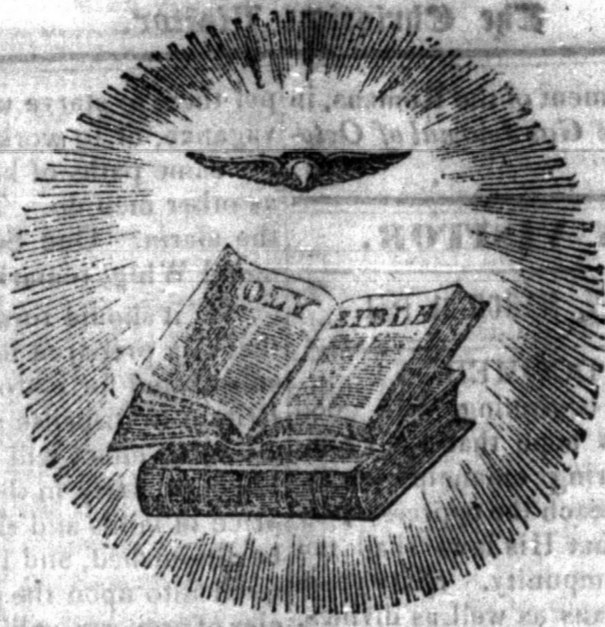


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[From the Literary World]

TWILIGHT ON THE WATER.

See soft-footed twilight creep
 Into the bosom of the stream:
 Heavily the shadows sleep;
 Yonder oaks in voiceless dream,
 Bend as with a fond amaze,
 While another self they see.
 Leaf and twig of branching tree,
 Nodding to their nodding gaze;
 Only on them broods the change
 Of a stillness fixed and strange.

Silently the Wondrous Past
 Over the forms of faded life
 Doth its twilight shadows cast;
 All its care and wind-tossed strife
 Are reflected here again,
 Real as in days gone by;
 Yet in softest hues they lie,
 Painless images of pain,
 Steeped by that unearthly charm
 In a trance of holy calm.

O! sweet world of memories,
 Gleaming in the peaceful heart!
 Passing time the shadow is,
 Thou our truer being art:
 Loves and joys, though seen no more,
 In clear depths below the wave,
 As the sea-nymphs in their cave
 Built on the ocean floor,
 An unwrinkled, deathless race,
 Have their blissful dwelling place.

TIME.

A HUNGARIAN POEM.

Time flies on eagle wings away,
 It will not for a moment stay,
 But like a stream glides on—glides on!
 It never turns its footsteps back,
 But sinks all ages in its track,
 And reigns and rules alone.
 The poor, the rich, alike pursues;
 The poor, the rich, alike subdues;
 Who can withstand it? None.

There's only one whose mightier strength
 The strength of time o'erpowers at length,
 And sits in quiet victory;
 Time's sickle mows it not; time's flight
 Brings not decay, nor death, nor blight,
 But passes harmless by:
 There's only one—'tis Virtuous Fame,
 Through shifting ages still the same,
 It shines eternally.

BELIZE.

British Honduras, or Belize—Its Situation—
 Topography—Soil—Productions—Climate—
 Population—Government—History and
 Present Condition.

The following complete and interesting account of the British Honduras, or Belize, as it is generally named, has been prepared for *The Tribune*. It will well repay perusal:

The settlement of Honduras extends along the eastern coast of Yucatan between 15 deg. 54 m. and 18 deg. 36 m. north latitude, and between 88 deg. and 90 deg. west longitude. It is separated from Yucatan by the Rio Hondo, and its southern boundary is formed by the Sarstoon River, which falls into the Gulf of Honduras not 20 miles west of the mouth of the Rio Dulce. Honduras is in length about 175 miles from north to south, and 110 miles from east to west, the whole settlement embracing an area of 69,750 square miles.

The coast is flat, and lined with numerous verdant cayos or coral keys, which are overgrown with cocoa nut trees and bushes, and much resorted to by the fishermen for turtles. The largest are Ambergris Key, toward the north, and Turneff opposite the town of Be-

lize. These two keys consist of clusters of several small islands divided by narrow creeks and lagoons. A smaller key, called St. George, is resorted to by the merchants of Belize, who have dwelling houses on it. The shores of the continental part of the settlement are rocky, but low, except toward the south where they are rather higher and intersected by deep ravines. The River Belize flows down from an unexplored region. The low country near the sea is in many parts swampy and partially covered with stagnant waters nearly the year through; during the rains it is completely covered. The high grounds further inland have a sandy soil, and are chiefly overgrown with different kinds of Pine, which supplies excellent timber. The valleys which intersect the high lands have a very fertile soil, and are covered with various species of tropical trees.

