting fell like a snow shower around us. At noon I took a thermometer, graduated to 127 deg., out of my box, and observed that the mercury was up to 125 deg. Thinking it had been unduly influenced, I put it in the fork of a tree close to me, sheltered alike from the wind and the sun. In this position I went to examine it about an hour afterwards, when I found that the mercury had risen to the top of the instrument, and that its further expansion had burst the bulb, a circumstance that I believe no traveller has ever before had to record. I cannot find language to convey to the reader's mind an idea of the intense and oppressive nature of the heat that prevailed. We had reached our destination, however, before the worst of the hot wind set in; but all the water that now remained in the once broad and capacious pool to which I have had such occasion to call the attention of the reader, was a