South of the River Belize the low country is thickly wooded, but it does not extend more than from three to six miles inland, behind which mountains rise to a considerable elevation. The country comprising the mountain slopes and valleys, and the interior country, is covered with forests, and the soil is said to be very fertile. The rivers are navigable for twenty or thirty miles from their mouths, but higher up they are interrupted by rapids and falls. Mahogany, dyewoods and timber are floated down these streams. The Hondo, the New River, the Belize and the Seboon are the most remarkable; on the banks of the latter are extensive forests of Mahogany. The Belize probably winds for more than 150 miles in its length. The Hondo is the most navigable of these streams.

The geology of this country presents many of those features which are a primary inducement to settlement. With a substrata of reddish sandstone, its soil consists chiefly of a deep loam mixed with sand and enriched with the decays of successive ages. In accordance with the elevation of districts, it is capable of producing all European as well as every species of tropical vegetation. The natural prairies or pastures spread over a large portion of the country. On the margins of the numerous creeks and rivers an inexhaustibly rich alluvial soil is found.

The mineral productions are equally valuable. Veins of fine marble and mountains of alabaster are known to exist. Valuable crystals have been found in the interior, and fine specimens of feldspar lie along the banks in many places, and are often used in ornamental stucco work. Gold has at various periods been found in the Roaring Creek, a branch of the Belize, but it is uncertain from whence it has been derived. Quantities of lava and volcanic substances have been found in different situations. Laboring Creek, about 100 miles inland, on the Belize, is remarkable for the petrifying properties which it possesses. Its waters have a powerful cathartic effect on strangers, and a healing property when applied externally to ulcers.

The climate about Belize is a compound of heat and moisture. The mean annual temperature is 81½ deg. Fahr. In July the driest and hottest month, the average maximum is 83 deg., and the average minimum 80 deg., but it is seldom oppressive, the atmosphere being refreshed by sea-breezes. From April to July is the dry season. During the remainder of the year rains are frequent, especially in July, August and September. In the beginning of October the north winds set in and generally continue with little variation to February or March, when the weather becomes exceedingly variable. During the wet season the temperature sinks sometimes to 60 deg. The diurnal variation of temperature is very great, being frequently as much as

15 deg. between sunrise and noon, and at night it is 20 or 25 deg. less than during the day. Nevertheless the extreme annual range is only about 40 deg. With regard to the salubrity of the climate, however, there is every reason to believe that it is more favourable to the European constitution than any other climate under the tropics, and many instances of longevity, as well among Europeans as natives, are recorded.

The natural growths of the country are as various as valuable. In the forests are the cabbage tree, cedars, pines, iron wood, silk cotton trees, logwood, fustic and braziletto, and, the most important of all, the mahogany tree. Sarsaparilla is collected in the southern districts. The mahogany and logwood are the great staples of Honduras. There are also several other woods of great value, as rosewood, palmetto, dark and beautifully figured, Santa Maria, which possesses the properties of the Indian teak, caoutchouc or Indian Rubber, sapodill and innumerable others. The most common fruits are oranges, lemons, limes, shaddock, mangoes, quavas, cashoo nuts, tamarinds, avocada pears, pomegranates, wild plums and grapes.

The agricultural products consist of Indian corn, rice, yams and plantains. Arrow-root is cultivated in small quantities. The soil is extremely well adapted for the culture of coffee, cotton, sugar, indigo, but no great quantities of these have hitherto been raised. Cocoa grows spontaneously and in great quantities in the thickets. Cochineal is brought from the interior and exported to a considerable amount. A few garden vegetables are cultivated.

The indigenous animal kingdom comprises many valuable fur-bearing species, as ounces, panthers, tapers, deer, antelopes, peccarils and warrees, (animals of the hog kind,) caviies, agoutis, armadillos, opossums and racoons.—Monkeys are numerous, and some of them are eaten. Manatis and alligators are met with in the lagoons along the coast. Among the numerous birds are turkeys, spoon-bills, toucans, Muscovy ducks, macaws and many kinds of parrots, pelicans and humming-birds. Fishes are plentiful and in great varieties, some of which are very large, and turtles furnish a very common and nutritious edible to all classes. Lobsters and shell-fish are abundant and excellent. Domestic animals, as cattle, sheep and goats, are not kept in sufficient numbers for consumption. The cattle are principally used in drawing timber and logwood from the forests. But few horses are bred in the settlement.

There seems to be no aboriginal tribes within the limits of British Honduras except some Caribs who have fled into it as a place of refuge. The present population consists principally of negroes, originally brought into the country as slaves, and coloured persons sprung from the intercourse of Europeans with Africans and Indians. They are engaged in cutting mahogany and dye-woods, and in fishing; a few of them cultivate small patches of ground. The scanty white population is occupied in commerce. The number of inhabitants is stated in the Superintendent's returns for 1845, to be:

Whites	240	males	159	females	399	in all.
Colored	6,755	"	2,655	"	9,410	"
Total	6,995		2,814		9,809	

In 1823 the population numbered 5,179, and consequently has nearly doubled itself in 27 years. The Indians are probably included in the enumeration of the coloured races.—The number of slaves manumitted in 1834 was 1901, and the compensation paid £101,398.

Honduras is governed by a Superintendent

nominated by the Sovereign "to watch over the interests of the settlers, to secure them from any improper intrusion of foreigners, and to regulate all affairs which more particularly affect the dignity of the Crown." There is also a mixed Legislative and Executive power, termed the Magistrates of Honduras, consisting of seven members elected annually. All their enactments, to become law, must first receive the assent of the Chief Executive. They are the Councillors of Her Majesty's Superintendent, the guardians of the public peace, Judges of all the Lower Courts; they form the Court of Ordinary; they are the guardians of orphans, and can delegate their power in the management of the property of such persons to another, &c. They settle all Salvage causes, manage the Finances and controul the Treasury. No money can be paid without the sanction of four of them, who sign all orders for issue. Their services are gratuitous. Trial by Jury is established, and from the decision of the Court appeal lies directly to the Sovereign in Council.

The Military protection of the Colony consists of one company of Artillery and a Regiment of the Line. There is also a local maritime force. The Superintendent is Commander-in-Chief of the Militia. All duties and taxes are levied under the authority of acts passed by the Magistrates and sanctioned by the Superintendent. The ordinary expenses of the Government amount to about £20,000 per annum. In Church affairs, Honduras is an appendage to the Diocese of Jamaica, and the public religion that of the Church of England. There is but one church, however, and one or two chapels in the settlement, but there are also several Wesleyan and Baptist places of worship. The public support a Common School at Belize, and there are several good Private Schools, beside a number of Sabbath Schools, the latter of which are conducted chiefly by the Dissenters.

The Commerce of Honduras is as yet but in its infancy. Prior to 1845 it amounted, in the aggregate, to about half a million of pounds sterling per annum; but since that year, in consequence of the duty on Mahogany in England having been reduced to a nominal amount, the trade has greatly increased. Mahogany, Cedar, Logwood, Indigo and Cochineal are the great staples, which are exchanged for British manufactures and foreign commodities. The trade between the United States and this settlement is considerable, but varies much in a number of years.

BELIZE, (called by the Spaniards *Valize*, a name corrupted from the original *Wallace*, a noted Scotch Buccaneer) the only town and capital of the settlement, is built on both sides of the mouth of the river of the same name, and the stream is crossed by a wooden bridge. It consists of a long street, running parallel with the shore, from which three or four smaller streets branch off. The houses are constructed of wood and are raised 8 or 10 feet from the ground on pillars of mahogany. They are well built, spacious and convenient. In front of the town there is excellent anchorage for vessels of moderate size, and the surface of the sea is rarely agitated by winds, as it is protected by the numerous keys from the heavy swells of the open sea. A fort on a small island at the mouth of the river protects the town. The principal buildings are the Government House, Barracks and Church. Mr. Stephens describes the inhabitants as a fine looking race, tall, straight and athletic. At Punta Gorda, about 150 miles south of Belize, there is a settlement of Caribs, refugees from Central America, numbering about 500.

The Honduras Coast was discovered by Columbus in 1502. At first it was occasionally